

**The Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass
Destruction**

2004-04-22

by H.E. Amb. Kim Sam-hoon, Permanent Representative
at Open Debate of the United Nations Security Council

Mr. President,

I join the previous speakers in thanking you for convening this open debate on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

The nexus between terrorism and the proliferation of WMD has become one of the most pressing international security issues facing the international community today. The recent revelation of the existence of an extensive clandestine international network for the procurement of nuclear equipment and technology and the thriving illicit trafficking of WMD-related materials through this network demonstrate the real danger of WMD falling into the hands of terrorists. And yet, these emerging threats to the international peace and security have not been adequately addressed by the existing WMD non-proliferation regimes.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the initiative of the Security Council as a milestone in the efforts to close the gap between the new realities of the 21st century and the existing international non-proliferation regimes. While fully supporting the rationale behind the initiative and the thrust of the draft resolution, the Republic of Korea would like to share some of its observations in this regard.

We know that, as a matter of principle, the normal and the most appropriate way to establish new non-proliferation obligations or to supplement the existing non-proliferation regimes is to negotiate new treaties or to amend the existing treaties within the framework of treaty-specific bodies. Nevertheless, given the urgency of this dire challenge and the amount of time for a negotiating process involving all Member States, it is fitting and timely for the Security Council to address important loopholes in the existing non-proliferation regimes. We must add, however, that the Security Council's

legislative authority should be exercised with caution and in exceptional circumstances.

We believe that the adoption of a new resolution will bolster and strengthen the existing export control regimes and contribute to the establishment of a universal system of export controls governing the illicit trafficking of sensitive items and technologies. We hope that the guidelines and standards being implemented under the existing export control regimes will provide useful reference for the Committee to be established by the resolution in discharging its duties.

Since the new resolution would obligate all States to take domestic measures, including the adoption of national laws, the language of the resolution must be clear and unambiguous to avoid any misinterpretation or discrepancy in implementation.

We are of the view that the implementation of the resolution at the national level must be ensured through a monitoring mechanism. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the resolution, it is important to avoid any inconsistency between the duration of the monitoring mechanism and the life of the resolution.

In concluding, Mr. President, the Republic of Korea assures you of its unwavering support for the efforts of the Security Council to address the dangerous linkages between global terrorism and the proliferation of WMD.

Thank you.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

주 국제연합 대한민국 대표부

335 East 45th St, New York, NY10017

Tel 212-439-4000 Fax 212-986-1083