

**2023 Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

August 2023

-- Addressing the North Korean nuclear challenge --

Statement open for endorsement by all States Parties to the NPT

This statement has been endorsed by the following **74** countries: **Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, 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, Uruguay, Yemen, and my own country, France.**

We, State 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 development of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, including ballistic missile launches at an unprecedented frequency and in an unprecedented manner since 2022 and the so-called satellite launch using ballistic missile technology, which are in clear violations of multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. 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 and undermine the global non-proliferation regime which needs to be addressed urgently. Moreover, we express our serious concern over the DPRK's continued irresponsible and destabilizing nuclear rhetoric in which it declares its pursuit for tactical nuclear weapons and claims it might use its nuclear weapons pre-emptively.

We condemn the continued escalatory actions taken by the DPRK through a record number of unlawful ballistic missile launches, violating UNSC resolutions, threatening the safety and sovereignty of neighbouring countries, and undermining regional and international peace and security. Furthermore, we strongly 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 modify its nuclear facilities. We deplore these actions and urge the DPRK to refrain from any nuclear tests, sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and immediately cease taking further destabilizing steps in violation of 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 and irreversible actions

toward denuclearisation, but instead abandoned its moratorium on long-range ballistic missile testing, and has accelerated the pace of its unlawful ballistic missile developments and launches.

We urge the DPRK to 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 call upon the DPRK to engage in meaningful diplomacy and return to negotiations towards this goal. We are committed to working with all relevant partners to build a basis for sustainable peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

We reiterate our steadfast commitment to the objective of the return by the DPRK at an early date to, and fully comply, 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 deplore the DPRK's actions to conduct nuclear weapons tests and 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 faithfully and scrupulously implement 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.