Press Release

Statement by Mr. Kang Myong Chol,
Delegate of the DPRK
in the Thematic Discussion on “Nuclear Weapons”
at the First Committee of the 63rd Session of the UNGA
(16 October, 2008)

Mr. Chairman,

As have been stressed by many delegates at the current meeting, the core issue of the disarmament is the nuclear disarmament.

As long as nuclear weapons remain on the globe, the humankind will never be free from the danger of a nuclear war.

The root cause of nuclear proliferation, which is so much worried about by some countries, lies in the very existence of nuclear weapons and the threats of their use.

The adoption of the NPT forty years ago was possible because at that time, non-nuclear-weapon states had high expectations on Article 6, which stresses the commitment of nuclear-weapons states to pursue a treaty on general and complete nuclear disarmament, and ultimately approved the treaty.

However, the problem facing us now is the failure on the part of the nuclear-weapon states to fulfill their commitment in good faith. There still exists a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons enough to blow up this planet a number of times. Behind the scenes of “nuclear disarmament”, nuclear weapons are being sophisticated and nuclear doctrines are revised envisaging tactical utility of nuclear weapons.

In addition, the threats of the use of nuclear weapons have been escalating against non-nuclear-weapon states. The “preemptive nuclear strike”, “surgical nuclear strike” and so on are typical examples of the ever-growing threats.
In the light of such circumstances, it is quite natural that those non-nuclear-weapon states having security concerns, will consider self-defensive measures. The allegation that certain countries are entitled to possess nuclear weapons while others should be subject to nuclear threat is no longer acceptable.

The above facts indicate who is to blame for the current deadlock of the nuclear disarmament.

For a significant progress to be achieved in the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the nuclear weapon states should demonstrate and translate into action their political will for nuclear disarmament. Only then, will the issue of nuclear proliferation be duly addressed.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me also take this opportunity to assist better understanding of some countries such as France, Japan, Australia with regard to the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.

First, I am very much disappointed at the lack of knowledge of French delegate, whose country currently holds the EU presidency, on the Six-Party Talks. The final goal of the Six-Party Talks is to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as a whole, not the unilateral nuclear disarming of the DPRK.

And contrary to what the Japanese delegate stated yesterday, our nuclear deterrent is a reliable guarantee for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond.

Japan is the only country that refuses to comply with its obligations under the joint agreements adopted at the Six-Party Talks. As a matter of fact, Japan's presence at the Six-Party Talks is not necessary at all. Therefore, I urge Japan to behave with the knowledge of where it stands as of now.

Second, as for the UNSC resolution 1695 and 1718, they are the product of the irresponsibility and unfairness of the UNSC. It is recalled that the DPRK strongly rejected those resolutions. If the UNSC is to become an organ fulfilling its mandates for the international peace and security, it should have called into question the country which caused the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula, not the DPRK's righteous step for safeguarding its right for self-defense. Claiming about the implementation of those above-mentioned resolutions only reveals an ulterior intention to create a fuss in the way of resolving the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula.