

*Embargo before delivery*

8th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues  
16-18 November 2009, Jeju, Republic of Korea

Excellencies  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very pleased to be here in this beautiful island of Jeju and to speak on my favorite subject "The 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference."

But before I go on, allow me to convey my profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific for organizing this event.

I have been overwhelmed with support from all sides over the last five months. This support has all been aimed at making the 2010 Review Conference a success with a view to promoting progress in the implementation of the Treaty, particularly in achieving advances in nuclear disarmament, in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and in promoting progress in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We all want to avoid the dismal outcome of the 2005 Review Conference and to reverse the erosion of the outcomes of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and the 2000 Review Conference. Those agreements remain largely unfulfilled.

We need to build on the positive momentum that political developments have given us recently and to grasp the opportunity we will have in less than six months. I am emboldened by the positive atmosphere, flexibility and willingness to cooperate displayed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee and the fact that we have removed nearly all the procedural hurdles, including that of the agenda.

While the Preparatory Committee was not able to agree on substantive recommendations, the attempts to agree on a starting framework for forward-looking recommendations to be negotiated in 2010 was positive and will assist in the prospects for the RevCon for the following reasons:

- 1 It gave an opportunity to State Parties to have an appreciation of possible commitments or elements that different states may seek to stress or include in the outcome of 2010 NPT Revcon;
- 2 It showed elements or issues that State Parties want avoided or excluded from the documents that could emerge from the 2010 NPT Revcon; and
- 3 It showed areas that will need considerable further work before the 2010 NPT RevCon and demonstrated, therefore, the enormity of the work that must be done in the months ahead to achieve breakthroughs that will genuinely strengthen the

NPT regime and provide a durable basis for concrete steps towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

I already undertook preliminary consultations with delegations at the sidelines of the Third PrepCom last May and immediately thereafter for about the whole month of June in New York. The second phase of my consultations took place in August and the third phase will run through to the end of the year. I have participated in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation meetings so I could hear the ideas of States Parties and have meaningful consultations. I also held a number of meetings in Vienna during IAEA's General Conference last September and in New York during the First Committee and will go next week to Geneva and then to Vienna again for further consultations there. I have listened very carefully and have thus far learnt much about various positions, specifically views on the various substantive matters before the Review Conference. The fourth phase of my consultations will commence in January and I will again revisit Geneva and Vienna in March 2010. I will spend the remainder of March and April in New York where I will continue the process of consultation, but this time with a view to sharing with States Parties what I would have learned by then and seeking constructive ways to lay the groundwork for achieving agreements on substantive and procedural issues at the Review Conference.

States Parties want to have progress on all three NPT pillars, namely, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. There cannot be advancement on one pillar without similar movement on the other two. Moreover, the desired end results should reaffirm previous commitments and agreements and craft a plan, or plans, of action that will genuinely and effectively address such NPT concerns as: universality; nuclear disarmament; strengthened safeguards to prevent proliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy; safety and security; implementation of regional non-proliferation and disarmament, including the 1995 resolution on the Middle East; measures to address treaty withdrawal; institutional measures to strengthen the non-proliferation regime; and, engagement with civil society.

The positive statements of world leaders giving the international community much hope for a world that is free of nuclear weapons are indeed very inspiring. The constructive atmosphere now prevailing was largely animated by the commitment of US President Barack Obama to work towards a meaningful nuclear disarmament commencing with the follow on agreement to START, to strengthen the NPT, to eliminate the spread of nuclear weapons and their technology and to pursue the ratification by the US Senate of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The international community expects that those inspiring statements could be translated into something positive and concrete in the outcome of the 2010 NPT RevCon.

I gathered that the success of the 2010 NPT RevCon can be defined in terms of what can be achieved along the lines of the following substantive challenges:

1. The crafting of a disarmament plan that is both aggressive and doable, which goes

beyond merely managing the status quo and lays down a firm foundation for negotiations on agreements leading to a total abolition of nuclear weapons;

2. A mechanism to prosecute to its logical conclusions the objectives of the 1995 resolution on the Middle East; and

3. A robust strengthening of the NPT regime to deal effectively with the questions of compliance, withdrawal and implementation.

State Parties to the NPT or their negotiators have to double their efforts quietly in the lead up to 2010 NPT RevCon to discuss, discover, rearrange and make further changes of various elements, issues or ideas that can form the universe of a package that can be perceived honestly as representing a balanced progress of the three pillars of NPT.

The experience of 2005 has taught me the importance of solving all the remaining procedural issues or at least getting agreement on such matters early on so that State Parties will have ample time to manifest their views and positions on substantive issues and to enable them to engage immediately in negotiating concrete language formulation of expected output.

In this context we have a few other procedural issues that need addressing; the most important among these is the possibility of establishing subsidiary bodies in order to have focused deliberations. During the Preparatory Committee we had three formal proposals for the establishment of subsidiary bodies: one on nuclear security assurances, the other on the implementation of the Middle East resolution and another one on nuclear disarmament. Taking into account precedence, the need for balance and the need to organize our work effectively within the time constraints we have, it may be appropriate to utilize the formula used at the previous two Review Conferences in discussing nuclear disarmament and security assurances in the same subsidiary body to Main Committee I and also discussing the implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution and other regional issues in a subsidiary body to Main Committee II. Subsequently my consultations on a bilateral basis have also indicated an interest in the possibility of a third subsidiary body along the lines of what we had in 2005 in Main Committee III on "Other provisions of the Treaty, including article X".

I intend to discuss the matter of subsidiary bodies in my further consultations next week in Geneva and Vienna.

Another issue includes the nomination of other officers of the Review Conference, namely, the 34 Vice-Presidents, the Vice-Chairs of the Main Committees, as well as the Chairperson and Vice-Chairs of the Credentials and Drafting Committees. I have written a letter to the coordinators of the various groups and look forward to receiving those nominations soon.

Finally, I see my role as President as that of a managing facilitator and honest broker and I will do my best to provide leadership, along with the Chairpersons of the Main

Committees and other office bearers. I am honored to take on this responsibility and do so in the full knowledge that this is a shared responsibility with all the State Parties and that I am dependent on and will count on the cooperation and assistance of State Parties. I also include a host of non State Parties to the NPT like research institutions in my equation for the success of 2010 NPT RevCon.

I remain at all times available to anyone, any delegation or groups wishing to meet with me.

Thank you.