Republic of Korea: EOV on L.53 / 64th Session of the UNGA First Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation would like to touch upon draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.53, titled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction." As we have repeatedly emphasized in previous sessions, the Republic of Korea fully sympathizes with the spirit and objectives of the Ottawa Convention and this draft resolution.

However, due to the unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, we cannot but to place our priority on security concerns, and are unable to accede to the Ottawa Convention at this point. Therefore, we have abstained from voting on this draft resolution.

Nevertheless, we are no less concerned about the problem associated with anti-personnel mines. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to mitigating humanitarian suffering caused by anti-personnel mines. In this regard, my government is exercising tight control over anti-personnel landmines and enforcing a moratorium on their export for an indefinite extension of time. We have also responded regularly to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) annual questionnaire, providing all relevant information on our landmine policies and activities as a confidence-building measure.

The Republic of Korea, as a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Amended Protocol II, has actively participated in a range of discussions and activities to ensure only limited and responsible use of landmines.

In addition, my government has been making a meaningful contribution of more than $6.75 million since 1993 to de-mining as well as to victim assistance through relevant UN mine-action programs, including the Thematic Trust Fund (TTF) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance (UNVTF), and the Iraq Trust Fund of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The Republic of Korea will continue to do our part to this end in close cooperation with other countries, international organizations and civil society.

Thank you.