



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 9-13 March 2020**

Agenda item 6(c): Application of Safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Note: font in italics will not be read out

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], 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 DPRK to further engage in meaningful discussions with all relevant parties as the international community works towards lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. In this regard the EU calls for renewed momentum of this diplomatic process.
3. The EU will continue to address all proliferation crises in a resolute way. The repeated ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, continue to undermine international efforts for building trust and establishing lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. We are concerned by the DPRK's latest announcements suggesting that it would no longer adhere to its declared suspension of testing nuclear weapons.
4. We call on the DPRK to return to meaningful negotiations and in the meantime stick to a moratorium on nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, and refrain from further provocations. The EU also 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.
5. We regret that the DPRK has so far failed to take the necessary credible steps in that direction. The DPRK can never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT. We therefore urge the DPRK: - to abandon its nuclear weapons programme as well as their delivery systems programmes - to comply with its obligations under multiple UNSC resolutions - to maintain its declared suspension of 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 including by signing and ratifying the Additional Protocol - and urge the DPRK to sign and ratify the CTBT. Until the DPRK does take these concrete steps, 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.

Madam Chair,

6. *As said before, the EU strongly condemns that in 2017 the DPRK conducted its sixth nuclear explosive test and since then a wider range of ballistic missile tests than ever before, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, in serious violation and blatant disregard of its international obligations under multiple UN Security Council Resolutions.*
7. The EU supports the UN Security Council's active engagement on the DPRK's threat to international peace and security. We call on all States to fully and effectively implement its sanctions, including the measures contained in UNSC Resolution 2397. The EU has swiftly transposed all UNSCRs into EU legislation, and has adopted its own rigorous autonomous sanctions, which complement and reinforce the sanctions adopted by the UN

Madam Chair,

8. 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. The EU recalls that all UN Member States are obliged to comply with the restrictions targeting the DPRK's illegal activities as imposed by the UN Security Council and should do their utmost to contribute to curbing proliferation flows, including related dual-use goods from and to the DPRK and their financing.
9. We also appreciate the continued efforts of the IAEA's DPRK Team to monitor the nuclear situation in North Korea. The last report of the IAEA describes a continuation and further development of the DPRK's nuclear programme, this undermines the efforts of all those who, like the EU, have steadfastly supported nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament for decades. Instead of pursuing an extremely dangerous and unpredictable path that risks aggravating tension, the EU urges the DPRK to return to dialogue which is essential to foster trust and de-escalation.

Madam Chair,

10. The EU welcomes the intensified efforts of the Agency to enhance its readiness to play an essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme. Any further verification efforts would benefit from technical assistance by the IAEA and the CTBTO and would need to take due account of non-proliferation obligations. The EU is pleased that the Agency is ready to return to the DPRK in a timely manner once a political agreement has been reached among the countries concerned, and if requested to do so by the DPRK and if the Board of Governors approves it. However, for this to happen the DPRK must first reengage in talks and the EU reiterates its strong call on the DPRK to do so.
11. 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.