



European Union

**Statement on the occasion of the IAEA Board of Governors
Vienna, 9-13 September 2019**

Agenda item 7 (b): 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[§], Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland*, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein*, Norway*, Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and San Marino.
2. The European Union would like to thank the Acting Director General for his report to the Board on "Application of Safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)" as contained in document GOV/2019/33.
3. 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.
4. The EU also urges the DPRK to take concrete steps 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, and instead recently tested several, what it claimed to be, new types of short range ballistic missiles. The DPRK cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT. We 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 to sign and ratify the CTBT. Until the DPRK does take these concrete actions, we will continue to strictly enforce existing sanctions.

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.

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries 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 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.

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 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. The continuation and further development of the DPRK's nuclear programme, as described in the current report of the Acting DG, undermine the efforts of all those who, like the EU, have steadfastly supported nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament for decades. We call on the DPRK to cease this extremely dangerous behaviour. It is essential to foster trust and de-escalate tensions and in this regard we recognize the importance of recent dialogue.

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.
11. We also appreciate the continued efforts of the IAEA's DPRK Team to monitor the nuclear situation in North Korea.
12. 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.