

UN Secretary-General's five-point plan for nuclear disarmament: Is it feasible?

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Good afternoon, I am Lee Mikyung, co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament and a member of the South Korean National Assembly.

I feel privileged to take part in this forum today along with representatives from PNND. First and foremost, I would like to thank those at PNND who organized this annual council. I find it encouraging that the two organizations' continued efforts toward nuclear disarmament have been producing results.

As you know, Elinor Ostrom was just selected as one of the two scholars for the Nobel Prize in Economics for her pioneering work on how to *manage* common property. We, the PNND, has done a more pioneering work on how to *save* the global commons from nuclear destruction. Not only did we merely talk or write about it, like economists, but we have in fact *acted* to create the world without nuclear weapons. So I see the Nobel Prize in Economics coming our way soon. And of course, we may become the first and only recipient that receives two Nobel Prizes, for we are entitled to the Nobel Peace Prize too.

Challenges and Opportunities for a "World Free of Nuclear Weapons"

Today, we have come together to discuss our interest in establishing a world free of nuclear weapons based on the five-point nuclear disarmament plan proposed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

I welcome the unanimous vote in favor of UN Security Council Resolution 1887, which was passed as part of an effort to create a world free of nuclear weapons at the 5th summit of UN Security Council member states held last month.

We have long worked to rid the world of nuclear weapons, but frankly speaking, many of us weren't optimistic about the feasibility of realizing our dream until recently.

Although the collapse of the socialist world led to the end of the cold war, nuclear weapons remained and continued to pose a threat to world peace. The US and Russia have been lukewarm toward negotiations for nuclear disarmament, and in the meantime non-nuclear weapon states have persistently attempted to arm themselves with nuclear

weapons. The post-Cold War world looked as grim as the Cold War world.

Fortunately, however, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon demonstrated the firm determination and leadership to resolve the issue, and President Obama emerged as the Nobel Peace Prize winning advocate of a "world free of nuclear weapons." Now we have an unprecedented opportunity to move toward the goal of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

In order to seize the moment and build on the momentum, I would like to make a three point proposal and tie it to Secretary General Ban's recent proposal and President Obama's commitment to nuclear disarmament.

Proposal for a "World Free of Nuclear Weapons"

As I reflect on the critical moments and the progresses, I humbly submit that three efforts are required at the regional level in order to create a world without nuclear weapons.

First of all, a world free of nuclear weapons can be realized only when there is a joint effort between nuclear weapon states, non-nuclear weapon states, and UN-related international organizations. Nuclear weapon states' unilateral advocacy for non-proliferation would lose its persuasiveness if they themselves do not act to reduce and ultimately remove their nuclear weapons. Non-nuclear weapon states' call for nuclear disarmament would gain strength when they unequivocally embrace nonproliferation. International organization must act as an impartial mediator between the two and a trusted guarantor of the world peace.

Second, as we have learned from events on the Korean peninsula, denuclearization can be successfully carried out only when it is based on mutual trust among the states in the region. Without mutual trust firmly in place, discussions of regional denuclearization could ultimately produce increased security competition. When denuclearization takes place in the direction of strengthening regional security based on mutual trust, security concerns are dispelled and regional denuclearization becomes possible. Hence we must create regional peace architectures that decrease suspicion about each other and that increase confidence in each other.

Third, transparency must be guaranteed when discussing reducing or dismantling nuclear weapons, and this can be achieved when all parties take joint action under a specific plan. Here international organizations have unique roles to play by acting as an impartial and authoritative voice. As such, I am certain that the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP), which is an expanded form of CTR, will serve as an excellent foundation for establishing regions

free of nuclear weapons, the culmination of which will be a world without nuclear weapons.

Implementation of the Five-point Plan Proposed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

I believe the five-point plan advanced by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is a truly powerful proposal that can help make my ideas a reality. I join General Secretary Ban in urging the nuclear power states to fulfill their obligation under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to undertake negotiations on effective measures leading to nuclear disarmament. Non-NPT states should freeze their own nuclear-weapon capabilities and make their own disarmament commitments. Also I support his appeal to begin discussions on ways to unambiguously assure non-nuclear-weapon states that they will not be subject to the use or the threat of use of nuclear weapons. These are exactly the same steps I call for in my proposal.

It is my understanding that President Obama has recently taken a positive stance regarding the United States' joining of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). I take this opportunity to urge all the states that have yet to ratify the CTBT, including the US, China, India, North Korea, Iran and Israel, to take actions to ratify the treaty in the very near future.

Furthermore, I urge nuclear weapon states to join in the effort to free the world of nuclear weapons by supporting nuclear disarmament- and non-proliferation-related resolutions at the UN, such as the "effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons."

A world free of nuclear weapons cannot be created solely by the effort of the UN, the United States, non-nuclear weapon states or international peace organizations. All nations need to actively take part in the effort to establish such a world through action. In light of this, I believe the role of PNND is more critical than ever.

We should aggressively call upon each nation around the world to commit to the common cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We should vigorously work together with all the nations to make a concrete progress next year at the Global Nuclear Summit in March and the NPT Review Conference in May. The year 2010 will be a year critical to the realization of a world free of nuclear weapons. We shall march on until we reach the goal and until we are recognized with dual Nobel Prizes.

Thank you.