MGE 2: The implication of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing (agenda item 6)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the chair. We join others in thanking you and your team for the excellent work in preparing for this second Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2).

My delegation thanks new Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Mr. Kim Won-Soo for his opening statement. We wish him all the best in the discharge of his new duties, and convey ROK Government's continued support for the work of UNODA. We also appreciate the insightful presentations by the panelists.

As mentioned in the Chair's discussion paper, the use of new materials like polymers, the development of modular weapons and the use of 3D printing technology all pose new challenges in our efforts to maintain effective marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons.

In particular, with the recent development of 3D printing technology, the risk of unauthorized individuals illicitly duplicating and manufacturing firearms at home has become a reality. Once the cost of 3D printers decreases and the technology becomes more accessible in the future, 3D printing may become an attractive alternative for criminals and terrorists to manufacture and acquire small arms while easily evading law enforcement measures.
Recently, the Republic of Korea revised its laws to criminalize posting and dissemination on the internet of production methods and design of firearms, including 3D printing designs of firearms. As 3D printing designs of firearms can easily be transferred via internet across borders, it would be important to devise new, effective ways to prevent and control these activities. We would like to hear the views of the panelists on this aspect of proliferation of weapons-related technology via internet and social media.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.