

**Speech by Mr. Ri Jong Hyok,
the Head of the Delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Your Esteemed Excellency President,

Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the National Assembly of the Republic of Zambia for the warm hospitality and for their enormous efforts for hosting the IPU Assembly.

Africa which has suffered from suppression and exploitation by outside forces for decades is now playing a significant role in the international arena as "the youngest continent" of the world.

Hence it is of great significance to hold this assembly in the beautiful city of Lusaka on the general theme of rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth.

Utilizing the enthusiasm and potential of youth in promoting democracy, the universal value of humankind is a matter that requires constant attention of each and every country including African nations with the largest population of youth.

Due to aggression, interference and intrusion by corrupt ideology and culture, the youth in many countries are becoming the first victims of terrorism and extremism.

We can help and lead the youth find their righteous place in the digital era of today by giving them greater say or they will be left unattended only to cast dark clouds over the future of humankind.

In this regard, we appreciate the efforts of the IPU to give fresh momentum to promoting democracy by encouraging the member states to give greater say to youth in their respective parliament as well as in all spheres of social life.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The DPR Korea takes immense pride in having fully solved the issue of youth by constantly attaching strategic importance to it as a crucial matter that affects the future of the country and nation under the wise leadership of the great President **Kim Il Sung** and the great General **Kim Jong Il**.

The great leaders always said that whatever the present generation fails to accomplish can be done by the coming generations, but the work of properly raising the coming generations itself can, by no means, be left unfinished. On this lofty sense of duty, they unfolded the policy of loving the future and the rising generations to raise the youth into the most reliable and energetic unit of society.

The youth in our country was once subject to forcible drafting and sexual slavery by the imperialists under the colonial rule during the time of Second World War. After the national liberation they turned out in building a new country under the slogan "Youth Unite as One under the Banner of

Democracy” put forward by the great President **Kim Il Sung** and, from then on, they grew into the heroes of the era.

The respected Marshal **Kim Jong Un** who is invariably carrying forward the noble intentions of the great leaders has put forward attaching importance to youth as one of the three strategic pillars of his policy and opens up the new era of a youth power, unprecedented in the world history.

In recent years, the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPR Korea has channeled its efforts to providing legal and constitutional framework to let the youth give full play to their creative wisdom and enthusiasm in all fields of society including politics, economy and culture.

The average age of the members of DPRK Supreme People’s Assembly after 2013 election became younger by 10 to 15 years and the state entrusted the youth with major socio-political projects and tasks for economic construction.

Even under the gravest nuclear threats and toughest sanctions regime for decades, the DPR Korea has advanced in full vigor and energy creating world astonishing miracles since it had a robust rank of youth that always march straight forward faithfully following the leadership of the respected Comrade **Kim Jong Un**.

I believe the most urgent task that parliaments face today is to remove the danger of war and disaster and firmly secure the promising future for the youth.

Unfortunately, however, the Korean peninsula is being turned into the hotbed of nuclear war that could burn all the hopes of youth for the future down to ashes in an instance due to the hostile policy of the United States towards the DPR Korea.

To secure the future for the youth, we need to secure peace, and to secure peace on the Korean peninsula the hostile policy of the U.S. has to be terminated and the fragile DPRK-U.S. Armistice Agreement has to be replaced with a peace agreement.

The DPRK’s consistent stand for the conclusion of a peace agreement is convincing and acceptable to anyone in view of humankind’s desire for peace, hence it is winning world-wide support.

However, the United States totally ignored our peace-oriented proposal and neither talks of various formula nor any of international organizations could stop the hostile policy or terminate nuclear threat of the U.S. against the DPR Korea.

The United States is also trying to take away the right to peaceful development of space from the DPR Korea by fabricating a heinous “resolution on sanctions” at the United Nations Security Council, labeling our launch of satellite as a “threat to the world peace and security”.

The DPR Korea miniaturized and standardized nuclear warheads to be fit for ballistic rockets as a measure to protect the sovereignty and security of the country and nation from the ever-increasing nuclear threat by the United States.

It is none other than the United States and their constant nuclear threat persisting for the past 30 years that compelled and drove the DPR Korea into developing nuclear warheads.

Even at this very moment as I make my statement, the United States and south Korea are conducting a joint nuclear war exercise targeting the DPRK and imposing imminent threat upon the country and they openly advertise that the objective of the drills is to assess the feasibility of war operation plans aimed at invading and toppling the DPR Korea.

The south Korean authorities are claiming that it is okay to host the most aggressive army in the world in its territory to bring danger to the DPR Korea and when the DPRK tries to defend itself it has to be condemned and punished for self-defense.

If the U.S. truly wishes for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and the solution of the nuclear issue that they talk so much about, they should admit that the root cause of escalated tension on the peninsula is their ceaseless military and nuclear threat and make a political decision to eradicate the hostility of the DPRK-U.S. relations.

The DPR Korea will continue to further develop its nuclear deterrence against the enemy's aggressive attempts to ignite a nuclear war and the pace of the development will be set according to the behavior of the United States and any change in their attitude towards us.

The DPR Korea will further consolidate the solidarity with the world progressives opposing aggression, war, domination and subjugation and expand and develop the friendly and cooperative relations with all the IPU member states who respect the sovereignty of the DPR Korea and who are friendly towards us.

Thank you,