

## **High-Level Segment**

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### **□ Introduction**

Honorable Minister Venkaiah Naidu, the president of Governing Council,  
Honorable Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN Habitat,  
Representatives of Governing Council members,  
Distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen,

I'd like to give you my heartfelt congratulations on holding this great event, the 26th session of the Governing Council of UN Habitat, here in Nairobi.

And it is my great honor to speak here today on behalf of the Korean government.

### **□ Habitat III and the significance of New Urban Agenda**

Last year in Quito, we adopted the New Urban Agenda that embraces socially disadvantaged groups such as low income people, women, children and seriously marginalized from urban growth and emphasizes the participation of policy stakeholders.

Habitat III also provided us with another opportunity to shed new light on a blind spot of social policy and see our citizens as active participants in policy-making, not as passive policy beneficiaries.

### **□ The Korean government's policy for New Urban Agenda implementation**

I believe that the adoption of the New Urban Agenda provided us a turning point to review our urban and housing policy. Korea is going through slow population growth, aging population, and rapid changes by the 4th Industrial Revolution. Such changes reinforce the need for implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

We need to shift our urban paradigm from physically expanding cities toward improving urban quality of life and pursuing people's happiness.

To this end, the Korean government will focus on 4 policies under the vision of "making our cities more inclusive and sustainable.

First, we will revitalize declined urban areas through urban regeneration. Many cities are suffering from severe urban decay and "hollowing-out" due to population decrease and declining industries. The Korean government is trying to revive the cities economically, socially and physically by recovering urban functions, building infrastructure and improving residential environment.

Second, we will build more convenient and safer cities through Korean Smart City. By applying new ICT technology in cities, we are trying to solve urban problems such as climate change, environmental pollution and traffic congestion and improve the quality of people's life. We will also expand safety services for crime prevention to make our cities safer.

Third, we will promote deregulation and flexible urban development to reduce citizens' inconveniences. Instead of inflexible land zoning, creative land use will be widely encouraged for land use diversity. Complex procedures will be streamlined as well.

Lastly, we will expand citizen engagement. Improving urban quality of life should start from hearing and collecting the opinions of various stakeholders. Therefore, the Korean government will create more diverse channels for our citizens to engage in urban planning so that they can be main players of urban development.

#### **□ Conclusion**

It is not easy to implement a policy that embraces all demands which are getting more diverse and complex.

However, keeping the catch phrase of Habitat III, "Leave no one behind" in mind, all experts and policy stakeholders should continue to build good governance and strengthen cooperation.

By taking this opportunity, I would like to emphasize that Korea is ready to share its experience and cooperate with other countries around the world.

I hope that we exchange our policies and best practices, and collect various thoughts and ideas which will make our cities more mature and advanced through this 26th session of the Governing Council.

Thank you.