

Check against delivery



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. MUN SONG MO**

**AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

At the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of  
The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Chairman,

Madam Executive Secretary,

On behalf of the DPRK delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the chair of the current session. I am sure that your able leadership will lead this session to a success.

Let me also express my gratitude to Madam Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary and her team in the secretariat for their efforts in preparation of the session.

Mr. Chairman,

Asia-Pacific Region, as a center of international trade, investment and technology transfer, plays an important role in the efforts of United Nations to realize sustainable development and shared prosperity of the humanity.

Even under unfavorable circumstances with economic and financial crisis sweeping across the world for the recent years, the overall economy of the region maintained an upward trend and progresses were made in terms of many indicators including reduction of world's absolute poverty by half. These are attributable to the joint efforts of the countries in the region.

On the other hand, as indicated in the strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 submitted to the session, economic growth is confined to some countries and issues like poverty, hunger and destruction of environment remain as core priorities.

Moreover, owing to the high-handedness of specific countries, the situation is constantly unstable, which seriously hampers the efforts for the sustainable development.

The reality requires further strengthening of cooperation and exchange between countries in the region based on the experiences and lessons gained so far.

In this context, our delegation would like to express our appreciation to ESCAP secretariat for presenting “Regional Connectivity for Shared Prosperity” as theme of the current session and also would like to mention our views on the subject.

First of all, efforts should be made to create favorable environment for the promotion of sustainable development in the region.

Peaceful environment is prerequisite for regional connectivity for shared development.

All unfair and discriminative measures that hamper the sovereignty and right to development of countries should be withdrawn as soon as possible. And the use of force and threat, in particular, should never be allowed under any circumstances.

Secondly, self-development capacity of countries in the region should continuously be strengthened and at the same time, measures to promote mutual cooperation should actively be taken.

Asia-Pacific region is big truly in terms of population and economic potential compared to other regions and in some fields we have either attained global standards or are relatively far advanced.

When countries of the region, starting from the principle of equality and mutual benefit, work together and actively exploit such advantages, we can successfully overcome current challenges.

To this end, each country should establish development policy in accordance with its specific realities and conditions and make use of domestic resources to the maximum in its implementation.

At the same time, legal and systematic measures that hinder strengthening of cooperation of the region should either be relieved or withdrawn.

Thirdly, function and role of ESCAP should continuously be strengthened.

In order to strengthen regional connectivity for shared prosperity it is essential for ESCAP to initiate priority areas and projects for cooperation among member countries more actively and take necessary measures enabling projects such as plan of action for application of space technology to produce tangible benefits.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, in DPR of Korea, vigorous endeavors are being made under the wise leadership of the dear respected Comrade Kim Jong Un to build socialist thriving nation at the earliest possible date.

The government of the DPR of Korea, is actively taking practical measures for economic development and improvement of people's livelihood.

Priority is given to agriculture, construction and science and technology and investment to these sectors are constantly increased to achieve great successes.

In July this year Pier No. 3 of Rajin Port was inaugurated following the opening of Rajin-Hassan Railway last year. And work for ensuring legal foundation for the connection of road system between Hassan and Tumangang in the near future is underway. Thus, connections with neighboring countries are being strengthened.

Our delegation appreciates for the initiatives and efforts of countries in the region for common prosperity and would like to express our commitment to active cooperation in the process.

Thank you.