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30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Opens in Belém, Brazil

- Discussions to accelerate global climate action based on multilateralism marking the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement
- Key agendas expected to include reviewing progress on the 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), enhancing global mitigation ambition, and establishing an indicator framework to assess progress toward the Global Goal on Adaptation

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (Minister Kim Sunghwan) announced that the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be held in Belém*, Brazil, from November 10 to 21.

* A port city located on the banks of the Pará River, a tributary of the Amazon River, and the capital of Pará State in northern Brazil.

Approximately 50,000 participants, including government delegations from the Parties to the Convention, are expected to attend the conference. The Republic of Korea will be represented by Minister of Climate, Energy and Environment Kim Sunghwan as the head delegate (alternate head delegate: Ambassador and Deputy Minister for Climate Change Chung Kee-yong of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), accompanied by a government delegation composed of officials from relevant ministries* and experts.

* The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Science and ICT, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Office for Government Policy Coordination (Presidential

Commission on Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth), Korea Forest Service, Korea Meteorological Administration, etc.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement (December 2015), and the UNFCCC Secretariat along with the host country, Brazil, are emphasizing the acceleration of global climate action based on multilateralism.

In particular, this year marks the deadline for Parties to submit their “2035 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)” outlining their climate action and greenhouse gas reduction targets. The conference is expected to serve as a platform to strengthen global commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to urge their implementation.

Brazil has identified three main priorities for COP30: strengthening multilateralism, linking international climate discussions to people’s daily lives, and accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement through the promotion of action and structural transformation.

Main Agenda Items of Climate Change Negotiations

At this Conference of the Parties, more than 90 agenda items will be addressed across areas such as mitigation, adaptation, global stocktake, just transition, finance, loss and damage, and transparency. Each area will feature discussions on past efforts as well as future tasks needed for effective implementation.

The recently released Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Synthesis Report by the UNFCCC Secretariat pointed out that even if all countries fully implement their submitted NDC, it would still fall far short of achieving the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. Accordingly, strengthening

international cooperation to enhance mitigation ambition and support actual implementation is expected to be a key agenda item.

In relation to climate change adaptation, discussions will be held to establish an indicator framework that can serve as a basis for assessing the implementation status of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)*. The adaptation goal under the Paris Agreement was concretized at the 28th Conference of the Parties in 2023 into key tasks by policy cycle and sector**, and over the past two years, the international community has worked to develop indicators to clearly measure progress.

* Global Goal on Adaptation (Article 7 of the Paris Agreement): enhancing adaptive capacity; strengthening climate resilience; and reducing vulnerability to climate change

** (By policy cycle) impact, vulnerability, and risk assessment – planning – implementation – monitoring, evaluation, and learning; (By sector) water resources, food security, health, ecosystems, human settlements, welfare, and cultural heritage

As a result, a total of 100 candidate indicators were identified, and based on these, the final outcome of the two-year UAE–Belém Indicator Work Programme is expected to be adopted. However, differences still remain among Parties regarding the structure of the indicator framework and indicators related to means of implementation (finance, technology transfer, and capacity building), making further efforts necessary to reach an agreement.

Discussions are also actively underway to implement the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST)* conducted in 2023. To achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, the international community has agreed to: triple global renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030; accelerate the phase-down of unabated coal power; transition energy systems away from fossil fuels; strengthen adaptation actions and support; and emphasize the role of means of implementation to drive urgent climate action. At this conference, Parties will discuss ways to operate dialogue mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of these outcomes.

* A system for reviewing the implementation pathways and progress toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement at the global level (Article 14 of the Paris Agreement)

In addition, discussions will be held on the procedures for the second GST, scheduled for 2028. The data collection and preparatory process for the second GST is expected to begin at the end of next year.

The issue of a just transition will also be a key focus of discussion. Since the Paris Agreement preamble first highlighted the need for a just transition of the workforce in the process of responding to climate change, the scope of discussion has expanded to include socioeconomic impacts, human rights, energy transition, and development and trade policies. Based on the relevant work program that has been in operation since last year, this conference will discuss ways to enhance cooperation to help countries design fair and inclusive transition pathways and implement them effectively.

Discussions on climate finance to accelerate the global response to the climate crisis will also continue. Azerbaijan and Brazil, which served as the host countries for last year's and this year's Conferences of the Parties, have been exploring pathways for all actors in the public and private sectors to mobilize \$1.3 trillion annually for developing countries by 2035 through consultations with various stakeholders and technical reviews. The outcome of these efforts is expected to be considered at this year's CO P.

In addition, the host country has established six key pillars* based on the results of the first GST and plans to operate thematic pavilions to promote the implementation of their core objectives.

* ① Transition of energy, industry, and transportation; ② protection of forests, oceans, and biodiversity; ③ reform of agricultural and food systems; ④ strengthening the resilience of cities, infrastructure, and water resources; ⑤ promotion of human and social development; and ⑥ activation of means of implementation such as finance, technology, and capacity building.

The Korean delegation, in cooperation with major countries and the Environmental Integrity Group (EIG^{*}), plans to contribute to the progress of negotiations based on the spirit of “Global Mutirão^{**},” while actively emphasizing Korea’s commitment to responding to the climate crisis and promoting a sustainable energy transition.

* Environmental Integrity Group (EIG): A climate negotiation group composed of the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Mexico, Monaco, Liechtenstein, and Georgia.

** It means “joint cooperation” and originates from an indigenous Brazilian language.

Chief Delegate’ s Activity Plan

Minister of Climate, Energy and Environment Kim Sunghwan will attend the High-Level Segment from November 17 to 19, where he is scheduled to deliver a national statement, hold bilateral meetings with major partner countries and international organizations in the fields of climate, energy, and environment, participate in a high-level roundtable to share Korea’s climate response efforts, attend a climate and clean energy forum, take part in a K-pop climate action side event, and engage in a dialogue with youth representatives.

In particular, through the national statement, Minister Kim will emphasize the need for a transition toward a decarbonized green civilization to address the climate crisis and will introduce Korea’s current carbon neutrality and energy transition policies. Along with the launch of the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment in October, Korea plans to officially announce its “2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)” to the international community.

Minister Kim will also share Korea’s commitment to the decarbonization transition and discuss future implementation plans and avenues for cooperation through bilateral meetings and multilateral events with key counterparts, including Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia;

Wopke Hoekstra, European Union Commissioner for Climate Action; Ed Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero; and Hanif Faisol Nurofiq, Indonesia's Minister of Environment.

This year, the Korea Pavilion has prepared 32 side events to enable various stakeholders, including academia, youth, and local governments, to engage in climate action activities on the international stage. It will also showcase a range of technological innovations contributing to carbon neutrality through technical exhibitions.

Minister of Climate, Energy and Environment Kim Sunghwan emphasized that “unwavering international cooperation is crucial at this moment to uphold the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C goal and ensure the coexistence of the planet and humanity.” He expressed hope that “this year’s COP30 will serve as a milestone demonstrating the world’s genuine efforts to tackle the climate crisis,” adding that “Korea will continue to advance as a leading nation in the global transition toward a decarbonized green civilization.”