

The Republic of Korea's Contribution to the Resolution "Youth and Disarmament and Non-proliferation" (78/31)

- The Republic of Korea believes that the engagement, education and empowerment of youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation helps ensure sustainability and diversity in the discussion. Also, the active participation of the youth, who can offer innovative and forward-looking ideas as the leaders of the future, would spur positive momentum for stagnated disarmament discussions.

It is based on this belief and as a champion of Action 38 entitled "Establish a platform for youth engagement" in the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda "Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament," the Republic of Korea proposed the resolution entitled "Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation" to the United Nations General Assembly biannually since 2019.

- The following illustrates the Republic of Korea's efforts to empower, engage, and educate youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.
 - The Republic of Korea has been supporting youth initiatives at the national level through various initiatives.
 - In June 2022, the Republic of Korea hosted the Disarmament and Non-proliferation Youth Camp in Daejeon, Korea, where 30 young participants discussed the issue of emerging issues of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems and space security.
 - Since 2023, the ROK has annually appointed around 30 university students as Korean Youth Envoys for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. The participants received education through by participating in 2-days long camp (2023) or one-month long academy course (2024) on disarmament and non-proliferation. Based on the education, the Envoys produced creative outcomes such as card news and posters in 2023 or policy proposal reports in 2024.
 - To provide on-site experience and ensure the continuity of engagement, the ROK invited the winning Korean Youth Envoys to participate in international meetings on disarmament and non-proliferation, such as the 22nd ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation in 2023 and Second Meeting of the PrepCom for the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2024. The ROK made efforts to amplify the voice of the youth regarding non-proliferation issues, by including them as main panelist in the side event centered around North Korean nuclear issue on the margins of the NPT meeting.
 - In 2024, the ROK hosted 2nd Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military domain (REAIM) Summit, where the opening session was commenced by two members of Korean Youth Envoys for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. They highlighted the importance of establishing norms on the responsible application of AI in the military domain to ensure a safe and secure future for the young generation.
 - On the margin of the 2025 REAIM Summit, the ROK held youth side event named Y.PAI(Youth and Peace in the age of AI). The event featured presentations of policy recommendation papers by Korean Youth Envoys for Disarmament and Non-

Proliferation, exhibition of the winning cartoons and novels from the Sci-fAI Futures Youth Challenge, and a table-top exercise on the possible challenges and reactions for the application of AI in the military domain.

- The Republic of Korea is closely collaborating with the international community to create more opportunities for the youth to take a role in the disarmament agenda. To achieve this, the ROK has provided consistent support for UN organizations including the UNODA and UNIDIR.
 - The Republic of Korea has been inviting young diplomats from various countries through the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme since 2016. It includes an on-site visit program to remind the participants of the importance and validity of disarmament agenda, to sites including the DMZ(Demilitarized Zone) and the War Memorial of Korea to deepen their understanding of the security situation in the Korean Peninsula.
 - The ROK has been an active supporter of the UNODA's #Youth4Disarmament initiative. The initiative is raising awareness of disarmament and nonproliferation through diverse projects and engage and empower the youth to participate in the discussion.
 - Since 2020, with the Republic of Korea's support, UNODA is operating a dedicated website (youth4disarmament.org) and a series of Disarmament Explainer Videos in English, French, Spanish, and Korean, which are serving as a platform and source to inform the youth on disarmament and non-proliferation issues.
 - The ROK supported the UNODA to launch #Leaders4tomorrow project in 2022, where 25 youths developed and presented their ideas to advance collective peace and security at the UN 1st Committee Side Event. In August 2022, the Republic of Korea also co-hosted a side event focused on advancing the youth in non-proliferation and disarmament during the 10th NPT Review Conference with UNODA and the British American Security Information Council (BASIC). The final report of the side event was submitted as a working paper to the Conference. The ROK also funded the Pitching Peace Youth Music Challenge, inviting young people to produce original scores that reflect one of the four pillars of the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament for inspiration.
 - In 2023, the ROK supported the UNODA to launch "Leaders to the Future(#L2F)" workshop series. In interactive online sessions held each month, past #Youth4Disarmament members developed the experience and built strong networks to tackle future peace and security challenges related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (DNA).
 - In November 2024, the 23rd ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues was held, which featured a special Youth Session as one of the main sessions. Participants from various youth and disarmament programs shared their experience and ideas about the promotion of Biological Weapons Convention, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of its coming-into-force this year. The ROK shared the outcome of the Joint Conference in a side-event on the occasion of the Fifth Session of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the BWC in December 2024, highlighting the value of the youth participation in the Conference.

- This year, the Republic of Korea funded the Youth4Disarmament Forum to be organized by the UNODA in October on the occasion of the UN General Assembly 1st Committee. The forum will offer an inclusive and interactive space for dialogue between youths of different backgrounds who express interest or have experience in disarmament-related programs.
 - The Korean government also has been supporting the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to operate various programs to promote youth participation in the arms control and disarmament.
 - In 2022, with the ROK's support, UNIDIR launched the Youth Engagement Programme. The Programme included Online Youth Disarmament Orientation Course, which introduces the young audience to the disarmament agenda, and Global Disarmament Essay Competition, where young students and researchers wrote a 2,000-word essay addressing the Disarmament, Security and Development nexus. UNIDIR also held Model UN Conference on Disarmament, where 60 students engaged in active discussions on the topic of space security.
 - The ROK continued to support UNIDIR Graduate Professional Programme (GPP) in 2022 and 2024, which provides young people with practical experience in a research institute that assists with disarmament efforts. In 2025, the ROK will continue to support the UNIDIR on both the existing programs including the GPP, Model UN, Creative Competition, and Online Youth Courses, and also establishing a novel Youth Strategy to strengthen institutional capacity on Youth and Disarmament agenda.
- The Republic of Korea believes that educating, engaging, and empowering the youth in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation will help spur diversity and ensure the sustainability of ongoing discussions. Furthermore, as recognized in the Pact for the Future, which states that the full, effective, safe and meaningful participation of youth is critical to maintaining and promoting international peace and security, strong engagement, empowerment, and education of the youth are key to building a sustainable culture of peace, promoting disarmament and nonproliferation, and ultimately creating a safer and more secure world for everyone.

The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to actively participate in ongoing discussion on the youth, including the New Agenda for Peace, and to carry out various activities to engage, empower, and educate the youth in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation.

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