

**General Statement by Ambassador Choong-hee Hahn
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea
UN Disarmament Commission**

April 2016

New York

<Check against Delivery>

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this year's UN Disarmament Commission. I assure you of my delegation's full support for the work of the Commission, and look forward to a productive session under your leadership.

Mr. Chairman,

While both existing and new challenges in disarmament demand urgent progress in the field of disarmament, it is regrettable that the key components of the UN's disarmament machinery, namely the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, have long been unable to function as effective forums on disarmament.

A constructive and practical approach is needed for this Commission to overcome the current deadlock and bring its work back to track. This is a task that requires all of us to work together in a greater spirit of compromise and shared responsibility.

Mr. Chairman,

Last week, leaders from 52 countries and four international organizations gathered in the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit in Washington to reaffirm their commitment to the vision of a world without nuclear weapons. The success of the Nuclear Security Summit process over the past six years has shown us that significant progress can be made towards the common vision of a nuclear weapon-free world when States come together with shared conviction and political will.

However, such development has unfortunately been lacking in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in recent years. For too long, the debate over prioritizing one pillar over the other has hindered progress in strengthening the NPT

regime. It is disappointing that the 2015 NPT Review Conference could not build on the positive momentum of the 2010 Conference.

Both the nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states should work with renewed political will to overcome the current deadlock and set off a virtuous cycle between the inter-linked goals of disarmament and non-proliferation. Some of the most urgent tasks include bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force, as well as to begin negotiations on a Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Materials (FMCT) without further delay.

The discussions on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms are also of vital importance, particularly given the serious threats to international peace and security emanating from illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons (SALW) today. The ROK welcomes the continuing progress made towards effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as well as the UN Program of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, and hopes that this positive momentum will guide us toward productive discussions on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

The latest nuclear test and the long-range ballistic missile launch by the DPRK have reminded us once again of the grave, unprecedented challenge posed by the DPRK's nuclear weapon programs to international peace and security and the NPT regime. The DPRK is the only country in the world that has conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century, and is continuing, even as we speak, to develop its nuclear weapon capabilities in clear violation of the Security Council resolutions and international norms. In doing so, the DPRK is diverting its scarce resources to its WMD development while turning a blind eye to the basic needs and plight of its own people.

The ROK strongly urges the DPRK to refrain from any further provocations, and to abandon all its nuclear weapons, ~~and~~ existing nuclear programs and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The DPRK must realize, before it is too late, that it cannot find any future in its nuclear programs, and that denuclearization alone will offer them the right path toward peace, security and economic development.

The ROK fully supports the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2270 last month, which reflects the firm, united resolve of the international community that

the DPRK's nuclear weapon development will never be tolerated. A strict implementation of resolution 2270 by all Member States will substantially impede the DPRK's WMD development, leaving the DPRK with no option but to choose the path of denuclearization. The ROK encourages all Member States to cooperate to the fullest extent in ensuring effective implementation of the resolution.

In concluding, I would like to reiterate my sincere hope that this Commission will emerge from the prolonged deadlock to once again serve as a valuable platform for adopting concrete guidelines and recommendations in the field of disarmament. We look forward to constructive discussions over the next three weeks. Thank you.