Statement by H.E. Mr. Oh Joon

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea Vice President of the Economic and Social Council 16th session of the Committee for Development Policy 24 March 2014

Distinguished Members of the Committee for Development Policy, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address the inaugural session of the Committee for Development Policy. On behalf of Ambassador Martin Sajdik, President of ECOSOC, and the ECOSOC Bureau, I would like to welcome you all to the 16th session of the CDP.

(CDP 업적 평가)

Since it was created in 1965, the Committee has had a long and esteemed history of assisting the Council in its work. It has identified emerging global development challenges and provided invaluable insights to the solution of these problems. The Committee has also been playing a central role in the analysis of the structural impediments to development of low-income countries.

I also note with appreciation the many contributions to the theme of AMR (Annual Ministerial Reviews) and of all your efforts in delineating the UN development agenda for the post 2015 era. Indeed, your sound analysis, insights, and recommendations have enriched our discussions and we would like to continue to rely on you as we reinvigorate our work moving forward.

(ECOSOC 개혁)

Distinguished Members,

The Council is now at a critical juncture. The UN General Assembly adopted important measures to strengthen ECOSOC last December. It enhanced the role of the Council as the principal body for coordination, policy review and policy dialogue on key issues of economic and social development, as well as for the implementation of the MDGs and other goals agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits.

At the last meeting of the ECOSOC Bureau with the Chairpersons of Subsidiary Bodies on March 3rd, Professor Ocampo, Chair of the CDP, indicated that the CDP has been aligning its work programme with the Council's priorities for some time already. We welcome such supportive measures of the CDP. The improved coordination between the Council and the subsidiary bodies is one of the most important elements in ECOSOC reforms.

The ECOSOC reforms will ensure greater system-wide coherence and increased synergies across the various subsidiary bodies, including the CDP, by having ECOSOC select one theme to focus its annual programme of work on. The annual theme should be addressed by the entire ECOSOC system. Each subsidiary body is invited to contribute to the annual theme by addressing it from its own perspective and thus providing substantive inputs to the Council.

In 2014, the main theme of the CDP will be the same as the theme of the AMR, "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains for the future." This choice reflects the Council's desire to maintain the momentum from Rio+20 and to translate that momentum into an ambitious, yet feasible post-2015 development agenda for the benefit of all.

Another key change in the ECOSOC reforms is the reallocation of each segment of the ECOSOC substantive meeting throughout the year. The year-round allocation of segments will contribute to increasing the interest of Member States and other stakeholders and making ECOSOC more relevant.

These are just few highlights of the recent reform. You will have a special session dedicated to ECOSOC reforms later this morning. I understand you will be in the very competent hands of Mr. Navid Hanif of DESA, who will provide you with additional details of the ECOSOC restructuring.

(CDP 회의 의제 평가)

Examining your agenda for this week, I noticed that the CDP will consider how global governance and global rules can better address development challenges in the post-2015 period. This is a topic that fits very well alongside the 2014 AMR theme. We will be very interested in hearing your assessment on the state of global governance and global rules for development.

Regarding LDCs-related matters, this Committee has been making relevant recommendations for the benefit of the category. It has refined the criteria and the procedures for inclusion to and graduation from the LDC category.

The CDP will conduct a triennial review on the LDC list in 2015. It is important not only for this Committee, but also for the Council, to keep abreast of new thinking in development and to reflect such advances in the LDC criteria. This will be critical so that the list continues to have a sound academic footing.

The third topic of this CDP session, "country groupings for international support for development," is also quite timely. The Council has paid particular attention to countries in special situations, including SIDS, LLDCs, and even countries emerging from conflict. As such, several questions come to the fore:

What priorities should the ECOSOC place for the specific development needs of these categories of countries and what actions should the Council recommend to the General Assembly and its Member States to make international support measures more effective and efficient, in particular, in the elaboration of post-2015 development agenda? Your insights on these issues, as well as others, will be great contributions to the Council.

I will stop here as I do not want to take more of your time. You have an important agenda in front of you already. I will be looking forward to the outcomes of your discussions and I wish you very productive deliberations over the next 5 days.

I thank you for your attention.