



**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

820 Second Avenue, Suite 13A, New York, NY 10017  
Tel: (212) 972-3105 E-mail: dprk.unmission@gmail.com

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**Statement of the DPRK Delegation**  
**During general exchange of views at the Substantive session of**  
**the 2025 UN Disarmament Commission**  
**New York, 08 April 2025**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you for your election as the Chair as well as the Vice-Chairs and Chairs of the Working Groups.

We hope that under your able leadership, this session will be able to produce a meaningful outcome conducive to international peace and security within the context of the discussion on the themes of the current three year cycle.

We also commend Ambassador Usman Jadoon for his successful chairmanship of the Commission last year.

Mr. Chair,

The Disarmament Commission decided last year to allocate agenda item 4 entitled "Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" and item 5 entitled "Recommendations on common understandings related to emerging technologies in the context of international security" during the new 3 year cycle of 2024-2026 and commenced its work with useful discussion on these topics.

We are of the view that, though full consensus was yet to be reached, the Commission has laid a foundation for working out practical recommendations to address the newly emerging challenges concerning the global disarmament efforts and securing international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Since last year's session of UNDC the international geopolitical situation has further been deteriorated and evolved into a new level, underlining ever more the importance of the mission of the UN disarmament system including the UNDC.

Today confrontation and conflict persist in different parts of the world due to the arbitrary, high-handed and irresponsible behavior of the U.S. and the West who consider nuclear weapons as the main tool for achieving their strategy of world hegemony and containing strategic rivals; the international disarmament architecture is undermined systematically and new arms race is looming in various regions including the Europe. These all arouse serious concern.

In recent years, the U.S. has systematically eroded the disarmament treaties including the INF and the Treaty on Open Skies that form the basic foundation of ensuring international peace and security, and enforced the deployment of intermediate-range missiles in Asia and Europe for the first time since the end of the Cold War, thus seriously disrupting the balance of strategic stability and stirring up security concern among regional countries.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S. is hell-bent on establishing a new military bloc such as the "Asian version of NATO" and fueling bloc confrontation while hotly instigating the grave arms build-up of its allies such as ROK and Japan under the pretext of "Indo-Pacific Strategy" aimed at retaining its strategic hegemony in the region.

In order to maintain the absolute nuclear supremacy the U.S. is also actively engaged in arms build-up through constant modernization of its nuclear arsenal, test of new ICBMs and development of new type of strategic weapons while undermining the international non-proliferation regime by openly and defiantly pushing ahead with nuclear proliferation including through transfer of sensitive nuclear technology and provision of extended deterrence to its allies under various pretext such as AUKUS cooperation.

The prevailing reality clearly shows who is the ringleader hindering nuclear disarmament and disrupting global peace and stability.

Mr. Chair,

The politico-security environment of the Korean peninsula which is one of the world's hotspots remains a serious concern of the international community due to the reckless arms build-up and military maneuvers of the U.S. and its followers aggravating the regional tension for hegemonic purpose.

The US nuclear strategic means constantly deployed on the Korean peninsula, the US-led bilateral and multilateral nuclear war simulation exercises staged on the level of actual war, the US-Japan-ROK tripartite military alliance system established according to the US's regional military bloc scenario and the formation of the Asian version of NATO as its axis constitute a basic factor that causes military imbalance and a new conflicting structure on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, and they are raising a grave challenge to the security environment of our state.

Despite the serious concern and opposition of the international community, the U.S. and its vassal allies staged, from the outset of this year, several joint military exercises in series targeting our Republic under different codenames by mobilizing in and around the Korean peninsula various strategic hardware including the B-1B strategic bomber, nuclear powered carrier Carl Vinson, Aegis cruiser Princeton, and attack nuclear submarine Alexandria, thus driving the regional situation to the extreme level.

The large-scale joint military exercises Freedom Shield 2025 which the U.S. and ROK conducted from March 10 to 20 reached the highest level in its aggressive and offensive nature this year.

This year's Freedom Shield exercise was provocative military drills aimed at attack on a belligerent party, the DPRK in multi-domain including ground, sea, air, cyber and outer space in an all-round way for the first time in the history of joint drills staged by the U.S. and the ROK; It was a premeditated and provocative nuclear war exercise during which the OPLAN 2022, a war scenario under the simulated conditions of "a preemptive strike" at the DPRK's nuclear facilities worked out according to the "nuclear operations guidelines" which had been cooked up by the U.S. and the ROK in July last year, was officially applied; It has revealed its offensive nature as a U.S.-Japan-ROK tripartite joint military rehearsal and as a multinational war drill involving even the troops from twelve member states of the so-called "UN Command".

The threatening nature of Freedom Shield, which is being turned into a more expanded and offensive anti-DPRK war rehearsal, fully proves that the enemy states' military attempt to contain the DPRK by upper-hand in hegemonic strength has developed into a more dangerous level.

The fact that pro-U.S. countries including NATO member states have joined the U.S.-led joint military drills including Freedom Shield, pursuant to the U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK, predicts that a military conflict in the Korean peninsula will be by no means limited between the DPRK and the U.S. but it will inevitably lead to the start of a new world war.

It is an inevitable option of the DPRK to make more self-defensive efforts to ensure its security interests from the regional security environment which is getting instable with each passing day and the present reality further highlights the justness, validity and necessity of the DPRK's line on bolstering up its nuclear forces.

The DPRK will steadily upgrade and bolster up its strong counteraction capability of all categories, able enough to overwhelmingly contain any military moves of the enemy states seriously threatening its sovereignty and security interests, and firmly defend the security interests of the state and the regional peace and stability by exercising more thoroughly and perfectly the right to self-defence.

The UN and the international community will have to strongly urge the U.S. and ROK to halt the provocative joint military drills which are extremely heating the situation of the Korean peninsula and irresponsibly raising the level of confrontation.

Thank you.