

CLOSING STATEMENT
**The Eighth ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-
Proliferation Issues**
Jeju, Republic of Korea
16-18 November 2009

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United Nations

Dear participants,

We are approaching the end of the Eighth ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues. I would like to congratulate all of you for engaging in constructive and thought-provoking deliberations on many of the current pressing issues facing the international community in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation.

During a short span of two and a half days, under the general theme of “Prospects for a new era of progress on disarmament and non-proliferation”, we have had an in-depth and interactive discussion on steps and actions needed to be taken towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, and on ways and means to bolster international non-proliferation regime in face of current challenges. We exchanged views on issues essential to a successful 2010 NPT Review Conference to be held next May. We also discussed the expansion of the use of nuclear energy and multilateral approach to nuclear fuel cycle, with a view to promoting the peaceful uses while addressing possible safety, security and proliferation concerns. The issue of how to respond effectively to regional non-proliferation challenges was also addressed. I sensed more optimism now than from the discussion a year ago, regarding possibility of making real progress in multilateral disarmament, while noting the disappointment over the fact that certain proliferation concerns have yet to be resolved. While there is considerable common ground on many of these issues, views differ on how best to seek solutions acceptable to all. However, I think it is fair to say that all participants recognize the crucial importance and urgency of taking concrete actions in the fields of disarmament, particular nuclear disarmament, and non-proliferation. I believe that as a result of the debate, they also recognize the importance of understanding each other’s

legitimate concerns. The Conference has underscored that dialogue among decision-makers, academia and civil society is central to that process.

It is my hope that all participants will take away with them some valuable insights gained through the open and frank exchange of views which characterized the discussions during this conference.

On behalf of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, I would like to thank all participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions to the deliberations. Special thanks go to the chairpersons for the efficient and effective guidance of the sessions, to the speakers for their thought-provoking presentations, and to the Rapporteurs for their objective reflections of the deliberations. All this contributed to the success of the Conference.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Korea for commendable hospitality and generosity accorded to all of us. Eight years of unswerving support for the "Jeju-Process" demonstrated the important role played by the Republic of Korea in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation not only in the regional context but also at the global level. Our thanks and gratitude go also to the Governor and Vice-Governor of Jeju Province for the warm hospitality. As the Island of peace Jeju has continued to provide the necessary atmosphere conducive to our deliberations.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the staff of the Jeju Shilla Hotel.

I cannot conclude without expressing my deep appreciation to the Secretariat of the Conference, ROK-MOFAT team for their professionalism and excellent cooperation and to my ODA colleagues, in particular those from our Regional Centre in Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Taijiro Kimura, Mr. Roman Hunger, and Mr. Xiaoyu Wang, for their hard work put in the preparations of the Conference. Their dedication and tireless efforts ensured the success of the Conference.

As many of you will be travelling back to your respective countries or places, I wish you all a safe journey and good luck for your future endeavours.

With this, I declare the Eighth ROK- UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues in Jeju officially closed.