

**Statement by H.E. LEE Yong-Joon**

**Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea**

**At the 16th Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council**

Madame Chair,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, let me express my heartfelt appreciation for the warm hospitality extended by the Government of Finland. My appreciation goes further to the Chairman-in-Office, Minister Strubb and his teams for their dedicated work in preparing this Ministerial. I also thank to the OSCE Secretariat for their efforts in preparing for this conference.

**[ Activities of the Asian Contact Group(ACG) ]**

As one of the Asian Partners for Co-operation, Korea is committed to working closely with the OSCE and its Asian Partners in accomplishing OSCE's goals and spirit. In this context Korea has already financially contributed to the Partnership Fund for supporting the Afghan Election Assistance Project by the OSCE this year. Korea recognizes the Fund as a means of enhancing cooperation between the Partners for Co-operation and the Participating States.

Korea shares the deep concern of the OSCE over the situation in Afghanistan and has been participating in the reconstruction and democratization of Afghanistan. At the Afghan Donors Conference on 12 June this year, Korea pledged 30 million dollars over three years starting from 2009 in order to assist the monitoring of Afghan elections, build infrastructure, and to sponsor humanitarian projects. As such, Korea is fully committed to working with the OSCE in support of democratic institutions and peace building efforts in Afghanistan.

As some of the Participating States mentioned earlier, my delegation also welcomes the strengthened engagement of the OSCE in Afghanistan in the fields of border-control,

prevention of human trafficking and narcotic, etc, and will consider what we can do in support of such activities.

Democracy is also an important value which Korea and the OSCE share. Korea fully understands the importance of a free and fair electoral process and supports OSCE's election observation missions. In an effort to contribute to such activity, Korea dispatched observers to the presidential election held in Azerbaijan earlier this year. Korea would welcome the opportunity to take part in any other monitoring activity organized by the OSCE.

**[ Situation in Georgia]**

Madame Chair,

Let me touch upon the situation in Georgia very briefly. My delegation wishes that the conflict in the region be resolved peacefully through dialogue among the parties concerned, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the six-point principles agreed upon by the two OSCE Participating States in August this year. We also would like appreciate the Finnish Chair's efforts and the contributions the OSCE made during the course of endeavors for the protection of the IDPs(Internally Displaced Persons) in the region.

**[ North Korea's Nuclear Issue / Inter-Korean Relations]**

Madame Chair,

Taking this opportunity, let me briefly highlight the current status of the regional security in Northeast Asia, especially the North Korean nuclear issue and inter-Korean relations.

Currently, we are making our best efforts to bring together the collective wisdom of the six parties, in order to conclude issues, such as adopting a verification protocol, disabling the nuclear facilities, and providing economic and energy assistance to the North.

In spite of some troubles during the last one year, North Korea has resumed its disablement process, and the US has removed North Korea from its list of state-sponsored terrorism. The Six-Party Talks will resume next week in order to discuss and adopt a verification protocol that can reveal the truth in North Korean nuclear program.

Although there have been ups and downs, the Six Party Talks process has provided the actors in Northeast Asia with valuable experience of tackling security concerns together. Thus, the six parties share common understanding for the need of multilateral security cooperative mechanism in Northeast Asia as you have the OSCE in Europe. However it seems to me that we still need a long time to foster an atmosphere favorable for a multilateral security cooperation in Northeast Asia, mainly because of the absence of common value, common spirit and common interest in security issues.

Madame Chair,

Since the new government came into office in the Republic of Korea this year, inter-Korean relations have been in a stalemate, or in a period of readjustment. My government is striving to normalize and reinstate inter-Korean relations based upon reciprocity, mutual benefit and mutual respect, which are not yet welcomed in North Korea.

The inter-Korean relations are also negatively affected by the strengthened position of the Republic of Korea on the nuclear proliferation and the human rights abuse in North Korea. It is the strong hope of our government to establish a peaceful inter-Korean relations aiming at mutual benefit and common prosperity on the Korean Peninsula which is free from nuclear proliferation and human rights abuse.

To this end, we are willing to talk with North Korea any time and without any precondition. In this regard, we would welcome any assistance, advice or support from the OSCE participating countries.

In closing, I would like to express my delegation's full confidence in the Government of Greece and Minister Dora Bakoyannis, as the next Chair of the OSCE. I am certain that Greece will fulfill this honorable and demanding role with success, and further develop the OSCE into a more effective and future-oriented organization in the years to come.

Thank you for your attention.

/END/