



European Union

Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors Vienna, 18-20 November 2020

Agenda item 4(a): Application of Safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein*, Norway*, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.]
2. The EU, as a strong supporter of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to engage in meaningful discussions with all relevant parties to achieve lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. In this regard, it is essential that the DPRK refrain from actions that could undermine the context for resuming dialogue in 2021.
3. The repeated ballistic missile launches by the DPRK, including intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarines launched ballistic missiles, in violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, undermine regional and international peace and security and are a matter of grave concern.
4. We are deeply concerned by the DPRK's latest announcements that the DPRK is no longer bound to the moratorium to halt its nuclear test and ICBM test-fire and to shut down the nuclear-test ground, being reinforced by its May 2020 announcement of "new policies for further increasing the nuclear war deterrence of the country". We are also deeply concerned by the display of apparently new and larger delivery systems at the parade on 10 October 2020.
5. The EU urges the DPRK to take concrete steps as required by the UN Security Council towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization, leading to the verification of the exclusively peaceful nature of the DPRK's nuclear programme in which the IAEA needs to play a key role.
6. We urge the DPRK
 - to continue refraining from testing nuclear weapons and to implement a full moratorium on all types of ballistic missile launches;
 - to return to compliance with the NPT and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and to sign and ratify the Additional Protocol;
 - to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and in this context, abandon its delivery systems programmes.

Until the DPRK takes these concrete steps and comes into compliance with all relevant Security Council Resolutions, we will continue to strictly enforce existing sanctions.

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

* Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

7. The cessation without delay of WMD proliferation from North Korea to other countries is an urgent priority and should be addressed as such. The EU urges all countries to uphold their international obligations and implement relevant sanctions by ensuring they do not trade with the DPRK in related nuclear and ballistic missile technologies and other restricted commodities and services.

Madam Chair,

8. We reiterate our appreciation for the continued efforts of the IAEA's DPRK Team to monitor the nuclear situation in North Korea. Any verification efforts would benefit from technical assistance by the IAEA and the CTBTO and would need to take due account of non-proliferation requirements.
9. We strongly call on the DPRK to reengage in talks with the aim of reaching a political agreement that will serve as a basis for further steps towards the Agency's return to the DPRK.
10. Finally, Madam Chair, the IAEA General Conference decided that the IAEA should remain seized of the matter. The EU requests the Director General to keep the Board of Governors informed of this issue and to maintain this item on the agenda of Board of Governors' meetings.

Thank you, Madam Chair.