

Joint Press Statement for the 14th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue

The Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of National Defense (MND) and the United States (U.S.) Department of Defense (DoD) held the 14th Korea-U.S. Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD) on July 25-26, 2018, in Seoul. ROK Deputy Minister for National Defense Policy Yeo Suk-joo and U.S. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia Brigadier General Roberta Shea led the talks. Key ROK and U.S. defense and foreign affairs officials also participated.

During the KIDD, the ROK and the U.S. delegations assessed that through inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea high-level and working-level talks, the two nations are making meaningful progress towards achieving denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula as agreed to at the two inter-Korean Summits in Panmunjom and the U.S.-North Korea Summit in Singapore. The two sides highlighted North Korea's reaffirmation of its commitment to completedenuclearization as agreed to by Chairman Kim and efforts for repatriation of the remains of U.S. service members, and concurred that they need to continue to seek measures to build mutual trust between all parties so long as North Korea continues negotiations in good faith. They also agreed that the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions will continue to be enforced until North Korea takes concrete and verifiable steps towards denuclearization.

At the Security Policy Initiative session, the ROK and the U.S. discussed cooperative measures to deepen and expand the ROK-U.S. alliance by continuing to maintain robust bilateral coordination amid changes in the security situation. The two sides assessed that their close bilateral defense cooperation has contributed towards progress realizing the inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea summit agreements, and pledged to continue to strengthen their mutual communication and coordination. They also shared the view that they need to continue to maintain a robust combined defense posture while negotiations seek to ease tensions with North Korea.

The ROK and the U.S. highlighted the relocation of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) and United Nations Command (UNC) Headquarters to Camp Humphreys, and expressed their shared belief that USFK, beyond serving as a symbol of the ROK-U.S. Alliance and defending the Korean Peninsula, will continue to play an important role in maintaining peace and stability of Northeast Asia and the world. In addition, the U.S. expressed its appreciation of the ROK's contribution to construction of Camp Humphreys and reaffirmed its intention to maintain the current U.S. forces levels on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK and the U.S. concurred that bolstering the ROK military's defense capabilities and enhancing the two militaries' interoperability are important for advancing comprehensive Alliance capabilities, and committed to continue to deepen cooperation in various fields, to include defense industry, science and technology, cyber, and space. They also highlighted the historical significance of this year's 50th ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) scheduled at the end of October in Washington, D.C. and pledged to work together to make it a valuable opportunity to further deepen and develop the future ROK-U.S. Alliance in a mutually reinforcing manner, building upon the achievements of the bilateral defense cooperation of the past half-century.

At the Conditions-Based Operational Control Transition Working Group (COTWG) meeting, both sides confirmed that progress continues in preparation for the transition of wartime operational control (OPCON) and pledged to strengthen their cooperation to meet the necessary conditions for the OPCON transition expeditiously, while fully taking into consideration future changes in security situation on the Korean Peninsula. Both parties noted that the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC) has been

critical in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula in the past 40 years, and shared the understanding that post-OPCON transition CFC should continue to carry out the central role of ROK-US combined defense posture. The ROK and the U.S. will aim to finalize several key documents ahead of the 50th SCM in October.

At the Deterrence Strategy Committee plenary session, the two sides discussed various means to enhance effective deterrence capabilities, taking into consideration the security situation on the Korean Peninsula. The United States reaffirmed its commitment to continue to provide extended deterrence capabilities.

Both sides assessed that the 14th KIDD reaffirms the close bonds of the Alliance and further bolsters bilateral coordination. The ROK MND and U.S. DoD share the view that close bilateral defense cooperation is important amid dynamic security situation on the Korean Peninsula, and pledged to maintain and strengthen their everyday cooperation and coordination.