

STATEMENT BY
MR. SHIN DONG-IK
DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MULTILATERAL AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AT THE 20TH MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
KIEV, 6 DECEMBER 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship for its warm hospitality and hard work to produce successful outcomes at this Ministerial Council meeting. I also join other delegations in expressing my condolences and paying tribute to the life and legacy of former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

Having shared common values and security concerns with the OSCE, the Korean Government is committed to cooperating with the Organization in various fields. The European experience provides valuable lessons to our region of Northeast Asia. The Helsinki Process, with a vision of ‘comprehensive and cooperative security,’ has been gradually, yet significantly changing the geopolitical landscape by ending the Cold War, and thereby greatly contributed to building stability in Europe, and ultimately peace and security in the world.
Mr. Chairman,

Currently in Northeast Asia, we are witnessing the so-called “Asia Paradox” – an imbalance between the ever-growing economic interdependence and the weak political and security cooperation. The escalating tension over North Korean nuclear weapons program, arms race, and historical and territorial issues pose a serious challenge to the regional security and cooperation. We should not allow, however, such tension, confrontation, and distrust to stand in the way of the opportunities given to us. We need to change these conditions to help usher in a new future. The regional security and prosperity can only be promoted when we lead change, instead of waiting for change, with a common understanding and shared vision, like the European leaders did in the past.

The Korean Government under President Park Geun-hye is actively pursuing “Trustpolitik” to forge stronger cooperation in the region by building trust and confidence. As part of “Trustpolitik,” Korea proposed the “Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative,” a plan to transform Northeast Asia into a region bound by trust and cooperation. The initiative proposes to start small but meaningful cooperation within the region, steadily implementing practices that would build mutual confidence and later establish a regional mechanism. We can address softer issues, such as disaster relief, nuclear safety, terrorism, and climate change. Over the past months, the Initiative has been welcomed and supported by countries in the region and many others including the OSCE’s Participating States, the EU, and ASEAN.

This initiative is still in its early stage, and requires time and patience to be institutionalized. It is open and flexible in its pursuit of peace and cooperation in Northeast Asia. Thus, I would like to ask the OSCE and its Participating States for their continued support for and contribution to the process. In this regard, we are happy to host a seminar on the “Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation” with the OSCE Secretariat next week in Vienna.

Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE is taking meaningful steps to cope with transnational threats like terrorism, drug trafficking, and cyber-security challenges. The “Helsinki+40” process is timely and relevant, as it aims at redefining the strategic direction to enhance the response to these challenges in the OSCE region and beyond. As an Asian Partner for Cooperation with almost a 20-year-long relationship with the OSCE in an inextricably linked world, the Republic of Korea has been making modest contributions in achieving the vision of “free, democratic, common, and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community” set forth in the Astana Summit in 2010.

First, Korea worked to further promote international cyber security cooperation, as cyber security cooperation is growing increasingly critical in ensuring security, economic, prosperity and human rights. As part of an effort to address increasing cyber threats, Korea hosted the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace in October, where more than 1,600 delegates from 87 countries attended, and produced the ‘Seoul Framework for and Commitment to Open and Secure Cyberspace’ as an outcome. Based on this experience, Korea will be able to contribute to the OSCE’s on-going work to conceptualize and operationalize its role in tackling cyber threats.

Second, the Korean Government supports the strengthened role of the OSCE as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, we hope to arrange a discussion meeting in the context of the UN Security Council agenda next year.

Third, welcoming the efforts of the OSCE to revise its principles governing non-proliferation which was adopted in 1994, I would like to draw attention to the North Korean nuclear issue. The Korean government welcomes the agreement made between P5+1 and Iran on November 24 on the initial steps to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through the Joint Action Plan. We expect that the faithful implementation of these steps would contribute to building peace and stability in the region and beyond.

North Korea has been posing a serious threat to global security by conducting nuclear tests and launching long-range missiles. North Korea appears steadfast in developing nuclear weapons in line with its new policy of parallel pursuit of nuclear arsenal and economic development. The Republic of Korea is putting stronger pressure on and robust diplomacy towards North Korea in close cooperation with the international community to achieve North Korea's denuclearization.

As seen in the case of the Iranian nuclear issue, it is important that the international community makes unified efforts to persuade North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons and become a responsible member of the international community. The Korean government appreciates the participating countries of the OSCE for sending firm messages for the denuclearization of North Korea. We look forward to your continued support in changing the attitude of North Korea.

Lastly, Korea is now developing the 'Eurasia Initiative,' aimed at establishing a multi-purpose logistics network that connects Eurasia and creates new growth engines by combining it with Information and Communications Technology (ICT), such as satellite-based global positioning system for shipping containers. This can contribute to energy security and reducing environmental risks produced by ineffective transportation of energy in the continent. "Silk road express" will connect the southern port city Busan at the tip of the Korean Peninsula to London through railways and roads covering Central Asia, Europe, Northeast Asia, and ASEAN. Korea and Russia will embark on the Najin-Hasan pilot project to connect trans-Siberia railroads with the Korean peninsula. This project will ultimately move Korea closer to Europe and the OSCE with a vision of the Eurasian Security Community.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by expressing again our thanks to the Ukrainian Chairmanship this year and our support for the chairmanship of Switzerland next year. Thank you. /END/