



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Ambassador KIM Bong-hyun

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1. At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you for your assumption of the Chairmanship of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC), and commend your sincere and tireless efforts to bring this meeting together. As a country that was entrusted with the same task three years ago, I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to extend a word of gratitude to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the Secretariat for their support.
2. We are now at the beginning of a new three-year cycle with a new substantive agenda, ready for a fresh start. My delegation welcomes the adoption of the agenda, and hopes that the Commission will achieve relevance, balance, and timeliness in discussing the three items, considering the worthy yet difficult process of forging consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The global environment concerning nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has changed substantially over the past years. Although challenges to the NPT regime remain largely the same, many new initiatives and ideas are emergent in the sphere of nuclear disarmament, including the five-point proposal made by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and new policies introduced by nuclear weapon states.

4. My delegation believes that the issue of nuclear disarmament deserves heightened international attention at this juncture for the sake of integrity, confidence, and the legitimacy of the NPT regime. It seems clear that the outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference will be crucial to the future of the NPT regime, and the key for the success of the Conference is dependent on whether all States Parties can achieve a visible, irreversible and universal commitment for nuclear disarmament, which needs to be reached within a reasonable timeframe.
5. Having said that, the Republic of Korea firmly believes that further reinforcement and institutionalization of the global regime for nuclear non-proliferation is equally important. My delegation strongly supports the universalization of the IAEA Additional Protocol (AP) as the best means to reinforce the monitoring and verification mechanism of the NPT. We would also like to highlight the importance of international cooperation to prevent nuclear terrorism and, in this respect, support the efforts being made within the framework of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).
6. To reach the dual task of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation more effectively, the first set of goals that the international community should work on is an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the start of negotiations on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT). In this regard, we welcome President Obama's recent remarks in Prague for an immediate and aggressive pursuit of CTBT ratification by the US government and encourage all signatories – especially the Annex II countries – to the CTBT who have not yet ratified the Treaty to do so at an early date. In addition, we call for an early adoption of the Programme of Work at the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

Mr. Chairman,

7. Considering a decade of stalemate in the field of disarmament, it is clear that the international community – not only the *disarmament* community – needs and expects some progress. My delegation welcomes deliberation on the issue of declaring the 2010s as the next disarmament decade, since such a declaration can be a useful means to bring international attention to a common agenda of our time. At the same juncture, we believe that the declaration of another disarmament decade should not be pursued as a goal in itself. Rather, our discussion should be focused on how the international community can garner

broader political will and create common ground to enhance international peace and security 'through a new disarmament decade.'

8. I would also like to express my delegation's full support for your proposals on discussion of the working method of the Commission and on inviting the two Co-Chairs of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND). Considering that the UNDC has been unable to crystallize its deliberation into a substantive report since 1999, and that this year we have once again experienced difficulty in agreeing on a substantive agenda, its working method is due for close scrutiny and overhaul. In addition, constant interaction with civil society is more often than not invaluable in advancing the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation so that we can come face to face with the grim reality of our world.

Mr. Chairman,

9. Last but not least, the Republic of Korea believes that the early resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue is vital to securing lasting peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, as well as to sustaining the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime. In this respect, we have exerted our efforts to achieve the verifiable denuclearization of the DPRK in a peaceful manner through the Six-Party Talks. However, it is regrettable that against these efforts, the DPRK, following its rocket launch on 5 April in contravention of Security Council Resolution 1718, further announced on 14 April that it would never participate in the Six-Party Talks and would restore and reactivate the nuclear facilities that it had been disabling.
10. As demanded in the Presidential Statement of the Security Council adopted on 13 April, we urge the DPRK to fully comply with the obligations under Security Council Resolution 1718 and implement the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement and subsequent consensus documents adopted at the Six-Party Talk.
11. My government will spare no efforts to make substantial progress in denuclearization and requests the continued unwavering support of the international community to this end.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.