

**Statement by
Amb. CHANG Dong-hee, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Korea
to the Conference on Disarmament
at the Plenary on Tuesday, 3 June 2008**

Mr. President.

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your assumption of the fourth Presidency of the 2008 Conference on Disarmament (CD). You have my delegation's full support in your endeavor to guide our work. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Ambassador Yevhen Bersheda of Ukraine and the other members of the P-6 for their tireless efforts to get the CD back to work through adopting the program of work. I hope the dedicated efforts of the P-6 will bear a meaningful fruit in the end with the cooperation from the Member States.

Mr. President,

The new document entitled 'Draft Decision by the Presidents of the 2008 Session of the Conference on Disarmament' (CD/1840), which was distributed on 13 March, contains well crafted elements, from which we can move forward to fulfill the mandate of the CD as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiation forum. Thanks to the efforts exercised by the P-6, we are given a solid basis to begin negotiation on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), and to commence substantive discussions on three other core agenda items. Although a few problems have been pointed out by some delegations with regard to the process and the format of the document as well as its contents, I don't believe they are not to be overcome. What counts most is our genuine will to cope with the challenges before us.

Mr. President,

My delegation believes the document (CD/1840) rightly addresses the concerns of a few delegations who have maintained reservations on the L.1 proposal. It has improved the L.1 by incorporating into it the two other documents (CRP.5 and CRP.6). In this way, the CRP.5 and CRP.6 have attained the same status as the L.1. Moreover, by amending important phrases of CRP.5, it leaves wide open the possibility of future negotiations on three other core issues.

Although some delegations may be still unsatisfied over some issues related with the FMCT, I still believe we can discuss those issues in a serious manner once we embark on the negotiation. The fact that there is no precondition in the CD/1840 means that the scope of negotiation and discussion is broad enough to leave the door open for delegations to pursue their priorities and raise any issues deemed important to them during the process.

Mr. President,

During the first session of the Conference this year, we heard lots of calls from outside this Chamber, which include the UN Secretary General BAN Ki-Moon and other distinguished figures from the Member States. I would like to call on once again the distinguished colleagues present here today to reflect deeply on this historic opportunity of revitalizing this Conference and multilateral disarmament machinery. It is time to leave the rhetorics behind and commit ourselves to take a real action.

I thank you, Mr. President.