

Statement by Ambassador HAHN Choonghee

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

High Level Interactive Dialogue: The International Decade for Action, 'Water for Life'

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Thank you, Madame Chair,

First of all, I would like to thank our keynote speaker and panelists for the informative and insightful presentation.

Madame Chair,

As the timeframe for the MDGs and the 'Water for Life' Decade nears completion, the successes, lessons learned, and remaining challenges are becoming increasingly clear.

Despite appreciable efforts undertaken over the years, people are still struggling to meet the demand for safe drinking water in most developing countries. Every year, millions of people, most of them children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.

According to the United Nations World Water Development Report, by 2050, at least one in four people is likely to live in a country affected by chronic or recurring shortages of freshwater. Water scarcity, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security and livelihood choices for poor people across the world.

Water-related disasters such as floods, tropical storms and droughts are becoming more frequent and their impact on human and economic development is becoming ever greater. Furthermore, the MDG framework did not address the broader water agenda, such as water quality, development, as well as management of water resources and wastewater.

Madame Chair,

This reality forces us to confront the magnitude of the challenge that we face in order to move forward. It is time to reaffirm our commitment to complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, while simultaneously charting the way for a post-2015 development agenda as a stand-alone goal.

For achieving a world of dignity for all, and taking into account the proposition that no target should be considered met unless it is met for all social and economic groups, no one should lack safe water and sanitation. To build a sustainable, climate-resilient future for all, we need concerted action for the sustainable management of water resources, both in quantity and quality.

Taking this opportunity, Madame Chair, I would like to remind all of you that the 7th World Water Forum (WWF) will take place in Daegu and Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea in April this year. Under the theme of 'Water for Our Future', the World Water Forum will bring together governments, civil society, businesses and academia. It will serve as an opportunity to share our knowledge and experience, and promote

international cooperation to tackle water challenges. The Republic of Korea will continue to actively engage in these important global efforts.

Thank you. Madame Chair. //END//