

**Statement by H.E. Park In-kook
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At the 14th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by joining previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Government of Belgium for their warm hospitality and for the excellent and meticulous arrangements for our delegation.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to acknowledge the forward-looking efforts of the Belgian Chairmanship in inviting the Partners for Cooperation to all Permanent Council (PC) meetings this year in order to further strengthen our cooperative relations. This represents a welcome response to the Asian Partners' joint recommendation, made at last year's meeting with the Troika, that the Partners be invited to the PC and the Forum for the Security Council (FSC) on a standing-invitation or permanent basis. My delegation encourages the incoming Spanish Chairmanship to take further positive initiative for our recommendation. Ultimately, we hope to see an open-door policy adopted by the OSCE participating States, whereby Partners would be allowed to attend all meetings of the PC and the FSC on a permanent basis, without waiting for an invitation to each and every meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The newly emerging security challenges of today's interconnected and globalized world call for much more coordinated and concerted response at regional, inter-regional and global levels. In this regard, we appreciate the leadership of the OSCE in sharing its experiences with three-dimensional and cross-dimensional approaches to peace and security and with improving cooperative relations within and among regions. Ongoing reform efforts to make the OSCE more relevant and effective also deserve our attention. If they are successful, as I am hopeful they will be, I am sure that there will be many valuable lessons about security cooperation that can be applied in other regions as well, including Northeast Asia.

The Republic of Korea has endeavoured to draw the attention of the international community to the establishment of peace and security in Northeast Asia. At the recent Asian-European Summit in Helsinki, the importance of this regional effort was emphasized by President Roh Moo-hyun, who said, “Through the ASEM meetings, the Asian countries are learning from Europe’s experience and achievements in integration and multilateral security cooperation. The experience of Europe is something that can serve as a very useful guide and reference for Asia in establishing a peaceful and stable security order and seeking to build a regional community.”

As an OSCE Partner for Cooperation, the Republic of Korea hosted conferences in 2001 and 2005, in close cooperation with the OSCE, to share experience and lessons from the Helsinki Process that can be applied to the goal of securing permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. Similarly, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security co-hosted with the OSCE Secretariat the 2003 Workshop on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (CSBMs). Another conference is planned to organize another conference in cooperation with the OSCE, on the theme of “Multilateral Cooperation in east Asia”, to be hosted by the Jeju Peace Institute in June 2007.

As Secretary-General de Brichambaut suggested at the 2006 OSCE-Thailand Conference, concrete follow-up is needed on the recommendations of the 2005 OSCE-Korea Conference on deepening the dialogue between the OSCE and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). For example, the OSCE’s rich experience as the world’s leading security cooperation arrangement could be a model for future discussions of anti-terrorism cooperation, strengthening role of the ARF Chairperson, and the ARF’s long-term development plans.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to brief you on the current status of the North Korean nuclear issue, which I believe is a common concern of the international community, including the OSCE.

Over the past year, the international community has been urging North Korea to return immediately to the Six-Party Talks, without preconditions, and to implement the Joint Statement, which was made on 19 September 2005 by the six participating countries.

Disregarding the international community's call for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue, North Korea endangered regional peace and security through its missile launch last July and nuclear test last October. In response to these provocative acts by North Korea, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolutions 1695 and 1718, which obligated North Korea to abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and to act strictly in accordance with the requirements of the NPT and the IAEA Safeguards Agreement.

The concerned parties to the Six-Party Talks have taken a closely coordinated approach, fully implementing the Security Council resolutions while continuing with diplomatic efforts, in the hopes that North Korea will return to the Talks and eventually give up its nuclear weapons and programmes. I believe, these efforts have led to the recent agreement to resume the Six-Party Talks, announced in Beijing on 31 October.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea is a strong advocate of multilateralism and actively seeks to contribute to the success of multilateral approaches to solving the complex and diverse issues facing the global community.

As you are well aware of, my former Foreign Minister, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, was recently elected to be the next Secretary-General of the UN. When he addressed this august Ministerial Council last year, he placed great value on the norms, standards and commitments of the OSCE as the world's most successful organization for multilateral security cooperation. My delegation firmly believes that, as Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban will do his utmost to harness the mutually complementary expertise and experience of the UN and the OSCE to promote world peace and stability.

Before concluding, I would like to express my delegation's full confidence in the Government of Spain, the next Chair of the OSCE. We are certain that they will fulfill this honourable and demanding role with distinction, further elevating the status of the OSCE as a more effective security forum. I am anxious to see the incoming Chair take a proactive role in sharing more widely and effectively the OSCE's invaluable experience, not only with Asian and Mediterranean Partners, but with the global community as a whole.

Thank you.