

Statement

by H.E. Dr. Ho Koon Park

**Minister of Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea
at the 47th Regular Session of the General Conference of the
IAEA**

- Atoms for the Next Generation -

Mr. President,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I wish to extend my congratulations to you on your election as President of the 47th General Conference. I am confident that, under your outstanding leadership, this conference will yield a successful result.

My delegation would also like to extend its sincere thanks and congratulations to Dr. ElBaradei, Director General, and the Secretariat for their excellent performance and unwavering dedication to the challenging mission of the Agency in recent years.

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to commend the Secretariat's efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism since 11 September 2001. Since then, many new measures have been taken in the area of nuclear security. In particular, my delegation appreciates the significant contribution of the Secretariat to the establishment of a nuclear security infrastructure for the Member States.

My delegation also highly appreciates the special contribution made by the United States in this regard.

In April 2003, in order to cope with the threat of nuclear terrorism, the Republic of Korea concluded the "Arrangement for Technical Cooperation on Nuclear Security" with the Agency. This arrangement will help to consolidate the expertise and experience of the Agency and Korea in the field of nuclear security.

Domestically, we promulgated the new "Law on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Facilities and Measures for a Radiological Emergency" in May 2003. My country has made a contribution of \$150,000 to Nuclear Security Fund to support the Agency's role, including in the development of the international standards on nuclear security.

Together with nuclear security, nuclear safety is an essential issue. Korean government has put the highest priority on nuclear safety in developing its nuclear energy policy. In this regard, the Korean nuclear community adopted the "Nuclear Safety Charter" in September 2001 declaring eight fundamental principles for nuclear safety.

To enhance the level of safety further, the Korean government introduced a " Nuclear Safety Mark" award system in this year. Organizations who have proved that they have an excellent safety performance will be recognized by the nuclear community. Award winners are to get various incentives such as public advertisements and R&D funds.

Recently, my government has taken realistic measures to promote a culture of nuclear safety. We have designed quantitative indicators and plan to demonstrate their application this year. My delegation suggests the Agency consider a worldwide safety culture assessment to upgrade global nuclear safety levels.

In the area of safety and security of radioactive source materials, we are now testing a tracking method to be attached to the Global Positioning System (GPS) for radiological source containers. My delegation hopes the Agency and other Member States will study this new GPS approach with us.

Korea also supports the Agency's initiative to establish the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN) for the enhancement of nuclear safety in the Asian region. Indeed, we hosted the second ANSN Consultation Meeting in March 2003 to share our experience of the Korean safety networking program.

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates,

Nuclear energy has been one of the major growth engines for the Korean economy. My country has 18 nuclear power plants in commercial operation providing about 40% of the nation's electricity supply. Six units are Korean Standard Nuclear Power Plants (KSNP) of a capacity of 1,000MWe and are already operating successfully. Korea has also developed the Advanced Power Reactor with a capacity of 1,400MWe (APR1400), an innovative concept. The first construction of APR1400 is scheduled for 2004.

We envisage that 27 nuclear power plants will be on the grid by 2015. Korea is very willing to share its experiences in the planning, construction and operation of nuclear power plants with all Member States.

As for the small and medium sized reactor (SMR), we launched a 65 MWt pilot project called "SMART-P (System integrated Modular Advanced Reactor-P)" with a completion target of 2008. Under the program of the Agency's Resolution GC(45)/12, "Plan for Producing Potable Water Economically using Small and Medium-sized Nuclear Reactor", the Agency, Indonesia and Korea are working together to deploy SMART for a desalination project on Madura Island, Indonesia. My government reiterates its readiness to share our expertise with Member States and encourage other Member States to join in the SMR deployment program.

My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat for the convening of the International Conference on Innovative Technologies for Nuclear Fuel Cycles and Nuclear Power last June. The conference provided a forum for a collaborative approach for evolving future-oriented nuclear technologies. We, as a member of International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), will participate actively in its implementation, including a case study of user requirements and the continued assignment of one cost-free-expert to the Department of Nuclear Energy of the Secretariat.

In addition, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of hydrogen and fusion as a future energy source. The Hydrogen Economy was discussed at the IEA (International Energy Agency) meeting held last April in Paris. We believe nuclear energy will play a key role as an effective means for clean large scale hydrogen production. My delegation strongly recommends that the Agency revisit its past file on nuclear hydrogen and considers revitalizing its hydrogen energy program.

Together with hydrogen energy, the outlook for nuclear fusion is being made brighter and more feasible through the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). In June this year in Vienna, the Republic of Korea joined the ITER project meeting as a full partner. We will contribute fully to ITER by utilizing the Korea-Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (K-STAR) facility.

Mr. President,

The use of Radiation Technology (RT) in human life is forever expanding. RT is utilized in the areas of water resources management, health care, food preservation as well as in environmental protection. It is anticipated that the future RT market will be hundreds of billions of dollars.

In Korea, new legislation entitled the "Law on the Promotion of Utilization of Radiation and Radioisotopes" was enacted in December 2002. We will make extensive efforts to increase the share of RT to up to 30% of the nuclear industry by 2010.

To this end, a new "Advanced Radiation Technology R&D Center" is under construction in Jeongeup City. We hope this center will be utilized as a part of common RT resource in the Northeast Asian Region.

Mr. President,

My delegation supports the Agency's action on the management of nuclear knowledge under Resolution GC(46)/11. The Republic of Korea appreciates the Member States echoing at the Meeting of Senior Officials on Managing Nuclear Knowledge in June 2002 of the concept of an "International Nuclear University (INU)". Last June, Korea, in cooperation with the Agency, hosted an inaugural meeting for the "Asian Network for Higher Education in Nuclear Technology (ANENT)". We also offer our congratulations on the start of the World Nuclear University (WNU) led by the World Nuclear Association. We are of the view that this cross-linking will contribute to the creation of a worldwide INU Network.

The RCA Regional Office was opened in March 2002 in Korea to consolidate RCA ownership. The Korean government has contributed \$500,000 on an annual basis for its operation. My delegation expects that an RCA Resolution on the legal provision of the RCA Regional Office will be duly adopted this week at the 32nd RCA General Conference.

The role of women in nuclear activities is increasing significance in the 21st century. "Women in Nuclear Korea" (WIN-Korea) was registered with the Korean government as a legally approved association in March 2003. WIN-Korea is a proactive advocator in WIN Global. Korea recommend that the Agency formulate a new program for the promotion of the characteristics and capabilities of women in the nuclear field for the future.

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation reaffirms its unswerving support for the Agency's role and its safeguards system in securing nuclear non-proliferation regime, which is essential to the international peace and security. The vast majority of the NPT parties have an excellent record of full compliance with their safeguards obligations. However, the safeguards system, and indeed the nuclear non-proliferation regime, is presently facing unprecedented challenges.

As the Director General underlined on many occasions, the DPRK nuclear program poses a serious and immediate threat to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. My delegation notes with continuing concern that the Agency remains unable to provide any level of assurances about the non-diversion of nuclear material to nuclear weapons in the DPRK.

My Government urges the DPRK to retract its announced withdrawal from the NPT and comply with its obligations under the NPT regime. It should dismantle its nuclear weapons program in a complete, irreversible and verifiable manner.

It should commit itself to a complete and effective implementation of the comprehensive IAEA safeguards and cooperate fully with the Agency in this respect as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

The six-party talks, held in Beijing in late August, marked a significant step towards achieving a peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue. It is particularly noteworthy that the six parties shared in principle the ultimate goal of establishing a nuclear weapon-free Korean Peninsula, and agreed to achieve that goal by peaceful means, through dialogue. We trust that all the parties concerned mobilize their collective wisdom to ensure the timely resumption of the talks and to facilitate meaningful progress in this critically important process.

The nuclear program of Iran is another challenge to the nuclear non-proliferation regime. The Board resolution of last week on Iran's nuclear program represents the firm commitment of the international community to ensuring speedy resolution of all outstanding safeguards issues and to maintaining the integrity of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. In this regard, we sincerely hope that Iran will offer accelerated cooperation and full transparency on all aspects of its nuclear program to comply with the resolution in a constructive manner.

Mr. President,

The Additional Protocol is a major accomplishment of the Agency aimed at strengthening the safeguards system.

It has greatly contributed to building a trust within the international community that all states will fully comply with their non-proliferation commitments. My delegation would like to reiterate the importance of the need for universal adherence to the Additional Protocol.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform the Conference that the Korean government has recently completed its domestic preparations required for the implementation of the Additional Protocol. In fact, we expect the parliamentary ratification process to be concluded by the end of this year.

Taking this opportunity, Korea would also like to report on the performance of the New Partnership Approach (NPA) for Light Water Reactors (LWRs) between the Agency and Korea. The Agency saved more than 30 days of inspection time as described in the Agency's 2002 Safeguards Implementation Report (SIR).

Mr. President and Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation would like to remind all the Member States that the amendment to Article VI of the Agency's Statute was adopted by a unanimous consent at the 43rd Regular Session of the General Conference in its resolution GC(43)/RES/19. It expands the number of the members of the Board of Governors from the current 35 members to a total number of 43. The amendment was the demands of the times to reflect the increase in membership of the Agency as well as increased number of states that have acceded to the technology of nuclear energy.

This amendment was the outcome of almost 20 years of serious discussions in the Agency to adapt the composition of the Board to the reality of today. It accommodated the principle of greater democratic representation without jeopardizing the efficiency of the Board. However, it is rather disappointing that only 34 states among 134 Member States have so far accepted the amendment to Article VI in the four years since its approval. We strongly hope that consistent with the commitments we all made, all Member States, which have not yet accepted this amendment, will do so at the earliest possible date.

We also hope that the Director General continue its efforts to draw the attention of the governments of the Member States to the need for the amendment to be entered into force and encourage them to address this issue at their earliest convenience.

In closing, my delegation would like to remind the Conference that fifty years have passed since U.S. President Eisenhower made his historic speech, "Atoms for Peace". During the past fifty years, we, mankind, have obtained electricity, which is indispensable in human life, from nuclear technology. Now, I believe that, for the next fifty years, nuclear science and technology will surely bring greater prosperity for future generations enhancing their quality of life.

I would like to conclude my remarks by proposing "Atoms for the Next Generations" as our common objective of the next fifty years.

Thank you, Mr. President.