



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador KIM Bong-hyun**

**Deputy Permanent Representative**

**General Statement**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

My delegation wishes to join others in congratulating you on the assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee as well as the other members of the Bureau on their election. I am sure that under your able leadership we will be skillfully guided through the deliberations ahead of us. I would also like to thank Mr. Sergio Duarte, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) for their strenuous efforts in support of the work of the Committee. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation as you carry out your valuable work.

We are gathered here amid the growing expectations for progress in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I am pleased to note that for the first time in almost a decade a majority of delegations to this Committee expressed positive views on the current situation. The last session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference in May agreed on the substantive agenda and timeframe, laying the foundation for a successful Review Conference next year. The Conference on Disarmament (CD) finally agreed on its Program of Work, gearing up for the decade awaited negotiation of an FMCT. The prospects for the entry-into-force of the CTBT are brighter than ever. The negotiations

to put in place the post-START regime are under way between the United States and the Russian Federation, with their firm commitment to further reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

It is also encouraging to note that some initiatives, such as the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament presented by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as well as the vision for "a world free of nuclear weapons" put forward by President Obama, have revitalized the discussions on nuclear disarmament on a global scale. I am confident to say that disarmament and non-proliferation are becoming the focus of the global agenda of our time.

Mr. Chair,

Two weeks ago, the UN Security Council held a special session dedicated to Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament and adopted a landmark document, Security Council Resolution 1887. My delegation believes that the resolution is a clear manifestation of the overarching tasks we have to deal with in the coming years and fully endorses the goals stated therein.

The Republic of Korea believes that the central role of the NPT should be further reinforced. In the face of various setbacks and challenges, the NPT has not only served as a cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, but has also successfully curbed the spread of nuclear weapons. Along with the ongoing efforts to achieve the universality of the NPT, my delegation believes that the monitoring and verification mechanisms of the Treaty need to be even further strengthened through universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol. This has assumed even greater importance given the current renaissance of nuclear energy.

If the nuclear renaissance is an irreversible trend amid the challenges of the energy crisis and climate change, the international community needs to come up with ways and means to tackle the risks entailed in such trend and further strengthen international cooperation for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In particular, given that the threat of nuclear terrorism is underlined as the most imminent and extreme threat to global security, my delegation acknowledges various efforts to enhance nuclear safety and security, including the G8 Global Partnership and Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). Furthermore, we welcome US President Obama's initiative to convene a Nuclear Security Summit next April. We believe that the Summit will be an occasion to mobilize the will of global leaders and to pool our collective wisdom to tackle the dangers of the proliferation of nuclear materials.

Mr. Chair,

The DPRK and Iranian nuclear issues pose a pressing challenge to the international non-proliferation efforts. We welcome the tireless efforts undertaken by the relevant parties and support a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the pending issues.

The peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue remains vital to securing peace and security in Northeast Asia as well as sustaining the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime. The Republic of Korea maintains the firm position that the DPRK's nuclear development cannot be tolerated. In this regard, the Republic of Korea appreciates the international community's unified and strong response to the DPRK's second nuclear test of May 25 through the adoption and faithful implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1874.

The Republic of Korea and the countries concerned share the common goal of achieving the denuclearization of the DPRK. To this end, the Five Parties stand firm in the position that the DPRK nuclear issue should be resolved through the Six-Party Talks in a peaceful manner. We urge the DPRK to come back promptly to the Six-Party Talks with a sincere attitude toward denuclearization. The DPRK must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in accordance with the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly, President Lee Myung-bak reiterated his proposal of a "grand bargain," saying that North Korea's dismantlement of core components of its nuclear weapons program will be met with security assurance and international assistance. This proposal demonstrates our commitment to a fundamental resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. The Republic of Korea will continue to discuss the details of the "grand bargain" with the countries concerned.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the recent meeting between P5+1 countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran held in Geneva as a meaningful step forward. We call upon Iran to further engage in a genuine dialogue within the P5+1 framework and restore the confidence of the international community in its nuclear program by fulfilling its obligations as required by the Security Council resolutions and IAEA Safeguards. At the same time, we hope that the issue with regard to the newly declared nuclear facility near the city of Qom will be resolved as the Iranian Government cooperates fully with the IAEA in accordance with international non-proliferation norms.

Mr. Chair,

The Republic of Korea is of the view that the issue of conventional weapons warrants the constant attention of the international community. It is disappointing that this year's Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency in Armaments could not reach an agreement on whether to include SALW as the eighth category of the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNRCA).

With regard to cluster munitions, the Republic of Korea fully recognizes the need to reduce humanitarian suffering caused by cluster munitions and supports the international efforts to address the problems associated with the use of cluster munitions. My delegation finds it regrettable that, despite the two years of intensive negotiations, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) was not able to reach a consensus on the draft on a new protocol. My delegation believes that a new CCW Protocol on Cluster Munitions, if adopted and faithfully implemented, would have a significant impact on the ground. The Republic of Korea will continue to participate actively and constructively in future discussions if the continuation of further discussions within the CCW framework is agreed upon at the Meeting of States Parties to the CCW in November.

Mr. Chair,

Twenty years since the end of the Cold War, a new consensus now seems to be forming in the international community towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. With many promising signs in every corner of the globe, the community needs to redouble our efforts to ensure that they bear tangible fruit.

With the 2010 NPT Review Conference approaching, the next few months will be truly important for all Member States and for the UN disarmament machinery. My delegation firmly believes that the 2010 Review Conference should send a clear message to the world that the NPT is a robust cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime. I believe that all of us in this room have the primary and shared responsibility to make the Conference a success. To that end, I would like to stress that we should embrace an approach of mutual respect and demonstrate flexibility and a spirit of cooperation with a view to yielding greater progress in global disarmament and non-proliferation.

Before closing, my delegation would like to draw your attention to the annual ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation which the ROK has been co-hosting with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) since 2002. This year's meeting will be held on Jeju Island, on November 16-18, under the title of "2010 NPT: Prospects for a New Era of Progress on Disarmament and Non-proliferation" We sincerely hope that the debate in the Conference will represent a constructive contribution to our common goals. Thank you for your attention.