Statement by Ambassador Oh Joon
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Panel: The Independent Oversight Role of Supreme Audit Institutions in Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda
21 January 2015, New York

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,

(Greetings)

First of all, I would like to thank Ambassador Sajdik for organizing this panel discussion. I would also like to welcome Mr. Josef Moser, Secretary-General of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

(Stocktaking)

As we begin the final year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the preparation for the post-2015 development agenda, we are at a historic turning point. We have the responsibility to respond to the existing and emerging challenges as an international community with a new, people- and planet-centered approach. The first meeting of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda has been underway the last few days.
Capable institutions based on the foundation of good governance and the rule of law should be an important element in the post-2015 development agenda. Supreme Audit Institutions can contribute significantly in promoting efficiency, accountability, and effectiveness of public administration, which will be the center of implementation of development policies at the national level.

From Korea’s own development process, we have learned the importance of intangible infrastructure, such as good governance and effective institutions, which is as important as tangible resources.

(ROK's SAI)

The Republic of Korea’s Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) has a history as old as our government. With the establishment of the Government in 1948, the Board of Audit was founded under the President as the supreme audit institution. In the same year, the Commission of Inspection was also established under the President to supervise and inspect central and local governments. Taking into account the closeness of the work of the two bodies, they were merged to form the Board of Audit and Inspection in 1963.

As a constitutional agency, BAI is guaranteed independence and neutrality in its work. To ensure the independence of the BAI, its Chairman is appointed by the President with the consent of the National Assembly. Through verification of accounts, financial audits, and inspections, the BAI has been critical for the accountability and efficiency of the public sector in Korea.
The Korean Board of Audit and Inspection has also been actively involved with INTOSAI since joining it in 1965, and hosted the 17th INTOSAI Congress in Seoul in 2001. The BAI has worked with other Supreme Audit Institutions in INTOSAI to better understand international trends and share techniques through joint research and activities in INTOSAI.

(Welcome Resolution)

In this regard, I welcome the resolution on *Promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening Supreme Audit Institutions*, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 19 December of last year.

Through the resolution, the General Assembly recognizes the important role of Supreme Audit Institutions in implementing internationally agreed development goals. The resolution also provides an important basis for close cooperation with the United Nations in capacity building as a tool for promoting sustainable development.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of INTOSAI under the able leadership of the Secretary-General of INTSAI, Mr. Josef Moser. INTOSAI's role in facilitating collaboration among Supreme Audit Institutions at the national, regional, and international levels will continue to be a significant contributor to improving public accountability in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.
(Closing)

As highlighted in the UN Secretary-General's Synthesis Report, "effective governance for sustainable development demands that public institutions in all countries and at all levels be inclusive, participatory, and accountable to the people." Furthermore, robust institutions are central to retaining the gains from development.

Good governance is an important priority for both developed and developing countries and the achievement of good governance will not materialize from a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. Therefore I am encouraged by today's discussion to further build on the significant role of Supreme Audit Institutions as we approach the post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you. /End/