



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

820 Second Avenue, 13th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10017

Tel: (212) 972-3105/3106 Fax: (212) 972-3154

Press Release

Please Check against Delivery

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. Mr. PAK KIL YON
VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
OF THE 68th UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 26 SEPTEMBER 2013

Mr. President,

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like to congratulate you for your assumption of the important duty as the president of this session. Furthermore, I am confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will be a significant occasion in the United Nation's endeavors for nuclear disarmament.

Mr. President,

Prevention of nuclear arms race and realization of the world free from nuclear weapons through nuclear disarmament is becoming a pressing task in ensuring peace and security of the world. 45 years ago, nuclear powers made a commitment to nuclear disarmament through the Treaty on Nuclear Non-Proliferation (NPT) and they put obligations on non-nuclear weapon states to use atomic power for peaceful purposes only. These commitments for nuclear disarmament were reconfirmed in 1995 when the NPT was extended for indefinite period without any amendments and through "Thirteen Action Plan for Nuclear Disarmament" which was taken at the NPT Review Conference in 2000.

However, notwithstanding this, there is a tendency in which priority is being given to non-proliferation, rather than nuclear disarmament. Under the pretext of nuclear disarmament, development of new types of nuclear weapons of enhanced capability are constantly pushed ahead and furthermore maneuvers to conduct nuclear pre-emptive strike against countries that have different ideas and systems are becoming undisguised.

As long as nuclear weapons capable of destroying the entire globe hundreds of times continue to be in stockpile and efforts seeking to improve quality of such weapons are being accelerated, the argument to only pursue non-proliferation of non-nuclear weapon states cannot be justified under any condition. The situation speaks by itself that the most important issue is to take practical measures towards nuclear disarmament.

The objective of nuclear disarmament must be the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons and as for an immediate task, a legally binding international instrument must be created promptly for the banning of the use of nuclear weapons and unconditional security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states by nuclear powers not to use nuclear weapons against them. Only when we realize the total elimination of nuclear weapons, we can prevent use of nuclear weapons, remove threats of use of such weapons and settle the proliferation issue to its root.

We cannot expect any progress in nuclear disarmament if nuclear disarmament initiatives are purely for the sake of holding strategic superiority or if abandonment of nuclear deterrence is requested unilaterally.

In realizing nuclear disarmament, the United States should take the lead as the very first country that used nuclear weapons and has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons. The anachronistic logic that the possession of nuclear weapons enables a state to do whatever they like should not be tolerated and if it is the case it will only compel non-nuclear weapon states to possess nuclear deterrence.

In this respect, we recognize the resolution, to be submitted jointly to this session by NAM member states, as a fair embodiment of the practical measures to achieve nuclear disarmament and we hope the resolution to reach consensus agreement.

Mr. President,

We insist nuclear weapons in this world should be eliminated.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula was created due to the deployment of nuclear weapons into South Korea by the US and nuclear war threats against our country in line with their hostile policy towards the DPRK. The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is the consistent policy of our government. The ultimate goal of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is to completely remove the US nuclear threats against our country and to turn the entire Korean peninsula, including South Korea into the zone free from nuclear weapons.

It is our consistent position to achieve a peaceful solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula through unconditional dialogue and negotiation. In the future as well, we will join member states in their efforts to achieve the denuclearized world through nuclear disarmament.

Thank you.