Mr. Chairman,

I would first like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of this Committee and assure you of my delegation’s full support to you. We look forward to a productive session under your able leadership.

I would like to start with the most urgent proliferation and security issue for my country and for the world, the DPRK’s nuclear issue. This year started with the fourth nuclear test by the DPRK, followed by the fifth just last month. In addition, North Korea launched 22 ballistic missiles of all types, defying the repeated warnings from the international community. Violating all international law, including the NPT and numerous UN Security Council resolutions, the DPRK is getting close to full nuclear weaponization. What is even more troubling is its repeated announcements that the DPRK is ready to use such weapons preemptively.

Over 100 countries have condemned North Korea’s nuclear tests in strong terms. Our task now is to work together to make North Korea change its course towards
complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. If North Korea's provocations are left unchecked, the international community will risk condoning a new, illegal nuclear-weapon state, which will seriously undermine the foundation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In this regard, the UN Security Council should adopt a new, robust resolution containing effective sanction measures. We will also work with all Member States to ensure the full and complete implementation of all relevant resolutions, including resolution 2270 (2016) and the new one currently being worked out.

Mr. Chairman,

The North Korean nuclear issue vindicates and further strengthens my Government's unwavering commitment to maintain and strengthen the NPT as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

After the 2015 NPT Review Conference ended without a Final Document, we are witnessing a new trend. Recently, a new resolution calling for the negotiation of a new treaty banning nuclear weapons has been circulated at this Committee. However, we are of the view that hasting toward a conclusion would neither achieve the goals for substantial disarmament nor resolve the current deadlock.

We believe that for viable breakthrough in nuclear disarmament, we need a practical approach based on the Article VI of the NPT, not a new legal instrument. In this regard, I would like to highlight the importance of taking on the long overdue task that has been in front of us for two decades: the CTBT and an FMCT.
Bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) into force must be at the top of our agenda. At the CTBT Friends Ministerial Meeting last month, my Foreign Minister called for the remaining eight Annex II states to sign and ratify the Treaty at an earliest possible date. At the same time, kick-starting negotiations on a Treaty Banning the Production of Fissile Materials (FMCT) in the CD is another urgent task. We would like to call for joint efforts to begin the negotiation as soon as possible, based on the 2015 FMCT GGE report.

We also support transparency and confidence-building measures such as the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV) which can help facilitate dialogue between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States.

Mr. Chairman,

On non-proliferation, the Republic of Korea will accelerate its efforts on strengthening the international regime against WMD proliferation as we serve as Chair of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016 and 17.

The threat of WMD proliferation to non-state actors must also form a vital part of our discussions on nonproliferation. We appreciate the positive contributions the Nuclear Security Summit process has made over the past six years. As President of the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security this coming December, my Government emphasizes the importance of preventing and addressing the threat of nuclear terrorism.

UN Security Council resolution 1540 is also instrumental in the global efforts to
prevent WMD terrorism. We look forward to a successful Comprehensive Review this year and will continue to fully support the 1540 Committee. The Republic of Korea hosted the first 1540 Regional Industry Outreach Conference of the Wiesbaden Process, with a view to promoting resolution 1540's implementation in Asia.

Finally, the Republic of Korea and Australia will jointly submit to this Committee a resolution on "Preventing and Combating Illicit Brokering Activities." It is the sole international instrument comprehensively addressing the threat posed by illicit brokering. We hope this biennial resolution that has been tabled since 2008 will once again renew our collective commitment to combating illicit brokering activities and gain wide support. Thank you. /End/