

UNITED NATIONS



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AFFAIRS**

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**Official Remarks**

**25 October 2018 Incheon, Republic of Korea**

**Excellency Kim Boo Kyum, Minister of the Interior and Safety of the  
Republic of Korea**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning.**

**It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Second Regional Symposium  
on Strengthening Capacities of Public Institutions and Developing Effective  
Partnerships to Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

**I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Ministry of the Interior  
and Safety of the Republic of Korea and to the Incheon Metropolitan City  
for their great support to this important event.**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Many governments have made good progress in implementing the SDGs  
since the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Forty-six countries presented  
their national review during the 2018 High Level Political Forum (HLPF).  
The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of SDG progress are a central**

**element of follow-up and review at the HLPF forum, where Member States highlight their progress, share information about the challenges they face, and lessons learned, and mobilize additional support and build partnerships.**

**In 2019, the HLPF will review SDG 16 on effective, inclusive and accountable institutions. The theme of the HLPF in July 2019 - “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”- provides an opportunity to better integrate the social aspect into the 2030 Agenda.**

**The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance to build inclusive institutions to ensuring ownership and participation in decision making, especially of the poorest and most vulnerable groups. Thus, government institutions in many countries should address the challenges of an ageing society, considering the special needs, the poverty levels and marginalization of older persons in society.**

**To build resilient, peaceful and inclusive societies, principles such as justice, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and participation should embed new government programmes and policies.**

**It is important to strengthen the capacity of public institutions and mobilize their public servants to enhance effectiveness and institutional coordination, as well as public accountability. I am very happy that there will be a parallel workshop on “Mobilizing and equipping public servants to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. It will engage a dozen schools of public administration from Asia and the Pacific to develop and update curricula to reflect the SDGs. This important exercise will help design training programmes aimed at transforming mindsets of public officials.**

**The Symposium will also highlight the challenges of simultaneous proliferation of frontier technologies and the quickened pace of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The latter, characterized by robotics, Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things, will have a far-reaching impact on the way institutions, organizations and people interact and collaborate. Digital Revolution can forge a positive way forward and make service delivery more inclusive and participatory, especially for vulnerable groups. However, it will also pose many challenges and risks that will need to be addressed, including loss of jobs and cyber-security related issues.**

**Many countries are concerned that the pace and evolution of technological innovation could surpass the capacity of governments to cope with large scale changes in society and the economy. All governments need to be prepared to respond to the Fourth Industrial Revolution.**

**My Department has recently launched the 2018 E-Government Survey on “Gearing E-Government to Support Transformation Towards Sustainable And Resilient Societies”; and the World Economic and Social Survey 2018 on “Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development”. These two publications address, among other things, the positive and negative consequences of frontier technologies.**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Despite positive trends in SDG implementation, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states continue to lag on almost all targets.**

**Finite borders and finite resources require Island States to address sustainable development and resilience strategies in tandem. SIDS are**

**particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the increasing intensity and frequency of natural disasters.**

**This disparity within and between countries calls for greater demand for partnerships. Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda underscores the importance of partnerships as a means of implementation. Member States have committed to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.**

**New models of partnerships among governments, civil society and the private sector for SDG implementation should be explored.**

**I am confident that this Regional Symposium will provide a good opportunity to discuss and share good examples of how to strengthen capacities of public institutions and develop more effective partnerships for achieving the 2030 Agenda.**

**Distinguished colleagues,**

**My Department is committed to assisting the UN Member States in their drive to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. It will continue to support Member States to build effective, inclusive and accountable institutions in support of Agenda 2030.**

**I wish you a big success and fruitful discussions during this important event.  
Thank you**

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