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Missile Testing and Nuclear Proliferation as a Threat to International Peace and Security: Situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Report of the UA-MUNC Secretary-General

Introduction

1. The increasing efforts the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is putting on its nuclear proliferation strategy are alarming. Not only have their use of missile testing and stockpiling of atomic weapons placed the issue of nuclear disarmament at the forefront of the international agenda, but they have also created significant concern to numerous nations. While information on the DPRK's use of plutonium for its atomic program is lacking, a weapon the size of a tennis ball from this material has the potential to destroy Seattle and Seoul, the South Korean capital inhabited by 10 million people.¹ This could eradicate decades of social and economic progress. Missile testing and nuclear proliferation are crucial issues of concern to all nations today, with the world's nine nuclear powers spending close to US\$300 million a day on their nuclear weapons,² with which they are capable of immeasurably damaging humanity. This is a rapidly rising, dominant, and alarming challenge for the International Community, as nuclear-armed states have just had this power for only the past 70 years, giving them the ability to potentially eradicate humanity. According to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (iCAN), from 2010 to 2011 the Member States with nuclear capabilities increased spending on atomic weapons from USD 91 billion to USD 104.9 billion.³ As more nations, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), possess more arms, it will become increasingly challenging to achieve nuclear disarmament and maintain global peace. Therefore, the DPRK's proliferation poses a newfound threat to peace and thus to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number sixteen – peace, justice, and strong institutions. This report aims to showcase some background information, past international actions and possible solutions for the issue of missile testing and nuclear proliferation as a threat to international peace and security with a main focus on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2017-2018. This issue that must be immediately addressed by the central organ of the United Nations, the Security Council.

¹ Ryan Barenklau, T. (2018). *Making Sense of North Korea's Nuclear Weapons: The Big Picture*. [online] The Diplomat. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/04/making-sense-of-north-koreas-nuclear-weapons-the-big-picture/> [Accessed 24 Feb. 2018].

² iCAN, n.d. *Spending on nuclear weapons*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.icanw.org/the-facts/catastrophic-harm/a-diversion-of-public-resources/>

³ *ibid*



Introduction to the Committee, its Jurisdiction, and Mandate

2. As laid out by the United Nations Charter, the Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. Since 1946, the UNSC has had primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Additionally, the Council is entitled to developing productive partnerships and providing a platform to debate and potentially harmonize the actions of Member States. Composed of five permanent members, as well as ten elected non-permanent members, the Council aims to “cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights.”⁴
3. According to the UN Charter, all Member States should comply with decisions taken by this body. In the case of conflict, the Council calls upon all parties to settle their disputes peacefully. Based on the Council’s investigations, the UNSC provides possible terms of settlement such as special envoys, dispatch missions, and the use of the Secretary-General’s offices. As a secondary measure, the Council can issue ceasefire directives and deploy peacekeeping forces. Moreover, it is within the power of the Council to impose sanctions such as financial restrictions, arms embargoes, and travel bans. The UNSC may also encourage severing diplomatic relations with aggressor nations, introduce blockades, and authorize the use of collective military action.⁵
4. To increase their decisions’ legitimacy and responsiveness to the needs of the international community, Council members strive to adopt them unanimously during a vote by acclamation. According to statistics, in 2016, 67 out of 77 resolutions in the UNSC were passed by consensus.⁶ If consensus is not achieved, however, resolutions need at least nine total affirmative votes and no negative votes from the five permanent members to be adopted. The Presidency of the Council rotates monthly between its members and will be held by Peru in May 2018.⁷

⁴ Un.org. (2018). *About the United Nations Security Council*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> [Accessed 24 Feb. 2018].

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Securitycouncilreport.org. (2017). *The Security Council in 2016 : February 2017 Monthly Forecast : Security Council Report*. [online] Available at: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2017-02/the_security_council_in_2016.php [Accessed 24 Feb. 2018].

⁷ Un.org. (2018). *President of the United Nations Security Council*. [online] Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/presidency/> [Accessed 24 Feb. 2018].



Topic Background

Definition of Nuclear Proliferation:

5. Nuclear proliferation means the rapid increase in the number of nuclear arms.⁸ Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that “Above all else, we need a reaffirmation of political commitment at the highest levels to reducing the dangers that arise both from existing nuclear weapons and from further proliferation.”⁹
6. The most common means of showcasing nuclear proliferation is through missile testing. This is a dangerous method of ‘deterrence’ against external military attacks, threatening other countries by building atomic weapons.

Brief History of Nuclear Proliferation:

7. On August 6th, 1945, in the final stage of the Second World War, the United States of America dropped the world’s first nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, followed shortly on August 9th with the detonation of a second atomic bomb over the city of Nagasaki. The world would since live with destructive nuclear capabilities, which is considered a prime threat to international peace and security. In an escalating arms race, the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb nicknamed “First Lightning” four years later and reached its height with the detonation of the Soviet Tsar Bomba, whose explosion was equivalent to 50 megatons of TNT.¹⁰ During this process, China, France, the USA, UK, and USSR stockpiled in their atomic capabilities at an extremely high rate¹¹ as a means of deterring conflict because any military confrontation between them would lead to ‘Mutually Assured Destruction.’¹²
8. The issue of nuclear weapons was a challenge to international peace and security since the first United Nations General Assembly resolution when the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission was established.

Violations of International Law Regarding Nuclear Weapons and the DPRK:

9. Despite past measures such as the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) (more on that and other acts in the ‘Past International Actions’ section), there have been some incidents where the countries would go against the interests of the signatories of the treaty, which have motivated the DPRK to construct and strengthen its nuclear programme.
10. The first issue of non-compliance came from Iran. The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA, an international organization promoting and overlooking the peaceful use of nuclear power), Mohamed ElBaradei, reported that Iran had repeatedly failed to meet its safeguards obligations like failing to declare its uranium enrichment program, thus violating the NPT. Nevertheless, Iran denied these allegations and continued stating that it was within their legal rights to work with enriched uranium for peaceful purposes.¹³
11. The case of Libya is the first of significant implication to the situation of the DPRK. Libya

⁸ Britannica, n.d. *Britannica Dictionary*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nuclear-proliferation>

⁹ Annan, K., 2000. *SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES MEMBER STATES TO REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO REDUCE DANGERS OF EXISTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, FURTHER PROLIFERATION* [Interview] (24 April 2000).

¹⁰ Khalturin, V. I., 2005. *A Review of Nuclear Testing*. [Online] Available at:

https://web.archive.org/web/20060614080624/http://www.princeton.edu/~globsec/publications/pdf/13_1-2khalturin%20NZ%201-42%20.pdf

¹¹ Best, A., 2003. *International History of the Twentieth Century*. s.l.:Routledge.

¹² Best, A., 2003. *International History of the Twentieth Century*. s.l.:Routledge

¹³ IAEA, 2003. *Implementation of the NPT Safeguards*. [Online] Available at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20071025173821/http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Board/2003/gov2003-75.pdf>



had signed and ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and was subject to IAEA nuclear safeguards inspections, but undertook a secret nuclear weapons development program in violation of its NPT obligations. In the 2011 Libyan Civil War, the Libyan government was overthrown with the assistance of military intervention. This was carried out by North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces acting under the auspices of Security Council Resolution 1973. Middle Eastern media speculated that NATO's intervention in Libya began shortly after the nation agreed to dismantle its atomic and chemical weapons programme. This example of political destitution after disarmament would make the Democratic People's Republic of Korea more reluctant to give up nuclear programs.¹⁴

12. Finally, the most recent case of nuclear proliferation before the situation in the DPRK occurred in Iraq, where the former dictator Saddam Hussein's atomic program was under severe scrutiny from the NPT in 1991. When Saddam dismantled his nuclear program, former US President George W. Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq under the presumption that Saddam had Weapons of Mass Destruction,¹⁵ eventually dismantling the Iraqi regime.

The Connection of Past Violations to the DPRK's Nuclear Proliferation:

13. Due to the DPRK's unethical rule, Kim Jong-un's regime continues breaching international laws and violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the right to life and to humane treatment of prisoners. Therefore, DPRK has no formal, international allies besides China.
14. With global pressure against the increasingly oppressive Kim regime, perhaps the reason behind developing its nuclear programme is that this would be North Korean supreme leader's only guarantee of increasing his grip on power.
15. Additionally, the DPRK seems reluctant to disarm due to the previous falls of every regime that scaled down their nuclear plans. Kim Jong-un has the benefit of hindsight and has seen Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi fall in Iraq and Libya, respectively, from both civil unrest and international intervention. Thus, he has been a lot more resilient against international pressure.

History of the Situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

16. The 2017-2018 Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) missile crisis is based on multiple nuclear and missile tests conducted by its government, located in Pyongyang. It can be traced back to October 9, 2006, when the DPRK carried out its first underground atomic test, detonating a plutonium-based device with an explosive yield between 0.2 and 1 kiloton.¹⁶ On January 6, 2007, the Pyongyang government officially confirmed that it had nuclear weapons.¹⁷ On May 25, 2009, the DPRK conducted its second underground nuclear test, with an estimated explosion of 2 to 7 kilotons.¹⁸ The U.S. Geological Survey calculated its origin in proximity to the site of the first nuclear test. The same day, a successful short-range missile test was also conducted. The DPRK's continued detonation of missiles

¹⁴ NATO, 2015. *NATO and Libya*. [Online] Available at: https://www.nato.int/cps/ic/natohq/topics_71652.htm

¹⁵ Kimball, D., 2018. *Chemical Weapons Convention Signatories and States-Parties*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cwcsig>

¹⁶ Johnston, W. R., 2006. *North Korea's first nuclear test*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/nuclear/dprk-ntest.html>

¹⁷ "Usher in a great heyday of Songun Korea full of confidence in victory". The Pyongyang Times. January 6, 2007. p. 1.

¹⁸ Fedchenko, V., 2009. *North Korea's nuclear*. [Online] Available at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20120224231755/http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS0912.pdf>



temporarily worried its neighbors and became a security threat to The Republic of Korea's capital, Seoul, a city with an estimated 10 million residents. Nevertheless, tensions soon scaled down, with numerous international actors doubting the DPRK's nuclear capacity.

17. Afterwards, on January 2nd, 2017, DPRK's leader Kim Jong-un stated that his "government [was] in the last stage of the preliminary stage of the missile testing", meaning the final phase of preparations before his nation was fully nuclear capable was almost done.¹⁹
18. Throughout 2017, the DPRK conducted multiple missile tests that showcased the nation's ability to launch long-range Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs). On the July 4th, the DPRK launched an ICBM named Hwasong-14. Then, in August, US President Donald Trump stated that any nuclear threat to the US would be confronted with "fire and fury." The DPRK responded hours later by saying it is considering attacking the US territory of Guam. In the midst of rising tensions rising between the two nations, the DPRK conducted another missile test on August 29, which flew over Japanese territory, triggering emergency alarms in Japan. As a result of such actions, the UN Security Council issued a press statement condemning the ballistic missile launch and the DPRK for its actions and aggression.²⁰
19. Nevertheless, the above action did not prevent the DPRK from testing further missiles, as on the September 15th, it launched an Intermediate Ranged Ballistic Missile (IRBM) and issued a threat to "sink" Japan. Finally, despite attempts to apply further pressure on the DPRK from the US and China, two months later, the DPRK launched an ICBM for a missile test named Hwasong-15.²¹
20. Due to the DPRK's disregard of international pressure, the DPRK crisis requires coordinated and decisive diplomatic action.

Past International Action

The USA and DPRK's 'Agreed Framework':

21. International efforts to lower atomic-related tensions with the DPRK date back to the Agreed Framework between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, signed on October 21, 1994, after the DPRK launched a small-scale nuclear energy program. The framework aimed to freeze and replace the DPRK's atomic initiative with a safer light-water reactor power plant.
22. The Framework resulted in the DPRK agreeing to halt the operation and construction of all its nuclear reactors, follow their international obligations regarding the use of atomic energy and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and implement the 1992 Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.²² These concessions came in exchange for the American delivery of 500,000 annual tons of heavy oil to the DPRK, make arrangements to construct two light-water reactors by 2003, and formally assure them that they would not use atomic weapons against them.²³

¹⁹ Un, K. J., 2017. *Kim Jong Un's 2017 New Year's Address*. [Online] Available at: https://www.ncnk.org/resources/publications/kju_2017_new_years_address.pdf/file_view

²⁰ UN Security Council, 2017. *Statement by the President of the Security Council*. [Online] Available at: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PRST/2017/16

²¹ Elleman, M., 2017. *North Korea's Third ICBM Launch*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.38north.org/2017/11/melleman112917/>

²² IAEA, n.d. *AGREED FRAMEWORK OF 21 OCTOBER 1994*. [Online] Available at:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110604091657/http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infocircs/Others/infocirc457.pdf>

²³ Ibid.



The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty:

23. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is an international accord aiming to “prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.” The treaty defines nuclear-weapon states as “those that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1 January 1967”; these are China, France, the Russian Federation, the USA, and the UK. Despite the NPT’s decisions, the DPRK has openly tested and declared that it possesses nuclear arms.²⁴ This occurred after the DPRK made history by becoming the first party member to withdraw itself from the NPT in 2003, stating that, “it could no longer remain bound to the NPT.” Their abandonment raised many short-term issues around the NPT’s provisions for withdrawal, as well as opening up the possibility for many long-term issues around the ability to oversee treaty obligations regarding nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.²⁵

The Six-Party Talks:

24. The Six-Party Talks were meetings conducted in 2007 between the DPRK, The Republic of Korea (South Korea), China, the USA, Japan, and Russia over the safety concerns regarding the DPRK’s withdrawal of the NPT and their subsequent nuclear test.²⁶
25. Although the Six-Party Talks led the DPRK to shut down their nuclear facilities in exchange for fuel aid and to normalize their relationship with Japan, Kim Jong-un restarted his nuclear program in 2009.²⁷ Perhaps such efforts failed because the Kim regime did not feel protected enough to abandon the prospect of nuclear deterrence.

International Atomic Energy Agency:

26. Finally, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that promotes the restriction of nuclear energy for military purposes. Despite having been established independently of the United Nations through a separate international treaty, the IAEA provides reports to the Security Council, as well as the General Assembly.²⁸ It has been carefully monitoring the DPRK’s situation since its withdrawal from this organization in 1994. Even though this body invited the DPRK for dialogue after it discovered that the Kim regime had launched a programme to enrich uranium for the manufacture of nuclear weapons, the DPRK has been uncooperative with it. Most recently, in 2017, the IAEA released a statement condemning the DPRK’s multiple tests in violation of many Security Council and UN Resolutions.²⁹

²⁴ UN, n.d. *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

²⁵ International Peace Institution, .. (2010). *North Korea and the NPT*. 1st ed. [ebook] International Peace Institution, p.28. Available at: https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/pdfs_koreachapt2.pdf

²⁶ Council on Foreign Relations. (2018). *The Six Party Talks on North Korea’s Nuclear Program*. [online] Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/six-party-talks-north-koreas-nuclear-program> [Accessed 25 Feb. 2018].

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ IAEA, 2017. *IAEA Overview*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/about/overview>

²⁹ IAEA, n.d. Chronology of Key Events. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/focus/dprk/chronology-of-key-events>



Key Players

The Permanent Five Members of the Security Council (P5):

27. As the DPRK's only global ally and the most significant contributor to the DPRK's international trade, China plays an essential role as a mediator in peace negotiations. Despite their strong ties to the DPRK, China has begun supporting economic sanctions with hope for diplomatic solutions, due to increasing tensions in the Korean peninsula. If tensions escalated and military conflict erupted, China's economic ties with the DPRK would be severed, and a possible refugee influx into China may erupt.³⁰
28. Contrary to other P5 nations, France does not officially recognize the DPRK's sovereignty. They hold the view that, until the DPRK ends its nuclear programs, the sole sovereignty of the Korean peninsula goes to the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Additionally, France has strongly condemned the DPRK's actions, working closely with China and Japan to push for harsher sanctions after the DPRK launched a missile over Japan in August 2017.³¹
29. Additionally, the Russian Federation displays a vast array of diplomatic assets in the DPRK crisis. For instance, it has carried out negotiations with the DPRK on methods of extending its diplomatic inclusion in the Korean. To this end, Russian negotiators have revived help from European and Asian leaders for a peaceful resolution toward the North Korean situation, and utilized a blend of coercive diplomacy and back-channel transactions to persuade the DPRK to go to the bargaining table.³² The Russian President has commented on the inefficiency of implementing economic sanctions alone, claiming that the DPRK would prefer to "eat grass" than dismantle its nuclear weapons program until it felt safe.³³
30. Furthermore, the United Kingdom vehemently wishes to avoid the possibility of military action against the DPRK at all costs. Prime Minister Theresa May has been quoted stating that, as joint permanent members of the UN Security Council, the UK and China have a "particular responsibility" to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis in the region. Although numerous Members of Parliament believe that atomic warfare will be unlikely and that if the UK's allies were attacked, they would be obliged to respond, with the UK negative public opinion on previous military intervention, as in Iraq, the UK will likely avoid military action.³⁴
31. Finally, the USA has taken a vocal stance against the DPRK's nuclear proliferation, with President Trump responded to North Korean threats with "fire and fury like the world has never seen," escalating diplomatic tensions.³⁵ Currently, the United States is pushing for harsher sanctions isolate the DPRK for the dismantlement of its atomic program.³⁶

³⁰ Calamur, K. (2018). How the U.S. and China Differ on North Korea. [online] The Atlantic. Available at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/11/us-china-north-korea/546746/>

³¹ France 24. (2018). China & Xi asks Macron for French help with North Korea - France 24. [online] Available at: <http://www.france24.com/en/20170908-china-xi-macron-france-help-north-korea-nuclear-tensions>

³² Ramani, S. (2017). Can Russia Help Solve the North Korea Crisis?. [online] The Diplomat. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/12/can-russia-help-solve-the-north-korea-crisis/>

³³ RT International. (2018). *Putin: Military hysteria over N. Korea may lead to planetary catastrophe, heavy loss of life.* [online] Available at: <https://www.rt.com/news/402020-putin-russia-speaks-brics/> [Accessed 25 Feb. 2018].

³⁴ Forces Network. (2018). North Korea: Could Britain Get Dragged Into War As Tensions Rise?. [online] Available at: <https://www.forces.net/news/north-korea-could-britain-get-dragged-war-tensions-rise>

³⁵ Tamkin, Cook, Adams and Garrett (2017). *Trump Threatens North Korea With Fire and Fury the World Has Never Seen.* [online] Foreign Policy. Available at: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/08/08/trump-threatens-north-korea-with-fire-and-fury-the-world-has-never-seen/> [Accessed 25 Feb. 2018].

³⁶ Calamur, K. (2018). How the U.S. and China Differ on North Korea. [online] The Atlantic. Available at:

Current Ten Elected Members of The Security Council (E10):

32. While the E10 strongly supports the implementation of a diplomatic solution to the DPRK crisis, its ten members have shown different levels of relationships with North Korea.
33. For instance, Bolivia tenaciously opposes military action and stated that sanctions would serve as a means to bring all parties to the negotiating table rather than as a solution to the crisis.³⁷
34. Côte d'Ivoire, as a party to the Treaty of Pelindaba establishing the African continent as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, consistently stands with all UN resolutions concerning nuclear development.³⁸
35. As one of the few African states with a North Korean embassy, Equatorial Guinea had maintained ties with the DPRK since the 1960s. Nevertheless, in 2017, Equatorial Guinea demanded that all of its companies cut relations economic with the DPRK.^{39, 40}
36. Although Ethiopia has also implemented economic sanctions on the DPRK, both nations have collaborated to some extent in the past, with the DPRK aiding the establishment of two arms factories in Ethiopia. North Korea also provided artillery, armored personnel carriers, tanks, munitions and training for the Ethiopian military.^{41, 42}
37. As a nation that dismantled the nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan has condemned the DPRK's "blatant violation[s] of [...] relevant UN Security Council resolution[s]" since February 2017.⁴³
38. Despite being the only Gulf nation to host a North Korean diplomatic mission and 3,000 North Korean workers, Kuwait has cut ties with the DPRK. The country ordered the DPRK's ambassador to leave in September 2017 and stopped entrance visas, loans, imports, and commercial licenses to the DPRK. It also reduced the number of North Korean diplomats in the country.⁴⁴
39. The Netherlands has shown concern over the DPRK's atomic initiatives due to their human rights record and urged for improvements in the relationship between the two Koreas.⁴⁵
40. Furthermore, Peru withdrew its Ambassador and diplomats from the DPRK and expelled the North Korean ambassador after the DPRK's refusal to end its nuclear program and following investigations on a plan to assassinate the spouses and children of American diplomats in Peru.^{46, 47}
41. Despite maintaining strong economic relations with the DPRK and signing sixteen bilateral treaties, Poland condemned the DPRK's long-range missile test in late 2017.^{48, 49}

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/11/us-china-north-korea/546746/>

³⁷ Security Council Imposes Fresh Sanctions on Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Including Bans on Natural Gas Sales, Work Authorization for Its Nationals | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. [online] Un.org. Available at: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12983.doc.htm>

³⁸ UN (2001). *Further measures in the field of disarmament for the prevention of an arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof*. 56th ed. [ebook] United Nations, pp.2 & 3. Available at: <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56172.pdf>

³⁹ Ramani, S. (2016). *North Korea's African Allies*. [online] The Diplomat. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2016/06/north-koreas-african-allies/>

⁴⁰ Mardy (2005). *Embassies in North Korea - Everything2.com*. [online] Everything2.com. Available at: <https://everything2.com/title/Embassies+in+North+Korea>

⁴¹ Ramani, S. (2016). *North Korea's African Allies*. [online] The Diplomat. Available at: <https://thediplomat.com/2016/06/north-koreas-african-allies/>

⁴² Macdonald, H. (2017). *Ethiopia working to restrict North Korean embassy's bank accounts: MFA | NK News - North Korea News*. [online] NK News - North Korea News. Available at: <https://www.nknews.org/2017/08/ethiopia-working-to-restrict-north-korean-embassy-bank-accounts-mfa/>

⁴³ Nuraliyev, A. (2017). *Kazakhstan 'strongly condemns' North Korean ballistic missile launch*. [online] The Astana Times. Available at: <https://astanatimes.com/2017/02/kazakhstan-strongly-condemns-north-korean-ballistic-missile-launch/>

⁴⁴ Staff, R. (2017). *Kuwait orders North Korea's ambassador to leave within a month*. [online] U.S. Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-kuwait-northkorea/kuwait-orders-north-koreas-ambassador-to-leave-within-a-month-idUSKCN1BS0MQ>

⁴⁵ Daniel, W., JJ, O. and Insung, K. (2016). *Issue Brief: DPRK Diplomatic Relations*. 1st ed. [ebook] NCNK. Available at: https://www.ncnk.org/sites/default/files/issue-briefs/DPRK_Diplo_Relations_August2016.pdf

⁴⁶ Gavin, H. (2018). *North Korea staff plotted to kill wives and children of American diplomats*. [online] Express.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/905567/north-korea-news-diplomats-expelled-lima-peru-plot-to-kill-american-citizens-uncovered>

⁴⁷ Oh, S. (2017). *Peru to expel two North Korean diplomats | NK News - North Korea News*. [online] NK News - North Korea News. Available at: <https://www.nknews.org/2017/12/peru-to-expel-two-north-korean-diplomats/>

⁴⁸ Mardy (2005). *Embassies in North Korea - Everything2.com*. [online] Everything2.com. Available at: <https://everything2.com/title/Embassies+in+North+Korea>



42. Finally, Sweden was the first country to open an embassy in the DPRK and serves as the interim consular protecting power for American, Australian, Canadian, and Finnish interests in the country. After the DPRK's missile test, Sweden strongly condemned their actions and urged all nations to take the recent opportunities for diplomacy and discussion with the DPRK after their opening of communications with South Korea before the 2018 Winter Olympics.^{50, 51}

Possible Solutions

43. The issue of missile testing and nuclear proliferation as a threat to international peace and security is a broad topic that can be dealt with in multiple angles: political, economic, and humanitarian. The situation in The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is an issue deeply rooted in history. Therefore, it is crucial to learn from the situations in Iraq and Libya. Kim Jong-un is reluctant to give up his nuclear programme than most nations and leaders dealt with in the past.
44. From the political aspect, a possible solution would be implementing more international involvement in the Korean crisis, not as bystanders but as active stakeholders in maintaining international peace and security. This would encourage more global oversight and lead the International Community to adopt a more solidified position towards the DPRK's situation. Although it would be considerably difficult to engage the entire International Community in negotiations with North Korea, Security Council members might boost their actions with consultations on solutions and monitoring with non-Security Council states. It would also be practical to engage both the DPRK and the Republic of Korea –North and South Korea, respectively- to continue negotiating peace deals for the denuclearization of the peninsula. With the positive outcome of the recent truce for the Winter Olympic Games, the Council might find it worthwhile to pursue similar de-escalation measures.
45. Nevertheless, the Security Council should pursue more immediate and practical measures to the DPRK crisis than condemning their actions. Realistic reassurance of the survival of the Kim regime might ease the DPRK's need to develop nuclear weapons and might open the floor for democratization in the long term. Additionally, Member States may wish to implement a non-violence agreement in the Korean Peninsula or reintroduce a reformed alliance with the IAEA to oversee the peaceful use of atomic energy. Nevertheless, these solutions should be negotiated in detail to achieve the most favorable outcome for all Member States.
46. Additionally, the Council may decide to pursue further economic sanctions. However China is heavily against these measures, due to the economic relation its companies have with the DPRK, especially those in the coal industry. Economic sanctions must be pursued carefully, nevertheless. Since coal is the DPRK's prime export and is traded mainly with China, sanctions on this commodity would significantly lower the DPRK's Gross Domestic Product, potentially leading to a humanitarian crisis, as the nation would lack the capital to import food. However, a possible solution would be food aid while the sanctions are in place.

⁴⁹ Ukraine, I. (2018). *Klimkin on Poland: Historical truth not established by laws* | *KyivPost*. [online] KyivPost. Available at: <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/klimkin-poland-historical-truth-not-established-laws.html>

⁵⁰ Mardy (2005). *Embassies in North Korea - Everything2.com*. [online] Everything2.com. Available at: <https://everything2.com/title/Embassies+in+North+Korea>

⁵¹ Daniel, W., JJ, O. and Insung, K. (2016). *Issue Brief: DPRK Diplomatic Relations*. 1st ed. [ebook] NCNK. Available at: https://www.ncnk.org/sites/default/files/issue-briefs/DPRK_Diplo_Relations_August2016.pdf



47. Military intervention should only remain as a last resort for Member States, considering most States' policies and the prospect of devastation on human lives.

Current Situation:

48. The lack of progress in the DPRK crisis evidence how difficult the implementation of multilateral solutions can be.
49. Although the UN Security Council imposed multiple sanctions on the DPRK, which banned the trade of crucial commodities such as coal with the Kim regime, China's trade figures increased by 10.2% in 2017 compared to 2016. This amounts to USD 3.01 billion.⁵² It is believed that the missile programme and the jobs created due to it is the main reason for the increase in trade.⁵³ Therefore, past sanctions have proven ineffective.
50. Additionally, previous talks and agreements have not worked as planned due to Kim Jong-un's unwillingness to give up on his nuclear programme and the lack of safety provisions to his nation. A potential significant reason for the DPRK's reluctance to cooperate is its limited relations with numerous Member States. Shows of cooperation constitute an essential step to normalize the relationships between the DPRK and the rest of the world and therefore possibly loosen the government's reluctance to give up its nuclear programme.
51. Considering the difficulty of unanimously agreeing on the most efficient solution, delegates must scrutinize both their own and foreign policies on the issue, and evaluate their solutions' potential benefits and shortcomings. Delegates should learn from past mistakes and avoid repeating them. Failure to do this will not stop the Kim regime from developing nuclear weapons.

Key Questions to Consider when Researching and Negotiating

- What are the most pressing issues and potential consequences caused by the nuclear crisis in North Korea? How could these hamper progress towards the 2030 Agenda?
- What course of action does your represented Member State prefer and how can it be argued both for and against?
- What perspectives from other nations may clash with those of your represented Member State? How can an agreement be reached?
- What immediate solutions or actions should the Security Council prioritize?
- Should further talks happen? How can the Council avoid repeating the failures of previous negotiations and ensure that future talks lead to tangible progress?
- How can the Council avoid a major humanitarian disaster? How can sanctions not lead to starvation or a refugee crisis?
- How will solutions ensure the de-escalation of conflict? How can the permanent disarmament of the DPRK be ensured?

⁵² Kim, C., 2017. *North Korea 2016 economic growth at 17-year high despite sanctions - South Korea*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-northkorea-economy-gdp/north-korea-2016-economic-growth-at-17-year-high-despite-sanctions-south-korea-idUKKBN1A6o83>

⁵³ Volodsko, D., 2017. *North Korea's Secret Weapon? Economic Growth..* [Online] Available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2017-09-14/north-korea-s-secret-weapon-economic-growth>



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