

Statement by H.E. Mr. An Myong Hun
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at the General Debate of the First Committee
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Mr. Chairman,

I would, first, like to extend my delegation's warm congratulations to you on your assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee.

I am confident that your rich experience and able leadership will guide this Committee to a success and I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation during your tenure.

I would also like to congratulate other members of the bureau of the Committee and wish them every success in their work.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

The First Committee is a body entrusted with very important task to address disarmament issues relating to international peace and security including nuclear disarmament, conventional arms control, etc.

The DPRK attaches great importance to the work of the First Committee and is committed to undertaking its responsibility and role along the line of principle of fairness and impartiality.

At the UNGA every year, the DPRK supports the positions of giving priority to nuclear disarmament and providing negative security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon States. It co-sponsors or supports the resolutions that contribute to international peace and security including prevention of an arms race in outer space and promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

The DPRK also upholds and supports the rights of sovereign states to peaceful use of nuclear energy and the legitimate rights to exploration of outer space that are the major topics of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear disarmament holds vital importance in building a peaceful world.

Nuclear disarmament desired by the international community is a total and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The approach taken by a certain powers of denying nuclear disarmament while insisting only on non-proliferation runs counter to the desire of international community for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Now, it is a reality that about twenty thousands nuclear weapons exist on this planet. It is also an undeniable reality that nuclear weapons are abused as a tool to threaten or blackmail sovereign states. This reality substantiates itself that nuclear disarmament is the top priority directly relating to world peace and security and survival of mankind.

Therefore, the First Committee should surely put the priority of its work on nuclear disarmament aimed at total elimination of nuclear weapons.

On the international arena today, we witness the world's largest nuclear-weapon state continuing to make plans of nuclear attack targeting specific countries and put them into practical warfare alert by way of incessantly staging nuclear war exercises.

Such threatening and irresponsible actions give rise to deep concerns of the international community and produce mistrust among states and counteraction from other states.

Arbitrariness, high-handedness and attitudes of double standard of a certain big countries in the field of disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament constitute major factor of paralyzing the work of multilateral disarmament bodies such as the Conference on Disarmament.

The DPRK will make every effort as ever to revitalize the work of the First Committee and the other multilateral disarmament bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

As is well known, the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula is the product of the U.S. nuclear threat and blackmail and its hostile policy towards the DPRK.

If U.S. had not threatened the DPRK with its nuclear weapons, the nuclear issue would not ever have been created on the Korean Peninsula.

The nuclear threats posed by the U.S. against the DPRK are, by no means, potential or abstract but practical and physical. Strategic nuclear bombers fly non-stop from the US mainland or Guam island to the Korean Peninsula and stage drills of dropping nuclear bombs several times every year. Aircraft carriers and submarines loaded with nuclear missiles constantly enter the waters around the Korean Peninsula and take part in nuclear war exercises aimed at "occupying Pyongyang".

More-than-half-a-century-long U.S. hostile policy towards the DPRK compelled the DPRK to possess nuclear weapons, and the ever-increasing nuclear threats by the U.S. leave the DPRK with no other option but to further strengthen its nuclear deterrent to cope with.

The grave reality on the Korean Peninsula shows who is to blame for the setback of the global nuclear disarmament process.

In January this year, the Government of the DPRK proposed to the U.S. to suspend joint military exercises in return for suspension of nuclear test, with the purpose to put an end to the repeated vicious cycle of crisis on the Korean peninsula by stopping U.S.-south Korea joint military exercises. However, the U.S. turned down the proposal outright, having closed forever all possibilities for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Thus, U.S. has deprived itself of the opportunity and qualification to discuss denuclearization issue of the Korean Peninsula any further.

The DPRK's future response will be determined by whether U.S. would scrap its hostile policy toward the DPRK or not.

Mr. Chairman,

The world has recently witnessed the extremely dangerous military-political situation having been checked and military conflict been avoided owing to sincere efforts of the army and people of the DPRK. This is the result brought about by the noble ideal of the Government of the DPRK cherishing peace and destiny of the nation.

The south Korean authorities would have learnt a serious lesson that if they fabricate a groundless case, unilaterally judge the situation and provoke other side with unilateral actions, it would only produce tensions and invoke military conflicts that should not happen at all.

The DPRK feels a sense of relief that a new atmosphere for improving north-south relations is now created by joint efforts and hopes that the south Korean authorities would practically contribute to improving inter-Korean relations by actively engaging in implementing the agreement with sincere attitude.

The DPRK will make every effort to bring earlier the era of national prosperity and reunification aspired after by all Korean nation.

When Korea is reunified, it will constitute realization of the national desire and also contribution to peace and security of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia where the interests of big powers clash against each other.

It can be said from the viewpoint of promoting international peace and security that the policy goal of the DPRK Government to achieve national desire of reunification and the mandate of the First Committee have the common denominators.

Mr. Chairman,

The nuclear deterrent possessed by the DPRK is reliable guarantee, in all its intents and purposes, for defending supreme interests of the country and security of the nation and safeguarding regional peace and stability in the face of aggression attempts of the outside forces.

The nuclear deterrent of the DPRK does not constitute any threat to non-nuclear-weapon States, nor to nuclear-weapon-free zones established in several regions of the world.

The DPRK, as a responsible nuclear-weapon state, will sincerely honor and carry out its obligations assumed before the international community.

Peaceful use of outer space is the legitimate rights of all states. The DPRK will promote exchange and cooperation with international space organizations and space institutions of other countries. It will also, as a full-fledged satellite launching state, continue to launch application satellites necessary for economic development at the time and place of its decision, while ensuring transparency in accordance with the relevant international norms and practices.

Thank you.