

Mr. Chairman

Honorable Delegates

On behalf of the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I wish to express my gratitude to your excellent and friendly reception and to the kind assistance of the Ministry of Commerce for the sincere efforts made for this Assembly visit for the first time in our country.

With the national reunification as our common goal, the conditions where direct cultural, scientific and religious exchanges are necessary, the important role of advancing economic relations growth on the basis of increasing bilateral trade, we have initiated a long-term plan of Commerce, the city of long before in the 1950s. In the 21st century, the country is

Speech by Mr. An Tong Chun

Vice-Speaker

Supreme People's Assembly

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

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Mr. Chairman,

Honorable Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to express my gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. President Heng Samrin and to the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the sincere efforts made to host this Assembly and for the kind hospitality we have received.

We are national parliamentarians of Asian continent, the continent where diverse culture, tradition and religious belief exist in harmony, the continent that is achieving astonishing economic growth on the basis of its immense potentials. Today we have gathered here in Phnom Penh of Cambodia, the city of long history, in the high spirit that the 21st century is the century of Asia.

This assembly serves as an important occasion in securing peace and stability and achieving sustainable development, the common goal of the Asian people overcoming differences between nations.

Today, as the political and economic pivot of the world is being shifted from the West to Asia ensuring peace and stability in the region and promoting dialogue, reconciliation and cooperation based on justice and equality by the joint efforts of the parliaments of APA members have become an important task.

To this end, I appreciate "Promoting Peace, Reconciliation and Dialogue in Asia" as the theme of this Assembly and I believe that the Phnom Penh Declaration to be adopted in this Assembly should embody unanimous opinions of member parliaments.

The increasing strategic value of the Asian-Pacific region entails arbitrary practices and conflict of interests among big powers and this, in turn, further complicates the security environment in the Asian region.

Destabilizing factors such as territorial disputes and legacies of history have become more apparent and, with the emergence of extremist forces, acts of terrorism and violence have become more frequent, most of them being staged in Asia.

Right now the means of military pressure and confrontation reigns over the efforts to dissolve these issues through reconciliation and negotiation for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

Situation on the Korean peninsula plays a crucial role in ensuring peace and security in Asia.

The DPRK aspires after peace in the ideas of independence, peace and friendship and desires peaceful environment.

Under the outstanding Songun (military-first) leadership of respected Marshal **Kim Jong Un**, the DPRK government has set development its economy and improvement of people's livelihood as important policy goals and concentrates all the efforts to it.

State investment and efforts are being channeled into further improving people's dietary life onto a higher level with agricultural production, animal husbandry and fishing industry as three main pillars and the national economy firmly stays in track for growth as innovative changes are introduced in the management method and strategy of overall sectors of industry and agriculture.

Unbelievable speed was created in construction and, with this year alone, we have completed several infra-structure construction projects including dozens of hydroelectric power plants and increased national assets that contribute to enhancing the welfare of the people.

However, we still have more work to do than what we already have done and hence we need to promote economic exchange with regional partners and investment from them.

We have established Economic Development Zones in many provinces of the country and we are making steady progress in the program to expand

and develop tourism, while taking institutional and legislative measures to create favorable investment environment to draw investment from outside.

In order to guarantee sustainable economic development and to effect substantial improvement in people's livelihood we need peaceful environment more than anything else, and increased tension is by no means any help to us. However, durable peace has not yet settled on the Korean peninsula even after sixty years since the armistice agreement was reached.

The August incident, in which a minor case of unidentified reason led the situation to the brink of war in an instance, has left an important lesson that the current Armistice agreement which remains only in paper can no longer preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The joint military exercise conducted by the US and south Korea in different codenames and scales are creating additional possibilities of accidental incidents that might trigger unpredictable disasters.

Out of the desire to terminate the unstable state of armistice persisting on the Korean Peninsula and establish a permanent peace system, we have clearly reiterated our stand to promptly replace the armistice agreement by a peace treaty.

Ever since the armistice agreement was concluded, the DPRK has put forward fair and realistic proposal and initiatives to supplant the armistice agreement by a peace treaty and exerted steady and sincere efforts on every possible occasions.

Our peace proposal draws support and sympathy from many countries.

However, the US, a party to the armistice agreement and the very one that holds the wartime operation control of south Korean army, and its vassal forces, are still turning their faces away our just proposal.

Anyone interested in the regional peace and stability should pay closer attention to terminating the anti-DPRK hostile policy of the US which is the biggest obstacle to the solution of the Korean peninsula issue and establishing a stable peace system.

We consistently assert that the north and the south of Korea be reunified in the federal formula in order to ease tension and preserve peace and stability on the peninsula.

The federal formula we have proposed is the most rational and peaceful way to reunify the country without dispute or conflict while keeping the two different systems intact and establishing a reunified federal state through nation-wide dialogue and reconciliation.

Some of the preceding "regimes" of south Korea expressed their agreement to the federal formula or came up with similar proposals and quite a few agreements for reconciliation and cooperation were reached between the north and the south in the past. Yet, none of them saw a proper implementation.

Again, it is attributable to none other than the US, the very one that has divided the Korean peninsula into two parts and who is still trying to take advantage of the division of the country and tension on the Peninsula for the realization of its strategic goals.

It is our consistent stand to put an end to the tension on the Korean peninsula in a peaceful way, through dialogue and negotiation, and contribute to peace and stability in the Northeast Asian region.

We are convinced that the replacement of the Armistice Agreement by a peace treaty and the reunification in federal formula is a practical way to contribute to peace and security in Asia and we will exert every sincere effort to this end.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the member states of APA for their support to and solidarity with the efforts of our Republic to ensure peace and stability and realize reconciliation and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and we hereby affirm that the DPRK will make positive contributions to peace, stability and prosperity of Asia by pooling efforts with the Asian countries.

Thank you.