



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Maanee LEE**  
**Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea**  
**at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Biodiversity**

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**New York**

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Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have gathered here to discuss and find the way to reverse the ongoing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

I strongly believe that today's meeting should serve as a stepping stone to the rest of our deliberations on biodiversity at the current session of the General Assembly.

According to the '2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment', species are going extinct 100 times faster than the natural rate of extinction due to human activities. By now, we all know that "2010 Biodiversity Target", adopted at the CBD/COP6 back in 2002, has not been met at the global level.

For these reasons, there has been a growing recognition within the international community that relevant scientific information should be provided for policy-making processes in a timely manner.

However, existing mechanisms and processes have not been able to meet this need sufficiently.

Against this backdrop, a proposal has been made to establish an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in short IPBES.

As the host country of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on IPBES in June this year in Busan, I am very pleased to inform you that a large number of Governments agreed to establish an IPBES. And the Governments also agreed in Busan to invite the General Assembly to take appropriate action for that purpose.

Once established, this Platform is expected to support global efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and ecosystem services, through identification of key scientific information for policy makers, timely assessments, policy support, and, above all, catalyzing financing to address capacity building needs.

Furthermore, the platform will also contribute significantly to developing countries' efforts in implementing a number of conventions and other international instruments related to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Mr. Chair,

I firmly believe that strengthening the science-policy interface will provide us with an opportunity to advance global green growth by securing environmental sustainability.

Based on this background, I sincerely hope that we will have fruitful deliberations on this issue at the current session, and take a clear decision and necessary actions to ensure the immediate establishment of the platform.

Thank you.