

**2025 Preparatory Committee for the 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Statement by Camille Petit, Head of Delegation of France

May 5th 2025

-- Addressing the North Korean nuclear challenge --

I have the honour of delivering this speech on behalf of the following 83 countries and the European Union: **Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, the Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Tuvalu, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Ukraine, Yemen and my own country, France.**

We, State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), express our grave concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) continuous build-up of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, including ballistic missile launches in an unprecedented manner since 2022 and Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) using ballistic missile-applicable technology. The DPRK's nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes, are in clear violation of multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, pose a grave and urgent threat to regional and international peace and security, and undermine the global non-proliferation regime.

We strongly condemn the DPRK's continued nuclear activities in defiance of its international obligations, as outlined in the IAEA Director General's most recent safeguards report and statements, and call on the DPRK to immediately stop all nuclear-related activities and any efforts to expand or modify its nuclear facilities. We express serious concerns over the ongoing uranium enrichment program dedicated to the stated objective of exponentially increasing the DPRK's nuclear weapons, as well as the DPRK's continued irresponsible and destabilizing nuclear rhetoric including its threats of a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

We condemn the continued escalatory actions taken by the DPRK in accelerating its unlawful ballistic missile programme that poses a threat to neighbouring countries and undermines regional and international peace and security. We urge the DPRK to reverse course and 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 urge the DPRK not to conduct any additional nuclear tests, to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and immediately cease taking further destabilising steps in violation of relevant UNSC resolutions.

We reiterate our steadfast commitment to the objective of the DPRK's return at an early date to, and full compliance with, the NPT and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, as well as its international obligations under UNSC resolutions. Only these concrete steps will 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.

Expressing our firm conviction on the maintenance of the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we reaffirm that the DPRK cannot 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 reaffirm our commitment to the international non-proliferation regime and urge all UN Member States to exercise strict vigilance over potential proliferation to and from the DPRK. We regret that the UN Security Council did not agree to renew the mandate of the UN DPRK Panel of Experts on 28th March 2024, making our ability to hold the DPRK to account even more difficult. We reiterate that we will, nonetheless, continue to fully implement relevant UNSC resolutions and call on all UN Member States to uphold their non-proliferation commitments and fully implement all UNSC sanctions. We encourage and support international efforts to facilitate full implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions. To this end, we commit to further strengthening international cooperation.

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 for meaningful diplomacy and negotiations. We are committed to working with all relevant partners toward sustainable peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

The official English-language version will be published on the secretariat website together with the French-language version.