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Statement by Minister-Counsellor Younghyo Park

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Preparatory Meeting for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference (interactive dialogue)

4 February 2020, New York

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Thank you, Madam and Mr. Co-facilitators.

Let me begin by congratulating you on your appointment as co-facilitators to oversee the preparatory process and conclude the intergovernmental consultations on the declaration for 2020 United Nations Conference to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. You can be assured of our full support and active engagement throughout the preparatory process.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the proposed themes for the interactive dialogues, in particular “Leveraging interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other Goals towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,” which was newly added. Since the SDGs are integrated and indivisible, they require coordinated policies and concerted actions for successful implementation. Regarding the proposed themes of the interactive dialogues, my delegation would like to make the following points:

First, ocean acidification is a manifestation of the impacts of climate change on marine environment. The theme “minimizing and addressing ocean acidification” could be expanded to include other phenomena of the impacts of climate change, such as the rise in ocean temperatures, deoxygenation of oceans, and the decline in

fish stocks. Therefore, we would propose considering the idea of broadening the theme to “marine environment and climate change.”

Second, with respect to the themes “Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for small island developing States and least developed countries” and “Increasing scientific knowledge, and developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology”, Korea has successfully advanced energy generation technology using temperature differences between deep and surface seawaters, which could help renewable energy supply in developing States and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Korea believes that its relevant experience can inform discussion around these themes.

Finally, a number of the interactive dialogue themes will be also addressed in late June this year when Korea hosts the Second Summit of Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030, which is called P4G Summit. This Summit aims to advance sustainable growth through innovative partnerships amongst various private and public stakeholders, and will include a meaningful discussion about clean energy as well as responsible production and consumption. We believe that the P4G Summit will work as a timely platform to develop interlinkages between SDG 14 and the other relevant SDGs.

The 2020 Ocean Conference will be a milestone event for ocean actions based on science and innovation, in the implementation of SDG 14. My delegation would like to reiterate its unwavering commitment to this collective effort to protect and conserve sustainable oceans. I thank you, Madam and Mr. Co-facilitators. /End/