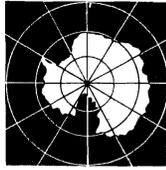


ANTARCTIC TREATY
XVIth CONSULTATIVE MEETING



TRATADO ANTÁRTICO
XVI REUNIÓN CONSULTIVA

TRAITÉ SUR L'ANTARCTIQUE
XVI^e RÉUNION CONSULTATIVE

ДОГОВОР ОБ АНТАРКТИКЕ
XVI КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ

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Opening Address

by the Head of the Delegation of the Republic of Korea
Mr. Hyun-Won Ahn

(submitted by the Republic of Korea)

KOPRA
극지연구소

OPENING ADDRESS BY MR. HYUN-WON AHN,
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Korea, I should like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixteenth Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. I am confident that, under your able leadership, this meeting will attain its intended goals. I should also like to express our warm thanks to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for providing us with such a magnificent setting for our meeting.

At the outset, I wish to join other distinguished delegates in expressing my congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Antarctic Treaty and extend a heartfelt welcome to the Government of Guatemala as new Contracting Party to the Treaty.

Mr. Chairman,

In the past thirty years, the Antarctic Treaty System has constantly evolved to accommodate new challenges. This year we have successfully adopted the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty. It is a historic decision to provide long-lasting environmental protection for the ultimate pristine continent of the world. I am firmly convinced that the new Protocol will be an ideal umbrella for, and a significant step

towards, various types of environmental protection necessary for the problem areas in Antarctica. Without a doubt, the Protocol will mark the beginning of an age of greater protection for the Antarctic environment.

Mr. Chairman,

We have good reasons to be proud of the achievements of the Antarctic Treaty and its consultative process. In particular, the new Protocol will represent both a great success for the protection of the Antarctic environment and also a progress within the Antarctic Treaty System toward a mutual understanding and cooperation.

However, there are many things to be done in the future. As Antarctic activities increase and diversify, and the management of the Earth's natural systems takes on a more global focus, it is essential that the management of Antarctica requires a more advanced and forward-looking perspective. We have to prepare for new challenges and extend its framework of policies and institutions.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation strongly believes that this Sixteenth Consultative Meeting will contribute to the strengthening of the Antarctic Treaty System in the years ahead. At this Consultative Meeting, we have many important tasks of the furtherance of the Antarctic Treaty System, such as the creation of a secretariat and a body of experts to advise Antarctic decision-makers on a regular basis. In particular, we must give positive impetus to resolving different views and facilitate our cooperation among the Treaty Parties for the establishment of long-lasting regime of environmental protection in Antarctica.

I believe this Consultative Meeting will take another meaningful step in that direction. Our cooperation must continue. And it has to be further deepened and widened in the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty, enabling us to proceed in our worthy undertakings.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea is keen to work together with other Treaty Parties in this vital endeavour. We must work together to grasp the momentum so that we can bequeath to future generations the legacy of a more ordered, cleaner, pollution-free environment of Antarctica. Let us now hope that the Antarctic Treaty Parties will bend their energies to making it work.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, you may rest assured that the Delegation of the Republic of Korea will do its utmost to contribute to achieving successful results in this Meeting.

Thank you.

