

Republic of Korea: EOJ on L.16 / 64th Session of the UNGA First Committee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation would like to speak on draft resolution A/C.1/64/L.16, titled "Convention on Cluster Munitions."

The Republic of Korea fully recognizes the need to reduce humanitarian suffering caused by cluster munitions and supports international efforts to address the problems associated with the use of cluster munitions. Therefore, we have joined the adoption of this draft resolution by consensus. However, due to the unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula, my government is unable to take an active stance on the Convention on Cluster Munitions which bans the use of all cluster munitions.

Meanwhile, the Republic of Korea will continue to participate actively in consultations on cluster munitions within the framework of the CCW, with an aim to concluding a CCW Protocol on Cluster Munitions which strikes an appropriate balance between humanitarian concerns and military needs.

My delegation also would like to mention that the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea adopted, in August 2008, a new directive on cluster munitions. According to the new directive, only cluster munitions that are equipped with self-deactivation devices and which would not result in more than a 1% failure rate can be included in future acquisition plans. The new directive also recommends the development of alternative weapon systems which could potentially replace cluster munitions in the long run.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea is fully committed to joining the international efforts to reduce humanitarian concerns caused by cluster munitions and will continue to participate constructively in future discussions if the continuation of further discussions within the CCW framework is agreed upon at the Meeting of States Parties to the CCW in November.

Thank you.