



IAEA Board of Governors – September 2024

Agenda item 8 (b)

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

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We thank the Director General for his report on the Application of Safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes pose a threat to regional and international peace and security.

Statements by the DPRK's leadership reaffirming an important role for nuclear weapons in its defense policy and the ongoing activities at locations of relevance for the DPRK's nuclear programme, as reported by the Director General, are deeply troubling, as is the reopening of the nuclear test site and its preparedness to support a seventh nuclear test. Public statements by the leadership regarding so-called "nuclear weaponization of the navy" in conjunction with the aim to building nuclear-powered submarines are a serious cause for concern, further exacerbating regional tensions.

Attempts to publicly legitimize the development of the DPRK's nuclear programme require our continued vigilance. Switzerland is of the view that the DPRK cannot and will never get the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT.

Mr. Chair,

Switzerland condemns previous tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles and attempted launches of military satellites using ballistic missile

technology in contradiction of UN Security Council resolutions. These activities are destabilizing and exacerbate tensions.

The proliferation of ballistic missiles and related dual-use technologies to and from the DPRK, including the fact that Russia's military aggression against Ukraine appears to continue to be fueled by transfers of arms and munitions from the DPRK, is also a matter of particular concern.

We call on all States to ensure the effective implementation of relevant UN Security Council sanctions and urge them to cooperate fully with the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718. Switzerland deeply regrets the non-renewal of the mandate of the associated Panel of Experts which seriously impacts the access to information of the international community. This also affects the implementation of relevant resolutions and therefore the multilateral non-proliferation architecture.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome last year's adoption by consensus of the Resolution on the DPRK by the General Conference and hope that we will have a similar approach towards this important issue also this year. We welcome the Agency's readiness to return promptly to the DPRK, if requested and approved so, as well as its efforts to further enhance its readiness to play its essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme, once a political agreement has been reached.

Switzerland encourages 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.