



STATEMENT

BY

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

At the 71st Session of
the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

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Mr. Chair,

Madam Executive Secretary,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like to congratulate the Chair on your assumption of the important task for the 71st session. I am very confident that under your able guidance the session will be led to a successful conclusion.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP, and her colleagues in the secretariat on their hard work for successful outcomes of the session.

Mr. Chair,

As a home to nearly two-thirds of the world's population, Asia and the Pacific becomes the hub of international trade, investment and technology transfer. As such, the region plays an instrumental role in global efforts for sustainable development and shared prosperity.

Thanks to the joint efforts of ESCAP and its member States, significant progress has been made on all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); sustained economic growth and the goal for reducing extreme poverty by half were achieved in many countries of the region despite the impacts of global economic and financial crises.

On the other hand, resource allocations by Governments still fall short of the requirement, which resulted in widespread hunger, poverty and unemployment for many people. Common threats like climate change and degradation of the ecosystem

persist due to the over-exploitation of natural resources and frequent natural disasters.

Moreover, constant instability caused by a power undermines our efforts for sustainable development.

Our challenge in the years to come is how we strengthen regional cooperation and exchange, building on the past experience and lessons to achieve shared development and prosperity.

In this perspective, my delegation appreciates that the present session focuses on “Balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development: from integration to implementation”, and also considers that the session should pay due attention to the three following issues, among others.

First, member States should identify national priorities in goals and targets for sustainable development taking into consideration the interplay of social, economic and environmental dimensions in their national contexts.

Member States should increase government investment for sustainable development in social, economic and environmental dimension and make an effective use of national resources to implement the policies for sustainable development and remove or lower legal and institutional barriers hampering the regional cooperation.

Second, an enabling socio-economic environment should be created for sustainable development.

The peaceful environment is a precondition to strengthening regional integration and connectivity for shared prosperity.

Safeguarding peace and security of the country is the sine qua non for sustainable development in DPRK which has been under the military threats and all sorts of sanctions from foreign forces for more than half a century.

Unfair and discriminative practices that encroach upon the sovereignty and the right to development should be removed without delay, and in particular, the use of power or military threats should not be tolerated in any circumstances.

For economic growth and eradication of poverty in the region, developed nations and donor countries should refrain from imposing preconditions or political and economic restrictions on the developing countries and they should put into practice their commitments for increased financial assistance and technology transfer to the developing countries.

Third, the role and functions of ESCAP should be further strengthened.

ESCAP, as an inclusive intergovernmental platform which promotes collective formulation of policies and cooperation to overcome the regional challenges, should arrange new political frameworks with a balanced approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development as its core value in ensuring the equitable development and economic growth among the member States in the region.

Mr. Chair,

At present, the situation on the Korean peninsula is extremely tense due to the reckless and frantic nuclear war drills by the hostile forces against the DPRK, and this stands as a major challenge to the efforts of the Korean people for economic growth and improvement of their living standard.

The Government of DPRK stands firm on its will and position to prevent a new war on the Korean peninsula, achieve economic growth in a peaceful environment and provide a better living for its people.

It is with this will that the Korean people have turned out in the general offensive to hasten final victory in all fields of building a thriving nation under the leadership of the respected Leader Marshall **KIM JONG UN**, First Chairman of the National Defense Commission, DPRK, and brought about an upswing in building a socialist economic giant and civilized nation by dint of advanced science and technology.

The monumental buildings for people's wellbeing such as homes for orphans are being constructed in many regions of the country including Pyongyang city; new economic management system and methods of our style are widely introduced; and remarkable successes are achieved in establishing economic development zones such as Wonsan-Mr.Kumgang International Tourism Zone, and a nation-wide reforestation campaign has been launched to cover the whole country by greener mountains and forests.

The Government of DPRK will continue to strive to strengthen cooperation and work more closely with ESCAP and its member States, and actively participate in regional efforts to promote sustainable development on its three pillars, namely social, economic and environmental dimensions under its foreign policy ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

Thank you for your attention.