Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference explicitly states that the NPT Review process should consider any developments affecting the operation and purpose of the Treaty. In our view, the new security challenges posed by nuclear and radiological terrorism in the aftermath of September 11 are certainly developments that this PrepCom should address in a timely fashion in order to identify the ways and means to counter them. Moreover, the ability to maintain nuclear and radiation safety is becoming more and more vital to the promotion of peaceful uses for nuclear energy. The NPT regime can play a significant role in ensuring that international cooperation in nuclear and radiation safety will be strengthened within an appropriate non-proliferation framework.

Mr. Chairman,

The IAEA has made significant contributions to the enhancement of nuclear safety and security by establishing strict international standards, norms and conventions on a wide range of nuclear safety and security issues. Nevertheless, as special representative of the IAEA, Mr. Tariq Rauf, emphasized in his statement yesterday, “further efforts are needed to make these conventions universal and comprehensive, and to establish legally binding norms in areas not covered by conventions.” In this regard, the
Republic of Korea strongly supports the efforts to amend and thereby strengthen the “Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.” The strengthened Convention would contribute to protecting against nuclear terrorism, *inter alia*, by aiming at strengthening this multilateral instrument and expanding its scope to nuclear material in domestic use, storage and transport, including the protection of nuclear material and installations against sabotage. Therefore, we call upon all States parties that have not signed and ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the UN Security Council emphasized in its Resolution 1373 (2001) the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to serious challenge and threat to international security posed by terrorism. In this regard, my delegation wishes to commend the recent efforts of the IAEA to strengthen its activities against nuclear terrorism. In particular, we fully endorse the plan of action, which identifies eight areas to combat acts of terrorism and articulates specific steps to be taken in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

At the 56th UN General Assembly, a Resolution, entitled “Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency,” was adopted urging all States parties to cooperate fully with the IAEA in its efforts to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. As the IAEA Director General ElBaradei has stated on many occasions, safety and security issues associated with uncontrolled radioactive sources, known as “orphan
sources,” warrant our urgent consideration. In this regard, we are in favor of the need to establish an enhanced worldwide mechanism to monitor the sales and management of radioactive materials.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference rightly notes, international cooperation is crucial to strengthening nuclear safety, radiation protection, the safe transport of radioactive materials and responsible radioactive waste management. In addition to the important role of the IAEA in promoting nuclear safety, every country should, through the intensification of national measures and international cooperation, maintain the highest level of standards for nuclear safety. It is imperative that every country should take concrete steps to relieve public concern about the operational safety of nuclear power plants and the disposal of radioactive waste. Under these circumstances, all countries should redouble their efforts to implement standards and guidelines in the accounting, physical protection and transport of nuclear materials. In this regard, my delegation hopes that all contracting parties will continue to make every effort to fulfill the objectives of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

The world is also confronted with difficulties in nuclear power generation, mainly due to the nuclear waste management problem. We recognize the importance of “the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management”, and welcomes its entry into force in 2001. My delegation would like to call upon those states that have not yet done so to accede to all relevant
conventions as soon as possible and to fully implement their ensuing commitments.

Mr. Chairman,

Safety and security issues do not recognize national boundaries. To bolster safety and security we will need to work within the framework of a comprehensive strategy. With that in mind, the States parties to the NPT should redouble their efforts to preserve the value and strengthen the resilience of the Treaty.

Thank you.