Speech of Ambassador Kim
Seoul Metropolitan Government
at the opening of COP22 Low Emissions Solutions Conference
on behalf of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
on November 13, 2016

Your excellences, distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to meet you at the opening of the COP22 Low Emissions Solutions Conference on behalf of Park Won Soon, Mayor of Seoul and President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

At the COP22 in Marrakech, the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement is kicking off. I believe this will open an new era for the global climate regime and action.

For the first time in the history of the United Nations climate conferences, we have come together at this Low-Emissions Solutions Conference to discuss with all actors about the solutions to proceed and apply for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

I am happy to see the LESC Conference as part of the innovative, inclusive and ambitious Global Climate Action Agenda which our Climate Champions proposed into the global process. ICLEI is happy to support this Global Climate Action process both through the facilitation of thematic sessions on resilient cities and engaging actively here in this conference.

In this sense, I would like to commend both of the Climate Champions for their political wisdom, courage and vision to put this as an innovative agenda in the UNFCCC process. I look forward to seeing concrete results from this conference, and I expect that the cooperation between the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and ICLEI will further enhance through this event.
By adopting the Paris Agreement last December and ratifying it less than one year later, nations helped the world reach an important milestone in tackling climate change.

However, there still is a substantial gap between national climate action plans and goals of the Paris Agreement.

If the Paris Agreement is a solid foundation laid by nations, the rapid transformation will be conducted mainly by our cities and local governments who are all crucial parts of the innovation that we need desperately.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the next three days, ICLEI member cities Dakar, Edmonton, Melaka Provincial Government, Oslo, Tokyo, Warsaw will share their ambitious visions and practices on how they transform their cities to become low carbon, climate-resilient and smart cities.

You will witness how we are leading by example by applying low-carbon, climate-resilient technologies in the municipal fleets, buildings and facilities. I thank and congratulate all of them for their contributions in the success of LESC.

As the president and long lasting member of ICLEI, the city of Seoul also leads by example.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government has implemented ‘One Less Nuclear Power Plant’ project which aims to reduce the energy equivalent to the amount produced by one nuclear power plant. Thanks to the active participation from the citizens, Seoul was able to reach the goal of reducing 2 million of Tons Oil Equivalent of energy ahead of our targeted timeline. Keeping up this momentum, we have started implementing the second phase of the project, which aims to reduce 10 million tons of greenhouse gases by 2020.

We aim to inspire and stimulate many more cities along our efforts to successfully assist the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In this spirit, ICLEI and Seoul are pioneering in building global alliances of local and regional under the Compact of Mayors, which now evolved into the new Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy by merging with the European Covenant of Mayors.

ICLEI contributes in this effort by mobilizing its vast network of over 1500 cities, towns and
regions in more than 100 countries, as well as operating the carbonn Climate Registry as the world’s leading global reporting platform for cities and regions.

The latest data compiled by the ICLEI’s carbonn Climate Registry shows that:

- today 700 cities commit to reduce more than 1 billion tons of Green House Gas emissions by 2020,
- dozens of cities commit to a transition towards 100% renewable energies
- and almost hundred cities now already to energy and climate targets for 2050.

These demonstrate concrete actions in the short term and their readiness to a low emissions pathway in the long term.

Finally to encourage enhanced cooperation among cities around the world, Seoul hosted the Seoul Mayors Forum on Climate Change in September this year, as the first event under the new Global Covenant of Mayors Climate and Energy.

In our Communique that we agreed upon in Seoul at this event, our cities encourage
- encourage the national governments to include their cities and local governments in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and improve the coordination and the collaboration between all levels of government infra national,
- we ask the UNFCCC Secretariat to recognize the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy as a key initiative that guides and supports local governments with technical assistance and collecting data which could connect the commitments of cities and local governments to their respective NDCs, and
- we ask the global financial institutions to substantially improve the city access to climate finance, and to consider applications submitted under the ICLEI Transformative Actions Program (TAP) as priority implementation projects.

We, the Cities and local governments, are committed to an active climate leadership.
Our actions are ready to explore new ambitions by demonstrating concrete contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), advancing the New Urban Agenda for sustainable urban development, and by implementing the Paris Agreement successfully.

I sincerely hope that various actors participating in this Low Emissions Solutions Conference could come up with innovative solutions for different sectors. Also I look forward to an active contribution from cities and local governments these days in helping the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
Thank you.