

**STATEMENT BY H.E. SHIM YOON JOE
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AT THE 15TH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and the Government of Spain for their warm hospitality and wonderful arrangements, and to the OSCE Secretariat for its hard work for the Partners for Cooperation of the OSCE. I would also like to extend my appreciation for the endeavors of the Belgium Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group (ACG) for encouraging the Asian Partners for Cooperation to collaborate with the Organization. In addition, I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the Spanish Chairmanship to engage the Partners in activities and works in the OSCE by gradually elevating their participation in the decision-making and informal subsidiary bodies.

Mr. Chairman,

All of us could say that contemporary challenges and threats to the security and prosperity in the era of globalization and post-cold war are borderless and unconventional in every aspect, thus requiring a collective and cooperative response from all relevant actors. Accordingly, the OSCE's cooperation with its Partners from other continents has been increasingly reinforced and expanded beyond its limited boundaries. Based on their past activities and with a vigorous readiness for further cooperation with the OSCE, the Partners expect to participate in more outreach activities of the OSCE in and out of Europe in more tangible ways such as the Partnership Fund.

The Asian Partners have also made an endeavor to promote human security in the Organization. In-depth consultations among the participating States and the Partners on this emerging concept of human security will help activate the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security covering "politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions".

This year all the OSCE Partners for Cooperation gained a significant momentum for collective and comprehensive cooperation among themselves by launching the 1st meeting between the Mediterranean and Asian Contact Groups. We believe that this channel between the two Groups would become a solid platform for strengthening well-coordinated cooperation among the OSCE Partners for Cooperation as well as enhancing their contribution to the Organization's activities in a variety of fields.

As one of the OSCE Partners for Cooperation and as a country who stands by the international community in combating terrorism, the Republic of Korea has strived to support key projects of the OSCE.

To share the cause of the OSCE, the Korean Government launched the 1st Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum in this month, and in line with the Forum, held bilateral meetings with those countries in the region. We believe that the progress in bilateral contacts harmoniously backed by multilateral approach, will lead to the more concrete and solid confidence- and security-building capabilities, while promoting peace and prosperity from one region to another through a spill-over effect.

Distinguished Delegates,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly highlight the current status of the North Korean nuclear issue and the inter-Korean relations.

The Six-Party Talks have produced noticeable progress in the process of denuclearization of North Korea. According to the relevant agreements among the six countries, North Korea shutdown its nuclear facilities and invited IAEA experts to inspect the shutdown. Also, North Korea has cooperated in disabling its nuclear facilities led by the US experts. And we, with other participants in the Six Party Talks, expect North Korea to provide a full declaration of its nuclear program and activities by the end of this year, which is believed to work as a substantive basis for the further step toward complete and irreversible denuclearization.

In the midst of progress in the Six Party Talks, we also held a successful inter-Korean Summit early October this year, followed by subsequent meetings at various levels including the Prime Ministers' Talks and the Defense Ministers' Talks in this month. A series of such meetings between the North and the South will contribute to accumulating the habit of a dialogue between them, thus enhancing confidence-building and rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula, and the chance of reform and openness of the North Korean society.

I would like to underscore at this juncture that the development of the inter-Korean relations could be possible, under the favorable atmosphere of the international community fostered by the progress in the Six Party Talks. At the same time, I believe the two Koreas' rapprochement would, in return, contribute to further progress in the process of the Six Party Talks. In other words, the Six Party Talks and inter-Korean relations are mutually reinforcing, with progress in one sector leading the other's positive outcome. Our vision beyond the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue is to build a new security order in Northeast Asia, one that envisions a peace regime to replace the current armistice regime on the Korean peninsula and a multilateral security dialogue in the region. At this juncture, I would like to call on the continued support of the OSCE for our approach toward the new peace and security order in Northeast Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to report with satisfaction that the fourth Jeju Peace Forum held in June this year, in which the OSCE delegation also participated, adopted a declaration that new measures for cooperation in multilateral security in Northeast Asia would be based on the practical lessons from the European experience in the OSCE and the Helsinki process. I believe the experience of Europe in the multilateral framework for a security dialogue can be applied to the Northeast Asian region.

Before concluding, I would like to express my full confidence in the Government of Finland, the next Chair of the OSCE, in that Finland will fulfill this honorable and leading role with success, further making the OSCE a more effective and future-oriented body.

Thank you. /END/