



Statement by H.E. Ambassador Oh Joon
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. Allow me to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation for your able leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we have laid a historic milestone in our collective effort to prevent the illicit transfer and diversion of conventional weapons by adopting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April. As a legally binding international instrument, the ATT will contribute to States' efforts in regulating the illicit flow of conventional weapons and munitions. For the first time, States are required to make human rights and humanitarian considerations in their export decisions. It is encouraging that 113 countries have already signed this treaty within such a short time since its adoption. As one of the original signatories, the Republic of Korea will play its part in bringing the Treaty into force at an early date.

Recently, the Security Council took an important step to aid this effort by adopting the first Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) on small arms and light weapons. We hope the resolution will propel us toward making further progress at the Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action (PoA) next year. The General Assembly and this Committee, in particular, should make the best use of this momentum to further strengthen substantial norms in the conventional weapons field.

Mr. Chairman,

While we have made considerable achievements in the conventional arms field this year, we have witnessed an unforgivable tragedy with the use of chemical weapons in Syria. The live footage of dying children on August 21 in Ghouta has deeply shocked every man and woman throughout the world. The Republic of Korea once again condemns this atrocity in the strongest possible terms. The use of chemical weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) by consensus, which should lead to the complete elimination of all chemical weapons in Syria. The ROK government urges

the Syrian government to faithfully implement its obligations under the Security Council resolution and the OPCW decision, and render full cooperation to the UN and the OPCW.

Taking this opportunity, the Government of the Republic of Korea calls on other countries including the DPRK that have not acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to do so without further delay.

Mr. Chairman

The use of chemical weapons in Syria painfully reminds us that the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) is one of the most serious threats to humanity. It is time for us to renew our collective efforts in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The non-nuclear weapon states must faithfully observe their commitment to non-proliferation and the nuclear weapon states must do their part by making meaningful progress in nuclear disarmament.

In this regard, we welcome the entry into force and implementation of the New START between the United States and Russia. We also take note of the High-level Meeting on nuclear disarmament held on September 26, 2013 and hope that this process will lead to more constructive discussions on this matter.

My delegation believes that the NPT continues to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. As we set our sights on making 2015 Review Conference a success, full and faithful implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan should be given a high priority by all States.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is also important in our efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons. Despite recent achievements, including ratifications by Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Iraq, the Treaty's entry into force is long overdue. My delegation urges all States, particularly the States listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay.

Starting negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) is another common task. The Republic of Korea urges the Conference of Disarmament (CD) to start negotiations on an FMCT as a top priority, and hopes that the work of the Group of Government Experts (GGE) on FMCT will effectively lay the foundation for these negotiations. In a larger perspective, revitalization of the CD is imperative to resuming multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation talks.

Mr. Chairman,

The risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-State actors has emerged as a challenging threat to global security in the 21st century. Concerted efforts by the international community are important in this regard. At the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, fifty-eight global leaders declared a collective international commitment towards a peaceful world free of nuclear terrorism, adopting the "Seoul Communiqué." My delegation hopes that the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in the Hague next March, will further strengthen global nuclear security, and identify the necessary steps to prevent nuclear and radiological terrorism.

As indicated in the last report of the IAEA Director-General, Iran's nuclear program still remains a source of concern for the International Community. We are cautiously watching the positive developments unfolding between Iran and the six countries. Hope and concern are expressed from all sides. Ultimately, Iran's words

have to be demonstrated with credible actions to convince the international community of the solely peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

With regards to a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, my delegation finds it regrettable that the proposed conference had not taken place and continues to be delayed. We hope that all relevant parties engage in a serious manner to overcome their differences and to realize the conference in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the gravest concerns of the international community is DPRK's continued development of nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programmes. We all witnessed North Korea's flagrant violations of Security Council resolutions: the launch using ballistic missile technology in December last year and its third nuclear test in February this year. In response to these provocations, the UN Security Council reaffirmed, through resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013), that the international community will not tolerate them.

However, proceeding with its ongoing nuclear activities, the DPRK has not stopped expanding its nuclear capabilities. In particular, they announced last April a plan to restart all nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, including their uranium enrichment plant and 5MWe reactor.

North Korea must realize that it cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon state in accordance with the NPT, as clearly stressed in the Final Document of 2010 NPT review conference and UN Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). North Korea must comply with its international obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and the September 19 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. They must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and immediately cease all related activities.

Mr. Chairman,

With the rapid development of science and technology, we are increasingly facing new types of challenges. As cyber terrorism transcends national boundaries, global cooperation is indispensable to address such threats. The Seoul Conference on Cyberspace 2013 will be held from October 17th to 18th, under the theme of "Global Prosperity through an Open and Secure Cyberspace – Opportunities, Threats and Cooperation." My delegation believes that, with the active participation of Member States, the Conference will provide a global platform for constructive engagement on cyberspace issues, including cyber security and capacity building.

The peaceful use of outer space is another emerging issue in this era. The Republic of Korea, as State Party to all major conventions on outer space, welcomes the efforts by the European Union to develop an 'International Code of Conduct (ICoC) on Outer Space Activities.' Also, the Republic of Korea highly values the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities.

My delegation once again pledges our full cooperation to work for the success of the First Committee in this session and beyond.

Thank you very much. /end/