

[Opening Remarks]
Expert Group Meeting on Green Economy for Sustainable Development Goals
13 - 15 December 2018

Excellencies, Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

It is my great pleasure and true honor to welcome you all and deliver opening remarks at this 'Expert Group Meeting on Green Economy for Sustainable Development'.

First of all, I thank our **partners**. I would like to thank Dr. **Sang-Hyup Kim**, Chairman of COCF (Coalition for Our Common Future). He is a true pioneer in green growth of Korea.

I thank another partner, Prof. **Suh-yong Chung** taking the lead in CSDLAP (Center for Climate SD Law and Policy). This center substantially contributed to formulating the program of the meeting.

Secondly, my special thanks go to **Governor Hee-ryong Won** of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province for taking time out of your busy schedule and for welcoming us. Whenever we host meetings here in Jeju, Jeju province kindly provided the transportation and guidance for our field trip. on the last day.

There are many participants that I have to appreciate. I thank **Mr. Suk-Woo Kim**, Chairman of Seoul International Law Academy for your presence.

There are many participants from **abroad**. Particularly on behalf of UNDESA (our Office is a part of UN DESA), our colleague **Clovis Freire** attended from NY.

Ladies and gentlemen,

UNOSD aims to support Member States in the implementation of the SD Agenda. Since its establishment in 2011, we have contributed to enhancing **capacity** of government officials, experts, academics, civil societies and other stakeholders through various activities.

To name a few,

- Executive Training for Policy makers
- annual Sustainable Development Transition Forum.
- International Mayor's Forum.
- Series of energy meetings such as Fossil Fuel to Renewable Energy Transition Workshop.
- Series of water and sanitation workshops. Etc.

Almost every month we are hosting capacity building events.

Let me tell you **why** we want to **hold** this meeting, on Green Economy.

In 2012, the world leaders gathered at the **Rio +20 conference** with the

objective of securing **renewed political commitment** for sustainable development, assessing **progress and gaps** in implementation, and addressing **challenges**.

One of the **two themes** of the conference were “**green economy**” in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Much of the discussions of the Conference focused around leveraging actions across a broad spectrum of sectors to build the **momentum** for green economy, which could bring about **socially inclusive** and **environmentally sound economic transformation**.

Following the conference, it was expected that green economy should be a **means** for achieving sustainable development and **adapted to national** circumstances and priorities on a voluntary basis.

It was expected that the UN system and the international community will deliver coordinated and coherent **policy advice, technical assistance, finance** and **capacity building** to Governments in order to assist them with the design and implementation of green economy policies and strategies.

Now, 6 years since the conference was held, I do not hear many **stories** of countries vigorously pursuing green economy in national planning as expected, **nor** do we have countries requesting for assistance in implementing green economy policies and strategies. I believe it is not given its **due recognition**.

With the **hefty two** global agreements in effect- the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, I believe green economy (as a means for achieving the ambitious goals) is ever more important.

Although small-scaled, UNOSD is committed to supporting the **realization of the visions** set forth in the 2030 Agenda and to advancing the green economy agenda globally. Our action to re-gain the momentum for green economy starts here at this expert group meeting.

10 years ago, I was serving as the General Director of Climate and Air Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Environment. At that time, I contributed in establishing the **Low Carbon Green Growth Policy** under the guidance of Presidential office. This is why green economy is close to my heart.

For the next three days, we will share the knowledge, experience and insights of all experts, and create practical strategies of partnership for shared development in the field.

I again extend my appreciation for your participation and my wishes for a successful meeting. Thank you very much.