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The Republic of Korea John Abbott College

## United Nations Framework on Climate Change: COP 22

Ever since the advent of the industrial revolution, human-caused pollution has begun to dramatically shift our planet’s thermoregulatory processes. Thenceforward the Earth’s average temperature has increased by about 0.8° Celsius, according to an ongoing temperature analysis by NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS)1. What's more, the increase in temperature is almost certain to continue unless acted on. Today, climate change is a problematic with numerous repercussions which can take many forms, from human migrations to health and natural disasters. The Republic of Korea, keenly aware of this critical issue, is in favor of legislation regulating greenhouse gas (GHG) emission, the main contributor to the planets increased temperature, and has been a signatory of the UNFCCC since 13 Jun 1992.

As an Asian leader in terms of climate change, the Republic of Korea is aware of the effects of this crisis. Our nation experiences this precarious situation in many ways. Firstly, by the increase in extreme weather phenomena such as floods and typhoons with an increase of annual rainfall in the country by 7% and of days with heavy rainfall by 23% in the past 20 years2. Secondly, by the problem of rising temperature which comes with health risks for our nation’s aging population such as an increased susceptibility to heat stroke and other heat stress related issues especially in our country's urban centers. Our population's proportion of citizens over 65 years-old has steadily been rising with numbers at 12.7% in 2014, while this same portion of society only accounted for 5.0% of the overall population in 19903. Finally, despite not being an area of the world which houses environnemental refugees, nor where the population is affected by this situation, the Republic of Korea remains sensible to the plight of those victims of climate related crises which seek asylum elsewhere.

As a response to this dire situation, in 2010, the Lee Myung-bak administration introduced the Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth. This law led to the adoption of two policies: a greenhouse gas (GHG)-energy target-management scheme (TMS) and an emission-trading scheme (ETS). More recently, we have ratified the Paris agreement and plan on reducing our Business-as-usual (BAU) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 37% by 2030 with the implementation of a nationwide carbon tax4.

Climate change is an issue which concerns all of humanity and thus, the delegation of the Republic of Korea believes it should be addressed by all nations. As stated by president Park Geun-Hye reiterating this wish during COP21, “We must marshal the collective will and capacities of the entire world and make absolutely sure that this Climate Change Conference (COP21) gives birth to a new climate regime”5.

Despite this, the Republic of Korea understands that underdeveloped nations do not have the same resources to deal with climate change, while continuing the development of their individual economy, as more developed countries do. This is why we, with our experience in terms of carbon emission reduction and carbon markets, will resolve to be a model for developing countries as well as continue our collaboration with more developed nations.