

Greetings from Korea. Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to the world. It's a great honor to deliver these few words to you all here today. My name is Garam Jeon, I'm a Youth Representative with the World Organization of the Scout Movement, representing more than 57million scouts who wants to constantly contribute to the world and make a better world. Again, it's really big pleasure to meet you all here today. I am speaking on behalf of our Secretary General and former UN Youth Envoy, Mr Ahmad Alhendawi, who sends his best wishes to you all today.

The Scouting Movement is the worlds largest coordinated youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, with more than 2 billion service hours completed by young people through community action projects and campaigns to make the world a better place.

Before delivering the key content, today I would like to first emphasize the role and the importance of youth. Youth represent the future of our world, and their role should never be downplayed. We must support young people to have the skills to face the diverse challenges of now and the future. Young people bring creative and innovative ideas and provide new perspectives on social issues. We also acquire knowledge through education, raise awareness of environmental issues, and drive social change. This is why we call young people the protagonists of the next generation or the all-too-precious resources of our planet.

The voices and opinions of younger generations have a significant impact on policy decisions and social change. You are our future and one of our world's most precious resources. In addition, we always have a wise and hopeful vision and strive to make our Earth and society a better place. I am thrilled that these valuable resources have come together at this event, the 7th Youth Forum on SDG Implementation, to create a platform to share ideas on digital transformation and inclusive climate action not only with Asia Pacific and East Africa, but also with the wider world. The reason I am happy is because I am confident that we will move towards a better world through you.

Why are we all spending our precious time here today? We are gathered here today to share ideas on harnessing the role and potential of young people in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs contain

substantial goals to make our planet and society a better place. And you have an essential role to play in achieving this.

Youth are key protagonists in making the SDGs a reality. They can have a major impact on protecting the global environment, reducing poverty, and expanding education. You are already putting the SDGs into action, for example through environmental protection, community service, and education projects.

But the truth of the matter is, globally, we are not on track to achieve the goals of the SDGs, not even close. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, globally we were already going to miss the targets by a long shot. One report published in 2019, had the headline 'UN Sustainable Development Goals are threatened to fail'. That was in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic has only made this worse. The global poverty rate has increased for the first time in 20 years. Some of our most pressing issues are in governance, climate, youth unemployment and malnutrition.

This is worrying, but there is hope. The SDGs draws us together and reminds us about the goals we share at a global level. But its about how you take that inspiration back to your local communities, and what you act on, to drive us towards a slightly better world. At Scouts, we believe in the SDGs but not just as something that brings us together in spirit. Scouts have worked towards the SDGs long before 2015, and will continue to do so long after 2030.

In the digital age, your role is becoming more important. Through digital platforms, young people can share information about the SDGs, foster international collaboration, and create innovative solutions to solve problems. You can raise awareness of the planet's problems and think about ways to put the SDGs into practice in your local community.

And your passion and voice have a huge impact on policy decisions. It is important to adopt policies that support the SDGs, monitor their implementation and make your voice heard with governments and international organizations. The voices of youth lead to positive change for the future.

But all of this requires education and access to information. It is our duty to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to understand and participate in the SDGs.

The second thing I want to convey is about the climate crisis. What I found in a recent article is that young people are increasingly aware that they will be hit hard by the climate crisis. According to UNDP's National Climate Poll, nearly 70% of under-18s believe climate change is a global emergency. Young people are also playing a role in leading, advocating and demanding more responsible climate action from governments and the private sector. This issue also has a huge impact on all of us, raising concerns about the future, especially for our youth generation. Climate change presents practical problems such as hotter summers and colder winters, an increase in natural disasters, sea level rise, and changes in the ecosystem. These changes are affecting our health, safety, economy and environment.

But fortunately, we have the power to solve this problem. Our youth can play a particularly important role. We have the knowledge and passion, and can offer new ideas and innovations. You don't have to be a Scout to do all of these things, you have many opportunities to join Youth Forums and start campaigns. The UN 2030 plan allows us to promote climate action and create a sustainable future. You can also take steps such as improving energy efficiency and adopting renewable energy.

More importantly, we can work together with government, non-government organizations and communities to work together with unity and resolve. We must make our voices heard and continue to promote global efforts to protect the environment. We must invest in the future and work to protect the global environment and achieve sustainable development. This is our responsibility and our gift to future generations.

These two topics I shared today are interconnected. Digital technologies can help drive the SDGs. Through data analysis, we can understand environmental issues and share information to create a more efficient society.

Dear friends, you are the protagonists of the future and the leaders of change. The digital era and our commitment to sustainable development start now. I also hope that this event will be a useful time to exchange and share various ideas and

lessons. Let us work together to create a better world and move forward to realize the SDGs. Think about today as just the start of your journey. Thank you