Statement

By H.E. Ambassador Sin Son Ho

Permanent Representative of

the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

to the United Nations

at the General Debate of the First Committee of

the 67th Session of UNGA

New York, 12 Oct, 2012
Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this committee. I am confident that with your able leadership, this meeting will come to success. Taking this opportunity I assure you of my delegation’s fullest support and cooperation.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

The world peace and security is yet under grave threats due to continued existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular, nuclear weapons.

The UN, over the six decades since its inception, has devoted great part of its efforts to address this concern, nevertheless no fundamental changes have been made so far.

It is a stark reality that some of big powers continue to rely on nuclear weapons in pursuit of strong-arm policy for monopoly, domination and interference.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear weapons are being used ever more openly as a tool of threats and blackmails, going beyond the role of deterrence, giving rise to profound concerns of international society.

The nuclear power with the most sophisticated nuclear weapons designated the DPRK as a “target of preemptive nuclear strike” and has been increasing nuclear threats by staging ever-intensifying nuclear war exercises on and around the Korean peninsula every year.

For the Korean people, the threat posed by nuclear weapons is by no means an abstract notion but practical and longstanding reality.

Defying the unanimous desire and demand of the people at home and abroad for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, provocative and aggressive military exercises were staged this year too in simulation of a
nuclear war against the DPRK on several occasions in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula.

Involved in the joint military exercises such as “Key Resolve”, “Foal Eagle” and “Ulji Freedom Guardian” were huge number of troops and means of offensive from the US mainland and other military bases in the Asia Pacific region, creating real warlike situation thereto.

The DPRK aspires to durable peace more than anybody else, but it would never beg for peace at the expense of its sovereignty and national dignity.

Confronted by the extreme nuclear threats from the US, the DPRK responded with its own nuclear deterrent.

The DPRK’s nuclear deterrent not only serves as a powerful means of safeguarding its sovereignty and deterring the war on the Korean Peninsula but also provides a mighty guarantee for concentrating on economy building and improvement of living standard of people.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK supports nuclear disarmament.

In the UN disarmament forums such as the Conference on Disarmament, the DPRK has set, jointly with the NAM countries, the nuclear disarmament as the fundamental issue related to the world peace and security, and remains steadfast on giving the highest priority to nuclear disarmament.

Nuclear disarmament that the international society is eager to achieve is a total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. To our regret, nuclear disarmament process remains inactive with aggressive nuclear doctrine unchanged and nuclear weapons being reduced little by little at times. This kind of process can only be regarded as a mockery of the desire of nonnuclear weapon states and it will only drive them further towards losing confidence in nuclear powers.
The Conference on Disarmament is still in deadlock, for over a decade, due to the insincerity of nuclear weapon states in nuclear disarmament and their nonproliferation-oriented position.

Nuclear disarmament is considered to be the only absolute solution to the issue of proliferation because proliferation stemmed from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons by nuclear powers.

The DPRK delegation reiterates its position that the primary concern on disarmament issues should be on the conclusion of a legally-binding treaty for total elimination of nuclear weapons and prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The use of nuclear energy and exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes constitutes an inalienable right of all sovereign states.

The DPRK decided that the development of an independent nuclear power industry is a practical solution of energy problem and it is making efforts to build a light water reactor and produce nuclear fuel on its own.

In 2009 the DPRK joined the 1967 Outer Space Treaty and the 1975 Registration Convention with the intention of actively participating in the space exploration activities that offers great advantages to economic development. It has so far launched several space satellites by manufacturing them on its own with 100 percent domestic resources and technology.

Some countries, however, have related the DPRK's peaceful outer space activities to military program and went as far as to make groundless allegations such as "long-range missile test", "uranium enrichment program", and so on.

They are alleging that under the UNSC resolutions, the DPRK cannot conduct any launch using ballistic missile technology and even a satellite launch for peaceful purpose should not be allowed.