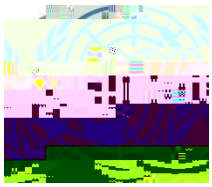
UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

Openingaddress by
H.E. Mr. Oh Joon
President of the Economic and Social Council

"2015 Empowering Women and Sustainable Development Summit"
Opening ceremony
September 22, 2015, at UN Headquarters

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the World Conference of Women and allow me to thank the Sino-American Friendship Association for inviting to address this distinguished audience.

This year is a unique year for the world. Heads of State are coming together to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to renew their commitments to humanity.

The 2030 Agenda is based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity and will rely on the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

Gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the full realization of their human rights are essential for the achievement of sustainable development and for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

The Millennium Development Goals, adopted 15 years ago, played a key role in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. It highlighted the importance of addressing discrimination and inequalities faced by women and girls.

However, challenges remain. A comprehensive and transformative approach is urgently needed to address the structural barriers to gender equal