

Address by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea as the Chair of APMCHUD

July 26, 2016

Honorable Co-chairs, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Ministry of Public Works of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the City of Surabaya for their warm hospitality. After spending a couple of days in this beautiful city striving to be an even more livable city, I feel very strongly that Surabaya is a perfect venue for this PrepCom.

This morning, I have the honor of addressing the plenary in the capacity of the chair country of the 5th bureau of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank UN Habitat and the Secretariat for their strong support to the APMCHUD.

As you may know, APMCHUD is a consultative intergovernmental mechanism founded in 2006 by the UN-Habitat and the Government of India to achieve the common goal of promoting sustainable urban development in the Asia Pacific region.

Many countries in the region are experiencing an accelerating pace of urbanization and they face various urban problems ranging from housing to water supply, sewage and sanitation, roads, electricity and transport. The incidence of natural disasters related to climate change is growing and is imposing a threat on human settlements and its most vulnerable segment. The security of human settlements is further disturbed by the unpredictable act of terrorism.

With an aim to tackle the various urban challenges, the 29 member countries adopted the Seoul Declaration after a 3-day deliberation at the 5th APMCHUD conference held in Seoul in November 2014.

The Seoul Declaration emphasizes the importance of strengthening cooperation among member states in finding ways to make our cities and human settlements more sustainable and resilient and to provide people with better access to the benefits of urban planning and development.

Ladies and gentlemen, APMCHUD has already brought some fruitful achievements through policy exchanges and seminars with the support of the sincere efforts by the lead countries of 5 Working Groups.

As the leading country of Working Group 4 under the theme of sustainable housing finance, the Republic of Korea has made some put efforts into creating secure and safe human settlements in the region.

As all of us here pull our heads together to find ways to promote housing welfare and sustainable urban development, I hope that the experiences of Korea and other member countries in the APMCHUD will be a good reference to the New Urban Agenda to be deliberated and adopted at Habitat III..

As a member of the United Nations and the chair country of the 5th Bureau of APMCHUD, Korea will continue make its best endeavors in trying to contribute to realizing the goals of sustainable urban development and human settlements which Habitat III stands for in collaboration with all members of APMCHUD.

Once again, I would like to thank the organizers and all the member states of APMHUC, the UN Habitat and its Secretariat. Thank you very much.