

Statement

by

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Ambassador for Energy and Resources

of the Republic of Korea

at

the Founding Conference of

the International Renewable Energy Agency

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Bonn, Germany

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Germany for hosting this important Conference. It is unprecedented that an international conference starts with a beautiful chorus. Let me thank the Deutsche Choir for the beautiful and inspiring songs.

It is a truly historic moment that a comprehensive international renewable energy agency is being established here in Bonn. To do justice to the significance of IRENA, the Korean Government has decided to sign the Statute of IRENA today. As a country that relies 97% of its energy resources on imports, Korea aspires to have a wider use of renewable energy. Accordingly, the Korean Government drives a Green Growth policy that prioritizes wider use of renewable energy. In achieving the goal of wider use of renewable energy, we believe that international cooperation is important. The establishment of IRENA will support and facilitate much-needed cooperation among nations in the area of renewable energy.

Therefore, it is our strong hope that IRENA will develop into a truly universal organization that serves the interest of all member countries. In order to achieve that goal IRENA will have to sort out a host of issues that remain ahead. We will have to decide the location of the Agency. We will also devise a lean and mean and yet well functioning Secretariat. Good working relationships with the UN, UNDP and the IAEA, among others, should also be established.

Furthermore, we need to develop substantive work programmes that seek to achieve IRENA's mission. In an age of overlapping international organizations, serious work programmes that guarantee benefits to all the signatory countries will facilitate the ratification process in each member countries.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman,

We are here today to celebrate the birth of IRENA, not to worry about her future. And I am optimistic. It is indeed auspicious that we give a birth to IRENA on this first day of the lunar New Year. My delegation has come a long way from Korea, sacrificing our traditional family

reunion at the time of the first day of the New Year. To make sure that our trip was truly worthwhile, we look forward to fruitful discussions today and tomorrow.

Thank you.