

Mr. Wu Hongbo
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
Remarks
United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)
Signing Ceremony for Phase II

2 June 2016, New York

Excellency, Mr. Yun-sik Hong,
Ambassador Mr. Oh Joon,
Vice Mayor, City of Incheon, Mr. Dong-am Cho
Distinguished Guests,
Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the signing ceremony for the second phase of the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG).

Over the past 10 years, UNPOG has been an integral part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It has promoted research, advocacy and capacity building activities to support public institutions to advance the Millennium Development Goals. Through peer-to-peer learning and dissemination of good practices, UNPOG has become a well-known regional hub for innovation and e-government.

I thank the Republic of Korea for its generous support over these years. I applaud our colleagues for their successful contribution to improving public administration across Asia and the Pacific, and for facilitating North-South and South-South cooperation. You have made noteworthy contributions in areas related to innovations and ICT. You have addressed issues as varied as disaster reduction and gender equality. You have supported DESA's activities for the UN Public Sector Award.

In response to the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Republic of Korea proposed to extend its support to UNPOG until 2030, the target date for the Sustainable Development Goals. I welcome this generous offer. My Department is committed to providing support to Member States in the Asia and Pacific.

I am pleased to see the broadened mandate of UNPOG. Over the next 15 years, UNPOG will assist Member States in their efforts to equip public institutions to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Institutions are critical for realizing every single SDG. SDG 16 also recognizes their importance and the need for inclusiveness, accountability and effectiveness. Institutions need to deliver for people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

The 2030 Agenda opens up many new opportunities, but also challenges. Governments will need to promote policy integration, institutional coordination, enhanced participatory decision-making, effective and inclusive partnerships, better accountability systems and innovative service delivery.

Asia and the Pacific is an important region with diverse economic, social and historic backgrounds. Many countries in the region have successfully developed into advanced and high income economies. However, many people in the region still live in poverty. There is much knowledge and experiences to be shared and great opportunities to learn from each other – not only within the region but also globally.

We must bear in mind that the 2030 Agenda is universal and indivisible. The Agenda is not only for developing countries, it is for all countries. I also welcome that UNPOG intends to reach out to East African countries as part of an effort to bolster South-South cooperation.

I thank the Government of the Republic of Korea for their continued support to development efforts and the City of Incheon for hosting two DESA offices: the UNPOG and the UNOSD (Office for Sustainable Development). I commend the Government's continued collaboration and its commitment to the work of the UN to advancing the SDGs for all.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

DESA is committed to assisting the UN Member States in their drive to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions will be instrumental for ensuring no one is left behind. UNPOG can bolster the work of the Department and help provide effective support to Member States through capacity development and research.

I look forward to the fruitful work ahead and continued cooperation over the next 15 years.

Thank you
