

**International Dialogue on Migration (IDM) Workshop on  
“Follow-up and Review of Migration in the SDGs”  
29 February 2016**

**Remarks by  
H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon  
President of the Economic and Social Council**

*Panel 2 - “From policy development to implementation”*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I begin, I would like to thank the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its kind invitation to take part in this important meeting.

2016 marks the first year for taking action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, so the focus of our discussion on implementation is both timely and necessary.

The 2030 Agenda is highly ambitious development framework which covers almost entire human activities on the globe. The fact that migration was reflected in the Agenda is a testament to this ambition.

In particular, the inclusion of migration-related goals and targets is in recognition of the positive contribution that human mobility can play a crucial role in achieving the sustainable development.

The number of international migrants living abroad has reached over 240 million in 2015, thus deepening economic and social interactions worldwide.

Migration is now an integral part of every economy and society and it is imperative that each state make efforts to improve the lives of migrants and adopt more inclusive and effective migration policies. Target 8.8 of SDG 8 for the protecting labour rights of migrant workers can be a good guidance in this regard.

If managed well, migration can provide win-win development solutions for both sending and receiving countries, developed and developing alike.

Moreover, well planned and properly managed migration policies can reduce inequality within and among countries as provided in goal 10 of the SDGs.

Migrants are contributors to the sustainable development and inclusive growth of origin, transit and destination countries. Remittance from migrant workers also plays a key role in this respect.

At the same time, migration also poses certain challenges for countries and the international system.

The root causes of migration are multi-dimensional and also include conflict, poor governance, poverty and environmental factors which often cause displaced persons both internally and globally.

As there are no “one-size-fits-all” solutions to coping with the challenges associated with migration, there is a clear need for strengthened dialogue, international solidarity and global responsibility to address its root causes and impacts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its inception, the Economic and Social Council has served as a central global platform for countries to forge collective solutions to development challenges.

For the past 70 years, the Council has helped set global norms and standards in international development cooperation as well as humanitarian action.

To this end, the ECOSOC will spare no effort in supporting the implementation of the Agenda and coordinating the activities of the UN system accordingly.

In particular, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under auspices of ECOSOC will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level.

Under the proposed theme of “Ensuring that no one is left behind”, this year’s HLPF will provide a timely opportunity to discuss global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.

I very much look forward today’s discussion will provide how the migration-related issues could be reviewed in the SDGs implementation context.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we take the first step toward realizing the 2030 Development Agenda, we need to make our ambitious commitments are translated into substantial results.

By safeguarding the rights and dignity of migrants, we can contribute to the overall aspiration that no one is left behind in our pursuit of sustainable development.

In closing, I wish to assure you that the ECOSOC will continue its part in supporting the implementation, as well as building a robust review framework on our commitments.

Thank you. //END//