Press Release

Statement by the DPRK Delegation on the
Thematic Issue on Outer Space (Disarmament Aspect)
During the First Committee of the 64th UN General Assembly
(October 19th, 2009)

Mr. Chairman,

The outer space is a common province of the mankind and the peaceful use of the outer space is becoming a global trend.

In this regard, the DPRK delegation would like to introduce its own observations as follows.

Firstly, the monopoly of the outer space is no longer the case.

It is more than half a century since the first satellite was launched in 1957 and the number of countries capable of independent satellite launch has increased to nearly 10 countries.

Now there are more than 130 countries in the world which are engaged in the peaceful activities related to outer space including the use of satellites.

Secondly, we see some new moves that can easily spark off the outer space arms
race against the global trends towards peaceful use of the outer space.

The typical example is the attempt by the United States over the years to develop the missile defence system combined with space weapons under the pretext of the "threats of ballistic missiles" by so-called "rogue states".

The United States, jointly researching and developing the missile defence system with Japan on a full scale, is now moving towards the stage of practical deployment in the Northeast Asia.

In other words, the United States is planning to devise "a new missile defence initiative in the Northeast" and drag south Korea, Japan and other obedient countries into it.

To this end, the United States is claiming about the fictitious "threat of DPRK's missile". By doing so, the US is pursuing its ulterior intention to justify the establishment of its "Missile Defence System in Northeast Asia", form the tripartite military alliance among US, Japan and south Korea, like the NATO in Asia, and furthermore, contain China and Russia militarily and hold supremacy in the region.

If the United States does not give up the hostile policy on the DPRK and the strategy to dominate the Northeast Asia, but continues to justify and push ahead with its reckless military maneuvers under the pretext of other's "threat", the peace and security in the region will never be ensured and we also will have no choice but to strengthen the defensive nuclear deterrent to counter the US's increasing military threats and pressure.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, the DPRK delegation would like to call attention to the fact that Japan, even without any single word of apologizing its extraordinary large-scale
inhumane crimes, is working round the clock to develop and deploy the missile defence system at the instigation of the United States.

As it was well known, in May 2008, Japan has adopted the “Main Law on Space” at the House of Councilors to allow the use of space for military purposes by abrogating the former national law on space demilitarization which has existed for more than four decades.

The “Main Law on Space” has opened the way for Japan towards space militarization, which was once blocked by the resolution on prohibition of use of space for military purposes adopted by the parliament in 1969.

Since 1990s, Japan has launched four spy satellites to fly them over Asian countries and to obtain intelligence information on other countries.

What is more dangerous are the Japanese attempts to launch an early-warning satellite combined with missile defence system so as to keep surveillance over the neighboring countries.

As far as the early-warning satellite is concerned, it is an “eye” of the missile defence system now under deployment by the US and Japan. Therefore, if this satellite is launched, Japan will be further capable of preemptively striking other countries by using the outer space.

Against this background, the argument for the preemptive strikes on enemy military bases is gaining ground in the Japanese political circle.

All these facts prove that Japan is moving from a research stage into practicality in its active collaboration with the US’s missile defiance system pursued under pretext of potential threats of neighboring countries.

Nevertheless, this country took the lead in criticizing the DPRK’s peaceful launch
of satellite. This is nothing more than Japanese sinister purpose to cover up and justify its criminal act of militarizing the outer space from the very beginning.

Since 1980s, according to the policy of development and peaceful use of outer space, the DPRK has commenced necessary research and development in order to launch domestic satellites with its own strength and technologies.

Furthermore, in March 2009 with an objective of promoting international confidence and strengthening cooperation in the field of the outer space research and satellite launch, the DPRK has acceded to the two major out space treaties, one the “Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other Celestial Bodies” and the other one, the “Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space”

The DPRK remains unchanged in its position to oppose space militarization.

The DPRK will further oppose the deployment of any kind of space weapons and welcome and support initiatives to prevent space militarization.

Thank you.