

It is my great pleasure to be here in this meeting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Due to the rapid aging of population, Korea is expected to become a super-aged society where people aged 65 years or more exceeds 20% of the total population by 2025. The increased proportion of this age group means a person can expect a longer life in old age in one's lifetime as the average life expectancy in Korea is 83.9 years. Considering this, we are promoting various policies in various fields such as job security, income security, health and caring so that people can live a healthy and active life in old age.

Thus far, policies for older persons have been mainly limited to the areas of 'caring' and 'welfare'. However, a new older age group, the baby boomers generation (born in 1955-1963) has affected diversified policies. Relatively healthy older citizens with high education and income levels want continued social participation and various types of jobs. In addition, they want to stay in their own homes and communities as they age (Aging in Place) with high-quality home care services, rather than staying in nursing homes or hospitals.

(I'd like to highlight three of our policy directions.)

First, to ensure a stable retirement income, we are providing the 'National Pension' and 'Basic Pension' benefits for older people. Also, to provide high-quality jobs, we plan to increase the number of jobs and offer various types of jobs, including social service and market-linked jobs, in addition to simple jobs.

Second, considering the increasing burden of caring caused by the aging population, we are also seeking ways to improve the sustainability of care policies for older persons. We will delay nursing homes entry with better preventive services, and improve home-centered care services so that people can grow old independently in their own homes. Through public care services for older persons living alone, regular visits and phone consultations will be

provided to check their safety and conditions.

Lastly, we plan to provide a better health services and caring for older persons in response to the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and environmental deterioration such as air pollution. We also plan to improve the facility environment by upgrading ventilation and facilities for infectious disease prevention and control such as isolation rooms. Furthermore, the remote safety and health management using ICT will be implemented to ensure caring services for older persons during the pandemic.

As all sectors of society are rapidly digitizing, older persons may have difficulties in their daily lives that require the use of digital devices. Providing digital education, we will expand institutional support for the development and promotion of products that would be easier for older persons to use.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will make continuous efforts to build an age-friendly social system by preemptively responding to demographic changes. We will always pay attention and be open to the opinions and directions suggested by the UN ESCAP Committee on Social Development. Thank you.