High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Mr. KIM Won-soo

Remarks at

Lunch for the Korean victims of the atomic bombing

hosted by RoK Consul- General

(as prepared)

ANA Crowne Plaza
Hiroshima
5 August 2016
Consul-General Seo Jang-eun  
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a privilege to join you again in Hiroshima as we remember those twenty thousand Koreans who perished in the atomic bombing that took place seventy-one years ago. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the thousands of Koreans who died in the bombing of Nagasaki.

On this day we also remember those Koreans that survived and endured tremendous difficulties in the aftermath of the bombings.

When the Secretary-General visited the Korean Memorial in 2010 he said, “I am a citizen of the Republic of Korea. I come here today as a citizen of the world.”

Today we remember those departed Korean souls as we remember all those who died.

Nuclear weapons do not discriminate. They do not differentiate between genders, ages, religions or races. We pray for all those who perished, regardless of their nationalities.

The more than fifteen thousand nuclear weapons in the world threaten all of humanity. Their use would unleash a human and environmental tragedy.

The only way to ensure that there are no more victims of nuclear warfare is through complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament.

Those states that possess nuclear weapons have an obligation to honour their commitments and lead the way. But all states have a responsibility to find common ground through inclusive dialogue. We must work together to achieve our shared dream of a world free of nuclear weapons.

That is the lesson of Hiroshima. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, “This place teaches us that it is the common duty of everyone, everywhere, to seek their total elimination”.

I ask all of you to work towards this noble goal.

Thank you so much, Consul-General Seo, for organising this solemn gathering. I also want to thank the brave Korean survivor who joins us today, as well as the leaders of the Korean community and the representatives from Japanese political parties and civil society.