Remarks to the Professional Session of the Special High-Level Event on ‘A New Rural Development Paradigm and the Inclusive and Sustainable New Communities Inspired by the Saemaul Undong’ of the UN Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly

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Honorable Representatives, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honor and privilege to be here today with you on the occasion of the Professional Session of the Special High-Level Event on ‘A New Rural Development Paradigm and the Inclusive and Sustainable New Communities Inspired by the Saemaul Undong.’

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to those who have made every effort to make this gathering possible.
I am Lee Ju Young, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. I am the President of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE) of the National Assembly of Korea, and also the President of the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians’ Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED), which has 46 member countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you well know, the Republic of Korea is a unique country. This is because it was successfully transitioned from an aid recipient to a donor. The Republic of Korea joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2010.

Without any doubt, this remarkable result stems from Korea’s unprecedented experience of the ‘Saemaul Undong.’ This new village movement has been a core engine for Korea’s economic and social development.

Since the ‘Saemaul Undong’ is a holistic frame in which various sustainable development schemes and programs were planned and carried out, it could be utilized worldwide to help guide the appropriate implementation of the Sustainable
Development Goals (SDGs).

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda are for every member of the entire international community. All the members of the United Nations should act in order to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

This is because first, we share this world and second, we cannot live independently of each other. The world of the twenty-first century is so intertwined that nations and peoples live as one big organic being in it.

Distinguished Delegates,

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea created a parliamentary research colloquiums called the ‘UN-MDGs Forum’ in 2010 and the ‘UN-SDGs Forum’ this year to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to help the Korean Government support decisively the implementation of the UN MDGs in terms of budget and legislation.
Taking an initiative in the Asia-Pacific region on the issues of development and environment, Korean parliamentarians established an inter-parliamentary cooperation organization in 1993.

The *Asia Pacific Parliamentarians’ Conference on Environment and Development (APPCED)* has served since its creation as a center for inter-parliamentary dialogue on environment and development for more than two decades.

APPCED, designed for the purpose of forming a forum for parliamentarians of the Asian Pacific region with a common concern for developmental and environmental issues, has tried very hard to take mutual efforts among Asia Pacific countries through policy discussion as well as collaboration at the parliamentary level.

The 17th APPCED General Assembly was held on August 23 – 25 in 2014 in Tehran, Iran with the theme ‘Regional Partnership for Global Sustainability.’

By adopting the *Tehran Declaration*, participating parliamentarians and observers not only from the Asia Pacific region but also from around the world
built a consensus on how sustainable development plans for the next few decades should be made.

Distinguished Delegates,

What I mentioned above, the initiatives that the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea came up with, is the result of socio-economic development brought by the ‘Saemaul Undong.’

It is my firm belief, therefore, that our discussion on a developmental paradigm and new communities model pertaining to the ‘Saemaul Undong’ will enable us as a whole to bring our world better for the next generation. And this is the reason why we are here today.

Thank you very much for your attention!