

Check against Delivery

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**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea
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organizations**

General Debate

**Second Session of the Preparatory Committee
2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

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Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by adding my voice to the previous speakers that have congratulated you on your assumption of chairmanship of the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, this session will produce a fruitful outcome. I would like to assure you of our delegation's commitment to fully cooperate with you and our NPT partners in ensuring the success of this Preparatory Committee Meeting and the 2015 review cycle.

Mr. Chairman,

The NPT continues to be the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and a key element of the international security architecture. For decades, the Treaty has helped us curb nuclear proliferation and served as an essential foundation for the efforts to reduce existing nuclear arsenals. The Republic of Korea believes that the three pillars that the NPT stands on – disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy – are mutually reinforcing, and should be promoted in a balanced manner. Encouraging progress was made at the 2010 Review Conference, where Conclusions and Recommendations containing 64 action items were adopted by the consensus of all Parties. The Republic of Korea believes that the 2010 Action Plan, which is based on a balanced approach to the three pillars of the NPT, provides a sound and achievable blueprint for further advancement of the Treaty's objectives.

In spite of the positive developments, the global architecture of nuclear non-proliferation is not without gaps and loopholes. Indeed, the international community has witnessed some very serious challenges to the NPT and the global non-proliferation regime in the recent years. These include, among others, concerns over the nuclear programmes in North Korea and in Iran, insufficient progress in nuclear disarmament, and the risk of nuclear weapons and related materials falling into the hands of terrorists.

Of particular concern is the grave challenge posed by North Korea's continued development of its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, including its uranium enrichment activities. Despite the repeated warnings by the international community, North Korea conducted its third nuclear test on 12 February 2013,

posing a serious threat to the peace and security in the region and beyond and threatening to undermine the very foundation of the NPT and the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. In response to the test, 85 countries and international organizations, including the United Nations, the IAEA, the European Union, ASEAN, and the GCC, have either condemned or expressed concern, reflecting the seriousness with which the international community regarded the event.

Furthermore, earlier this month North Korea announced that it would put all its nuclear facilities, including its uranium enrichment program and its 5 MWe reactor which Pyongyang had committed to disable under the October 2007 Agreement of the Six-Party Talks, to use in expanding its nuclear arsenal. This is yet another example of its habit of breaking promises, and the Republic of Korea expresses its serious concern towards North Korea's unwavering determination to expand its nuclear program.

My delegation would like to clearly stress that North Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon state in accordance with the NPT in any case. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to resolving the North Korean nuclear issue in a peaceful manner and strongly urges North Korea to abide by its international commitments and obligations, including abandoning all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs. In addition, North Korea must realize that it will gain nothing through its continued nuclear development which would only serve to isolate itself even further.

Mr. Chairman,

It is my Delegation's firm belief that strengthening the NPT and the global nuclear nonproliferation regime is key to addressing the current challenges. I would like to share some thoughts on the Republic of Korea's approach to reinforce the NPT and further advance the Treaty's fundamental objectives.

First, implementation of the 2010 Action Plan must be given the highest policy priority for all Parties. The Action Plan encompasses most of the NPT issues, reflects a balanced approach between all three pillars of the NPT, and contains specific actions that each Party can take to contribute to the fundamental objectives of the Treaty. Most importantly, the Action Plan reflects a common ground that all Parties have agreed upon on the way forward. While some progress has been made

in its implementation over the past three years, further efforts are required by all NPT Parties to translate the Action Plan into concrete accomplishments.

Second, ensuring full compliance with non-proliferation obligations is vital for sustaining and reinforcing the integrity of the NPT regime. In order to maintain and bolster international confidence in the NPT, it must be made clear that non-compliance with NPT obligations will have clear and strong consequences. In particular, as the case of North Korea clearly demonstrates, the abuse of the Treaty's Withdrawal provision may lead to consequences that seriously threaten the credibility of the NPT regime. It is therefore essential that we continue to discuss ways to properly address this issue in the 2015 review cycle.

As many previous speakers have emphasized, my delegation believes that IAEA safeguards play a crucial role in providing credible assurances of States' compliance with their obligations. It is therefore essential that we continue our efforts to seek universality of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and broaden adherence to the Additional Protocol.

Third, nuclear disarmament is crucial in our pursuit of the ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. In accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty, and as agreed upon in 2010 Action Plan, nuclear-weapon States should accelerate concrete progress on the steps leading to nuclear disarmament. At the same time, the entry of force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and start of negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) are two urgent, long-overdue tasks that we cannot afford to put off any longer. The Republic of Korea urges the remaining eight States whose ratification is required for the CTBT's entry into force to do so without further delay, and also urges the Conference on Disarmament to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) as a top priority.

Fourth, the Republic of Korea fully recognizes the inalienable right of all the Parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and the importance of cooperation and exchange between States to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy. At the same time however, Korea believes that the exercise of this right must be in conformity with non-proliferation and safeguards obligations, and should be accompanied by appropriate and effective levels of nuclear safety and security.

Fifth, the risk of proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-State actors has emerged as one of the most challenging threats to global security in the 21st century. The Republic of Korea strongly supports various international initiatives to tackle the threat of nuclear terrorism, such as the Nuclear Security Summits, the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction (GP) and UN Security Council resolution 1540. At the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in March last year, 58 leaders of the world came together to adopt the Seoul Communiqué, which sets out concrete steps and measures to strengthen nuclear and radiological security. The Republic of Korea believes that commitments and measures agreed upon at the Seoul Summit effectively complement and further concretize the 2010 Action Plan. In the same vein, we also believe that the Hague Summit next year will produce meaningful outcome to this end.

Lastly, the Republic of Korea takes note of the Almaty meeting between E3+3 and Iran earlier this month, and welcomes the efforts undertaken by the relevant parties. We call upon Iran to fully comply with relevant Security Council resolutions and to take concrete steps to reassure the world about the peaceful nature of its nuclear programme. At the same time, the Republic of Korea believes parallel efforts should be undertaken to advance the broader goal of peace and security in the region, and in this respect supports the ongoing initiative and efforts to hold a conference to discuss a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction. We regret that the timeframe set by the 2010 Action Plan have not been met, but hope that all relevant States engage in a serious manner to overcome their differences and to create a more constructive environment to advance this agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea firmly believes that adherence to and full compliance with the NPT by all States is a prerequisite for achieving the goal of a safer world without nuclear weapons. All Parties must accept responsibility for taking steps both collectively and individually to advance the Treaty's three pillars and its fundamental objectives. The Republic of Korea reaffirms its full commitment to the NPT, and will spare no effort in our joint endeavors to make the 2015 review process a success.

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