Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Nuclear nonproliferation is a fundamental goal of the NPT regime. My delegation believes that ensuring full compliance with nonproliferation obligations is vital for sustaining and reinforcing the credibility and integrity of the NPT regime. In addition to working towards enhancing the universality of the Treaty, the international community should ensure that non-compliance with NPT obligations will have clean and strong consequences.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that Additional Protocols to the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements function as a crucial verification tool for non-proliferation obligations under the NPT. In this vein, we underline the importance of the universal application of the Additional Protocol. We welcome that 21 States have newly brought the Additional Protocols in force since the last Review Conference. At this juncture, we urge those States Parties that have yet to conclude or bring into force the Additional Protocol to do so without delay.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the positive developments in the negotiations between the P5+1 and Iran, including the agreement of the Joint Plan of Action and its implementation. We look forward to a final agreement and ultimately a comprehensive and complete solution. We hope that such a process can have a positive influence on other outstanding non-proliferation issues.

Mr. Chairman,
North Korea’s nuclear program has not just posed a grave threat to the peace and security in the region and beyond, but seriously undermined the integrity and credibility of the global non-proliferation regime. Instead of demonstrating its seriousness to abandon its nuclear program, North Korea announced itself as a nuclear-weapon state in its revised constitution in April 2012 and adopted a national policy to develop nuclear arsenals and its economy simultaneously. It reportedly restarted the operation of the 5 MWe reactor in Yongbyon and recently threatened another nuclear test in its statement of March 30. We do not have much time to address this issue, because North Korea is advancing its nuclear capability at this very moment. Moreover, increasing unpredictability in Pyongyang’s behavior underscores the dire need to tackle North Korea’s nuclear issue with a sense of urgency.

Violating relevant UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea has persistently attempted to be acknowledged as a nuclear-weapon state. In addition, North Korea is the first case in the history of the NPT where a country acquired nuclear technology as a NPT State Party and then abruptly announced its withdrawal while continuing to develop nuclear weapons program. We must cope with North Korea’s challenge to the non-proliferation regime squarely and collectively, by stressing that a nuclear North Korea cannot be accepted in any case and discouraging North Korea’s further provocations.

In this regard, the international community must make it clear in a unified and resolute manner that we will not tolerate Pyongyang’s reckless and inexcusable acts, and we will have North Korea pay the heavy price if North Korea goes ahead with another nuclear test. My delegation urges North Korea to refrain from further provocative acts, but instead to abide by its obligations under all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and comply with its commitments under the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 of the Six-Party Talks, by abandoning all its nuclear and ballistic missile program in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. North Korea must make strategic decision to abandon its nuclear program and return to the NPT and IAEA safeguards at an early date. North Korea must realize that nuclear arsenal cannot guarantee its security but rather further isolates it from the community of nations and deteriorates its economy.

Mr. Chairman,

Possible nuclear proliferation or use of nuclear weapons by non-state actors has emerged as one of the most serious and imminent threats to global security of this century. In this vein, at The Hague Nuclear Security Summit this past March, my President presented a holistic approach that
promotes synergy among nuclear security, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation agendas.

Other relevant global efforts also contribute to preventing non-state actors from proliferating nuclear weapons and related materials. As the current chair country of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee, we are strongly committed to enhancing the implementation of the Resolution. I am pleased to inform you that the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, during our presidency of the UN Security Council, will preside a high-level Security Council open debate on non-proliferation, under the topic of “Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1540 (2004) and Looking Ahead” on May 7. We hope that this open debate will provide a unique opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved so far, and to exchange views on developing a long-term vision and strategy toward achieving full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2010 Action Plan has provided us with a reliable foundation for strengthening the NPT regime. Through this Preparatory Committee, we must assess our progress thoroughly based on the 2010 Action Plan and identify the areas where further work needs to be done. My delegation looks forward to meaningful and substantive discussions in the process of our review cycle.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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