

**Statement on behalf of the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI)**

**At the First Committee of the 71<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly  
Thematic Debate on Nuclear Weapons**

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**New York**

Mr. Chairman,

The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) condemns in the strongest possible terms North Korea's nuclear test conducted on September 9, 2016. This test marked the second nuclear test conducted by North Korea in only eight months, despite the repeated calls by the international community to fully comply with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, IAEA resolutions and other commitments and not to conduct any further provocations, including nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches.

North Korea's nuclear weapons program, including the latest nuclear test, is another clear violation of relevant UNSC and IAEA resolutions as well as of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. It represents a grave challenge to the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime centered on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

This latest nuclear test underscores the urgency of further strengthening the international framework for disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, including achieving the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) at the earliest possible date, the urgent negotiation of a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and taking forward the 2010 NPT Review Conference outcomes, in particular the 2010 NPT Action Plan.

North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs seriously threatens regional as well as global peace and security, particularly given the fact this year, also in contravention of UNSC and IAEA resolutions, North Korea has launched more than 20

ballistic missiles which could serve as a means to deliver nuclear weapons. NPDI calls upon all states to take all necessary measures without delay, to implement UNSC Resolution 2270. We welcome the UN Security Council's continuing efforts to respond to North Korea's continued provocations with further significant measures.

As the NPDI has repeatedly done on previous occasions, we strongly urge North Korea to refrain from conducting any further provocations including nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches. The NPDI also urges North Korea to fully comply with all its international obligations including under relevant UNSC resolutions and to live up to its commitments under the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, to return to compliance with its IAEA safeguards agreement and the NPT, to immediately cease all nuclear activities, and to abandon all nuclear and ballistic missiles programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.