

February 9, 2009

Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Kelvin Thomson MP

Thank you for your letter dated 24 December, 2008 on the 'inquiry into nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament'. I am now pleased to send you our Committee's perspectives on those matters, as attached, which has been prepared following consultations with the relevant Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the ROK.

It is my sincere hope that the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament can indeed play a valuable role, contributing to strengthening the NPT regime.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jin Park', is centered on a light-colored rectangular background.

Park, Jin  
Chairman of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Unification Committee  
The National Assembly, Republic of Korea

*The Perspectives of the Foreign Affairs, Trade and Unification Committee of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea on the 'inquiry into nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament'*

The NPT remains the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, the ROK urges the remaining States still outside the NPT, namely India, Israel, and Pakistan, to join the Treaty as non-nuclear weapon States without further delay or preconditions.

The ROK continues to urge those States which have not yet done so to bring into force Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA. To strengthen the Agency's effectiveness in verifying compliance and detecting actions of non-compliance, it is important to promote the universality of the Additional Protocol (AP) to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement. Universalization of the AP would enhance confidence in the compliance of States Parties with their non-proliferation obligations. The ROK urges those States that have not yet signed or ratified the AP to do so without further delay.

The ROK attaches great importance to the achievement of the entry into force of the CTBT. The ROK calls upon all States that have not yet ratified the Treaty, particularly those eleven States whose ratification is required for its entry into force, to do so at the earliest possible date. It is our firm belief that existing moratoriums on nuclear testing by all countries must be maintained, while sustained support is being accorded for the early establishment of an effective monitoring mechanism for the CTBT. Meanwhile, pending the entry into force of the CTBT, it is imperative to maintain the moratorium on nuclear test explosions.

The ROK calls for the prompt commencement of negotiations on a universal and

verifiable FMCT in the Conference of Disarmament, and calls upon nuclear-weapon States and non-NPT States to declare and abide by a moratorium on the production of fissile material for any nuclear weapons pending the entry into force of the FMCT.

The declaration by the DPRK of withdrawal from the NPT in 2003 and its ensuing nuclear test in 2006, together with a lack of an effective means of responding to such situations within the Treaty regime itself, raised serious questions as to the validity and viability of the Treaty.

The three pillars the NPT stands on - nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy- are mutually reinforcing and should be promoted in a balanced manner. Preserving the delicate balance among the three pillars is vital for the credibility and viability of the NPT regime.

There is need for parliaments to cooperate among themselves to urge the remaining states still outside the NPT to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to call upon the eleven states whose ratification is required for the entry into force of the CTBT, to do so at the earliest possible date.