

Remarks by Mr. Yoo Dae-jong

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His Excellency Minister of Foreign Affairs Hugo Martinez,
Secretary-General of the CD, Ambassador Leissner,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I am delighted to be here at the 8th Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies. I would first like to express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of El Salvador for its hard work in organizing this Conference as the Presidency.

At the outset, I would like to say that, as one of the initial members of the CD, the Republic of Korea is fully committed to making democracy strengthened and assisting countries in their democratic consolidation and will continue to support the work of CD in promoting and consolidating democracy all around the world.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

The UN World Summit Outcome document of the 2005 UN General Assembly reaffirmed that democracy is a universal value and democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

As democracy can play an important role in reducing poverty and promoting human well-being and happiness by helping effective allocation of resources in a society and creating level playing fields all, there could be no sustainable development without democracy, and no full-fledged democracy without development.

In this regard, the year 2015 is a remarkable year. In September, we will be officially adopting the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN Post-2015 Summit. Against this backdrop, the theme of this conference, "*Democracy and Development*," is very much relevant and reflects the common ideal of the countries represented here.

The Republic of Korea is often cited as a nation that has achieved both full-fledged democracy and economic development within a short span of time. We learned from our experience that sustainable development is only possible when they are pursued in parallel with democracy.

Let me share some lessons learned with you in view of our theme of the day “**Democracy and Development**”

First, institutionalizing democracy, including an electoral system and an independent judicial system, is essential. Democracy is a political system that allows the people to select and replace the government through free and fair elections. In addition to democratically elected government accountable and responsible for its people, independent and effective judicial system contributes to development by ensuring an equal access to the decision-making in a society, including decisions related to development activities.

Second, promotion of democratic value, such as tolerance, dialogue, and cooperation, is also crucial to realizing democratization and development, while keeping violent extremism at bay. In a democratic society, people resolve conflicts through peaceful means. As such, these virtues will contribute to the promotion of the culture of peace, which makes development sustainable.

Third, inclusive growth for all, including vulnerable groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities, is imperative because democratization can never be achieved in a society in which discrimination and huge economic inequalities exist. The fact that the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, “**The Future We Want**”, reaffirms the need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all and reducing inequalities clearly shows that the international community also sees inclusive growth as vital elements in realizing sustainable development.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

As former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Winston Churchill said, "**No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.**" This means that democracy is not perfect and every form of government, no matter how successful, has flaws.

Therefore, bearing in mind that democracy is a process to make changes for the better, let us continuously work to make tomorrow a better day in our common endeavor for democracy.

Thank you. /End/