Statement by Mr. Kim In Chol

First Secretary

at the Thematic Discussion on Nuclear Weapons of the First Committee

at the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Chairman,

A peaceful and safe world aspired by humankind is the denuclearized world that presupposes total elimination of nuclear weapons.

When the nuclear weapons were first used 76 years ago, the world clearly witnessed the catastrophic damage and still remembers it.

Preventing the recurrence of such nuclear calamity is the historical mission and duty our generation is entrusted with for the prosperity and happiness of the coming generations.

However, it is the today’s reality that the threat of use of nuclear weapons is continued with nuclear arms race in full swing against the aspirations and efforts of humankind for building a world free from nuclear weapons.

With more than 700 billion US$ for military expenditure every year, the United States is hell-bent on developing state-of-the-art hardware including hypersonic missiles, long-range
precision guided weapons, new-generation ICBMs, nuclear strategic bombers and it is violating non-proliferation obligations by transferring nuclear technologies to its allies.

The recent U.S. decision to transfer the technology for building nuclear-powered submarine to Australia is an extremely dangerous act destroying strategic balance of the Asia-Pacific region and triggering arms race.

Following the announcement of the program for increasing the number of nuclear weapons early this year, the UK also conducted military actions without hesitation endangering the peace and stability of the region by dispatching a nuclear aircraft carrier to the Asia-Pacific Ocean far from its land in the second half of the year.

On the other hand, bilateral and multilateral disarmament treaties that helped to promote nuclear disarmament and confidence-building for several decades were abrogated or reduced to only names one after another in recent years, thus evoking great disappointment of the international community.

Although the New START, the only remaining treaty between Russia and the U.S., was extended with much difficulty early this year, the prospect of negotiation for adopting a new treaty remains pessimistic.

All these facts clearly prove who is the ringleader that impedes the nuclear disarmament and undermines the nuclear non-proliferation regime at present.

The U.S. with the largest nuclear arsenal in the world and as the only user of nukes, should take the lead in nuclear disarmament with practical steps for reduction of nuclear weapons with special responsibility for international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

No less number of countries believe that the U.S. has become hostile towards the DPRK because it possessed nuclear weapons. This is a misunderstanding. As a matter of fact, the U.S. has been antagonizing and threatening the DPRK with nuclear weapons for several decades, and it left us with no other option but to follow the arduous road to building up self-defensive deterrent.
The war deterrent in our stock is not for targeting a specific state or forces and pursuing any supremacy, but for defending ourselves on our own.

What we mean by the war deterrent is literally the deterrent for the righteous self-defense to prevent aggressive war and safeguard the sovereignty of our state.

We are further strengthening our war deterrent to deal with the ever deteriorating security environment of the Korean Peninsula on our own active initiative.

The DPRK's activities in exercise of its right to self-defense never pose any threat and its rightful buildup of national defense capability is not harmful to the security of the neighboring countries even in the least.

All measures taken by the DPRK to strengthen its national defense capability are the righteous activities aimed to actively control the security environment of the Korean Peninsula and the region and to safeguard the security of the state and people.

The DPRK, as a responsible nuclear-weapon state, will not misuse its nuclear weapons unless the aggressive hostile forces attempt to have recourse to their nuclear weapons against it, and sincerely abide by the duties of nuclear non-proliferation assumed before the international community.

The DPRK will, in the future, too, make an active contribution to the efforts of the international community to firmly defend the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

Thank you.