

Addressing the North Korean nuclear challenge
Statement open for endorsement by all States Parties to the NPT
(19 August 2022)

This statement has been endorsed by the following **79** countries: **Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, the Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay**

We, States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), continue to express our deep concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) continuous violations of relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions through the sustained development of its nuclear and missile programmes, including ballistic missile launches at an unprecedented frequency this year. The DPRK's nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, as well as secondary proliferation, constitute a clear and grave threat to regional and international peace and security which needs to be addressed urgently.

We note with serious concern the DPRK's increasingly aggressive statements in which it declared its pursuit for tactical nuclear weapons and vowed to develop nuclear-armed forces at the fastest possible speed. Furthermore, we condemn the DPRK's continued engagement in nuclear activities, as outlined in the IAEA Director General's most recent safeguards report and call on the DPRK to halt such activities and any efforts to expand or readjust its nuclear facilities. We strongly deplore these actions and urge the DPRK to immediately stop taking further destabilizing steps in violation of the relevant UNSC resolutions.

We continue to support all efforts towards sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula including through diplomatic engagement and call on the DPRK to accept the repeated offers of dialogue put forward by all parties concerned, including the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan. It is highly regrettable that the DPRK has not taken concrete, verified actions toward denuclearization, but instead has accelerated the pace of its ballistic missile developments and launches since September 2021 and has abandoned its moratorium on longer-range ballistic missile testing including by launching several ICBMs over the last months.

We urge the DPRK to return to negotiations and take concrete steps towards abandoning all Nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and related programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and to immediately cease all related activities in accordance with all relevant UNSC resolutions. We reiterate our steadfast commitment to the objective of the return by the DPRK at an early date to full

compliance with the NPT and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, as well as its international obligations in accordance with UNSC resolutions. Only through these concrete steps will we ensure the preservation of regional and international peace and security and that the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, of which the NPT is the cornerstone, is upheld.

We reaffirm that the DPRK cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT, as stated in UNSC resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), and in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT.

We reiterate that we will continue to scrupulously implement the relevant UNSC resolutions and call on all UN Member States to fully implement all UNSC sanctions. To this end, we commit to further strengthening international cooperation.