My delegation wishes to explain its position on draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.40, entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons."

The Republic of Korea believes that all non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT, which have renounced the nuclear weapon option and fully comply with the NPT provisions, have a legitimate claim to credible and effective negative security assurances from the nuclear weapon States.

However, there are still States Parties to the NPT which do not fully comply with its provisions. Under the circumstances, we view that the establishment of an internationally binding arrangement without regard to the realities is premature.

My delegation does not share the view that nuclear weapons have been pursued due to the absence of such a legally binding international instrument.

In our view, what is fundamental to the prevention of nuclear proliferation and reduction of the nuclear threat is universal adherence to the NPT and full compliance with its obligations. For this reason, my delegation has abstained from the vote.