

**Statement at the High-Level Segment
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
Change COP 21, Paris**

Republic of Korea

December 2015

(Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to address this historic Conference which is seeking to adopt the post-2020 new climate regime.

First of all, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express my condolences to the victims and their families who suffered from the horrific terrorist attack in Paris. I would also like to convey my sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of France who have spared no effort to ensure the success of this Conference.

Climate change is the most urgent global challenge we face. Climate disasters do not respect national borders - they are occurring almost every day, and having ever more severe consequences. This reality is an urgent reminder of the pressing need to conclude a new agreement here in Paris. In this regard, I welcome the Draft Paris Outcome completed by the ADP last week. I believe that it will indeed be a

good basis for our work to adopt an ambitious new climate agreement this week.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new climate regime should serve as a platform for our endeavors toward reaching the common goal of holding the global temperature rise below 2°C. To do so, the new regime should meet the following requirements.

First, all countries should take climate action to achieve the long-term common goal, in light of their different circumstances and capabilities. The international community should provide support, including technology and capacity building, to ensure the active participation of developing countries in taking climate action.

Second, in accordance with the Paris agreement, all Parties should formulate and faithfully implement their INDCs, while seeking to make these more ambitious over time. This process will be instrumental in facilitating the global transformation toward low-emission, climate-resilient economies.

Third, the new climate regime should be a solid foundation, on which all stakeholders, including local governments, businesses and civil society organizations, cooperate together to combat climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Korea has strived to play a constructive role in establishing the new climate regime. We submitted a fair and ambitious INDC in a timely manner. We have earnestly tried to set a valuable example in terms of making climate change a fresh opportunity to create future drivers of growth through the development of technology and innovation.

Korea is working with developing countries in coping with climate change, cooperating with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). We are also rendering support to more than forty countries for the establishment of their national greenhouse gas inventory systems.

Furthermore, Korea has been seeking to contribute to capacity building to cope with climate disasters resulting from extreme weather events.

We hosted the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) in Pyeongchang last October, working with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN ISDR) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The Pyeongchang Declaration, the outcome from the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC), appeals to the international community to consider the systematic application of the principles of Integrated Fire Management (IFM). In such ways, we will be able to maintain and increase terrestrial carbon stocks, and reduce unnecessary emissions of pollutants. In accordance with the Declaration, Korea along with ASEAN-ROK Forest Cooperation (AFoCO), will increase support for a wildland fire management training programme in Asian countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There are now only three days left before we reach the deadline for concluding the new agreement. Now is a time for action – responsible action.

Thank you.