



IAEA Board of Governors – March 2024

Agenda item 7(b)

Application of safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The continuous and fast development of the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, continues to be a matter of deep concern. These programmes pose a threat to regional and international peace and security.

We condemn the launches of five intercontinental ballistic missiles and of a military satellite using ballistic missile technology last year which are contrary to relevant Security Council resolutions. The DPRK's irresponsible and destabilizing behaviour exacerbates tensions. Switzerland supports any efforts in the UN Security Council and beyond to find common ground in the face of these threats.

We urge the DPRK to take concrete steps towards abandoning its nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles, and related programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and to cease all related activities. We call on the DPRK to return to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards at the earliest possible date. We also call on the DPRK to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

We remain deeply concerned about the activities at the Yongbyon site and other locations of relevance for the DPRK's nuclear programme, as well as by the reopening of the nuclear test site, as previously reported by the Director General.

Moreover, the law on nuclear policy adopted by the DPRK in 2022 which envisages pre-emptive strikes, remains a matter of particular concern. Attempts to publicly legitimize the development of the DPRK's nuclear programme require our continued vigilance. Together with 74 States Parties, Switzerland reaffirmed in a Joint Statement at the first session of the NPT Preparatory Committee that the DPRK cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT.

We need to comprehensively curb the proliferation of ballistic missiles and related dual-use technologies to and from the DPRK. In this context, we are particularly concerned by reports that Russia would have received weapons and used ballistic missiles from the DPRK in attacks against Ukraine. We call on all States to ensure the effective implementation of relevant Security Council sanctions and urge them to cooperate fully with the 1718 Security Council Sanctions Committee and its Panel of Experts. We also underline the important role of the Panel of Experts in monitoring the Sanctions regime and protecting the multilateral non-proliferation architecture.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the adoption of the Resolution on the DPRK by consensus by the General Conference last year. We also welcome the Agency's intensified efforts to enhance its readiness to play its essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme, including its capability to promptly re-establish the implementation of safeguards-related activities in the DPRK, once a political agreement has been reached.

Switzerland supports diplomatic efforts of the parties involved to return to a fruitful dialogue promoting peace and stability in the region, on the path to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We strongly encourage all parties to return to a meaningful dialogue.

Thank you.