Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons

The importance of the NPT as a cornerstone of the international nonproliferation regime cannot be overly emphasized. At this trying time, the NPT draws particular attention of the global society as it faces multiple daunting challenges. The challenges are attributable to its inherent structural shortfalls as well as confronting non-compliance cases. These challenges require a need for serious and creative discussions on ways and means to squarely address the problem at the Review Conference next year. A disappointing result of the Third Preparatory Committee last May does not allow us any modicum of optimism for next year’s Review Conference. However, as the states parties to the NPT have achieved a remarkable outcome in the previous Review Conference against all odds, my delegation places high expectations on another successful consequences next year. We believe that it is high time to reaffirm our resolve to preserve and strengthen the cornerstone of nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

The Republic of Korea has vigorously joined the efforts of the international community to facilitate the entry into force of the CTBT. We have reaffirmed our strong support for the CTBT as we subscribed to the Joint Ministerial Statement signed in New York last month. We view the CTBT as indispensable pillar of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime and logically essential element towards the objective of attaining the world free of nuclear weapons. While we welcome the progress made so far as one hundred seventy-three countries have signed the Treaty and thirty-three Annex II countries have ratified the Treaty, we urge those countries which still need signing or ratification of the Treaty to act upon the appeals of the international community without further delay. As a strong supporter of the CTBT, the Republic of Korea, like previously, will join the co-sponsorship of the draft resolution.

It is well known that the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to the early conclusion of a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. We strongly support the draft resolution in the hope that it will work as a momentum to facilitate the immediate commencement of
the FMCT negotiations in the CD.