Statement by Mr. JANG IL HUN,  
Senior Officer of Department of International Organizations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
at the Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons at the First Committee of the  
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Mr. Chairman,

Humankind have made strenuous efforts to build a peaceful and stable world without nuclear weapons and the threat thereof as they witnessed miserable sufferings and pains incurred by the use of nuclear weapons in the last century.

Notwithstanding this, recent reality shows that the world is moving in the direction of nuclear arms race against the desire of humankind, instead of nuclear disarmament.

The INF treaty that virtually prohibited the use of tactical nuclear weapons of the U.S. and Russia, the world’s biggest nuclear weapon states, for over 30 years was abrogated in last August. As a result, operational nuclear weapons can be used for action with no legally binding force and there are signs of resurgence of a new nuclear arms race threatening strategic stability.

It draws deep concern and anxiety of the international community.

My delegation maintains that any attempt to give rise to a new cold war and global nuclear arms race should not be tolerated as it is a challenge to the desire of humankind aspiring after a peaceful world.

Mr. Chairman,
The trend towards peace created on the Korean peninsula is driven out once again by the dark cloud of war.

Joint military exercises targeting the DPRK were openly resumed in the southern part of the Korean peninsula and simulation test for interception of the DPRK's ICBM was conducted on the other side of the Ocean. Such moves that run counter to the spirit of the June 12 DPRK-U.S. Joint Statement become undisguised.

The DPRK has warned more than once that resumption of the joint military exercises which had been committed to suspension could block the progress of the DPRK-U.S. relations and push the DPRK to reconsider the measures it had taken already.

The U.S. claims that the joint military exercises are "defensive". Then, we are also compelled to develop, test, and deploy physical means that are indispensable for national defense.

The weapons tests carried out by the DPRK in recent months are the measures for bolstering its self-defense capability and a part of its routine exercise.

As widely known to the world, the possession of nuclear forces by the DPRK is a self-defensive measure to cope with the hostile policy of the U.S. that has threatened and intimidated with nukes the sovereignty and the right to existence of the DPRK for over half a century.

Instead of striving to remove the root cause that compelled the DPRK to possess the nukes, the U.S. is hanging on to military and economic pressure against the DPRK while stubbornly demanding the "abandonment of nukes first". It is based on the inveterate method of calculation of the U.S. which thinks that maximum pressure will bring about submission.

The DPRK attaches importance to solving problems through dialogues and negotiations. However, if the U.S. tries to subdue the DPRK by dint of force, we cannot but seek a new way for defending the sovereignty and supreme interest of the country and achieving peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

The peace and security of the Korean peninsula will entirely depend on the future attitude of the U.S., and the DPRK will prepare itself to deal with all circumstances.
Mr. Chairman,

The prevailing international situation substantiates that strong national power based on self-reliance and self-defense is indeed a fundamental guarantee for independent development and peaceful prosperity of the country.

Strong national power serves to defend dignity, safeguard peace and secure development of the country.

The state and people that pave the way on their own with firm belief in their own strength can advance straightforward along the road they have chosen, without any vacillation in the face of all kinds of adversities and difficulties.

The DPRK remains consistent in its stand to support total elimination of nuclear weapons on the globe including the Korean peninsula.

My delegation hopes that the international community will support the position and efforts of the DPRK to achieve lasting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

Thank you.