Mr. Chairman,

We have gathered here amid the growing expectations for progress, ending a decade-long dormancy in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. I am pleased to note that a majority of delegations of this Committee have expressed their positive views on the current situation and have encouraged one another to work together toward the overarching tasks facing us all.

My delegation welcomes the various efforts which have recently revitalized discussions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation on a global scale. Among these valuable efforts are the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament presented by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the vision for “a world free of nuclear weapons” put forward by President Obama, and historic Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament and adoption of UNSCR 1887. These efforts helped to galvanize the will of the international community to address the imminent tasks of disarmament and non-proliferation at hand. I am confident that the focus is shifting back to disarmament and non-proliferation as an one of the major global agendas of our time.
Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea believes that the NPT has served as a cornerstone for global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. It is our firm position that the central role of the NPT should be further reinforced, while maintaining a delicate balance among the three pillars which the Treaty stands on. In this regard, my delegation is of the view that the 2010 Review Conference offers us an indispensable chance to overcome the pending challenges and to reinforce the NPT regime. As the last session of the Preparatory Committee for the Review Conference in May agreed on a substantive agenda and timeframe, I believe that we have laid the foundation for a successful outcome of the Review Conference. To this end, my delegation would like to stress our shared responsibility to keep up the momentum in leading up to the next Review Conference and to achieve a goal of a nuclear free world.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation reaffirms its own conviction towards the goal of a world free of nuclear arms. We call upon Nuclear-weapon States to do their parts, while Non-nuclear-weapon States should maintain their commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is pressing task waiting for our decisive action. The Republic of Korea calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular the remaining nine Annex II States, to do so immediately and urges all Nuclear-weapon States to maintain a moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the CTBT.

The start of negotiation on an FMCT is something which cannot be delayed not only for nuclear nonproliferation, but also for nuclear disarmament. This year, thanks to the positive atmosphere for disarmament, the Conference of Disarmament agreed on the program of work (CD/1864). However, it is disappointing that the CD was not able to embark on substantive work this year. We call upon all CD members to collaborate for an early commencement of substantive work on an FMCT in the CD next year. The Republic of Korea will do its due part for driving the stalled CD process into motion.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Nuclear Renaissance is becoming an irreversible trend, the international community needs to develop ways and means to tackle the risks entailed in such trend and further strengthen international cooperation for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In particular, given that the threat of nuclear terrorism is underlined as the most imminent and extreme threat to global security, the Republic of Korea joins the
effort to enhance nuclear safety and security through international cooperation. Furthermore, we do hope that the Nuclear Security Summit to be held next April will be an occasion to mobilize the will of global leaders to tackle the threat of nuclear terrorism and proliferation of nuclear materials.

Mr. Chairman,

The peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue remains vital to securing peace and security in Northeast Asia as well as to sustaining the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime. The DPRK’s nuclear development should not and will not be tolerated. In this regard, the Republic of Korea appreciates the international community’s unified and strong response to the DPRK’s second nuclear test of May 25 through the adoption and faithful implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1874.

The Republic of Korea and the countries concerned share the common goal of achieving the denuclearization of the DPRK. To this end, we stand firm in the position that the DPRK nuclear issue should be resolved through the Six-Party Talks in a peaceful manner. We urge the DPRK to promptly return to the Six-Party Talks with a sincere attitude toward denuclearization. The DPRK must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in accordance with the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005.

In his speech at the UN General Assembly, President Lee Myung-bak reiterated his proposal of a "grand bargain," stating that North Korea’s dismantlement of core components of its nuclear weapons program would be met with security assurance and international assistance. This proposal demonstrates our commitment to a fundamental resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. The Republic of Korea will continue to discuss the details of the “grand bargain” with the countries concerned.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope the 2010 Review Conference will represent a milestone in our common efforts. To achieve this goal, we must explore all avenues in order to emerge with measures and actions which are realistic, practical and concrete. It is high time for us to grasp the opportunity to make progress amid this newly created environment. My delegation once again stresses our shared responsibility and the need to demonstrate flexibility as well as a spirit of cooperation for the success of the Review Conference.

Thank you for your attention.