

## Background Note

### “Green Growth and Sustainable Development”

Special Event of the Second Committee (64th Session of the United Nations General Assembly) on 26 October 2009 at UN Headquarters in New York

Green Growth, a strategy for achieving sustainable development, emphasizes the implementation of policies that promote environmentally sustainable economic progress and foster low carbon, socially inclusive development at the same time.

Economic growth is necessary for poverty alleviation. However, it has been realized globally that a shift from a “grow first, clean up later” attitude to a longer term perspective which emphasizes resource efficiency and environmental and social responsibility is crucial to reduce the costs of economic development. Resource efficiency, a reduction of the ecological footprint and sustainable livelihoods should be routine considerations in investment plans and projects, whether public or private.

To date, Green Growth policy measures include:

- Green Tax and Budget Reform
- Development of Sustainable Infrastructure
- Promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production (Demand side Management)
- Greening Business and Markets
- Eco efficiency Indicators

The policy measures and actions taken by governments to respond to the current economic crisis enable opportunities for structural reforms to accelerate green growth. Stimulus packages should neither lock in inefficient or polluting technologies nor dirty modes of consumption and production, but help to spur eco innovation. There are abundant win-win opportunities to develop competitive industries of the future – from renewable energy to low emissions vehicles – that will also contribute to addressing climate change and other environmental challenges. Korea – a Green Growth pioneer – has proposed a

Questions – Panel on „Green Growth and Sustainable Development“

Second Committee Special Events (64th Session of the UN General Assembly)

10 am to 1 pm, 26 October 2009, UNHQ

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