



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by the Representative of the Republic of Korea First Committee of the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly Thematic Debate on Conventional Weapons

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Mr. Chairman,

This year has marked a meaningful milestone in our collective work on conventional weapons disarmament and non-proliferation issues. This year the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the first-ever Security Council resolution on small arms and light weapons were adopted in the General Assembly and the Security Council, respectively.

Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) contains a number of key points regarding small arms and light weapons. These include the role of the Security Council in monitoring and implementing Council-mandated arms embargoes, full and effective application of international standards such as the UN Programme of Action (PoA), the call to join the ATT at an early date, and the need for better coordination between and among all relevant players moving forward.

It would only be befitting for the General Assembly to make the best use of this hard-won and long awaited momentum. We must translate this energy into the creation and further strengthening of substantial norms in the conventional weapons field. The First Committee needs to play a leading role in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

As a legally binding international framework, the ATT will contribute to the regulation of how States conduct responsible trade in arms. It will also simultaneously address the various issues arising from the uncontrolled proliferation and illicit transfers of weapons, and thereby enhance international peace and security.

The Republic of Korea would like to highlight the fact that the ATT reconfirms that any transfer in violation of Chapter VII resolutions are strictly prohibited and that the same applies to those situations where there are overriding risks to peace and security. We take note that human rights and humanitarian considerations are included in the Treaty.

As one of the original signatories, the Republic of Korea is in the process of taking necessary steps for the ratification. We strongly support the universalization of this Treaty and hence call for the swift signing and ratification by all States.

Further, the implementation of the ATT and Security Council resolution 2117 should be mutually reinforced with existing international standards such as the UN PoA, the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), and the Firearms Protocol. In this regard, we hope that the next Biennial Meeting of States (BMS5) on the UN PoA will yield fruitful results.

Mr. Chairman,

More attention should be paid to illicit brokering activities. Illicit brokering spreads instability and pours fuel on the fires of conflicts worldwide. Indeed, this issue is one of the most serious threats with regard to small arms and light weapons, as pointed out by the Secretary-General in his most recent report.

In this context, the Republic of Korea has worked alongside Australia to co-author the biennial General Assembly resolution on “Preventing and Combating Illicit Brokering Activities” since the 63rd Sessions of the General Assembly. Through this resolution, my Government wishes to contribute to developing yet another international norm in this field. At the same time, my delegation kindly requests the continued support of all Member States for this resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reaffirm our commitment to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the CCW’s entry into force. For three decades, the CCW has served as the centerpiece of the contemporary disarmament machinery in the promotion of the principles of international humanitarian law.

Importantly, the CCW has proved to be a dynamic instrument, capable of responding to developments in weapons technology and to the evolving nature of armed conflict. The adoption of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in 2003 and the recent discussions on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) during the CCW Meeting of Experts are strong examples of its ability to adapt to complex and rapidly changing realities

As a State Party to the CCW, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the indispensable role of the Convention in addressing humanitarian concerns in a manner consistent with the national security concerns of States. In this vein, the ROK government has enacted appropriate national legislative measures and continues to raise awareness of the Convention and its protocols within its military through regular education and training courses for military personnel.

In addition, the Republic of Korea has made a contribution of more than \$5.1 million to de-mining and victim assistance worldwide since 2000. We will continue to join global efforts, in cooperation with other countries, international organizations and civil society and are committed to sharing our de-mining experiences and techniques with mine-affected countries.

Thank you. /End/