

Closing Remarks at the 6th OECD World Forum:
“Paving the path to well-being in the future”

29 November 2018, Incheon

Commissioner Kang Shin-wook of Statistics Korea,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor to deliver these closing remarks at the 6th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy.

Under the theme of “Paving the path to well-being in the Future,” this Forum brought together a wide range of stakeholders – including policy makers, academics, statisticians, and civil society representatives – to seek ways to measure and contribute to improving the quality of life across the world.

The global blueprint for the humanity's well-being into the future is presented in the form of Sustainable Development Goals.

It is one of the UN's most significant achievements, and one of my proudest personal achievements as UN Secretary-General.

Adopted by 193 countries in New York in 2015, the SDGs offer us a way forward to confront the most critical issues of our time. These include poverty, education, inequality, climate change, public health, and gender equality.

Production of better and stronger statistics, and the use of statistics in policymaking and monitoring are central to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable development demands a data revolution to

improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of statistics to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels.

I am delighted to hear that much discussion has taken place with focus on SDGs and sustainability.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The SDGs' most important aspiration and vision for our shared future is to ensure that *no one is left behind*. In order to meet this aspiration, cooperation, innovation, and engagement are absolutely essential.

This transformative vision calls on all countries to be able to identify the vulnerable, to help them and to review progress.

We all understand that people can never be reduced to

mere numbers. At the same time, statistics are essential for tracking progress. When people are not counted, they are excluded.

To live up to the commitment to leave no one behind, we have to make sure everyone is counted.

I often told the organization to “measure what we treasure.”

That is why I welcome your focus on measuring the quality of life improvements and the balance between work and life. In this regard, let me congratulate your efforts in adopting *the Incheon Declaration for Improving the Quality of Life*.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Three years since their adoption, the SDGs have made

tangible progress on bettering maternal mortality rates, ending poverty and hunger, and improving the quality of water and sanitation.

But progress is uneven on others, and we need to move forward with a renewed sense of urgency with only 12 years left to go.

In this connection, statistics and quality data are essential to track our progress and fulfill the transformational ambitions of the SDGs.

Robust and accessible statistics can provide a host of benefits. This can help citizens monitor how their governments are performing and hold decision-makers to account.

It can enhance public trust, quantify well-being, and create new opportunities.

We need statistics that are not only accurate, but are also representative and inclusive to gain a true understanding of the challenges we face and the necessary sustainable solutions to them.

As such, the success of the SDGs will, in many ways, rely on the expertise of those of you here today to operationalize the opportunities in front of us, construct robust systems for delivering outcomes, and report on the progress made in pursuit of achieving the SDGs.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I believe that we can create the future we want, one that is anchored in well-being and sustainability for all people and our planet.

I know that we can achieve this. With your sustained

efforts, we can ensure that everyone, everywhere truly participates and benefits from the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you for your attention. /END/