

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to first express my deepest gratitude to the Azerbaijan Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat for their leadership in successfully hosting COP29.

Given that COP29 is held in the middle of the Paris Agreement's ambition cycle, the Republic of Korea welcomes and supports the Presidency's vision—enabling action and enhancing ambition.

Since peaking in 2018, Korea's national greenhouse gas emissions have steadily declined.

We have promoted carbon-free energy sources such as renewables and nuclear power, improved industrial processes, and deployed more zero-emission vehicles.

As a result, green house gases emissions have fallen for two consecutive years, showing a 13.9 percent reduction from 2018 levels in 2023.

Carbon-free energy is energy that has no carbon emissions throughout its production, storage, transportation, and utilization.

The Carbon Free Energy Alliance (CFA), which Korea announced in September 2023,

is a movement to contribute to efficient and effective carbon neutrality that respects each nation's national circumstance.

So far, 10 countries are officially participating and I invite all parties to join and share your interest in the CFA.

Notably, our GDP has grown while green house gas emissions have decreased, signaling Korea's transition toward a low-carbon economy.

The Korean Emissions Trading System (K-ETS) introduced in 2015 has significantly contributed to this progress.

As next year marks the 10th anniversary of K-ETS, we plan to strengthen its market function and increase the share of auctioning, to drive further greenhouse gas reductions.

Korea has made meaningful progress in adaptation efforts. Since 2011, we have been developing National Adaptation Plans at both national and local levels, and have conducted annual assessments of their implementation.

In response to extreme weather events, we introduced an AI-based flood forecasting system that provides real-time, accurate information in a map to allow pre-emptive response measures.

Under the Carbon Neutrality Act enacted in 2021, Korea annually reviews progress toward our climate targets, and integrates the carbon neutrality goal into the entire policymaking process through legal frameworks such as climate-responsive budgeting and climate impact assessments.

Building on the progress made so far, Korea's 2035 NDC will be science-based, feasible, and cost-effective.

Ministries and various experts are working on a draft and once it's ready we will conduct enough consultations with stakeholders, civil society and parliament before submission.

In setting the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), it is vital to foster the voluntary and collective participation of all Parties in tackling the climate crisis.

Although not an Annex II Party under the Convention, Korea has expanded its voluntary contributions through various bilateral and multilateral collaborations.

We are committed to further increasing these contributions, including green Official Development Assistance (ODA). Korea has been running the UNFCCC-GIR-CASTT Programme on Greenhouse Gases jointly with the Secretariat since 2017.

Between 2017 and 2024, nearly 500 participants from 93 countries have completed this program.

Building on this successful initiative, at this COP, the Ministry of Environment has launched the Korea Climate Transparency Alliance this morning.

We plan to increase the dedicated budget by up to four-fold starting next year, and offer new comprehensive training packages, from inventory to green mitigation projection models and consultation on relevant laws and regulations. More countries will benefit from our innovative programs.

Excellencies, the global community has pursued cooperation in spirit of addressing climate change, even amidst the current uncertain geopolitical context.

At COP29, let us move forward in solidarity for a green world.

Thank you.