

First Committee of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly

Cluster 4 (Conventional Weapons)

Mr. Chair,

As the Secretary-General noted in his Disarmament Agenda, due to the widespread of availability of conventional weapons, armed conflicts have become more protracted, complex, disruptive, and difficult to recover from. The Republic of Korea reiterates its sincere commitment to working closely with the international community to address the challenges posed by conventional weapons.

Mr. Chair,

(Arms Trade Treaty)

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) aims to establish the highest possible common standards for conventional arms trade, reducing human suffering as well as violence against women and children. The ATT has been a milestone achievement in fostering well-regulated and legal trade in arms while preventing illicit trade and diversion.

As a strong supporter of the ATT, the Republic of Korea has been actively participating in the forum and has recently assumed the Presidency of its ninth Conference of States Parties (CSP9). Furthermore, as part of our endeavor to strengthen the implementation and universalization of the Treaty, the Republic of Korea has also made financial contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Program to support States for its effective implementation of the ATT.

We welcome the discussion at the 8th Conference of States Parties to the ATT on the President's working paper on post-shipment controls, which can contribute to preventing diversion, and we hope to have further discussions within the ATT. The Republic of Korea also appreciates the progress on the Voluntary Guide in assisting States Parties and hopes to continue the work. We also welcome the inaugural meeting of Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF) through which we can share relevant information contributing to safeguarding against potential diversions.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to draw delegations' attention to the draft resolution on the ATT(A/C.1/77/L.39). As the President of the CSP9, the Republic of Korea has the honor to submit the ATT draft resolution to the First Committee this year. We look forward to extensive support from Member States on the draft resolution.

Mr. Chair,

(Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons)

We recognize that the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons is interconnected with other areas, including international peace and security, terrorism, domestic and transnational organized crimes, drugs, women and children's rights, and socio-economic development. My delegation would like to reiterate full commitment to the UN Program of Action (PoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as the International Tracing Instrument(ITI). We welcome the consensus outcome document of the 8th biennial meeting of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects which was held this June.

Mr. Chair,

(Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons)

The Republic of Korea remains committed to the framework of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which strikes a balance between security concerns and humanitarian considerations of States Parties.

The issue of emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons system (LAWS) has certainly been one of the focuses of our discussions in the CCW framework for the last several years. We welcome the progress made this year by the Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS through the adoption of the report of the 2022 session and we hope to continue our efforts through the GGE process until a consensus is reached on normative and operative frameworks on emerging technologies in the areas of LAWS.

(EWIPA)

Moreover, sharing the concern on a devastating impact of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the Republic of Korea looks forward to the High-Level Conference to be held in Dublin on November 18 where we will endorse the political declaration on Strengthening Protection of Civilians from Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas.

Mr. Chair,

(Anti-Personnel Landmine Ban Treaty)

The Republic of Korea aligns itself with the objectives and purposes of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention while it is yet to accede to the Ottawa Convention at this point, given its unique security situation on the Korean Peninsula. Accordingly, the Republic of Korea reaffirms that, as a State Party to the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II of the CCW) (as amended on 3 May 1996), it has been fully complying with its obligations and relevant norms.

We are also participating in the international cooperation efforts to support those affected by landmines through multilateral channels including the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine action and the International Trust Fund for Enhancing Human Security, as well as through bilateral capacity building programs to assist the mine affected population and communities. We will continue to work closely with the international community in this area.

Thank you. /END/