

**Statement by**  
**The Republic of Korea**  
**At**  
**The First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the**  
**Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**9 May 2012, Vienna**

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**Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (Cluster III)**

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea fully appreciates the inalienable right of all NPT parties to develop the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, the exercise of these rights entails compliance with the obligations under the Treaty as reaffirmed in the final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference. In light of the sensitive nature of nuclear energy and its potentially devastating non-peaceful military applications, it is our firm belief that the full confidence of the international community in the exclusively peaceful nature of a State's nuclear program is vital to realizing the benefits of peaceful use and applications.

The final document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference included a number of important principles, priority areas and practical actions to promote international efforts to facilitate peaceful uses and applications of nuclear energy. Stressing due consideration for the needs of the developing areas of the world, the Review Conference agreed to strengthen the IAEA's technical cooperation programme. Noting the necessity for continued efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the IAEA TC programme, the Review Conference also agreed to put forth its utmost effort to ensure sufficient, assured and predictable resources for technical cooperation.

The Republic of Korea fully supports the IAEA technical cooperation program as one of the main vehicles for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries in need. In this regard, the Republic of Korea welcomes the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) of the United States that aims to expand support for the IAEA's mission to provide developing countries with wider access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Believing that the PUI will enhance cooperation on peaceful uses pursuant to Article IV of the NPT, and being a full beneficiary of nuclear power, the Republic of Korea is committed to sharing its experience and capabilities in this field with those countries in need through the IAEA, including the PUI. It is in this context that the Republic of Korea decided to fund an IAEA project to develop an e-learning module on nuclear power plant infrastructure through the PUI of USD 800,000. We would like to encourage other States in a position to do so to likewise contribute to the PUI.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference called upon State parties to ensure that the use of nuclear energy must be accompanied by commitments to and ongoing implementation of safeguards as well as appropriate and effective levels of safety and security. The Fukushima accident last year was a sobering reminder to the international community of the importance of safety and security in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The accident raised the issue of nuclear safety to the forefront of the global agenda and catalyzed serious national and international efforts to assess and strengthen nuclear safety. The Republic of Korea welcomes the IAEA's central role in the international efforts to respond to and draw lessons-learned from the Fukushima accident. The Ministerial Declaration of June 2011 and the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety adopted last September under the auspices of the IAEA have provided the international community with a roadmap as well as comprehensive and concrete measures to strengthen nuclear safety worldwide. As the implementation of the Action Plan will require the full cooperation and participation of all stakeholders, we join other delegations in urging State parties to ensure that the measures agreed in the Action Plan are implemented quickly to the full extent.

As part of its efforts to strengthen nuclear safety in light of the accident, and pursuant to the recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 NPT review conference, Korea received an IRRS (Integrated Regulatory Review Service) peer review mission in July 2011, performed stress test on its all nuclear facilities and, most importantly, established an independent nuclear regulatory body. And to further strengthen national nuclear security capacity, the Republic of Korea plans to receive an IAEA IPPAS (International Physical Protection Advisory Service) mission in 2013.

We also would like to bring to your attention the Seoul Communiqué of the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit that emphasized the need to address the issues of nuclear safety and nuclear security in a coherent manner. The Seoul Summit marked real progress towards the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy for all mankind by reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture with the highest-level of political commitment to nuclear security by leaders of 53 countries and four international organizations.

The Republic of Korea believes that multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle would help achieve NPT objectives and promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy by providing back-up access to nuclear fuel. We therefore welcome the establishment of a LEU bank under the auspices of the IAEA in December 2010 and the United Kingdom's Nuclear Fuel Assurance (NFA) mechanism approved by the Board of Governors in March 2011. We support both of these multilateral efforts to assure a supply of LEU for power generation as they adequately address proliferation concerns while not infringing on the rights of participation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

As crucial as the assurance of non-proliferation and assurance of supply and services are to such endeavors, multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should give due consideration to the back end of the full fuel cycle as well. Waste management is a serious and growing problem in Korea that must be addressed in a timely manner. International collaboration is sorely needed in this area to develop ways of reusing or disposing spent fuel that meet non-proliferation standards. Furthermore, we would do well to give additional consideration to incentives for cooperation in multilateral arrangements in addition to formal eligibility criteria.

Given the profound implications of the outcome of the last NPT review conference, the Republic of Korea hopes that participants will engage further in concrete actions on promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and reaffirming the basic principles of the NPT regime.

Thank you. /End/