

## **Exchange of Views on Regional and International Security Situation (ROK)**

### **Introduction**

Thank you Mr. Chairman!

Greetings, all delegations for ASEAN Regional Forum. I am Brigadier General Park Chul Kyun, Director General for International Policy, the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense.

First, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of Korean delegation to Government officials of Myanmar for arranging this meaningful event.

### **Assessment of Asia-Pacific Region's Security Environment**

As the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is called "the era of Asia-Pacific," the Asia-Pacific region is drawing significance evermore, and the need for interdependency and cooperation further arises in all areas including economy and trade.

In Asia, however, there remain rooms for disputes and cooperations due to a long history and culture differences. On top of that, we face new threats including large-scale disasters, world-wide climate change, energy security, and piracy.

In order to respond to these diverse and complex security threats, we are in need of collective efforts by the international community going beyond individual nations more than ever.

### **Achievement of Regional Multilateral Cooperation**

As an important multilateral consultation mechanism with major East Asian nations since 1994, ARF Process has been making contributions to regional trust-building process and development of preventative diplomacy through candid discussions on regional security issues including resolution of nuclear issues, and diverse issues calling for cooperation including terrorism, trans-national crimes, maritime security, disaster management.

Even so, we are still in the midst of outstanding challenges disrupting regional peace and stability. All of us are well aware that we need to share a common understanding on those challenges and collectively put in efforts to prepare effective measures for such challenges.

### **North Korean threats and ROK Government's Stance**

Despite the world-wide trend of reinforcing international cooperation through trust-building, the Northeast Asian security condition around the Korean Peninsula has

not been showing substantial improvement. Especially, North Korean nuclear and missile threats serve as a critical instability factor for the Asia-Pacific Region.

North Korea is scheming in diverse aggressions and military provocations including launch of various missile in the East Sea, illegal breach of NLI and maritime artillery provocation in the West Sea, and reconnaissance activities through infiltration of a small UAV.

Moreover, North Korea has not forgone its obsession over gaining nuclear capabilities despite continuous sanctions by the UN Security Council. North Korean development and possession of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles is not only in a direct violation of the UNSCR and the International Non-Proliferation regime, but is also tantamount to provocation destabilizing the entire region inviting arms race and WMP proliferation.

Such reckless actions will not be tolerated in order to preserve regional peace including the Korean Peninsula. The neighboring countries and the international community must reinforce effective cooperation's under a firm principle urging North Korea to give up its nuclear program.

The Republic of Korean government is pushing ahead with the 'Trust Building process in the Korean Peninsula' and 'Dresden Initiative' in order to deter North Korean military Provocation and to improve inter-Korean relationship. ROK government will implement a consistent North Korean Policy based on principles and trust.

We will break the North Korea's vicious cycle of "Provocation - dialogue – additional provocation' based on our robust security, and invite North Korea to change its posture in a sincere manner.

Although North Korea is simultaneously pursuing both nuclear program and economic development, it is an impossible pursuit in reality. If North Korea gives up on nuclear development, our government is willing to provide North Korea with a large-scale economic assistance.

Our government is putting in utmost efforts to help North Korea to make positive changes through the right choices and become a responsible member of the international community. We ask for positive supports and considerations from the international community on our governments efforts.

## **Conclusion**

Our efforts to enhance the regional peace and stability have been evolving more diverse and complex. With the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, requirements for defense cooperation among regional nations have been expanding in various areas such as large-scale natural disasters and cyber security. It is imperative that related countries come together to collectively and effectively respond to such requirements.

We believe that we are in need of multilateral approach that can effectively expand and develop international cooperation for the regional peace and stability including the Korean Peninsula. The Republic of Korea has been continuously and actively participating in defense cooperation on diverse areas ever since the establishment of ARF and the dialogues for defense officials under the ARF framework.

Moreover, the Republic of Korea has been hosting ‘Seoul Defense Dialogue (SDD),’ a dialogue for senior defense officials on improvement of Asia-Pacific security condition and international security cooperation, as an opportunity to enhance mutual understandings on each other’s defense policy and the mutual trust between defense authorities.

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere hope that our efforts will lead to international trust-building and mutual development while we solidify the foundation for regional peace and stability

Thank you for listening.