



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2118 marks a historic moment in that the Security Council has finally come to a unified position on the crisis in Syria. The Republic of Korea commends the intensive efforts made by the United States, Russian Federation, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to that end.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to congratulate the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for winning the Nobel Peace Prize, which I believe is the acknowledgment not only of its contribution for the past 16 years to the elimination of chemical weapons over the globe, but also of its vital role in verifying the destruction of Syrian chemical weapon programme. We highly commend the courage, dedication and professionalism of the UN-OPCW Joint Mission Team working in the midst of dangerous situation in Syria.

Mr. Chairman,

It is encouraging to note that initial verification activities in Syria are being conducted in an effective and swift manner. Given the complexity of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and the ambitious goal to complete the destruction by the first half of next year, my delegation attaches great importance both to the combined efforts of the OPCW and the UN and to the active support from the Member States. In this regard, we welcome that increasing number of Member States is pledging voluntary contribution towards this noble task. The Government of the Republic of Korea fully supports the Joint Mission and will play its part in contributing to the successful completion of its mission.

As the UN Security Council resolution 2118 made it clear, the Syrian Government shall comply with all aspects of the relevant decision of the OPCW and resolution 2118, and provide full cooperation to the Joint Mission including unfettered access to all sites. It should be noted that, in the event of non-compliance with resolution 2118, measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter will be imposed, as set out in resolution 2118.

Mr. Chairman,

The unanimous adoption of the Security Council resolution 2118 and the OPCW Decision in the aftermath of the unacceptable use of chemical weapons in Syria reaffirmed the strong consensus of the international community that the use of chemical weapons cannot be tolerated under any circumstances. Seizing upon this momentum, we should urge other countries, including North Korea, that have not yet acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to do so without delay and join international efforts to prohibit and destroy chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is one of the cornerstones of the global disarmament and nonproliferation regime. However, compared to other WMD-related conventions, there are still many states outside the Convention. Achieving its universality continues to be the pending issue. My delegation would like to urge those states that have not yet joined the Convention to do so as early as possible.

Faithful implementation of the Convention, along with its universality, is another pillar which strengthens the BWC regime. It is important that each State Party translates the Convention into concrete and effective national measures. Given the dual-use nature and unprecedentedly rapid development of biotechnology, scientific bodies and relevant industries need to establish and abide by voluntary regulations such as Codes of Conduct in the field, which can serve to complement States' basic obligation under the Convention.

International cooperation and assistance is another key building block in advancing the objective of BWC. In this regard, the Republic of Korea has contributed to the Global Partnership Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP) in Afghanistan and in Indonesia, which aims to enhance physical security of laboratories and thereby prevent terrorism or accidents associated with biological materials.

As for confidence building and transparency measures, the ROK delegation welcomes the strengthened inter-sessional process, as agreed upon at the 7th BWC Review Conference in 2011, which allows us to explore various ways to enhance transparency and further build up strong confidence among States.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that the final document of the 7th BWC Review Conference provides a solid basis for systematic and structured cooperation, and the inter-sessional process will further deepen and broaden mutual understanding. As we set our sights on making the 8th Review Conference in 2016 another success, my delegation will actively participate in the inter-sessional discussion, especially on identifying further necessary steps.

Thank you.

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