

2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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On the North Korean nuclear challenge

Statement open for endorsement by all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

This statement has been endorsed by the following 79 countries: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.

We, States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, continue to express our deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continuous violations of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions through the sustained development of its nuclear and missile programmes, including ballistic missile launches at an unprecedented frequency this year. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as secondary proliferation, constitute a clear and grave threat to regional and international peace and security which needs to be addressed urgently.

We note with serious concern the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's increasingly aggressive statements in which it declared its pursuit for tactical nuclear weapons and vowed to develop nuclear-armed forces at the fastest possible speed. Furthermore, we condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's continued engagement in nuclear activities, as outlined in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General's most recent safeguards report and call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to halt such activities and any efforts to expand or readjust its nuclear facilities. We strongly deplore these actions and urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately stop taking further destabilizing steps in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.



We continue to support all efforts towards sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula including through diplomatic engagement and call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to accept the repeated offers of dialogue put forward by all parties concerned, including the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan. It is highly regrettable that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not taken concrete, verified actions toward denuclearization, but instead has accelerated the pace of its ballistic missile developments and launches since September 2021 and has abandoned its moratorium on longer-range ballistic missile testing including by launching several intercontinental ballistic missiles over the last months.

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to negotiations and take concrete steps towards abandoning all nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and related programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and to immediately cease all related activities in accordance with all relevant Security Council resolutions. We reiterate our steadfast commitment to the objective of the return by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at an early date to full compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA safeguards, as well as its international obligations in accordance with Security Council resolutions. Only through these concrete steps will we ensure the preservation of regional and international peace and security and that the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, of which the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone, is upheld.

We reaffirm that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as stated in Security Council resolutions [1718 \(2006\)](#) and [1874 \(2009\)](#), and in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We reiterate that we will continue to scrupulously implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and call on all United Nations Member States to fully implement all Council sanctions. To this end, we commit to further strengthening international cooperation.
