Statement
by
H.E. Mr. Ri Tong Il,
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The Democratic People's Republic of Korea
at the General Debate of the First Committee
71th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
New York, 6th October, 2016
Mr. Chairman,

Allow me first of all to extend warm congratulations to you on your chairmanship. I am confident under your leadership this Committee will achieve great success. I assure you of my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

And also the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the DPRK would like to associate itself with the statement made by delegation of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

It is the common aspiration and common desire of the mankind to live in the world peaceful and secure, free of nuclear weapons. In building the peaceful world, disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament is of the greatest importance.

In this context, the DPRK fully supports the global struggle for total elimination of nuclear weapons.

As far as the nuclear disarmament is concerned, whether it is achieved or not largely depends on the political determination and political will of the big powers that possess larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

Over the years, the nuclear weapon states that possess larger stockpiles of nuclear weapons are accelerating qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons while doing little in quantitative reduction of nuclear weapons.

The United States, the world largest nuclear weapon state and the only country that used nuclear weapons recently announced a new modernization program of all existing nuclear weapons within 3 decades earmarking an astronomical figure of one trillion US dollars.

Nevertheless, the United States is yet frequently talking about the so called vision of "the world free of nuclear weapons", but it is only a hypocrisy intended to deceive the world and it is none other than a screen for covering up their strategy of nuclear monopoly and world hegemony.

The continuing maneuvers of the US for modernization of nuclear weapons is an act of challenge to the desire of the humanity to live in the world free of nuclear
weapons, posing the greatest threat to the very survival of the mankind as well as the world peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

The DPRK delegation firmly believes that the First Committee should place its focus on finding out ways and means on how to achieve nuclear disarmament which is the most important part of disarmament.

In this context, the DPRK has been actively participating in the discussion of important disarmament issues, playing very constructive role.

The lack of progress continuing in the discussion of disarmament issues is due to controversy going on with regard to which one is a priority, nuclear disarmament or non-proliferation.

In this regard it is important to take into serious consideration the fact that actual nuclear threats are coming from the nuclear weapons in full operational readiness to be launched in any direction at any time, not from nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Today nuclear weapons are blatantly being used as a means of blackmailing in pursuit of global domination and interference, causing serious concern to the international community.

The nuclear power which is possessing the most sophisticated nuclear weapons is increasing nuclear threats by drafting plans of nuclear strike against independent countries and staging nuclear war exercises continuously.

The typical example is the nuclear threats and blackmail of the United State towards the DPRK.

While the whole world is watching in great anxiety the situation development on the Korean peninsula, the ever worst danger of war is looming in that part of the world, which can be ignited due to the collision of nukes to nukes and arms to arms.

This year in south Korea the US-south Korea joint military exercises were staged again on several occasions with the participation of hundreds of thousands of troops, strategic nuclear strike means and special forces, aiming at ŒdecapitationŒ
of the DPRK leadership and “occupation of Pyongyang”.

A few days ago, the US went so far as to fly their fully armed strategic nuclear bomber B-1B over the air space of the military demarcation line of the Korean peninsula and is continuing to hold real war-like exercises one after another aimed at “precision strike” on the office building of the DPRK supreme leadership, nuclear facilities and strategic rocket bases with cruise missiles.

The unabated aggressive and provocative joint military exercises being held almost every day by the United States along with its official decision on the deployment of THAAD in south Korea, clearly indicate that the US program of the preemptive nuclear strike against the DPRK has entered a phase of implementation.

In the face of never-ending threats coming from the United States, the DPRK had no other option but making a strategic decision to counter them with its own nuclear deterrent and this is a self-defensive measure to safeguard its national sovereignty and the right to existence.

It is the unswerving stand of the DPRK to rely on its powerful nuclear deterrence and fundamentally remove the danger of a nuclear war being imposed by the US, and safeguard the peace and security of the region and the world at large.

The UN Security Council, however, defined in an arbitrary manner only the DPRK’s nuclear tests and rocket launches as the “threats to international peace and security”, and adopted resolutions banning them.

There is no Article in the UN Charter or international law which stipulates that weapons tests including nuclear tests and rocket launches are regarded as threats to international peace and security.

Were there such an Article in the UN Charter or international law should the UN Security Council not have remained silent at every nuclear test of over 2,000 times and rocket launches conducted long before nuclear tests and satellites launches of the DPRK.

Despite the joint military exercises conducted every year in south Korea are clearly an act of threat to international peace and security due to its aggressive and offensive nature, the UN Security Council turned a blind eye and turned away from them every time.
The true color of the UN Security Council’s sanctions resolutions against the DPRK lies in the fact that their adoption is an abuse of power purely in pursuit of political purposes misusing the UN Charter.

If one is a dignified UN member state, it should pay due attention to whether or not legitimacy and moral grounds are reflected in the UN Security Council’s sanctions resolutions against the DPRK and should make its own objective judgment.

In the final document which was adopted in the 17th Summit of Heads of state and government of the NAM held last September denounced and rejected military exercises for aggression and use of arms and threats against sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of member nations as a wanton violation of principles of the UN Charter and an act of aggression.

And also in the final document was expressed serious concern over the sanctions resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council against NAM member nations as they lacked appropriate legal ground and disregarded impartiality and justice and the acts of negating or encroaching upon the right to develop and use outer space for peaceful purposes, the legitimate right of sovereign states were opposed and rejected.

On the other hand, at the G-77 ministerial meeting held on the sidelines of the current 71st UN General Assembly recently, a declaration rejecting the unilateral sanctions against the DPRK and demanding the immediate lifting of them was adopted.

All this clearly indicates that more than a hundred countries holding majority of the UN membership oppose and reject the unprecedented maneuvers of the US and its followers for isolating and stifling the DPRK.

Mr. Chairman,

Peace is a long-cherished wish and desire of the Korean people who have been living in constant danger of nuclear war for over 60 years.

Peace, which is the most precious to the Korean people, cannot be granted by anyone else nor can be bought in return for anything else. And it can be secured
only when the Korean people are strong enough and it can be guaranteed only with their own strength.

The DPRK possessed nuclear deterrent in order to cope with the nuclear threats coming from the US and to safeguard the supreme interest of the country, the security of the nation and peace.

Going nuclear is the policy line of our state.

As long as the imperialists continue their nuclear blackmail and arbitrary actions, the DPRK will hold steadfast to the strategic line of simultaneously promoting economic construction and the building up of the nuclear forces, and will continue to further bolster its self-defensive nuclear forces in quality and quantity.

The successful nuclear warhead test which was conducted recently was a demonstration of the ever strongest will of the DPRK showing it is ready to counterattack the adversary if they make a provocation as it was part of the substantial countermeasures to the threat of nuclear war and sanctions racket of the hostile forces including the US who are viscously taking issue with our nation’s legitimate exercise of right to self-defense.

As the DPRK has publicly stated earlier, the standardization of the nuclear warhead will enable the DPRK to produce as many as it requires a variety of smaller, lighter and diversified nuclear warheads with higher strike power.

As it has already declared itself as a responsible nuclear weapon state, the DPRK will not use nuclear weapons first, unless the forces of aggression hostile to the country violate its sovereignty with nuclear weapons and the DPRK will faithfully observe its commitment to nuclear non-proliferation as it has made before the international community, and strive for global denuclearization.

The nuclear deterrent of the DPRK does not constitute any threat to non-nuclear-weapon States or to nuclear-weapon-free zones established in several parts of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Peaceful use of outer space is the legitimate and inalienable sovereign right of all states.
The successful test of high power carrier rocket engine for geo-stationary satellite which was developed for the first time in the DPRK provided a firm scientific and technological guarantee for developing and completing the carrier rocket for geo-stationary satellite during the 5-year program for national aerospace development.

The DPRK will promote exchange and cooperation with international space organizations and space institutions of other countries. It will also continue to have the door wider open with greater enthusiasm towards conquering the world of the outer space, as a proud member of 10 major spacefaring nations, while ensuring transparency in conformity with the relevant international norms and practices.

I thank you. Mr. Chairman.