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Communication received from the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China concerning a Joint Statement on the Korean Peninsula Issues

Joint Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on the Korean Peninsula Issues

1. The Director General has received a communication from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the International Organizations in Vienna and the Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna attaching a *Joint Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on the Korean Peninsula Issues*, requesting to bring the Joint Statement to the attention of all IAEA Member States.

2. As requested, the communication and the Joint Statement¹ are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

¹ The Joint Statement was received in the Russian and Chinese languages.

H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano
Director General
International Atomic
Energy Agency
Vienna

Dear Director General,

We have the honour to forward herewith the Joint Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China on the Korean Peninsula issue. The Joint Statement was issued on 4 July 2017. Given its particular relevance to the IAEA activities, we kindly request you to circulate this Joint Statement among all IAEA Member States and to publish it as an Information Circular (INFCIRC).

Accept, Director General, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Vladimir Voronkov
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the International Organizations
in Vienna



SHI Zhongjun
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations and other
International Organizations
in Vienna

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA ISSUES**

As the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are neighbours to the Korean Peninsula, developments in the region affect the national interests of both countries. Russia and China will make every effort, in close coordination, to promote a comprehensive resolution of the issues facing the Korean Peninsula, including the nuclear issue, aimed at achieving lasting peace and stability in north-east Asia. In the spirit of strategic cooperation, the foreign ministries of Russia and China ('the Parties') wish to make the following statement concerning the Korean Peninsula issues.

1. The Parties are gravely concerned by the DPRK's statement of 4 July 2017 concerning the launch of a ballistic missile, which they consider to be unacceptable and a grave violation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. The Parties strongly urge the DPRK to act in strict compliance with those resolutions.

2. The Parties express their grave concern over developments on and around the Korean Peninsula. The escalating political and military tension in the region, which is fraught with the risk of armed conflict, requires that the international community act collectively to achieve a peaceful resolution of the situation through dialogue and consultations. The Parties oppose any statements or actions liable to worsen tensions or aggravate conflicts, and they urge all countries involved to exercise restraint, refrain from provocative actions and belligerent rhetoric, demonstrate their willingness to engage in dialogue without preconditions, and together make active efforts to defuse the situation.

3. The Parties are putting forward a joint initiative based on the ideas proposed by China of a 'suspension for suspension' (of the DPRK's nuclear and missile activities and the United States' and the Republic of Korea's large-scale joint military exercises) and a 'dual-track approach' to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment there of a mechanism for peace, and on the phased plan proposed by Russia for a resolution of the issues facing the Korean Peninsula.

The Parties propose the following:

The DPRK, as a voluntary political decision, would announce a moratorium on tests of nuclear explosive devices and on test launches of ballistic missiles, and the United States and the Republic of Korea, for their part, would refrain from conducting large-scale joint military exercises. In parallel to this, the opposing parties would enter into talks and would affirm the general principles governing their relations, to include the non-use of force, the renunciation of aggression, peaceful coexistence, and the intention to make efforts towards denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, with a view to achieving a comprehensive resolution of all issues, including the nuclear issue. All parties involved, as part of the negotiations in a format acceptable to them, would work towards establishing a mechanism for peace and security on the peninsula and in north-east Asia and would eventually normalize relations between the countries in question.

The Parties urge the international community to support this initiative, which offers a realistic path towards resolution of the issues facing the Korean Peninsula.

4. The Parties are resolutely committed to the international regime for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and are determined to achieve the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. Relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council are to be implemented comprehensively and in full. The Parties intend, in collaboration with other interested parties, to continue efforts towards a balanced resolution of the concerns of all parties involved through dialogue and consultation.

The Parties affirm that the DPRK's legitimate concerns should be respected. Other States must make corresponding efforts to resume negotiations and together create an atmosphere of peaceableness and mutual trust.

The Parties call on all parties involved to fulfil the commitments formulated in the Joint Statement of 19 September 2005 and to restart the dialogue on a comprehensive resolution of the issues facing the Korean Peninsula as soon as possible. The option of using military means to resolve the issues facing the Korean Peninsula must be ruled out.

5. The Parties express their support for having the North and the South on the Korean Peninsula engage in dialogue and consultation, display goodwill towards one another, build better relations, engage in cooperation aimed at achieving a peaceful settlement, and play a proper role in defusing the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in achieving a suitable resolution of the issues facing it.

6. The Parties affirm that they take very seriously the preservation of international and regional balance and stability, and emphasize that the alliances between individual States must not be detrimental to the interests of third parties. The Parties oppose the military presence in north-east Asia of forces from outside the region and the build-up of that presence under the pretext of counteracting the DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes.

The Parties affirm that the deployment of THAAD anti-missile defence systems in north-east Asia is extremely detrimental to the strategic security interests of States in the region, including Russia and China, and they do not help to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula or support peace and stability in the region.

Russia and China oppose the deployment of those systems, urge the relevant countries immediately to halt and cancel the deployment, and have agreed to take the necessary steps to protect the security interests of the two countries and ensure strategic balance in the region.

This statement was signed on 4 July 2017, in Moscow.

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

(signed) Sergey Lavrov

For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
People's Republic of China

(signed) Wang Yi