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Security Assurances  

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  

Since my delegation already commented on nuclear disarmament in its statement on Cluster I, let me focus here on the issue of security assurances. My delegation strongly believes that the non-proliferation regime will work most effectively when the root causes of proliferation are adequately addressed. Insecurity, real or perceived, is likely to be one of the key motives or excuses for the development of nuclear weapons capabilities. In this vein, the Republic of Korea believes that the international community should seek ways to alleviate these security concerns in order to eliminate any motives or excuses that states may use for the pursuit of nuclear weapons programs.  

The Republic of Korea supports the concept of negative security assurances as one practical approach to reducing this sense of insecurity. As stated on previous occasions and at other international forums, my delegation believes that nuclear weapon states (NWS) should provide strong and credible security assurances to non-nuclear weapon state (NNWS) parties to the NPT that faithfully meet their NPT and other safeguards obligations.
Security assurances provided by nuclear weapon states will strengthen the non-proliferation regime as they would dissuade non-nuclear weapon states from acquiring nuclear weapons and contribute to confidence-building among States Parties. Furthermore, in our view, security assurances will help to promote the nuclear disarmament efforts of nuclear weapon states by reducing the current strategic and military options of nuclear weapons. Security assurances will also help non-nuclear states to pay more attention to the peaceful and economic uses of nuclear energy. As such the Republic of Korea is of the view that security assurances will contribute to the strengthening of the three pillars of the NPT regime through allowing states to take more balanced and comprehensive approach to the NPT regime.

The Republic of Korea takes note of UNSC Resolutions 255 and 984, and related elements in the 1995 and 2000 Final Documents. Based on these international instruments, the Republic of Korea supports reinvigorated discussions on security assurances in the relevant international forums, particularly at the Conference on Disarmament. However, considering the evolving nature of the current international political environment and the divergence of views on security assurances, we believe it would be more realistic to take a pragmatic and step-by step approach to the issue.

Mr. Chairman,

In this connection, my delegation would like to underline the unique value of Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (NWFZ) as a practical means of obtaining security guarantees from nuclear weapon states. My delegation also underlines the fact that NWFZ could be a useful tool in order to achieve the long-term goal of the international community to be free of nuclear weapons.

NWFZ symbolizes the sincerity of non-proliferation efforts by non-nuclear weapon states because NWFZ prohibits the development, manufacture, stockpiling, acquisition, possession and control of any nuclear explosive devices within the Zones. The Republic of Korea believes that these efforts should continue in order to cover the most sensitive regions in the world. Furthermore, nuclear weapon states should duly respond by ratifying the relevant protocols to fully ensure negative security assurances are provided to the parties acceding to the NWFZ treaties.

Mr. Chairman,

We sincerely hope that the discussions here at the third PrepCom will provide us with yet another valuable opportunity for serious contemplation on the issue of security assurances.

Thank you.