



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

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Statement

By H.E. Ambassador Sin Son Ho

Permanent Representative of

the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee of

the 68th Session of UNGA

New York, October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the chair of the First Committee and I hope this meeting will bring success under your able leadership.

At the same time, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

It is humankind's common will and desire to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons through its comprehensive and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

The first time ever UN High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, convened on 26 September, fully reflects the pressing needs of the present time.

Today the UN is facing the task of promoting nuclear disarmament as discussed at the High-Level Meeting.

As an immediate move, nuclear disarmament negotiations should start and the overdue international legal instruments for banning the use of nuclear weapons and Negative Security Assurances for non-nuclear weapon states should be drafted.

In this regard, the United States, as the first country who used nuclear weapons and also as the largest nuclear weapon power, must take the lead in promoting necessary measures for nuclear disarmament.

No progress will be made as long as the so called nuclear disarmament initiatives are purely in the interest of having strategic superiority or putting unilateral pressures on any other country to make it abandon a nuclear deterrent.

It is the consistent position of the DPRK government to realize the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The Nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula was originated due to the US deployment of nuclear weapons in south Korea and it is continuing until

today because of the persistent hostile policy against the DPRK.

Therefore, if the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula is to be accomplished, the U.S nuclear threats against the DPRK should be removed once and for all, and the entire Korean peninsula including south Korea should be turned into a zone free of nuclear weapons.

We will continue strenuous efforts to settle peacefully the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through unconditional dialogue and negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

Today the Korean peninsula remains one of the global hottest spots with serious implications on the peace and security of the Northeast Asia and the world at large.

The tension on the Korean peninsula this year has been unprecedentedly intensified by the United States by flagrantly infringing upon the sovereignty of our legitimate right to launch peaceful satellites and by enforcing the worst ever physical threats to the DPRK through bringing into south Korea a triad of its nuclear weapon strike means and the most sophisticated weapons.

It is 60 years since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement but the vicious cycle of confrontations and aggravated tension are continuing unabated.

The root cause is none other than the US hostile policy against the DPRK.

Notwithstanding all this fact, the United States is misleading the public opinion by spreading false allegations about the so called "provocations" and "threats" from the DPRK.

In pursuit of its military hegemony over the Northeast Asia by keeping the Korean peninsula as its stepping stone, the United States has established the DPRK as its preemptive strike target and it is continuing war drills against the DPRK by massively building up hundreds of

thousands of colossal number of troops and latest weaponry while increasing its military muscle in south Korea and vicinity.

The reality speaks by itself more than clear about who is encouraging confrontation and tension on the Korean peninsula.

Our people, who are living in unspeakable pains of national division caused by foreign forces for over half a century and under the direct and consistent military threats of the United States, have great desire for peace more than any other nation.

In particular, the DPRK government and its people have set the building of economic power and improving people's livelihood as the general objective and therefore making of stable and peaceful environment is more than valuable.

Out of the consistent and peace loving policy and generous efforts of the DPRK government, we advanced various peace initiatives including the one proposed in January 2010 on speedy opening of talks on replacing the ceasefire agreement with a peace agreement.

Despite in the face of the ongoing persistent military threats and provocations, we have been demonstrating maximum patience and exerting continuous and strenuous efforts for the sake of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

If the United States is truly in favor of easing tension and lasting peace on the Korean peninsula, it should show by abandoning its hostile policy towards the DPRK and should move forward to peaceful co existence with us.

In conclusion, the DPRK will, in the future, too, try every effort to safeguard peace and security on the Korean peninsula and the region and bring about common prosperity regarding the effort as its lofty obligation.

Thank you.