Speech to be made by head of DPRK delegation in 75th session of UNESCAP

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the DPRK delegation, I congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the current session, and I hope this session will bear fruitful results under your seasoned leadership.

At the same time, I express my appreciation to Her Excellency Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP and the Secretariat for the efforts made for the successful opening of the session.

I am confident that this 75th session, under the theme of “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, will serve as a significant milestone in promoting the sustainable and equitable socio-economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.

My delegation considers that UNESCAP has fulfilled its mission and role to reach the main targets of economy, society, environment and etc. as reflected in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, making significant progress.

The member states are still faced with challenges and difficulties such as inequality and discrimination while implementing SDGs.

Therefore it is urgent to overcome these challenges through concerted efforts and mutual cooperation.

Please allow me to take note of the following issues to facilitate the socio-economic development in the Asia-Pacific region in accordance with the theme of the current session.

First of all, it is important to create peaceful environment that is conducive to accelerating the socio-economic development and achieving the SDGs in the region.

The stability and durable peace of the region is inseparable from safeguarding the sovereignty and achieving socio-economic development of individual countries.
The Asia-Pacific region has huge human resources making up two thirds of the world population and extremely abundant natural resources, therefore the 21st century is said to be the century of the Asia and Pacific.

What is persisting in the region, however, are conflicts and disputes around the territory and interests as well as instability.

They are some of the main reasons that prevent the countries in the region from displaying fully their potential for development.

As long as this situation continues, we can expect neither the respect for sovereignty and equality nor the socio-economic development and implementation of SDGs in the region.

The DPRK Government has taken proactive measures one after another for the peace and security of the Korean peninsula and the region and is making all kinds of sincere efforts for the implementation.

We consider that it will make a substantial contribution to the creation of peaceful environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Secondly, it requires legal guarantee for empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality and mutual cooperation in the process to successfully achieve the SDGs.

Every country in the region varies in its level of socio-economic development, and the foundation and capacity for achieving the goals.

This reality requires the organization and the member states to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, which is the theme of the 75th session.

An effective approach in this regard is that the countries with developed economy and great potential provide support to other countries materially, financially and technically, and share successes and experiences already achieved.

At the same time, we consider that it is important for the UNESCAP to further enhance its mission and role of coordination of the regional socio-economic development, and to accordingly promote the exchange of knowledge
and expertise among member states.

Member states should collaborate under the principle of respecting each country’s legal mechanism, sovereignty, political and socio-economic system and cultural diversity of respective countries to empower people and ensure equality and rights.

It should be completely ruled out to impose its intention on the other using aid as a lever and attach political strings.

The DPRK Government is valuing international cooperation in the implementation of the theme of the present session and the sustainable development targets, and will further activate the cooperation with the countries in the region.

Mr. Chair,

The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is the socialist country centered on the masses in which everything serves for the popular masses.

DPRK, from its first day of foundation, put forward empowering people and ensuring genuine rights and equality for them as the supreme principle of its activities, and is making all efforts for its realization.

Today, our entire people, upholding the historic policy speech made by Comrade Kim Jong Un, the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of DPRK at the first session of the 14th Supreme People’s Assembly, are turning out in the struggle for solidifying the material foundations of socialism by concentrating all national resources on economic construction with the principle of self-reliance and self-development, and great achievements are being made.

The DPRK Government will actively strive for securing stability and constant peace in the Korean peninsula and the region, and will continue to strengthen the cooperation with UNESCAP and all member states in the regional socio-economic development and the implementation of sustainable development targets.

Thank you.