Mr. President,

At the outset, the Republic of Korea welcomes the first democratic transition of power in Afghanistan’s history. We believe that the recent inauguration of the new Afghan President, based on the political agreement to form a government of national unity, signals a new era of Afghan-led efforts toward peace and prosperity.

In particular, we appreciate the courage and determination of the Afghan people, especially the Afghan women, who actively participated in elections despite threats and violence posed by the Taliban and other terrorist groups. The support of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and global electoral observers during the electoral process is also commendable.
Mr. President,

The new Afghan government faces a multitude of challenges, including issues of security, governance, and human rights. Given the Afghan National Security Forces’ assumption of full responsibility for security and the International Security Assistance Force’ withdrawal at the end of this year, continuous international assistance is critical.

In this regard, we appreciate ISAF leaders’ Wales Summit Declaration in September that envisages the establishment of the short-term Resolute Support Mission (RSM) to train, advise and assist the Afghan Forces, and their commitment to continuously finance the Afghan National Security Forces beyond 2014. We also welcome the conclusion of the Bilateral Security Agreement between the United States and Afghanistan and the Status of Forces Agreement between NATO and Afghanistan.
My delegation recognizes that the transition requires not only a process to improve security situation, but also the full assumption of Afghan leadership and ownership in governance. The decision of the international community to muster long-term support depends on the Afghan government’s progress in key areas under the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework. The London Conference on Afghanistan this December will serve as an important opportunity to review those progresses and reaffirm the international community’s commitments.

The Afghan government must redouble its efforts in the promotion of human rights, especially those of women, as well as good governance, including its fight against corruption and illicit economy. We call for full implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Anti-Money Laundering Law in this regard.
Enhanced regional dialogue and confidence-building measures are also important to ensure lasting peace and security in Afghanistan. We note the fourth Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference held in Beijing on 31 October and “Beijing Declaration”, which furthered the Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan.

National reconciliation owned by Afghans and led by Afghans will be essential for the lasting peace and security in Afghanistan. We look forward to further progress on political dialogue and peace negotiations among all relevant stakeholders under a newly launched Afghan government of unity.

Mr. President,

Today’s resolution, to be adopted by consensus, embodies the political will of all Member States to support the Afghan people in their political and national reconstruction process.
The Republic of Korea has actively taken part in the global contribution for reconstruction and stability in Afghanistan since it joined the ISAF contributing nations in 2010. As part of such efforts, we have operated our Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Parwan province, Afghanistan, until June 2014, mainly focusing on four key areas – Medical and Health, Education, Governance, and Rural Development.

Moreover, my Government has contributed 250 million US dollars in financial assistance to date, for both the sustainment of the Afghan National Security Forces and the socio-economic development of Afghanistan, since it pledged to provide 500 million US dollars to Afghanistan in 2011.

We will continue our support to Afghanistan including the financial contribution beyond 2014 so that the Afghan government and its people can realize a prosperous, stable, and democratic Afghanistan for all Afghans. Thank you. /End/