Acting High Representative’s remarks at the opening of the Exhibit to mark the Second International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

Mr KIM Won-soo
Acting High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
United Nations

United Nations
New York
30 September 2015
It is my pleasure to officially open this wonderful exhibition celebrating this tremendously important day.

Seeing these historic figures and their words of wisdom, I am reminded of two things.

The first is the proud tradition of leadership we have at the United Nations and the moral caliber of those who have assumed the mantle of Secretary-General.

The second is the historic commitment the United Nations has made to the cause of nuclear disarmament. In 1946, the very first resolution of the General Assembly dealt with the need to eliminate what were then referred to as ‘atomic’ weapons. Throughout its seventy year history, the UN has remained true to this cause.

Taken together, the quotations we see before us form one single message: Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous invented by humanity, they must be eliminated for the betterment of society, and we cannot delay in doing so.

These themes are as relevant under Secretary-General Ban as they were under Secretary-General Li. However, the urgency today is even greater.

The Secretary-General has made nuclear disarmament one of his top priorities. This day provides an opportunity to remind every UN Member State of the urgency of nuclear disarmament.

Now I would like to ask the President of the General Assembly to address us.

Thank you.