Statement of the DPRK Representative to clarify the DPRK’s position before the vote during action on draft resolution “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda”
(November 4, 2003)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to clarify the position of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.40/Rev.1 entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda”.

In the previous years, the DPRK voted in favor of the New Agenda Coalition draft resolution entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the need for a new agenda” from the position that the DPRK holds the nuclear disarmament should be realized and our planet demilitarized.

However, regrettably, paragraphs on the Korean peninsular which are newly added in the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/58/L.40/Rev.1 do not fairly reflect the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the US. The draft resolution also does not speak a single word about the US nuclear threats against the DPRK. But, instead it highlights unilateral and one-sided demand calling for the DPRK to give up its own self-defensive rights, which is subjected to constant nuclear threats of the US. This will never contribute to the settlement of the issue.

Accordingly, it becomes difficult for the DPRK to agree with the draft resolution as a whole as in the past.

The nuclear issue is, in essence, an outcome of the hostile policy pursued by the US to isolate and stifle the DPRK. It originated from the deep-rooted hostility, which denies our system and refuses to co-exist with the DPRK.

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is the general goal of the DPRK. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was our initiative and it is our consistent stand and the desire of all Koreans to realize it. The US is, however, standing in its way. It is entirely due to the US hostile policy toward the DPRK that we were compelled to withdraw from the NPT and opt for strengthening nuclear deterrence.
If the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the US is to be peacefully settled through dialogue, the US should make a radical switchover in its policy toward the DPRK. This is a master key to and a precondition for the settlement of the nuclear issue.

The DPRK has abided by the principle that the measures for settling the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the US should be implemented by simultaneous actions. These actions provide a realistic way of realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

My delegation expresses its concern over the reality that it is becoming customary to put pressure upon weak and small countries which are subjected to threats from the superpower while hesitating to accuse it for its nuclear threats and acts of violations of international laws and regrets to state that preambular paragraph 19 and operative paragraph 24 of the draft resolution do not correctly reflect the essence of the issue, ways and means for its settlement and situation of the Korean peninsula.

For these reasons, the DPRK has decided to abstain in the voting on the draft resolution A/C.1/58/L.40/Rev.1.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.