

**Joint Trilateral Statement
by Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States
at the 68th Session of the IAEA General Conference
16–20 September 2024, Vienna**

Mr. President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States.

Our three countries, united in our steadfast commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula consistent with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, welcome the adoption by consensus of the resolution on the “Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea” at this 68th Session of the IAEA General Conference. Today’s consensual adoption sustains an encouraging tradition which has prevailed since the resolution was first introduced in 1993.

Since the Board of Governors found that the DPRK was in non-compliance with its safeguards agreement in 1993, the IAEA General Conference has adopted a resolution on the DPRK every year, making today’s the 32nd resolution. This manifests a deeply troubling reality that the DPRK’s nuclear program has continued to develop and become ever more sophisticated for the last three decades.

The DPRK’s advancement on its nuclear activities and ballistic missile programs violate multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and undermine the global non-proliferation regime. We therefore strongly urge the DPRK to fully comply with all its obligations under relevant UNSC resolutions; take concrete steps to abandon all its nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programs and ballistic missiles of all ranges in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner; and return at an early date to, and fully comply with, the NPT and IAEA safeguards.

Mr. President,

As clearly documented in the Director General's report, the DPRK has been maintaining its unlawful nuclear program, from production of fissile material to weaponization. In these two weeks alone, the DPRK revealed images of a uranium enrichment facility for the first time and launched several ballistic missiles. Furthermore, the DPRK has engaged in irresponsible nuclear rhetoric regarding the exponential increase of its nuclear arsenal and the possibility of preemptive use of tactical nuclear weapons. The DPRK's repeated ballistic missile launches, even when characterized as a "satellite launch" constitute a clear violation of relevant UNSC resolutions that prohibit any launches by the DPRK using ballistic missile technologies. We urge the DPRK not to conduct any other destabilizing or provocative actions, including any further nuclear tests or launches, including those that use ballistic missile technology. The DPRK's unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programs pose substantive threats to our region as well as global peace and security.

In this context, we strongly condemn the increasing military cooperation between North Korea and Russia, including North Korea's export and Russia's procurement of North Korean ballistic missiles in direct violation of relevant UNSC resolutions, as well as Russia's use of these missiles against Ukraine. Russia's veto of the UNSC resolution to renew the mandate of the UNSCR 1718 Committee Panel of Experts makes it easier for the DPRK to evade UN sanctions. It is therefore all the more important for all Member States to fully, comprehensively, and immediately implement all relevant UNSC resolutions, including the prohibition of the transfer and procurement of all arms and related material to and from the DPRK. We should send a clear signal that the international community cannot and will not tolerate the DPRK's unlawful and irresponsible nuclear and ballistic missile programs, in violation of UNSC resolutions.

Mr. President,

Our three countries remain committed to dialogue with the DPRK with no preconditions. We urge the DPRK to cease all provocations and destabilizing actions, return to dialogue, and focus its resources on improving the wellbeing of its own people.

We would like to express our appreciation to the Director General and the Secretariat for their continued efforts to monitor developments with respect to the DPRK's nuclear program and for the latest report. We strongly support the IAEA's continued work to maintain and enhance readiness to carry out monitoring and verification activities in the DPRK, if called upon to do so.

Mr. President,

Before concluding, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the co-sponsors of the resolution and the Member States who have joined in the consensus. We would also like to thank the members of the DPRK Core Group, in particular the Canadian delegation for its leadership throughout the drafting process.

Last but not least, we also commend you, Mr. President, for leading this 68th Session of the General Conference to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.