

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Sangjin KIM**

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Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Let me begin by warmly congratulating Ambassador Jose Eduardo Pereira Sosa (DPR of Paraguay) on assuming the Chairmanship of the 2025 session of the UN Disarmament Commission. I also extend my congratulations to the Bureau members and express my delegation's full support for a successful and productive session.

Building on last year's discussions, my delegation believes that this session's agenda—nuclear weapons and emerging technologies—is particularly timely and relevant in today's evolving international security landscape. We hope the Commission will make valuable recommendations to the Plenary Meeting at a time when global disarmament efforts are facing unprecedented challenges.

Mr. Chair,

Turning to our first agenda item on nuclear weapons, I would like to recall the remarks of Secretary-General António Guterres at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva last February. He warned that the so-called Doomsday Clock had moved one second closer to midnight, as some countries are investing in new nuclear weapons while others expand their nuclear arsenals and materials. Unfortunately, we are witnessing signs of

a new nuclear arms race, rather than progress in disarmament and non-proliferation.

Amid this deteriorating environment, some are intensifying their irresponsible nuclear rhetoric and conduct. Russia has repeatedly threatened to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine, withdrawn its ratification of the CTBT, and suspended participation in the New START.

North Korea presents another glaring example. Despite repeated international condemnations, it continues to pursue its reckless nuclear ambitions in a clear violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions. In 2024 alone, it launched over 50 ballistic missiles, including a new solid-fuel ICBM, and has further diversified its nuclear delivery systems. Earlier this year, Pyongyang revealed its uranium enrichment facilities again, following the first disclosure last year.

Moreover, deepening military cooperation between Russia and North Korea has seriously undermined the global non-proliferation regime. North Korea has transferred more than a hundred of short-range ballistic missiles, 200 pieces of long-range artillery, and millions of rounds of ammunition to Russia. We are deeply concerned about the possibility that Russia, in return, may provide technical support to help North Korea advance its delivery systems, such as missiles, aircrafts and even submarines. Russia's veto of the extension of the Panel of Experts under the DPRK Sanctions Committee has only created more room for these violations of Security Council resolutions to continue.

Mr. Chair,

Despite these serious setbacks, we must not relent in our efforts to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The Republic of Korea remains committed to building bridges between nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon states, and will continue its active engagement in initiatives such as the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament (CEND), the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification (IPNDV), and the Stockholm Initiative.

We also emphasize that long-standing issues must not be further delayed. The commencement of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) is long overdue, and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) remains an urgent priority.

Mr. Chair,

Emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital technology, aerospace technology, hold the potential to reshape the global peace and security landscape. While these technologies offer significant benefits, their dual-use nature also poses notable risks.

It is imperative that we cultivate a balanced understanding of how emerging technologies impact peace and security. These technologies are inherently value-neutral, and their ultimate impact depends on how we choose to utilize them. In order to leverage the benefits of these technologies while mitigating the potential risks associated with them, it is

essential to foster understanding and discussions on how we can harness these technologies responsibly.

The ROK has been actively contributing to discussions on the responsible use of emerging technologies. First, with regard to AI, we hosted the AI Seoul Summit in last May and the 2024 REAIM (Responsible AI in the Military domain) Summit last September. Furthermore, we co-led the adoption of First Committee Resolution 79/238 on AI in the military domain in collaboration with the Netherlands.

In addition, concerning Information and Communication Technologies, we organized a High-Level Open Debate on cybersecurity during our Presidency of the Security Council last June. This event shed lights on pressing issues such as malicious cyber activities and broader security threats, including non-proliferation, public safety, and democracy.

We hope that continued discussion on this topic will deepen our collective understanding of the implications of emerging technologies. Furthermore, we aspire to chart a path forward for their effective utilization while paving the way for agile and responsible governance.

In closing, the ROK hopes to ensure that the discussion in UNDC will not only harmonize but also complement other multiple ongoing initiatives. We are committed to leading this discussion and will continue to engage constructively in accordance with these objectives. I thank you.

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