

**Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Paik Ji-ah, DPR
Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea to the UN
For the ECLAC Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, 28 May 2013, New York**

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Executive Secretary Madam Alicia Bárcena and the Secretariat for the successful preparations of this meeting. My sincere appreciation also goes to Madam Bárcena for her insightful presentation which well illustrates ECLAC's strategic plans and activities.

My delegation believes that ECLAC's new strategies will pave the way towards sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean and scale up regional integration. We support the efforts of ECLAC to bolster cooperation within the Latin American region and beyond.

Mr. Chair,

Thanks to our willingness for collaboration and the complementary economic structures of our two regions, the relations between Asia and Latin America have greatly progressed over the years.

Even though the global community has suffered prolonged economic down-turns, the economies of both regions have maintained relatively high growth rates to prove once again their status as the main global economic engines. This year's UNDP Human Development Report rightly captures this phenomenon by choosing "the Rise of the South" as its main theme and even mentioning "global rebalancing."

Against this backdrop, we believe that increased collaboration between our two regions, one of the best examples of South-South cooperation will contribute even more to the revitalization of the global economy.

In addition to playing a key role for the global economy, it is important that our two regions share a joint vision and continue to work together to realize "the future we want." In this sense, Korea has been stepping up its efforts to strengthen cooperation with the Latin American region and to share our common vision for sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

Since joining ECLAC in 2007 as a Member State, Korea has been carrying out many cooperation projects on various fields such as joint studies, seminars on economic cooperation, and programs for the exchange of experts. In addition, Korea signed an MOU on Cooperation in 2012 to bolster relations with ECLAC. The main objective of these projects is to increase inclusive cooperation not only between Korea and Latin America, but also between Asia and Latin America.

At this point, we would like to point out that the Korea-SICA (Sistema de la Integracion Centroamericana) Summit has also played a pivotal role in laying the groundwork for a broader cooperation framework.

Through the Korea-Central America Seminar on Security and the Vision Sharing Program for National Development, Korea has been seeking to go beyond economic cooperation in order to strive to strengthen cooperation in the area of social development.

Furthermore, Korea has been doing its best for the strengthening of cooperation and relations between Asia and Latin America by hosting the FEALAC Cyber Secretariat and proposing the FEALAC Vision Group.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, faced with great challenges and tasks such as climate change, the post-2015 development agenda, and Rio+20 follow-ups, Korea is eager to work together with ECLAC and hopes that such concerted efforts will deepen collaboration and mutual understanding, not only between Latin America and Korea, but also between Latin America and Asia.

Thank you.