Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee. Allow me to assure you of my delegation’s full support and cooperation for your able leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we have laid a historic milestone in our collective effort to prevent the illicit transfer and diversion of conventional weapons by adopting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April.

As a legally binding international instrument, the ATT will contribute to States’ efforts in regulating the illicit flow of conventional weapons and munitions into fragile regions and wrong hands. For the first time, States are required to make human rights and humanitarian considerations in their export decisions. In addition, the ATT reconfirms that any transfer in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions acting under the Chapter VII is strictly prohibited.
It is encouraging that 113 countries have already signed this treaty within such a short time since its adoption. As one of the original signatories, the Republic of Korea will play its part in bringing the Treaty into force at an early date.

Recently, the Security Council took an important step to aid this effort by adopting the first Security Council resolution 2117 (2013) on small arms and light weapons. The resolution reconfirms several key points regarding small arms and light weapons, including Council-mandated arms embargoes and effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action (PoA). We hope the resolution will propel us toward making further progress at the Biennial Meeting of States on the UN PoA next year.

The General Assembly should make the best use of this hard-won and long awaited momentum to further strengthen substantial norms in the conventional weapons field. The First Committee needs to play a leading role in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

While we have made considerable achievements in the conventional arms field this year, we have witnessed an unforgiveable tragedy with the massive use of chemical weapons in Syria. The live footage of dying children on August 21 in Ghouta has deeply shocked every man and woman throughout the world. The Republic of Korea once again condemns this atrocity in the strongest possible terms. The use of chemical weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances.
In this vein, the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) is a belated yet historic achievement. The Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of the resolution by consensus, and hope that this important step leads to the complete elimination of all chemical weapons in Syria. The ROK government urges the Syrian government to faithfully implement its obligations under the Security Council resolution and the OPCW decision, and render full cooperation to the UN and the OPCW.

Taking this opportunity, the Government of the Republic of Korea calls on other countries including North Korea that have not acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) to do so without further delay.

Mr. Chairman

The use of chemical weapons in Syria painfully reminds us that the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery is one of the most serious threats to human beings. Now it is high time to renew our collective efforts in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation based on a spirit of trust and cooperation. The non-nuclear weapon states must faithfully observe their commitment to non-proliferation and the nuclear weapon states must do their part by making meaningful progress in nuclear disarmament.

In this regard, we welcome the entry into force and implementation of the New START between the United States and Russia. We also take note of the High-level Meeting on nuclear disarmament held on September 26, 2013 and hope that this process will lead to more constructive and enriched discussions on this matter.
My delegation believes that the NPT continues to be the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key element of the international security architecture. As we set our sights on making 2015 Review Conference another success, full and faithful implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan on the three pillars should be given the highest priority for all States.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) constitutes another essential element of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, and represents an important milestone in our efforts toward a world without nuclear weapons. Despite recent achievements, including ratification by Chad, Guinea-Bissau and Iraq, the Treaty's entry into force is long overdue. My delegation urges all States, particularly the States listed in Annex II, to sign and ratify the CTBT without further delay. States must refrain from any action that would hamper its objectives and purposes.

Starting negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) is another urgent and long-overdue task. The Republic of Korea urges the Conference of Disarmament (CD) to start negotiations on an FMCT as a top priority, and hopes that the work of the Group of Government Experts (GGE) on FMCT will effectively lay the foundation for these negotiations.

In the previous sessions of this Committee, the inactivity of the CD was fiercely discussed and we adopted several resolutions in this regard. Revitalization of the CD is imperative to resuming multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation talks. We are prepared to closely cooperate with Member States in all efforts to invigorate the CD.
Mr. Chairman,

The risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-State actors has emerged as one of the most challenging threats to global security in the 21st century. Concerted efforts by the international community are important in this regard. At the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, fifty-eight global leaders declared a collective international commitment towards a peaceful world free of nuclear terrorism, adopting the "Seoul Communique." My delegation hopes that the 3rd Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in Hague next March, will successfully contribute to further strengthening global nuclear security, and identify the necessary steps to prevent and counter nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

As indicated in the last report of the IAEA Director-General, Iran's nuclear program still remains a source of deep concern for the International Community. We are cautiously watching the positive developments unfolding between Iran and the E3+3 countries. Hope and concern are expressed from all sides. Ultimately, Iran's words have to be demonstrated with credible actions to restore the International Community's confidence in the solely peaceful nature of its nuclear programme.

With regards to the Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, my delegation finds it regrettable that the proposed conference did not take place and continues to be delayed. We hope that all relevant parties engage in a serious manner to overcome their differences and to realize the conference in the near future, with full participation of all States of the region.
Mr. Chairman,

One of the gravest concerns of the International Community is North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. We were all witnesses to North Korea's flagrant violations of Security Council resolutions: its launch using ballistic missile technology in December last year and the third nuclear test in February this year. In response to these provocations, the UN Security Council reaffirmed, through the resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013), that the international community will not tolerate North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

However, proceeding with its ongoing nuclear activities, North Korea has not hidden its intention to expand its nuclear capabilities. In particular, it announced last April that it would take measures for readjusting and restarting all the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, including its uranium enrichment plant and its 5MWe reactor.

North Korea must realize that it cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon state in accordance with the NPT, as clearly stressed in the Final Document of 2010 NPT review conference and UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009). North Korea must listen to the calls of the international community to comply with its international obligations under UN Security Council resolutions and the September 19 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. It must abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and immediately cease all related activities.
Mr. Chairman,

With the rapid development of science and technology, we are increasingly facing new types of challenges. As cyber terrorism transcends national boundaries, global cooperation is indispensable to recognize and address such cyber threats. The Seoul Conference on Cyberspace 2013 will be held from October 17th to 18th, under the theme of “Global Prosperity through an Open and Secure Cyberspace – Opportunities, Threats and Cooperation.” My delegation believes that, with the active participation of Member States, the Conference will provide the global platform for constructive engagement on cyberspace issues, including cyber security and capacity building.

The peaceful use of outer space is another emerging issue in this era. The Republic of Korea, as State Party to all major conventions on outer space, welcomes the efforts by the European Union to develop an ‘International Code of Conduct (ICoC) on Outer Space Activities.’ Also, the Republic of Korea highly values the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Transparency and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) in Outer Space Activities, and its fruitful result.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation once again pledges our full cooperation to work tirelessly for the success of the First Committee in this session and beyond, playing a role commensurate with our capacity and national focus on multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation.

Thank you very much.