

First Committee of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly

Thematic Debate on Disarmament Machinery

Counsellor SEO Eunji

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to UN in Geneva

New York

<Check against Delivery>

Mr. Chairman,

1. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, as well as the establishment of the United Nations. Over the decades, our shared goal of a safer and more secure world has accomplished some significant progress in disarmament. The disarmament machinery of the UN including the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) has played a central role in making these achievements possible.
2. While the need for further progress in multilateral disarmament is greater than ever today, it is regrettable that the disarmament machinery of the UN has long been unable to function as effective forum for disarmament.
3. My delegation joins the serious call from the international community that the CD should be revalidated and makes progress toward the resumption of substantive negotiations. At the beginning of the 2015 session, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reminded once again that the mandate of the CD is to negotiate and conclude disarmament treaties.

4. Over the past two years, some serious efforts were made with a view to bringing the Conference back to life. As an important step, an Informal Working Group was re-established this year which enabled us to continue our discussions on possible options for a program of work.
5. Structured and substantive discussions were held on the four core agenda items according to the schedule of activities. My delegation was particularly encouraged by the in-depth discussions on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices (FMCT), building on the last year's discussion. Moreover, the final report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) was adopted by consensus, which made recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to the negotiations of the Treaty. We believe that this report, which was forwarded by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as an official document A/70/81, will be a good basis for a future negotiation.
6. As we keep our efforts to break the current impasse, the Republic of Korea sincerely hopes that the CD can make concrete progress next year, building on the positive developments achieved in the 2015 session.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The Republic of Korea notes with disappointment that the UNDC was unable to agree on the new agenda and make a substantive progress despite its new triennial cycle this began year. We cannot accept another cycle in vain without any recommendation, and efforts should be made to stimulate the discussion of the commission with utmost urgency. The Republic of

Korea looks forward to the flexibility and cooperation of member states as well as a constructive discussion to break the current deadlock

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. /END/