



European Union

EU Statement on

Agenda item 7(b): Application of Safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

IAEA Board of Governors

Vienna, 1-5 March 2021

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 all parties to maintain a high level of engagement on this issue, which is crucial for the sustainability of the international non-proliferation regime. We also urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to resume engagement 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 refrains from actions that could undermine prospects for resuming dialogue in 2021.
3. The repeated ballistic missile launches by the DPRK, including intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine 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. The DPRK's assertion in the report to the 8th Workers' Party Congress that it considers itself to be "a nuclear weapon State" and intends to develop new types of nuclear weapons as well as the display of new missiles at parades in October 2020 and January 2021 raise grave concerns for the EU. These developments add to the worrying December 2019 announcement that the DPRK is no longer bound to a moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile tests as well as the May 2020 statement on "new policies for further increasing the nuclear war deterrence of the country". The EU strongly underlines that the actions taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot confer the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or any special status whatsoever.
5. The EU urges the DPRK to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization as required by the UN Security Council resolutions, 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.

[§] 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.

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 full compliance with its obligation under the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon State and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and to bring into force an Additional Protocol to that Agreement;
- to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- and in this context, to 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 and to call on every UN Member State to fully and effectively implement international sanctions decided by the UN Security Council.

7. The international community must address the risk of WMD proliferation from the DPRK as an urgent priority. 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 that country. 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.