

**Statement by H.E. Amb. Jang Jai-ryong
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of the Republic of Korea
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Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the government of Bulgaria for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation and the excellent arrangements made for this Meeting. I pay my highest respect to Minister Solomon Passy for his impressive achievements as Chairman-in-Office.

(New Security Threats)

The past year has been marred by a series of atrocious terrorist attacks. It is now a harsh reality that terrorism is one of the most serious threats mankind faces. The Republic of Korea has been no exception, as evidenced by the shocking murder of a young Korean in Iraq last June at the hands of a terrorist group. Indeed, there is no sanctuary from the spectre of international terrorism. In addition, new transnational security threats such as the proliferation of WMD, the illegal drug trade, human trafficking and international organized crimes are on the rise and pose serious challenges to our civilized societies. The need for multilateral security cooperation is ever growing.

Against this backdrop, we place great value on the commitment of the OSCE to come up with comprehensive responses to newly emerging security challenges. 'OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century' provides clear insights to the international community on how to address the whole spectrum of threats. OSCE's detailed identification of

threats and its strategic directions to prevent and combat them will contribute to the establishment of a more cohesive and effective international system, improving the security environment for all.

Korea, as a Partner for Cooperation, hopes to further expand and strengthen its participation in the activities of the OSCE. In this regard, we appreciate the invitations to the Permanent Council meetings, and hope that we will be able to participate in the Council and the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) on a regular and permanent basis.

The Asian Contact Group and the Informal Group of Friends meetings have also proven to be useful fora for regular consultations with the members of the OSCE. These fora promise to be a valuable reference in the pursuit of multilateral security cooperation mechanism in our region.

(Peace on the Korean Peninsula)

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to take this opportunity to touch upon the North Korean nuclear issue, which is a major threat we face in Northeast Asia.

The government of the Republic of Korea has been striving to achieve a peaceful resolution to this issue through the Six Party Talks. Up to now, three rounds of the Talks have helped to stabilize the once volatile situation and set in motion the negotiating track.

Regrettably, however, the fourth round of the Talks has yet to be materialized and the Korean government is currently engaging in active diplomacy to have North Korea come back to the Talks. At the recent APEC Summit in Santiago, President Roh Moo-hyun and leaders of other parties of the Six-Party Talks stressed that the Talks be resumed as soon as possible. We strongly hope that a breakthrough can be attained in the very near future.

Notwithstanding its little progress, the Six Party Talks offers the countries in Northeast Asia the unique opportunity to address a significant security issue

in multilateral framework. The success of this undertaking will certainly lay a firm groundwork for confidence-building and institutionalization of dialogue which will lead to the advent of a multilateral security forum like the OSCE in our region. If realized, it will have a tremendously positive and lasting impact on the security map of Northeast Asia. That, I believe, would be one more reason to watch how the Six Party Talks will fare in the coming months. I call upon the OSCE Participating States to unite in rendering their support for a swift peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

(2005 OSCE-Korea Conference)

Mr. Chairman,

Korea will be hosting the 2005 OSCE-Korea Conference next April under the theme of 'New Security Threats and New Security Paradigm'. At this event, we will build upon the outcome of the first conference held in 2001, which explored the possibility of applying the OSCE's experience in CBMs to the Northeast Asia. The Second Conference will aim to provide a comprehensive diagnosis of current threats and hopefully come up with an effective prescription of strategies to deal with them. We are confident that it will elevate Korea-OSCE cooperation to a new level, as both parties will seek to find common responses to emerging new threats.

Now, let me close by reiterating Korea's commitment to the OSCE principles, and our determination, as a dialogue partner, to expand the scope of cooperation with the OSCE. We look forward to our continued close interaction with the OSCE under the eminent leadership of the Slovenian Chair next year.

Thank you for your attention.