Statement

by

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at Geneva

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Mr. Chairman,

The close relationship between nuclear disarmament and overall global security requires a gradual and systematic approach towards nuclear disarmament. Thus, the international community as a whole should make every effort to foster a favorable environment for nuclear disarmament.

In particular, it is crucial that nuclear-weapon States make every effort to implement, in good faith and as soon as possible, the practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement Article VI of the Treaty contained in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

It should also be noted that the goal of nuclear disarmament can best be achieved through combined measures: unilateral and bilateral as well as regional and global measures. In this context, my delegation welcomes the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty concluded by the US and Russia at the Moscow Summit in May 2002. We appreciate this initiative as a valuable contribution towards nuclear disarmament and hope that this will be followed by other initiatives to strengthen international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) represents a historic multilateral step forward toward nuclear disarmament and, at the same time, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The importance and urgency of the early entry into force of the CTBT was underlined as one of the thirteen practical steps enshrined in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference. My delegation takes this opportunity to call upon all States, including the thirteen countries whose ratification is now needed for the Treaty to enter into force, to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

The Republic of Korea has actively participated in the negotiations on the CTBT and highly appreciates the activities of the CTBTO PrepCom in support of the principles and objectives of the CTBT for the prohibition of nuclear testing. In order to encourage non-signatories and non-ratifiers to accede to the CTBT, my country joined the Joint Ministerial Statement on the CTBT issued in New York last year. We also attach special importance to the 3rd Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Treaty to be held this coming September in Vienna.

My delegation is of the view that, pending the entry into force of the CTBT, it is imperative that the States concerned maintain the moratoria on nuclear testing. Signatories to and ratifiers of the CTBT, for their part, should proceed further with the establishment of the verification regime in preparation for the entry into force of the
CTBT, including financial and technical support for the activities of the Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

In my delegation's view, the FMCT is the next priority step following the adoption of the CTBT. The UNGA has adopted annually a consensus resolution on the FMCT, and the CD agreed on the negotiation mandate in March 1995 for the FMCT and commenced negotiations in 1998. Therefore, my delegation supports the commencement of negotiations on the FMCT at the CD at the earliest possible date and its completion within five years, as agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

Even before the negotiations are concluded, it is desirable for nuclear-weapon States and other countries concerned to declare or observe their moratoria on the production of fissile materials for weapons purposes.

Furthermore, it is essential to secure the universality and effectiveness of the FMCT. This requires participation in the negotiations of non-state-parties to the NPT, as well as the development of an effective verification regime.

Mr. Chairman,

Effective reporting will serve to further increase transparency with regard to the progress in nuclear disarmament. Based on this belief, my Government has submitted its report this year and looks forward to an interactive dialogue among States Parties. Given the differences between States Parties on this issue, however, my delegation is of the view that this issue should be approached in terms of practicality, universal participation and flexibility. In this regard, my delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Canadian delegation for its working paper on Reporting by States parties (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.2), which will serve as a useful basis for further deliberations on the issue.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to make a comment on the deliberations of the UNDC on its agenda item "ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament". As all of us are well aware, the UNDC has failed to adopt a consensus document on ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament at its third and last substantive session in 2003. My delegation believes that we can draw some valuable lessons from it.

More than anything else, my delegation wishes to emphasize the inextricable relationship between nuclear disarmament and international security. As the nuclear disarmament process is closely intertwined with international peace and security, improvement of the security environment on national, regional and global levels is vital for nuclear disarmament. Moreover, the mutually reinforcing relationship between nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation cannot be understated. My delegation considers the tendency to separately pursue the interrelated goals of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament a precarious and unproductive endeavor. On the
contrary, my delegation views nuclear non-proliferation as an essential means of ensuring the common security benefits that could lead to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

My delegation is of the view that the recent deliberations of the UNDC have demonstrated the stark reality that nuclear disarmament cannot be achieved in one giant step. Instead, substantial progress can only be made by a gradual and step-by-step approach, guided by forward-looking and problem-solving efforts of the international community.

Thank you.