Honoradle Madam Chair of the General Conference, Madam Director-General and Excellencies, It is a great honour for me to attend this 36th session of the UNESCO General Conference on behalf of people of the Republic of Korea.

Madam Chair, Education is a basic human right that must be ensured even in difficult circumstances, such as war and famine. Hence, the Republic of Korea is fully committed to supporting "Education For All" to eradicate poverty and achieve development.

Thanks to generous assistance from the international community combined with the Korean government's efforts to develop the country, the Republic of Korea was able to accomplish modernization and democracy within one generation. The Republic of Korea has thus turned itself from a recipient to a donor country.
Education, science and technology have been main pillars of my country's development policies. Building on the achievement, the Republic of Korea is transforming itself into a "Powerhouse of Talents" which provides all students with opportunities to realize their full potential by providing various support programs in the areas of education, science and technology.

Furthermore, to share this unique experience with the world for eradication of poverty and hunger through education, the Republic of Korea has launched a number of education initiatives to reach out to developing countries.

This year, we began a new project titled "Better Education for African Rise," or "BEAR," to provide vocational education to five Sub-Saharan countries. In addition, our "BRIDGE Programme" for adult literacy education sees young Korean experts dispatched to six African countries.

Madam Chair, although the importance of financial support for developing countries cannot be underestimated, the most urgent task is to leverage their indigenous knowledge in finding a suitable model for development. As such, the role of the international community is to help seek the development model, getting together at
discussion venues including the "4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness", to be held in the Republic of Korea this November. The government of Korea plans to triple its ODA volume by the end of 2015 from the 2008 level.

Madam Chair, the Republic of Korea would like to take this opportunity to make a proposition to set up a new EFA Agenda for Post-2015 period. So far, the goals of EFA were focused on "quantitative expansion of education" that is needed to establish a foundation for basic education. EFA discussions have been limited to the issue of "assistance" rather than "education" itself.

Therefore, the Republic of Korea would like to set forth that not only "quantitative expansion of education" but also "qualitative enhancement of education" should be considered for our EFA Agenda from 2015 and beyond. My country will spare no effort in the selection of the future EFA Agenda.

Madam Chair, among the academic disciplines, the significance of "humanities" has been highlighted to tackle various challenges in this rapidly changing world. In this context, "the 1st World Humanities Forum with UNESCO" is to be held in the Republic of
Korea this November. I would like to **call for all Member States' continued interest** and **participation** in this Forum.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea pledges its **continued efforts** in fostering the "**Culture for Development**", as emphasized by Madam Director General, by **facilitating creativity** and **cultural industry** with UNESCO to **achieve the MDGs**.

Madam Chair, **preserving environment** and **nurturing basic science** are essential pathways towards **sustainable development**. In pursuit of the aforesaid agenda, **UNESCO's natural science programmes** have made a significant contribution in **disaster prevention** and **damage reduction**. In line with this, the Republic of Korea sees a great potential and progress in utilizing **IOC, IHP** and **MAB** for **tsunami warning** and **mitigation**. As such, my country would like to call for heightened **coordination** among these programmes to **maximize** their **synergy**.

Madam Chair, the Republic of Korea still harbors a heartwarming memory of **UNESCO convoys** that **handed out free textbooks** to **elementary school students** in the 1950s, studying in a nation devastated by a war. As a responsible Member State of UNESCO, the
Republic of Korea will continue its proactive participation in UNESCO's efforts for world peace. Thank you for your attention.

<End.>