

**STATEMENT BY MR. AN MYONG HUN, COUNSELLOR  
MADE ON BEHALF OF THE DPRK DELEGATION  
AT THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT  
ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2005**

Mr. President,

My delegation has listened with much attention to the statements made at the plenary during this week by the Foreign Ministers from various countries.

My delegation appreciates the efforts of the high-level officials to revitalize the CD work. It hopes that these efforts will continue in a right direction.

The impression my delegation has from those statements is that the CD has really a long way to go.

We have also felt a sense of disappointment. That is that the essence of the matter is afraid of being touched upon and only the surface is being fumbled.

If one would ignore the essence of any issue and see only the phenomenon, that issue can not be resolved. If smoking is to be removed, fire, its source, should be extinguished. As long as the fire is there, the spread of smoke can not be prevented.

Mr. President,

There were mentioning about the withdrawal of my country from the NPT and its possession of nuclear weapon.

The CD is not an appropriate forum to address this issue, but since the issue was mentioned, we would like to make a few remarks.

In a word, it is due to the extreme threats posed against the sovereign rights and the right to existence of the DPRK that it withdrew from the NPT and was compelled to possess nuclear weapons.

The Government of the DPRK stated very clearly about this through the Statement of its Foreign Ministry on 10 February 2005.

We never feel obliged to be bound by the NPT at the sacrifice of our sovereign rights and at the sacrifice of our nation and people.

Our nuclear option is only the self-defensive measure which can not be otherwise in the worst situation imposed upon us from the outside.

It is quite deserved for the sovereign state to think of a corresponding self-defensive measure to defend its sovereignty and people, when it is obvious that there is clear pursuit of the policy aimed at repressing its sovereignty and destroying the country by force.

My delegation believes that this will be the same case with any sovereign states.

As long as such hostile policy continues, the self-defensive nuclear deterrent means will likewise continue to be strengthened.

It must be the core concern to be paid to the unilateral and arrogant policy which gives rise to this situation. And it will be the appropriate concern and demand to be made on right track.

Thank you.