



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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General Statement by H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook
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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee, as well as the other members of the Bureau on their election. I am sure that your able stewardship will guide us through this month-long deliberation. I would also like to thank Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) for their strenuous efforts in support of the work of this Committee. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

There is a saying that the longest journey starts with a single step. However, in recent times we have witnessed multiple steps towards a long-awaited breakthrough in ending the decade-long dormancy in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Namely, the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament presented by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; the vision for "a world free of nuclear weapons" put forward by President Obama; a historic Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and its adoption of UNSCR 1887. Even early this year, a series of positive developments has awakened us; The signing of the New START treaty between the two largest nuclear powers in April; the Washington Nuclear Security Summit in April; and finally the adoption of the decade-long final document by consensus at the NPT Review Conference in May. In particular, the adoption of the final document at the May NPT Review Conference amounts to a

formal recognition by the international community of the fact that disarmament and non-proliferation are once again becoming central to the global agenda. The responsibility of achieving the common goal of a Nuclear-Zero world rests on the shoulders of both the Nuclear States and Non-Nuclear States.

As we gather here against this backdrop today, we must not merely look back at what we have achieved in self-complacency, but instead compel ourselves to take the next step. It is not the time for us to remain content with recent developments, but the time for us to once again roll up our sleeves and move forward with the firm commitment to further our noble endeavors. Indeed, we must act before our aspirations and expectations wear off. In this regard, I would like to see three concrete agendas to be taken during this session.

First, there have been increasing concerns over the past decade regarding the effectiveness of the CD. This is why UN Secretary-General convened the High-level Meeting on “Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations.” We fully support the outcome document of the High-Level Meeting. So far, the CD has kept its head down, which might let other fora set the terms of the discussion. If CD remains mired in deadlock, its status and legitimacy as the premier forum for disarmament will be jeopardized. I firmly believe that the CD should act rather quickly if it wants to keep playing its central role. We call upon all CD members to cooperate in commencing substantive work on an FMCT at the earliest time possible, not only for nuclear non-proliferation but also for nuclear disarmament. The Republic of Korea will do its due part to jolt the CD process into motion.

Second, the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is another task on which we must take decisive action. The prospects for the early entry into force of the CTBT are brighter than ever. We must seize the window of opportunity for action presented by the current atmosphere. The Republic of Korea calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular the remaining nine Annex II States, to do so immediately and also stresses the importance of maintaining a moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the CTBT

Third, 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 the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol. This has become even more important given the current renaissance of nuclear energy. In particular, the final documents of the May NPT Review Conference could breathe new life into the NPT. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Korea reaffirms its full commitment to the early implementation of

the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me turn to current pressing challenges to our collective international non-proliferation efforts.

North Korea's nuclear programs represent a serious threat to regional peace and security and an unprecedented challenge to the international non-proliferation regime. The international community has demonstrated a unified and resolute position against North Korea's nuclear ambitions by adopting relevant UN Security Council resolutions as well as the Final Document of the NPT Review Conference held this May. We look forward to continued efforts by the international community to urge North Korea to abandon its nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Unfortunately, North Korea has been turning a deaf ear to the legitimate demands of the international community. Moreover, North Korea attacked the Korean military vessel *Cheonan* in March this year. The UN Security Council clearly condemned the attack and warned against further attacks and hostilities against the ROK by adopting a Presidential Statement on July 9th. Bearing this international community's unified message in mind, North Korea must take responsibility, refrain from any further provocations, and demonstrate a genuine change in its behavior and attitude.

Despite North Korea's repeated acts of defiance, my Government will continue to exert efforts for a peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. We are maintaining a "two-track approach" by implementing sanctions while leaving the door to dialogue open. However, we are not willing to engage in dialogue for the sake of dialogue. Rather, we look forward to talks that will lead to substantial progress in the North Korean nuclear issue, which is why North Korea needs to first demonstrate its sincerity toward denuclearization by taking concrete actions. We will continue consultations with the countries concerned on the resumption of the Six-Party Talks while closely watching North Korea's behavior.

My government is also pursuing a fundamental resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue through the Grand Bargain initiative, which aims at reaching a single comprehensive agreement encompassing all steps related to irreversible denuclearization and corresponding measures. Participants of the Six-Party Talks have reached a common understanding on this initiative and are currently engaged in joint efforts to induce North Korea to make the strategic decision to abandon its nuclear programs.

Additionally, we actively join the international community in urging Iran to comply with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including UNSCR 1929 and IAEA resolutions, and to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency so as to restore confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

We recognize that all parties to the NPT have the right to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy as long as they are in full compliance with their non-proliferation obligations. At the same time, we believe that given the proliferation potential inherent in sensitive nuclear technologies and fuel cycle activities, those States involved in such technologies and activities that can be directly diverted into non-peaceful uses must demonstrate a higher level of commitment to non-proliferation in order to inspire international confidence. It is in this context that we believe all suspicions and concerns regarding Iran's nuclear intentions should be resolved expeditiously in order for Iran to regain the international community's trust that its nuclear activities are intended for civilian purposes. Indeed, the early and peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear issue will contribute not only to our efforts to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, but also to peace in the Middle Eastern region.

Mr. Chairman,

In addition to traditional non-proliferation issues, nuclear security is also an issue which warrants special attention from all countries in order to prevent nuclear terrorism. We believe that the international community needs to develop ways and means to tackle the risks entailed in such trends and further strengthen international cooperation for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Given that the possibility of nuclear terrorism is the most imminent and extreme threat to global security, my delegation joins the effort to enhance nuclear security through international cooperation. In this regard, we expect that the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit in Korea will serve as an excellent opportunity to review the implementation of the commitments made at the Washington Summit as well as to explore new and creative ways to further enhance nuclear security.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea is of the view that the issue of conventional weapons also warrants the constant attention of the international community. We fully support the basic goals of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). In its nascent stage, the ATT should reflect well-balanced deliberations in terms of feasibility, scope, and parameters so as to attract the largest possible amount of members. We will do our utmost in bringing the deliberations into fruitful result by target date.

In addition, my Government and the Government of Australia will table a resolution on

“Preventing and Combating Illicit Brokering Activities” which was adopted by consensus during the 63th General Assembly. We are planning to table the same resolution with minor modifications this year and expect full support from all the delegations in this room.

Mr. Chairman,

A new consensus now seems to be forming in the international community not only towards nuclear non-proliferation, but also regarding the eventual goal of a nuclear-free world. With many promising signs in every corner of the globe, we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that they lead to tangible results. We must work hard and make bold decisions in laying the foundation for lasting progress. My delegation once again stresses our shared sense of responsibility and willingness to cooperate for the success of this Committee and beyond.

Thank you very much.

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