



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. Since the adoption of the NPT here at the UN General Assembly precisely 40 years ago, the NPT has served as the cornerstone of global peace and security. The Republic of Korea believes that the NPT should continue to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. The three pillars that the NPT stands on – nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy - are mutually reinforcing and should be promoted in a balanced manner. Preserving the delicate balance among the three pillars is vital to the credibility of the NPT regime.
2. In this regard, the 2008 NPT PrepCom held last May was meaningful in that most states parties shared the views that the success of the 2010 Review Conference is vital for enhancing credibility of the NPT and nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The first and foremost task for nuclear disarmament falls upon the shoulders of nuclear weapons states (NWS). Although significant progress has been made thus far in reducing nuclear arsenals, the five nuclear weapons states still possess 26,000 nuclear warheads. And there remains a significant perception gap between the NWS and NNWS. The best way to close this gap and restore trust and confidence between NWS and NNWS is for the NWS to faithfully implement their Article VI obligation as indicated in the outcome documents of the 1995 and 2000 NPT Review Conference. My delegation reaffirms its conviction in the goal of nuclear disarmament in realizing a world free of nuclear arms. Nuclear-weapon states must do their part by making progress on nuclear disarmament, while non nuclear-weapon states should maintain their commitment to nonproliferation.
4. In this regard, my delegation acknowledges the achievement for the US and Russia under the Moscow Treaty to reduce the deployment of strategic nuclear weapons down to the level of 1700-2200 by 2012

and welcomes the ongoing bilateral discussions for a follow-up to the current Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) which expires in December 2009. The Republic of Korea hopes that the two countries continue their constructive dialogue, considering the dialogue's significance to international security.

5. We also welcome the recent announcement by the UK and France of their unilateral nuclear reduction measures. This will contribute to confidence building, by making their nuclear reduction plans public. In this regard, we appreciate the recent gesture of transparency by France to invite international experts to observe the dismantlement of the military fissile material production facilities at Pierrelatte and Marcoule.
6. However, it must be reminded that any qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and the development of advanced new types are contrary to the obligation to work for nuclear disarmament in good faith.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is another task waiting for our decisive action. The Republic of Korea calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those remaining nine Annex II States, to do so immediately and also stress the importance of maintaining a moratorium on nuclear testing until the entry into force of the CTBT.
8. The negotiation of an FMCT is indeed the (next) logical step to the CTBT, not only for nuclear non-proliferation, but also for nuclear disarmament. My delegation believes that time is ripe for the commencement of negotiations on an FMCT in the CD and calls upon all CD members to show more flexibility and political will for the adoption of the program of work so that negotiations on an FMCT can begin at the earliest possible date. We also urge all relevant states to declare and observe a moratorium on the production of fissile materials for weapons use until an FMCT enters into force.
9. With regard to the North Korean nuclear issue, the Republic of Korea has continued its efforts to achieve a comprehensive resolution of the North Korean nuclear issues within the framework of the Six-Party Talks. Peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue is vital to securing lasting peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia as well as to sustaining the integrity of the non-proliferation regime.
10. The ROK government welcomes the Six-Party Talks being brought back on track through the recent agreements on verification, the subsequent U.S. action to remove North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, and the resumption of disablement measures by North Korea. The ROK government hopes that these measures would contribute to moving the Six-Party process forward with the goal of achieving the abandonment of all nuclear weapons and nuclear programs by the DPRK in accordance with the September 19 Joint Statement. To this end, the ROK government requests the continued unswerving support of the international community.

Mr. Chairman

11. The 2010 Review Conference should be the occasion to find realistic and practical ways to revitalize the NPT process by reflecting the evolution of international situation over the past 10 years, and its success is crucial for the credibility of the NPT regime. My delegation sincerely hopes that the third NPT PrepCom meeting next year will serve as a stepping stone in achieving this important goal.

Thank you.