

Statement by Mr. Jong Baek Lee,
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Introduction

Thank you all for your warm hospitality. Also I'd like to express my appreciation to Romano Prodi, Prime Minister of Italy, Clemente Mastella, Minister of Justice, Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General and other officials for preparing this meeting.

I am so pleased to have this opportunity to present Korea's efforts in implementing the OECD Convention on Bribery to you.

The 10th anniversary celebration of the adoption of the Convention

It has been 10 years since the OECD adopted the Anti-Bribery Convention. As you are well aware, it is designed to eliminate international bribery and ensure a level playing field in worldwide business.

The Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Officials in International Business Transactions is the first of its kind. It defines the bribery of foreign public officials as a criminal offence.

Therefore, its adoption helps the global community make further progress in its fight against bribery and corruption.

In addition, the Convention is evaluated as one of the most rigorous norms of the OECD. Its excellent implementation system is also well proven, for example, its peer monitoring

mechanism is now being considered as a model for the monitoring of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

Efforts of the Korean government in implementing the Conventions' standards

Now, I'd like to turn my remark to Korea's endeavours in implementing the Convention. The Korean government has made continued efforts for the comprehensive enforcement of the Convention's standards. As part of its endeavours to fully implement the Convention, it established and promulgated *the Act on Preventing Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions* as the national legislation in December 1998.

Under the Convention, extra efforts have been made to detect and punish foreign bribery offences. All this proves that the government has fully applied and enforced the Convention in Korea.

Besides, Korea also served as the lead examiner of the on-site visit for Finland and New Zealand, fulfilling its obligation and right as a Party to the Convention.

For a more effective implementation of the Convention, the Korean government has taken diverse approaches. One of them is to improve the relevant legislation reflecting phase-two recommendations.

In particular, under the revision of *the Anti-Corruption Act* in July 2005, Korea has expanded protection for whistleblowers. As a result, protection is now provided to those who report to KICAC and investigative bodies as well as those who report to a government agency to which a whistleblower belongs or the agency's supervising body.

Korea has also taken significant steps in the area of tax. According to the revision of (*the Income Tax and Corporate Tax Acts*) tax deduction of bribes to foreign public officials is denied all together.

All of these are the results of the Korean government's strong commitment to an effective implementation of the Convention.

Korea's efforts are well recognized as the 2007 TI report on the enforcement of Convention included Korea as one of the significant enforcement countries.

Conclusion

It is a great pleasure for me to see that this High Level Conference serves as a very meaningful venue to reaffirm our determination to the Convention's implementation.

The Korean government will continue to join the global efforts in fighting corruption and establishing cooperation which can lead to a fair and mutual development for all Parties to the Convention.

Thank you.