



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Republic of Korea**

**2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty
on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

**Nuclear Disarmament and Security Assurances
(Cluster I)**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chair of the Main Committee I. My delegation stands ready to assist you in bringing about a successful conclusion of this important Review Conference.

First of all, the Republic of Korea shares the international community's ultimate goal of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Without a doubt, nuclear disarmament is crucial in reducing the risk of the accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons, and remains the core of the bargain the State Parties reached during the NPT Review and Extension

Conference of 1995.

My delegation firmly believes that the three pillars of the NPT should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner. In particular, we see clearly that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation commitments are complementary. In this sense, preserving the balance between them is vital to the credibility and integrity of the NPT regime.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea notes the progress made thus far by the nuclear-weapons states with regard to the disarmament pillar. We look forward to a sincere implementation of the commitments to reduce their nuclear arsenal as agreed by the United States and Russia and laid out in the New START treaty. These two states are also strongly encouraged to negotiate for further reductions of their stockpiles across all categories of nuclear weapons. We also appreciate the unilateral reduction measures taken by France and the United Kingdom in this regard. My delegation believes that further steps could be taken by nuclear-weapons states.

While there is no doubt regarding the common value and importance of the NPT as an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament, we are witnessing growing differences between nuclear-weapon states and non-nuclear-weapon states over the pace at which the 2010 NPT Action Plan is being implemented. Considering this situation, transparency and confidence-building is a prerequisite for achieving the ultimate objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

The P5 Process seems to have made modest but continued progress in terms of confidence-building in this field. Nuclear-weapon states should continue to engage not only among themselves but also with non-nuclear-weapon states. We take note of the national reports submitted by the P5 states during the current review cycle and the efforts by States Parties to develop a standard reporting form. We anticipate more detailed and specific reports and updates that build upon these efforts.

We also note the P5 glossary of key nuclear terms to be submitted to the Conference, which will serve as foundation for future multilateral nuclear disarmament agreements. It is our hope that the nuclear-weapon states demonstrate the continued relevance of the P5 Process by setting out a work plan detailing the initiatives they will pursue in the next NPT review cycle. By doing so, we believe that the process could help lay the groundwork for more ambitious disarmament endeavors.

Mr. Chairman,

As an ardent supporter of the NPT regime, the Republic of Korea supports robust implementation of Article VI. In this sense, we welcome various initiatives to develop efficient verification capabilities related to nuclear disarmament. We commend the UK-Norway initiative on the verification of warhead dismantlement and welcome the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification recently initiated by the United States. We believe that these initiatives will formulate a practical and durable framework for international cooperation in this field, and thereby strengthen the NPT regime.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation shares the view that proper negative security assurances by the nuclear-weapon states could alleviate the security concerns of non-nuclear-weapon states.

However, we uphold the principle that these assurances are not natural rights for all non-nuclear-weapon states and that they should be applied only to those who faithfully comply with the NPT.

The early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is imperative in order to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. We call upon those states that have not yet ratified this Treaty, in particular, the remaining eight Annex II states, to do so without any further delay.

As a part of our contribution to the CTBT Article XIV process, the Republic of Korea would like to announce that it will be hosting the CTBT Group of Eminent Persons' (GEM) meeting to facilitate the early entry into force of the Treaty. The Group of Eminent Persons' meeting will take place in Seoul between 25 and 26 of June of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

As a matter of priority, the Republic of Korea also supports the commencement of negotiations on the treaty banning the production of fissile material (FMCT) in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). We welcome the recently adopted report by the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) that contains substantial recommendations on

possible aspects of an FMCT. We also note that France recently presented a draft treaty, which constitutes a concrete contribution to the early start of negotiations. We hope that we will be able to turn the momentum provided by these recent developments into concrete progress in the CD, positively influencing other fora as well.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasize that all States Parties must put forward their utmost efforts to demonstrate genuine commitment towards seeking common ground, which is essential for the successful outcome of this Review Conference. If we act as if we can make a difference, it is our belief that we will indeed accomplish what we have set out to do. The Republic of Korea stands ready to work with all the parties towards the goal of strengthening the NPT regime.

Thank you. /END/