



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador YOO Yeonchul
Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament
First Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly
Thematic Debate on Nuclear Disarmament**

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1. At the outset, the delegation of the Republic of Korea wishes to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Committee, as well as the other distinguished members of the Bureau on their elections. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

2. We have witnessed significant progress in recent years in the reduction of nuclear arsenals, both unilaterally and bilaterally, such as the entry into force and implementation of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) between the United States and the Russian Federation. Moreover, it is encouraging to note that President Obama has indicated in his Berlin speech last June that the United States will seek further reductions in consultation with Russia. We also welcome the ongoing efforts in recent years by nuclear weapon states to enhance transparency through a regular convening of the P5 Conference. We hope the P5 Conference will contribute to building confidence and facilitate the implementation of their obligations under the NPT.
3. With respect to the priority of tasks ahead, we believe that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's five point proposal on nuclear disarmament rightly guide us with the steps we need to take and allow us to check where we stand. In particular, as we set our sights on making progress at the 2015 NPT Review Conference, my delegation is of the view that we need to focus on faithful implementation of the Action Plan which was adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

4. In addition, it is imperative for us to ensure the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). It is encouraging that Indonesia, one of the States listed in Annex II of the Treaty, has ratified the Treaty, thereby bringing us one step closer to its entry into force. We also welcome the ratifications by Guatemala, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Iraq. Every ratification significantly strengthens the Treaty, and my delegation joins other states calling on the remaining eight Annex II states to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.
5. Starting negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) is another urgent and long-overdue task. My delegation calls upon all members of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) to show more flexibility and political will so as to begin the negotiations at the earliest possible date. We hope that the work of Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) established in accordance with UN General Assembly resolution (67/53) will lay the foundation for commencing the negotiation.
6. An effective and robust export control regime also plays an important role in preventing nuclear proliferation. In this context, as a chair of the UN Security Council 1540 Committee, the Republic of Korea puts great importance on its legal framework not only in reinforcing the non-proliferation regime but also in countering nuclear terrorism. In addition, as the host of the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the Republic of Korea hopes the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in the Hague next March, will serve to further strengthen global nuclear security architecture by agreeing to concrete measures to prevent and counter nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

7. As addressed in my delegation's general statement, the DPRK's nuclear programs continue to pose a grave challenge to the international non-proliferation regime and the peace and security of the Korean Peninsula and beyond. We were all witnesses to North Korea's flagrant violations of Security Council resolutions ; its launch using ballistic missile technology in December last year and the third nuclear test in February this year. In response to these provocations, the UN Security Council reaffirmed, through the resolutions 2087 and 2094, that the international community will not tolerate North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.
8. However, proceeding with its ongoing nuclear activities, North Korea has not hidden its intention to expand its nuclear capabilities. In particular, it announced last April that it would take measures for readjusting and restarting all the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, including its uranium enrichment plant and its 5-megawatt reactor.

9. 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 and 1874. North Korea must listen to the calls of the international community to comply with obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and the September 19 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks ; it must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and immediately cease all related activities.

Mr. Chairman,

10. We all share the common goal of nuclear-weapon free world and are committed to its realization. Now is the high time to translate our commitment into actions.

Thank you. //END//