



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Amb. KIM Bong-hyun

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1. My delegation wishes to join others in congratulating you on the assumption of the chairmanship of this Committee and the other members of the Bureau on their election. I am confident that under your able leadership we will be skillfully guided through the deliberations ahead. Let me assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in these noble endeavours.
2. For nearly a decade, the international disarmament community has been deploring the lack of progress in this field. The word "stalemate" has been repeated *ad nauseam* and it sounds almost trite to use the expression at this point. But the real problem lying behind the stalemate is that we might have developed a sense of complacency during those years.
3. I do not, by any means, intend to underestimate the outcomes of our common endeavours, either within the UN or elsewhere. What I want to emphasize is that, against whatever odds we face, there are a number of values and practical objectives in disarmament and non-proliferation that remain constant; and we should not take for granted or accept a *status quo* of no progress. It is my sincere wish that at this year's First Committee session, we respect each other sufficiently to express our views honestly, with a view towards yielding greater progress in achieving peace and security through disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chair,

4. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery means remains the gravest challenge facing humankind, and the possibility of their use by terrorists is not a

mere hypothesis. At the same time, the integrity of and confidence in the nuclear non-proliferation regime is being challenged by several cases of non-compliance, while little progress in nuclear disarmament is deepening the rift between the nuclear haves and have-nots.

5. Despite all of the setbacks and challenges, the central role of the NPT as the foundation of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament remains unchanged, and it is vital that the regime be strengthened and improved. As the upcoming 2010 NPT Review Conference will be a very important milestone for the future of the NPT regime, all our common efforts should be pursued in earnest to make it a success.
6. Aside from the ongoing efforts to achieve the universality of the NPT, we believe that the monitoring and verification mechanism of the Treaty needs to be strengthened through universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol. This has assumed even greater importance considering the current renaissance of nuclear energy amid the challenges of the energy crisis and climate change.
7. Also, if an increase in civil use of nuclear energy is an irreversible trend, we should make efforts to minimize the risks entailed in the increase in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the immediate commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), are both priority issues. Although voluntary moratoria on nuclear tests and fissile material production cannot substitute the two treaties, observance of such moratoria will be highly valued.

Mr. Chair,

8. The peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue is vital in securing lasting peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and beyond as well as sustaining the integrity of the non-proliferation regime. The Republic of Korea maintains a firm position that a nuclear-armed DPRK cannot be tolerated and that the DPRK nuclear issue must be resolved peacefully through the Six-Party Talks framework.
9. Currently, the Six-Party process stands at a crucial juncture. We need to complete the outstanding measures in the second phase of the denuclearization process agreed at the Six-Party Talks, in particular, the adoption of a verification protocol. We should also commence negotiations on the next phase, in which the DPRK will abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in accordance with the September 19 Joint Statement adopted by the Six-Party Talks.
10. In this regard, the DPRK's recent move to restore the disabled facilities is highly regrettable. We urge the DPRK to immediately resume disablement measures so that the momentum generated by the Six-Party Talks process can be maintained and the denuclearization process can move forward. To this end, the Government of the Republic of Korea requests the continued unswerving support of the international community.

Mr. Chair,

11. Parallel efforts should be made to strengthen the disarmament norms for other classes of WMD, particularly the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). The Republic of Korea has attached great importance to the full and effective implementation of the CWC, and has done its best for the achievement of the Convention's goals. In this regard, we note with satisfaction the steady increase in the membership of the CWC and progress in destruction of chemical weapons by States Parties. With respect to the BWC, we reaffirm our commitment to build upon the momentum created at the 6th Review Conference and make further progress towards the 7th Review Conference. We also welcome the extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee until 2011, which has a substantial role to play in curbing proliferation of WMD to non-state actors.
12. We note with satisfaction that the 3rd Biennial Meeting of States (BMS3) to consider the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on the illicit trade in small arms has succeeded in producing a report with a substantial set of recommendations to address the four key issues, namely international cooperation and assistance, illicit brokering, stockpile management and surplus destruction, and international tracing instrument (ITI). As part of our contributions to the process, the Republic of Korea hosted a regional workshop on International Tracing Instrument (ITI) in Seoul last May, and assumed the role of facilitator for the illicit brokering session of the BMS3. We also welcome the reports following a substantial exchange of views by the two Groups of Governmental Experts (GGEs), namely the GGE on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the GGE on the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus.
13. With regard to the cluster munitions, the Republic of Korea fully recognizes the need to reduce humanitarian problems caused by cluster munitions and supports the international efforts to regulate their use. We are of the view that due consideration should be given in the negotiation processes to differences in security conditions, military utility and economic and technological capabilities of each state. In this regard, my delegation believes that the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which is participated in by major producers, users, and stockpilers, is the right forum to discuss the issue. The Republic of Korea hopes that the CCW negotiations will bear fruit, leading to the establishment of an international instrument to address the humanitarian effects of cluster munitions this November.

Mr. Chair,

14. Before closing, my delegation would like to bring your attention to the annual ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation the Republic of Korea has been co-hosting with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) since 2002. This year's meeting will take place on Jeju Island, on November 24-26, under the title of "Nuclear Renaissance and the NPT: Reinforcing the Three Pillars of the NPT." We hope that the conference could serve as a valuable opportunity for an extensive exchange of views on the

three pillars of the NPT and contribute to the international efforts towards a successful 2010 Review Process.

15. Finally, allow me to offer a few words on the new draft resolution that the Republic of Korea and Australia will submit to the First Committee, under the tentative title of "Prevention of Illicit Brokering Activities." Based upon the understanding that all types of proliferation activities can be effectively addressed by focusing on illicit brokering *per se*, the draft resolution calls upon states to establish appropriate national laws and/or measures and encourages states to fully implement existing relevant international treaties, instruments, and resolutions. The resolution reaffirms that such actions should not hamper legitimate trade, and also underlines the inherent rights of states to determine the specific scope and content of domestic regulations. We would like to request the support of all Member States for this draft resolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.