

**Statement by Mr. Yanghee CHOI**  
**Ministry of Science, ICT, and Future Planning**  
**Head Delegate of the Republic of Korea**  
**At the 58th General Conference of**  
**the International Atomic Energy Agency**  
22 September 2014

**【 Introduction 】**

Mr. President,  
Director General Yukiya Amano,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great privilege to represent the Republic of Korea at the 58th IAEA General Conference and to have a chance to discuss pending issues in the field of nuclear energy with Member States.

On behalf of the delegation of Korea, let me extend heartfelt congratulations to you (Ambassador Aliyar Lebbe Abdul AZEEZ) on your election as President of this year's General Conference.

I am confident that with the benefit of your outstanding leadership, this conference will indeed prove a great success.

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Guyana, Vanuatu, Djibouti and Comoros as new members of the IAEA and we look forward to working in unison for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and greater prosperity for all.

**【 Korea's Stance on Continued Development of Nuclear Energy 】**

Mr. President,

Today, a total of 30 nations are operating 437 nuclear power reactors and 70 additional plants are under construction.

This is a testament to the fact that many countries have reaped the benefits of nuclear power, and that they continue to value it as a stable source of energy for the future.

Korea has also harnessed nuclear energy as an engine for national development for the past 40 years. While mindful that nuclear safety is always a top priority, we will continue to utilize nuclear energy as a practical solution to pressing issues such as rising demand for energy and climate change.

Mr. President,

Korea has been engaged in numerous efforts in a bid to ensure the sustainable development of nuclear energy.

First, in an effort to address issues associated with spent fuel, we are proceeding with the development of advanced nuclear technologies such as Generation-IV nuclear energy system.

Second, Korea fully supports and faithfully implements the IAEA's efforts in strengthening nuclear safety and improving transparency of activities related thereto. In this context, we have taken an active part in Extra-budgetary Programme to expand nuclear safety infrastructure.

Third, understanding the importance of international collaboration for stronger non-proliferation and security, Korea actively participates in a variety of IAEA initiatives that are designed to realize its core value of "peaceful uses of nuclear energy".

**【 Efforts to Promote Use of Nuclear Energy 】**

Mr. President,

Korea is tirelessly conducting varied research and development (R&D) to resolve global issues and to create technology innovations.

Having obtained the world's first Standard Design Approval (SDA) for SMART (System-integrated Modular Advanced Reactor) in 2012, Korea is carrying forward innovative technology development in an endeavor to improve the Reactor's safety and economics.

Currently, an advanced nuclear energy system that couples pyro-processing and Generation-IV SFRs (Sodium-cooled Fast Reactors) is in the pipeline for the efficient management and utilization of spent fuel.

Moreover, in anticipation of demand for decommissioning of nuclear facilities, Korea is proceeding with comprehensive research project on relevant technologies, including the establishment of the Nuclear Decommissioning Demonstration Center.

At the same time, to improve the export competitiveness of research reactors and to ensure a stable supply of medical radioisotopes, we are moving ahead with the development and demonstration of key technologies through a new research reactor project which is slated for completion by 2018.

Mr. President,

The Korean government established a Nuclear Energy-based Creative Economy Action Plan (2013-2017) to expand research infrastructures of radiation fusion technologies, disease diagnosis and treatment technologies, and radiation and radioisotopes application.

Furthermore, we have embarked on the development of a radiation medicine database this year, and plan to collaborate with the IAEA's radiotherapy and nuclear medicine database.

The construction of the Radiation Breeding Research Center equipped with state-of-the-art radiation fusion research experiment facilities was completed late last year, and we are committed to contributing to global community by conducting radiation research activities and providing education and training programs.

Korea supports the Agency's decision to expand the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and seeks to fulfill its responsibilities as a donor country by making financial contributions as well as expanding technical support for developing countries.

In addition, let me take this opportunity to congratulate the 50th anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division and I pay my profound tribute to both organizations for their excellent job on global food security and agricultural development.

### **【 Improving Nuclear Safety 】**

Mr. President,

The Korean government greatly appreciates the IAEA's efforts in drawing lessons from the Fukushima Accident and its various activities in aid of enhanced international nuclear safety.

We welcome the wide spectrum of the Agency's support such as organizing international conferences and sharing their results, as well as publishing a Comprehensive Report on the Fukushima Accident, and we too will provide positive support in these endeavors.

With a view to fulfilling the follow-up measures of the Fukushima accident, the Republic of Korea is implementing both short- and long-term improvements to its emergency response capabilities.

Moreover, we will further strengthen nuclear safety system of Korea through successfully hosting the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) follow-up mission scheduled in coming December.

We will contribute to building solid international nuclear safety regime by participating in the Convention on Nuclear Safety, and to further strengthening international cooperation of spent fuel management through Meetings of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.

In addition, the government of Korea is exerting its efforts to promote cooperation on nuclear safety in Northeast Asia, where a large number of nuclear power plants are heavily concentrated. To this end, Her Excellency Madame Park Geun-hye, the President of the Republic of Korea, proposed last month the establishment of a Northeast Asian Nuclear Safety Consultative Body, which would be modeled after Euratom.

### **【 International Cooperation on Non-proliferation and Enhanced Nuclear Security 】**

Mr. President,

The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an essential prerequisite for the sustainable development of nuclear energy.

To that end, the Republic of Korea has been consistent and supportive with the Agency's diverse initiatives in the field of nuclear security and safeguards.

In February this year, the International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) mission reviewed overall physical protection regime, and concluded that Korea maintains a robust system and it has been further reinforced through the mission.

Korea also joined the efforts in strengthening the international nuclear regime by submitting instruments of ratification of the 2005 Amendment to Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material(CPPNM) and International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism(ICSANT) to the IAEA and UN respectively.

Moreover, President Park delivered a keynote speech at the 2014 Hague Nuclear Security Summit. Through her speech, the President outlined a four-point proposal to bolster international nuclear security regime and we are currently implementing related follow-up measures.

In addition, the International Nuclear Non-proliferation and Security Academy(INSA) opened in February this year, and has provided quality education and training programs on safeguards and nuclear security to IAEA Member States.

### **【 The Call for Denuclearization of North Korea】**

Mr. President,

North Korea's pursuit of its nuclear programs undermines the very foundation of the international non-proliferation regime and poses a serious threat to the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

For more than two decades of the repeated nuclear crises, North Korea has relentlessly sought to advance its nuclear capabilities, despite the efforts of international community to achieve the verifiable denuclearization of North Korea in a peaceful manner.

As the only country in the world to have conducted nuclear tests in the 21st century, North Korea has recklessly abandoned its own commitments under the September 19 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks and its international obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions. Earlier this year, it threatened with a fourth round of nuclear tests, adding to its provocative acts including ballistic missile launches.

In addition, (as noted in this year's Director General's report,) signatures are observed to indicate the operation of 5MWe reactor in Yongbyon and as well as heightened level of activities at nuclear test site in Punggye-ri.

However, we, the international community, cannot accept a nuclear North Korea in any case.

We should not let the North Korean case be the exception to global non-proliferation norms.

We once again urge North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner in accordance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, fully comply with its NPT and IAEA safeguards obligations, and thus to become a responsible member of international community.

In this vein, the IAEA should not tolerate North Korea's continued nuclear development.

My Government highly regards the IAEA's efforts and cooperation concerning the North Korean nuclear issue, and believes that strong message should be delivered in the resolution "Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement between the Agency and the DPRK" as it has been in the previous General Conferences.

### **【 Closing Remarks 】**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the early 1950s, the first attempt to utilize nuclear energy represented a new challenge.

Throughout its history, the international nuclear community has overcome repeated challenges with collective wisdom and contributed to the prosperity and well-being of humanity.

And the leadership of the IAEA has always been instrumental in overcoming such challenges.

With this in mind, I extend my sincerest gratitude to the Agency for its efforts in ensuring the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and I hope that it will continue to serve as a pillar for the global network of nuclear energy.

The Korean government reaffirms its commitment to international efforts for the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and will provide assistance based on the solid relations it has built with the IAEA and its Member States.

Allow me once again to congratulate Mr. President on your election to this important work and I wish every success to the Conference.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to express my deepest appreciation once more to the President, Director-General and the Secretariat for their hard work and dedication.

Thank you for your kind attention.