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Statement

By

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**Alternate Head of Delegation of
the Republic of Korea**

at

**The 2005 Review Conference of the Parties
to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

Main Committee III

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Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the chair of Main Committee III. You are assured of my delegation's full cooperation during the deliberations of the Committee.

The Republic of Korea places the utmost value on the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy. As a country that depends on nuclear energy for 40 percent of its electric power supply and has the world's sixth-largest civil nuclear energy industry, with 19 power reactors in operation and seven additional reactors either under construction or in the planning stages, we view this inalienable right as indispensable to our sustainable economic development.

Nevertheless, we share the view that there should be proper safeguards against the possible abuse of this right by potential proliferators. In our view, the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy under Article IV of the Treaty must be contingent upon full compliance with non-proliferation and safeguards obligations under Articles I and III.

It is often difficult to distinguish peaceful uses of nuclear materials and technologies from their military application. Acknowledging this reality, some have argued that a viable way to limit the risks involved with sensitive fuel cycle technologies would be to restrict them to a limited number of states, with reprocessing and enrichment facilities possibly placed under international control. We understand the rationale behind these proposals and recognize the need to control the transfer of sensitive technologies and facilities to countries of proliferation concern.

We are of the view, however, that such an approach should not be in disharmony with the legitimate exercise of rights to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by those States Parties that are in good standing in meeting their commitments under the NPT. This is especially true for those States Parties that have well-grounded reasons for possessing fuel cycle technologies and facilities in terms of energy security and economic feasibility, particularly those that rely heavily on nuclear energy.

Furthermore, we believe that secure guarantees for fuel supply at a reasonable price as well as other incentives should be provided to those countries that voluntarily choose not to possess sensitive fuel cycle facilities. At the same time, we welcome the report of the Expert Group on Multilateral Approaches to the Nuclear Fuel Cycle established by the Director General of the IAEA and look forward to extensive discussions on this issue.

Madam Chairperson,

In order to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is imperative to restore and bolster confidence in States Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Treaty. The obligations under Articles I and III and the rights under Article IV are complementary and mutually reinforcing. In this regard, the importance of universal adherence to comprehensive IAEA safeguards agreements and Additional Protocols cannot be overemphasized.

Moreover, strong and effective national, regional and global export controls over sensitive technology and items constitute important supplements to help achieve the goals of non-proliferation under the Treaty. In this context, we underscore the leading roles of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee in setting international norms for export controls, as well as the newly launched initiatives of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and the G-8 Global Partnership in supplementing and reinforcing existing non-proliferation regimes.

Madam Chairperson,

Addressing public concerns about the safety and security of nuclear power is also crucial for the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, we welcome the important progress that has been made in recent years, particularly through the establishment of global norms and standards governing nuclear safety and security such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

We also note the growing significance of international cooperation in developing proliferation-resistant reactors and fuel cycles through initiatives such as International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) and the Generation IV International Forum (GIF). Furthermore, we acknowledge the potential importance of hydrogen and fusion as future energy sources.

Lastly, we take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of the IAEA's role in promoting and expanding technical cooperation to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the developing world. We commend the IAEA Secretariat for its dedicated efforts to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's technical cooperation programs. We share the view that the Agency should be provided with sufficient resources to facilitate its technical cooperative activities.

Thank you for your attention.

