Press Release

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Statement of H.E. Ambassador Sin Son Ho,
Permanent Representative of the DPRK to the
United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 64th
Session of UN General Assembly

New York, 12 October, 2009
Mr. Chairman

Allow me, first of all, to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee. I am confident that this meeting will achieve fruitful results under your able chairmanship.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, still remains the most pressing issue in ensuring the world peace and security.

The humankind realized more than enough how dangerous the nuclear weapons are, from the disastrous and brutal ravage of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The first nuclear weapon in the globe was manufactured by the state with the largest nuclear arsenals. More than half a century has passed since then. Nevertheless, the nuclear arms race is taking place in a new manner, while we see no nuclear disarmament.

During the cold war era, the nuclear arms race was confined between the two super powers. But, now after the end of the cold war, it is taking place among all nuclear powers in a more competitive way aiming at modernization of nuclear weapons.

Worse still, the modernization of nuclear weapons has reached at such a dangerous stage that makes possible even a preemptive nuclear strike as it combines with the worldwide missile defense system on the part of the superpower.

The DPRK demands total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons in the world.

The US’s call for “a world without nuclear weapons” deserves to be welcomed if it presupposes disarmament of nuclear weapons in those countries with the largest nuclear arsenals.

When the states with the largest nuclear arsenals take the lead in nuclear disarmament, it will positively influence on the newly emerged nuclear weapon states in various parts of the world and also contribute to total elimination of nuclear weapons in this globe.
Mr. Chairman

The current situation of the Korean peninsula is one of the clear examples which eloquently proves why the nuclear disarmament remains stalemated in the international arena for such a long period.

In this regard, the DPRK delegation believes that due attention should be focused to the following questions.

First, when and by whom the nuclear weapons were deployed for the first time on the Korean peninsula and who is now nuclear-blackmailed by whom?

It is none other than the United States that introduced nuclear weapons into south Korea in 1957. Since then, they have snowballed up to over one thousand, targeting the DPRK and thus, threatening its sovereignty and the right to existence.

The US nuclear blackmail against us has begun as early as during the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, which left millions of people to be atomic bomb refugees. They are now “separated families” as known worldwide as today living separately in the north and south of Korea.

Likewise, the US nuclear threat is the main factor of acute confrontation in the Korean peninsula.

Having designated the DPRK as one of the targets for preemptive nuclear strikes in 2002, the United States continues conducting large-scale nuclear war exercises on a regular basis on the Korean peninsula and around its vicinity.

In March and August of this year alone, the US-south Korea joint military exercises were conducted involving different kinds of Weapons of Mass Destruction capable of nuclear preemptive strikes such as nuclear powered carriers “George Washington” and “Sternness” and nuclear powered sub marines and etc., under the codenames of the “Key Resolve”, “Foal Eagle” and “Ulzi Freedom Guardian”.

Second, what kind of role is the NPT playing with regards the above mentioned nuclear weapon state?

On the Korean peninsula, the NPT was unable to foil nuclear weapon deployment by a state which possesses the largest nuclear arsenals or stop its nuclear threat.
The NPT has stipulated that the nuclear weapon states are obliged to dismantle nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, the offender, who introduced the nuclear weapons into the Korean peninsula while resorting to nuclear blackmail, is now attempting to label the DPRK as an unlawful state by abusing international law. Unfortunately, this is today’s reality in the international relations.

What cannot be overlooked is that the UN Security Council, being forced by the United States, brought our peaceful satellite launch as an issue, claiming it as “missile launch” threatening the peace and security in the region. Our satellite launch was conducted in accordance with all international procedures.

Third, what is the real nature of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula?

As is known well, the nuclear threat against the DPRK is not an abstract concept, but an actual reality posed directly by the United States.

As a matter of fact, it is the none other than the United States, that pushed the DPRK into nuclear armament and the nuclear confrontation on the Korean peninsula is precisely the DPRK-US confrontation from the beginning.

If the US continues to threaten the DPRK with nuclear weapons, there will no other way but to strengthen the self-defensive deterrence for the safeguard of national sovereignty and dignity. This is the final conclusion we have reached after half-a-century-long DPRK-US confrontation.

If the Korean peninsula is to be denuclearized, the United States should terminate its nuclear threat and hostile policy for “a regime change” in the DPRK.

The DPRK is of the position to replace the present unstable armistice status with durable peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula, liquidate the remnants of the Cold War, the last of its kind in the world, and eventually denuclearize the whole Korean peninsula.

Replacing the Korean armistice agreement with peace arrangement is essential for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, and peace and security of Northeast Asia and beyond as a whole.
Mr. Chairman,

Today, the role of disarmament machinery is increasingly important in the international efforts for world peace and security.

In particular, the First Committee should enhance its role in nuclear disarmament as an organ dealing with disarmament issues.

The DPRK as a member state of the UN Conference of Disarmament recognizes that the CD is the unique disarmament negotiation body in the UN and the most useful one to promote global disarmament.

The DPRK welcomes the adoption in the CD of its program of work in May this year, which was adopted for the first time after 10 years’ deadlock.

The DPRK joined others in approving the program of work because the nuclear disarmament issue was reflected in the document and furthermore, because of the belief that it would lead to concrete and substantial discussion with due outcome.

As for the nuclear disarmament issues to be deliberated in the First Committee, the DPRK delegation expresses its support particularly to the draft resolution on “Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons” introduced every year by Malaysia.

We also associate ourselves with the statement made by the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The DPRK will continue to honor its foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship and make every effort to ensure peace and security in the region including the Korean peninsula.

Thank you