Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. Nuclear disarmament is inarguably crucial in reducing the risk of accidental or intentional use of nuclear weapons and pursuing our ultimate goal of a world without nuclear weapons. For the past several years, we have witnessed significant progress in the reduction of nuclear arsenals achieving a drastic decrease from their Cold War peak. As we set our sight on next year’s NPT Review Conference, further efforts should be made to build upon the progress so far. In particular, given the wide gap between nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapons states on how to achieve this shared goal, we need to take a practical and realistic approach, moving away from “all or nothing” thinking.

2. My delegation takes note of significant progress in the reduction of nuclear arsenals, in particular through the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) between the United States and the Russian Federation. The ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and build confidence through the P5 Conference appear to have a positive effect. We take note of their reports submitted in a common standard format to the 3rd Prep Com of the 2015
Review Conference and look forward to a P5 nuclear terms glossary which will lay the foundation for multilateral nuclear disarmament and verification.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Notwithstanding significant efforts put forward thus far, there remains much to be done towards realizing complete nuclear disarmament.

4. Next Spring, countries from around the world will convene here in New York again for the 2015 NPT Review Conference. Both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states should double their efforts to narrow differences and build confidence.

5. It is imperative to further facilitate the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). We welcome China’s International Monitoring System data transmission to the International Data Center as well as the P5 CTBT experts’ recent discussions on ways to collaborate in strengthening the CTBT monitoring mechanism. The Republic of Korea joins others in calling on, the remaining eight Annex II states to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

6. Starting negotiations on the treaty banning the production of fissile material (FMCT) is another urgent and long-overdue task. We support the commencement of negotiations on the FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as a matter of priority. We hope that the in-depth and constructive discussion at the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) will provide a substantive basis for future FMCT negotiations.
7. We believe that the universal application of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol is essential in ensuring confidence with regard to State Parties’ compliance with their NPT obligations. The number of States with additional protocols in force now stands at 124. My delegation urges those States Parties that have yet to conclude the Additional Protocol to do so without further delay.

8. Countering possible proliferation of nuclear weapons to non-state actors has become an urgent task. The Republic of Korea puts great importance on continued efforts in denying terrorist access not only to nuclear weapons but also to related materials and technology. As a chair country of the 1540 Committee, the Republic of Korea hosted a high-level Security Council open debate on May 7. As an outcome, a Presidential Statement was adopted by consensus which includes key elements on future strategy, enhancing the 1540 Committee’s assistance mechanism, and fostering greater synergy among all stakeholders. In addition, my government is hosting a Regional Workshop on Promoting the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 from October 27 to 28 in Seoul in cooperation with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

9. Through the Nuclear Security Summit process, more than 200 commitments for practical actions to improve nuclear security have been made and implemented. As the host of the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit, my government is strongly committed to strengthening nuclear security and safety capacity. In particular, President Park Geun-hye proposed to take a
holistic approach that promotes synergy among nuclear security, nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Such a holistic approach will give impetus to ongoing efforts in nuclear disarmament as well.

Mr. Chairman,

10. The DPRK’s nuclear program continues to pose a grave threat to the peace and security in the region and beyond, and to seriously undermine the integrity and credibility of the global non-proliferation regime.

11. In defiance of the international community’s repeated demands to abandon all its nuclear devices and existing nuclear programs, the DPRK continues to threaten to bolster its nuclear capability. The DPRK has restarted operation of its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and is threatening to conduct a new form of nuclear test. Furthermore, it has engaged in seven rounds of ballistic missile launches since February. All these actions constitute flagrant violations of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

12. The UN Security Council resolutions clearly outline that the DPRK cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon state in accordance with the NPT under any circumstances. The DPRK is the first-ever case in the history of the NPT where a country acquired nuclear technology as an NPT State Party and then announced its withdrawal while continuing to develop its nuclear weapons program.

13. Nuclear weapons cannot be a strategic asset for ensuring its security and
development, but rather a crippling liability. If the DPRK wishes to pursue a path of economic prosperity, it will have to make a strategic decision to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

14. Along these lines, my delegation urges the DPRK to refrain from any further provocative acts, fulfill without delay all of its obligations under all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, abandon all nuclear weapons programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and comply with its commitments in the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks.

Thank you. /END/