

G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Recent Developments in Asia

New York, September 20, 2016

We, the Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union pay close attention to the recent developments in Asia, where we witness the rules-based international order being challenged. We remain committed to coordinate our efforts and actions.

We reiterate our condemnation in the strongest terms of North Korea's nuclear test on 9 September, which was conducted only 8 months after its previous test in January, and the increasing number of ballistic missile launches all of which flagrantly violate multiple UN Security Council resolutions. We are deeply concerned by North Korea's ongoing efforts to develop nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. We strongly urge North Korea to cease its destabilizing and provocative actions immediately and fully comply with its international obligations including all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and its commitments in the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. We also call on all states to ensure the sustained and comprehensive implementation and enforcement of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution 2270. Sharing deepening concerns over the recent developments in North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs, we stress our determination to take further significant measures in effective response to provocations by North Korea and to realize the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We are willing to work together with all states that support these objectives. We also urge North Korea to end its ongoing and egregious human rights violations, engage in meaningful discussion with the international community on human rights and resolve the abductions issue immediately.

Recalling the G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on Maritime Security issued at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Hiroshima in April, we remain concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas.

We reiterate our opposition to any unilateral actions that raise regional tensions and we express our concern over recent incidents that have occurred in the East China Sea.

We express our strong opposition to unilateral actions that raise tensions in the South China Sea, such as land reclamations and building of outposts, as well as their use for military purposes, and urge all parties to comply with their obligations under international law and refrain from such actions. In this context, we welcome the Chairman's Statement of the 11th East Asia Summit which specifically emphasizes the importance of non-militarization. We call on all parties to refrain from actions that jeopardize freedom of navigation and overflight and to pursue the peaceful management

and settlement of maritime disputes supported by confidence-building measures, in good faith and in accordance with international law, including through applicable internationally recognized legal dispute settlement mechanisms, including arbitration.

In this context, we consider the July 12, 2016 award rendered by the Arbitral Tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) concerning maritime disputes between the Philippines and the People's Republic of China as a useful basis for further efforts to peacefully resolve disputes in the South China Sea. We welcome the recent statement by ASEAN and China to intensify efforts to conclude the negotiations on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) as well as the renewed commitment to the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea. We call for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and the early establishment of an effective COC.