Statement by Ambassador Paik Ji-ah  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
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Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency  

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Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), for reviewing the IAEA’s work over the last year and outlining future priorities. With nuclear power and applications of nuclear technology expected to play a growing role in the coming decades, we attach great importance to the central role of the Agency in promoting safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We are pleased with the Report, which well summarizes the wide range of the Agency’s work carried out in line with the priorities set by its Member States. Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to comment on the Agency’s activities and related developments in the fields of nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

First of all, the IAEA has made important contributions to the global nuclear safety framework, both in terms of improving the safety standards of nuclear facilities and materials and increasing awareness of safety-related issues among Member States. We look forward to the continued implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.
We also look forward to the publication of the comprehensive report on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident planned for next year. My delegation sincerely hopes that the important lessons and recommendations that could be drawn from the accident will be incorporated into each Member State's nuclear safety infrastructure in order to better prepare us to avoid such tragic accidents and minimize the impact from the accidents in the future. In this regard, we hope that the commitment to sharing information in a transparent and timely manner continues.

Mr. President,

We are pleased to note the IAEA's many productive activities in the field of nuclear security over the last year. We look forward to the second International Conference on Nuclear Security to be held in December 2016, based on the outcome of the first Conference in 2013. The work of the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee has also been fruitful, contributing to greater transparency, quality, coherence and consistency of the nuclear security guidance publications. In addition, we appreciate the Agency's focused approach on bringing into force the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM (Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material) which has resulted in additional ratifications by Member states, including Korea's in May.

The Nuclear Security Summit process, which began in Washington D.C. and continued through Seoul and The Hague, and the IAEA's efforts to support national and international efforts to establish and maintain effective nuclear security, have been mutually reinforcing. The summit served as a useful mechanism to consolidate political commitment at the highest level to promote nuclear security over the globe, while the Agency has played an important role in translating this enhanced political momentum into concrete actions. As we prepare for the 4th Nuclear Security Summit in 2016, we look forward to exploring ways to maximize synergy between the IAEA and the NSS process.

Mr. President,

Turning to safeguards-related issues, my delegation appreciates the Agency's efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of safeguards implementation. We welcome that the IAEA Board of Governance took note of the Supplementary Document to the report on the State Level Concept (SLC). We are convinced that the State Level Concept will allow the Agency to make better use of its resources by concentrating effort on areas of greater safeguards significance and improving responsiveness to changing circumstances. We are
also encouraged by the continuing increase in the number of comprehensive safeguards agreements (CSAs), additional protocols (APs) and amended small quantities protocols (SQPs) in force.

However, the cases of non-compliance by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran and Syria continue to pose grave challenges to the international non-proliferation regime and the IAEA safeguards system. Of particular concern to my delegation is North Korea’s continuous pursuit of its nuclear capability. The DPRK has conducted three nuclear tests and publicly threatened the international society with the announcement of further nuclear tests. In addition, North Korea continued its nuclear activities in Yongbyon, including the operation of 5MWe graphite moderated reactor. As the IAEA Director General aptly highlighted in his latest report of September 2014, such actions are clear violations of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We once again urge the DPRK to come into full compliance with its obligations under all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and commitments under the 2005 September 19th Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. Standing firm by its principle that North Korea's nuclear ambition cannot be tolerated, the Republic of Korea will continue its efforts to achieve complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea with the international community.

Turning to the Iranian nuclear issue, we commend the Agency for its effort to actively engage Iran under the Framework for Cooperation agreed in November 2013 with the aim of resolving all present and past verification issues of Iranian nuclear program. We also appreciate the Agency’s role in verifying and monitoring Iran’s voluntary measures under the Joint Plan of Action agreed between P5+1 and Iran in November 2013. We call upon Iran to work closely with the Agency in order to resolve all outstanding issues including those related to possible military dimensions in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

In light of our full support for the IAEA’s work to achieve our common goal of harnessing nuclear energy in the service of peace and development for humanity, the Republic of Korea is pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution on the Report of the IAEA.

Thank you, Mr. President. /END/