Press Release

Statement by the DPRK Delegation on the Nuclear Weapon Cluster at the First Committee of the 64th Session of UN General Assembly
15th October, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea would like, first of all, to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

As highlighted by a number of delegations during our general debate, the first priority issue facing the international community in the field of disarmament is nuclear disarmament.

It is because nuclear disarmament is directly linked to the survival of humankind before it relates to world peace and security.

In this context, my delegation is of the view that the following questions need to be clarified if we are to realize nuclear disarmament.

First, what should be the priority issue with regarding to nuclear weapons?

Complete dismantlement of all nuclear weapons is the aspirations and demands of humankind. However, the current efforts for nuclear disarmament are misdirected on the contrary of the above mentioned.
Of all weapons in this world, only nuclear weapons remain out of control with no relevant instrument. Rather, they become increasingly exceptional though their very existence itself constitutes a major source of nuclear proliferation, and there continues an attempt to give a priority only to non-proliferation.

Today, the aim of non-proliferation is as clear as it is used as a means to overthrow independent countries. The clear example of it is the fabricating of information on existence of mass destructive weapons in Iraq to overthrow her government by force.

On the other hand, it is no longer secret that the country with the largest nuclear arsenals in the world has been seeking to monopolize the possession of nuclear weapons under the pretext of non proliferation.

This has been proved by the most recent instance in which the United States, in the document “Nuclear Posture Review”, advocated the “extended deterrence” and committed herself to providing “a nuclear umbrella” to her allies.

The bilateral nuclear disarmament that was confined to the only two superpowers during the cold war era can be no longer a major mode of nuclear disarmament for today after the end of the cold war.

Today, the nuclear powers are competing for strengthening their respective nuclear weapons through modernization. Hence, nuclear disarmament should be of multilateral nature, and also verifiable and irreversible.

Second, the nuclear weapon states should refrain from nuclear threats and provide non nuclear weapon states with Negative Security Assurances.

Most of the nuclear weapon states are opposed to the preparation of an international instrument on the NSA for non nuclear weapon states.

The current international relations which allow a certain country to use nuclear weapons as a means of threats which others are compelled to be threatened should no longer be tolerated, and it is so natural that a country takes self defensive measures in the face of nuclear blackmail from a nuclear weapon state.
Mr. Chairman,

I also take this opportunity to respond to the references of the delegates from Sweden, Australia, Turkey and others to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in their statement made before me.

They claimed that the DPRK's satellite launch and second nuclear test constitute clear breaches of the UN Security Council resolutions 1695 and 1718, undermine the stability of the Korean Peninsula and represent a threat to international peace and security.

I categorically reject their statements as serious provocations.

Firstly, the successful satellite launch of April 5th, 2009 should not be controversial as it is belonging to our sovereignty and also fully confirms with all necessary international law and procedures.

Exploration of outer space and its use for peaceful purposes is a legitimate right equally entrusted to all counties of this globe.

No one will deprive the DPRK of its right to space exploration for peaceful purposes.

Secondly, the DPRK's second nuclear test is a counter measure necessitated by the Security Council's action that made an issue of our peaceful satellite launch under the pressure of the United States.

Had the Security Council, from the very beginning, not made an issue of the DPRK's peaceful satellite launch in the same way as it kept silence over other satellite launches, it would not have compelled the DPRK to take strong counteraction such as its second nuclear test.

By possessing nuclear deterrent, we are now able to keep a nuclear balance in Northeast Asia even in the least and deter a war on the Korean peninsula.

Likewise, our nuclear deterrent promotes the stability on Korean Peninsula and thus, further contributes to international peace and security.
As I already mentioned, the DPRK does not pursue a nuclear arms race. Our nuclear weapons serve as a war deterrent. We will possess only the least number of nuclear weapons that can deter military attacks and threats on the DPRK. While keeping the nuclear weapons, the DPRK will act in a responsible manner with regard to the management, use, non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Thirdly, the DPRK clarified on several occasions that it rejected the Security Council resolutions 1695, 1718 and 1874 and would not be bound by them.

Those resolutions reflect the unilateral demands of the United States in contravention with the UN Charter and international law which provides for the principle of sovereign equality and fairness in the international relations, and therefore, will have no legal force whatsoever.

The rejection by many countries of resolution 1887 adopted at the SC summit is also because it failed to reflect fully the aspirations and will of international society, ignoring the obligations of nuclear powers for such a crucial issue as nuclear disarmament while dealing with the non-proliferation obligations of non nuclear weapon states.

We will also continue to pursue resolute actions as long as the US continues its hostile policy on the DPRK.

Thank you.