



European Union

**EU Statement on
Agenda item 6(a): Application of Safeguards in the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**Board of Governors
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Vienna, 13-17 September 2021

REV

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The following countries align themselves with this statement: [Turkey[§], the Republic of North Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Liechtenstein+, Norway+, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and San Marino.]
2. The European Union would like to thank the Director General for his report to the Board on the “Application of Safeguards in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK)”, as contained in document GOV/2021/40.
3. The EU, as a strong supporter of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime, urges all parties to maintain a high level of engagement on this issue, which is crucial for the sustainability of the international non-proliferation regime. We urge the DPRK to respond constructively to the readiness for dialogue expressed by the United States and resume engagement in meaningful discussions with all relevant parties to achieve lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.
4. The report of the Director General, indicating that the 5MW(e) reactor may have been operational since early July and that the Radiochemical Laboratory appears to have been in operation from mid-February to early July, is deeply troubling. UN Security Council resolutions make clear that the DPRK must abandon its existing nuclear programme and immediately cease all related activities. These recent developments underscore the urgent need for dialogue and diplomacy. It is essential that the DPRK refrains from actions that could undermine prospects for resuming dialogue in 2021.
5. The DPRK’s missile launches, including the launch of solid-fuel, short-range ballistic missiles on 25 March 2021 and previous launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, in violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, and the announcement that it had tested a new cruise missile on 11-12 September, undermine regional and international peace and security and are a matter of grave concern.

[§] Candidate Country

* Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania as well as potential Candidate Country Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein are members of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

6. The DPRK's assertion in the report to the 8th Workers' Party Congress that it considers itself to be "a nuclear weapon State" and is developing new types of warheads and delivery systems, as well as the display of apparently new missiles and Transporter Erector Launchers at parades in October 2020 and January 2021 raise serious concerns. These developments add to the worrying December 2019 announcement that the DPRK considers itself to be no longer bound to its moratorium on nuclear and ballistic missile tests. The EU strongly underlines that the actions taken by the DPRK cannot confer the status of a nuclear weapon State in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or any special status whatsoever. The EU urges the DPRK to take concrete steps towards complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization as required by the UN Security Council resolutions, leading to the verification of the exclusively peaceful nature of the DPRK's nuclear programme in which the IAEA needs to play a key role.
7. We urge the DPRK:
 - to continue refraining from testing nuclear weapons and to implement a full moratorium on all types of ballistic missile launches;
 - to return to full compliance with its obligations under the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon State and the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and to bring into force an Additional Protocol to that Agreement;
 - to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)
 - and in this context, to abandon its delivery systems programmes.
8. Until the DPRK takes these concrete steps and comes into compliance with all relevant Security Council Resolutions, we will continue to strictly enforce existing sanctions and to call on every UN Member State to fully and effectively implement international sanctions decided by the UN Security Council. The international community must address the risk of WMD proliferation from the DPRK as an urgent priority. The EU urges all States to uphold their international obligations and implement relevant sanctions by ensuring they do not trade with the DPRK in nuclear and ballistic missile technologies and other restricted commodities and services.

Madam Chair,

9. We reiterate our appreciation for the continued efforts of the IAEA's DPRK Team to monitor the nuclear situation in that country. Any verification efforts would benefit from technical assistance by the IAEA and the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) and would need to take due account of non-proliferation requirements.
10. We strongly call on the DPRK to reengage in talks with the aim of reaching a political agreement that will serve as a basis for further steps towards the Agency's return to the DPRK.
11. Finally, Madam Chair, the IAEA General Conference decided that the IAEA should remain seized of the matter. The EU requests the Director General to keep the Board of Governors informed of this issue and to maintain this item on the agenda of its future meetings.

Thank you, Madam Chair.