

# Opening Statement

By

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**The 10<sup>th</sup> UN/ROK Joint Conference on  
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues**

Jeju, Republic of Korea  
7 November 2011

I am both pleased and proud to have the honour of opening this 10th UN/ROK Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues. Pleased—because of the vital importance of the issues to be considered. And proud—because of the fact that we are commemorating a full decade of cooperation between the United Nations and the Republic of Korea in organizing these useful conferences. It has been a wise investment of time and effort.

I wish in particular to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade both for its dedicated and professional assistance in making this Conference possible, and to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea for their longstanding support for multilateral approaches to achieving disarmament and non-proliferation goals.

To say that this Conference has a full agenda is an understatement. We will be looking both backward at the progress and setbacks in disarmament and non-proliferation, and forward to new challenges that lie ahead in these fields. Our participants include analysts and experienced practitioners in governments, international organizations, think tanks, and academia, in addition to journalists, private foundations, and individuals and groups from civil society. We have with us experts from a variety of disciplines--including scientists, scholars, diplomats, and regional specialists--from about twenty countries in five continents.

The agenda is expansive enough to include a full discussion of some broader themes and trends in disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as some very specific subjects that are on the minds of many today—including preparations for the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, ongoing efforts to resume the Six-Party Talks and move forward toward achieving the de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and consideration of efforts to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force.

This year we will also be addressing prospects for conventional arms control, which is a fitting subject for a UN sponsored conference, given the organization's long legacy of pursuing general and complete disarmament under effective international control—a goal that combines WMD disarmament with the limitation and regulation of conventional arms. Since 1978, the General Assembly has by consensus identified this as the “ultimate goal” of the United Nations in this field.

I would like to say a few words about the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD). Since its relocation to Nepal, the Centre has strengthened its capacity to undertake regional activities related to disarmament, taking into account the specific situations and practical needs of States in the region. It also continues to promote regional dialogue and confidence building on disarmament, non-proliferation and security matters through various activities, including this annual Conference.

On behalf of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, I would like to thank all countries, in particular those from the Asia/Pacific Region, for their financial and in-kind support and assistance to the Regional Centre, whose programmes rely on voluntary contributions. These financial and in-kind contributions to the Centre enable it to carry out its mandate effectively, and enhance its ability to serve the interests of all States in this enormous—and enormously important—region. This is indeed a worthy investment in our common future.

With these remarks, I would now like to wish you all a very productive conference.