Press Release

Statement
By
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Permanent Representative
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the United Nations

In the General Debate of
the First Committee

New York, 4 October, Juche91 (2002)
Mr. Chairman,

My delegation congratulates you on your election as the chair of this Committee and expresses its conviction that under your able guidance, substantial progress would be achieved at the deliberations on the agenda items before the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

It is desire of all humankind to make 21st century a century of peace and stability by realizing disarmament.

However, the disarmament foundations, which have been established by enormous efforts of the international society for several decades, are being threatened.

Theories on nuclear supremacy and nuclear preemptive strike, attempts to build missile defense system and to deploy nuclear weapons in outer space and other actions for pursuit to global strategy based on strength render ineffective and invalid the bilateral and multilateral disarmament agreements.

Qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and development of sophisticated weapons are openly conducted, the commitments so far made for abolition of nuclear weapons serve no purpose at all and fears are increasing that arms race of the Cold War might be revisited.

Fairness is further forced silent in the international relations. The discussions and debates on disarmament at the UN stages can not be said to be fully impartial, objective and substantive and they do not address real threats and challenges to world peace and security. There are more unrealistic urge and request on the sidelined issues.

The disarmament deliberations will only run idle to an indefinite time, as long as they fumble with only tiny branches, not striking with main stems and roots.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve lasting world peace and security in the new century, nuclear disarmament should be realized and our planet denuclearized.
The major threat and challenge to world peace and security today is that power politics based on absolute supremacy of nuclear weapons are strengthened.

These manifestations can be found in the recent change of nuclear deterrence theory by preemptive strike and the open clamor of nuclear threats. As long as the nuclear weapons continue to exist, humankind can never be free from nuclear threats.

The core issue of disarmament is nuclear disarmament, and the disarmament process could properly proceed only when the nuclear disarmament is achieved, which includes, inter alia, prohibition and total elimination of use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

In this regard, my delegation stands for earlier conclusion of an international agreement which clearly indicates the obligations of both nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states on the prohibition of development, test, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons and the complete destruction of all nuclear weapons.

Pending conclusion of such agreement, precedence should be given to implementing assurances of no-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states, withdrawing all nuclear weapons deployed outside of their territories and thus removing nuclear threats and promoting nuclear disarmament process.

My delegation views that the idea for future international legal agreement on the prevention of deployment of weapons in outer space and the threat or use of force against outer space objects would serve the global work for preventing weaponization of outer space.

Disarmament can not be unilateral and it should be conducted on the basis of mutual respect and trust among states.

Real disarmament can never be expected in the environment of continued hostile relations between states and increased threat to sovereignty, stigmatizing the member states as "evils" and calling for "preemptive strike".
Furthermore, it does not stand to reason to insist on reducing self-defensive forces of other countries, while having deployed abroad the huge armed forces and weapons of mass destruction.

My delegation considers it urgent to convene the United Nations Conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and adopt an effective action program for comprehensive disarmament and particularly, nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The situation on the Korean peninsula remains as yet one of the major concerns for world peace and security.

The Korean issue is for terminating foreign interference and realizing reunification of the country.

The great leader of our people General KIM JONG IL opens a new chapter in the history of north-south relations with the ideas of national independence and great national unity in order to bring earlier peace and reunification of the country, and he also provides for favorable environment for peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula with his energetic external activities.

The historic inter-Korean summit meeting that took place in Pyongyang in June 2000, the first of its kind in the history of national division, and the adoption of the North-South Joint Declaration serve as a turning point in the efforts of the Korean people for reunification of the country.

The North-South Joint Declaration is a declaration of national independence and peaceful reunification calling for opposing foreign interference and achieving reunification by concerted efforts of the Korean nation.

Though there have been temporary obstacles in implementation of the NSJD, due to the external intervention and the lack of national independent spirit, the north-south relations now take big steps forward, propped up by our magnanimity for country and nation. Substantial cooperation and exchange are being undertaken in various fields, and recently, groundbreaking ceremonies
have taken place for reconnecting the railways and roads between the north and the south of Korea.

The respected General KIM JONG IL had a meeting with President Putin at the Far Eastern region of the Russian Federation in August this year and held talks with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Pyongyang on 17 September and signed the DPRK-Japan Pyongyang Declaration. These constitute a great contribution to world peace and security and to the creation of a new and just world structure.

The DPRK will discharge in good faith its duty and responsibility for achieving peace and security on the Korean peninsula and ensuring peace and stability in the Northeast Asia and the world under the wise leadership of the respected General KIM JONG IL.

Mr. Chairman,

If peace and reunification are to be achieved on the Korean peninsula, the north and the south of Korea should reject foreign interference and hold the spirit of national independence.

Recourse to foreign forces and complicity with them against the fellow countrymen render it impossible to develop the north-south relations in the interest of the Korean nation and realize peace and reunification.

In order to do away with the dependence on foreign forces, a withdrawal of foreign troops should be called for. South Korea protects the stationing of foreign forces targeting at the fellow countrymen and does not exercise any jurisdiction over the crimes committed by the foreign soldiers, who, as one case, killed recently the two south Korean female students. It is, indeed, not in a position to say about issues of peace and security.

The DPRK would like to take this opportunity to urge south Korea to abandon its reliance on foreign forces and adhere to the spirit of national independence. This is essential for promoting peace and reunification in Korea in line with the spirit of the North-South Joint Declaration.
In order to ensure peace and security on the Korean peninsula and realize reunification, the hostile policy of the United States against the DPRK should be abolished.

The peace and security in Korea and the Northeast Asia can be expected when the United States terminates its hostile policy towards the DPRK, respects our system and sovereignty and develops relations with the DPRK on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

If the United States stop its hostile policy towards the DPRK and implement in good faith the Agreed Framework for proper construction of the LWRs, the issue of safeguards will be resolved accordingly.

The DPRK holds a position to readjust and develop the DPRK-USA relations in the new century.

It stems from the negative policy of the present US Administration towards the DPRK that the US says that it has security concerns over the DPRK.

If the US Administration has the willingness to withdraw its hostile policy towards the DPRK, the DPRK will address through dialogue the issues of concern to the security of the United States.

From this standpoint, we are following the visit of the special envoy of the US President, who is now in Pyongyang.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.