

# Conference on Disarmament

English

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**Final record of the one thousand three hundred and seventy-third plenary meeting**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 9 February 2016, at 10 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Peters Omologbe Emuze ..... (Nigeria)

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**The President:** I call to order the 1373rd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, Mr. Møller, Ms. Soliman, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you all to this plenary. I understand that several delegations would like to take the floor this morning on current issues relevant to the Conference on Disarmament. Subsequently, in the light of our informal discussions last week, I would like to update you on my consultations concerning the programme of work.

I am pleased to inform you that we have received a request from one delegation wishing to participate in our work as a non-member State. That request is before you as document CD/WP.593/Add.2. Are there any comments on this request? May I take it that the Conference decides to invite Singapore to participate in our work in accordance with the rules of procedure?

*It was so decided.*

**The President:** Allow me now to suspend the meeting for a brief moment in order to allow the representatives of Singapore, which has just been invited to participate in the work of the Conference, to take their seats in the Council Chamber.

*The meeting was briefly suspended.*

**The President:** The meeting is resumed. At this time, I would like to turn to the list of speakers for today. As mentioned earlier, some delegations have requested to make a general statement. I now give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands, Mr. Andras Kos.

**Mr. Kos** (Netherlands): Mr. President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union condemns in the strongest possible terms the launch using ballistic missile technology by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 7 February 2016. The launch represents a further serious violation of its international obligations as set out in United Nations Security Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013). It follows the alarming and illegal nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 January 2016. These actions represent a direct threat to international peace and security in the region and beyond, and they further aggravate tensions on the Korean Peninsula to the detriment of all.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must comply with its international obligations and abandon its programmes to develop ballistic missiles and nuclear capabilities in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must refrain from any action that could further increase regional tensions and should engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community. The European Union is in close contact with all its partners and we will work with the United Nations Security Council to address this latest act.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Netherlands for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea, Ambassador Young-moo Kim.

**Mr. Kim** Young-moo (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, it is deeply deplorable that North Korea has once again launched a long-range missile despite the repeated warnings and concerns raised by the international community. It is an extreme provocation towards the international community as well as a flagrant violation of existing United Nations Security Council resolutions which prohibit North Korea from any launch using ballistic missile technologies.

We would like to draw your attention especially to the fact that the North Korean missile launch was conducted during ongoing discussions in the Security Council concerning the sanctions against North Korea for its recent nuclear test. This is in clear contempt of and disregard for the functions and powers of the Security Council and against our collective efforts on international disarmament and non-proliferation.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva submitted the official statement by our Government on this issue to the Conference on Disarmament member States on 7 February 2016. We welcome the fact that the Security Council and many countries have already issued statements condemning the missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the strongest terms possible. At this critical juncture, the Republic of Korea will make every effort to push for strong sanction measures at the Security Council to change that country's course away from these highly dangerous and provocative acts. Along these lines, we will also stand united together with other Conference on Disarmament member States to deliver a clear message to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: that the international community will no longer tolerate its reckless behaviour.

**The President:** I thank the representative of South Korea for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Ireland, Ambassador Patricia O'Brien.

**Ms. O'Brien** (Ireland): Mr. President, Ireland would like to add some remarks in a national capacity to those delivered on our behalf by the European Union.

On last Tuesday, 2 February, in this chamber, I quoted the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade who had observed that the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea last month drew into sharp focus the urgent need for international engagement on nuclear disarmament. My Government is therefore deeply dismayed that almost one month to the day of the January nuclear test we are faced with yet another provocation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, namely a rocket launch employing ballistic missile technology on Sunday, 7 February. As we have said, these irresponsible actions demonstrate once again the urgent need for engagement on nuclear disarmament by all stakeholders. The North Korean authorities should cease all nuclear testing and re-engage with the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula immediately and without preconditions. In our view, these actions represent a threat to international peace and security in the region and beyond and can only serve to aggravate existing tensions on the Korean Peninsula. We welcome the statement by the United Nations Security Council in this regard.

Much closer to home, Mr. President, these recent events, in our view, only serve to reinforce our collective responsibility within this chamber to break the logjam in the Conference on Disarmament and to urgently agree a programme of work. We commend your efforts in this regard.

Permit me to conclude by strongly urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from these actions and to comply with its international obligations. We further exhort the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its programme to develop ballistic missiles, nuclear capabilities and weapons of mass destruction and to carry out these processes in a manner that is complete, verifiable and irreversible.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Ireland for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of France, Ambassador Alice Guitton.

**Ms. Guitton** (France) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, France fully endorses the statement made earlier on behalf of the European Union.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the launch carried out by North Korea in flagrant violation of its international obligations and relevant Security Council resolutions. With this latest mindless provocation, North Korea continues to pursue a path of confrontation. Such an approach is irresponsible and unacceptable.

France once again urges North Korea to comply immediately with its international obligations and to dismantle its nuclear and ballistic programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We call upon North Korea to abstain from any action that could increase tensions on the Korean Peninsula and jeopardize international peace and security.

France will work with the international community to bring about a strong and decisive response to this new provocation.

**The President:** I thank the representative of France for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Japan, Ambassador Toshio Sano.

**Mr. Sano (Japan):** Mr. President, on 7 February the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again launched a ballistic missile, which it called a satellite. The international community, including Japan, has repeatedly and strongly urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, among others, and refrain from any provocation, including nuclear tests or ballistic missile launches.

Nevertheless, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea went ahead with a launch following the nuclear test of 6 January. This series of provocations in a short range of time gravely undermines the peace and stability of North-East Asia and the international community. It is a serious violation of Security Council resolution 2094 (2013), which obligates the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to conduct any launches using ballistic missile technology, as well as other relevant Security Council resolutions. This action is not only a violation of the Japan-Democratic People's Republic of Korea Pyongyang Declaration, but it is also against the spirit of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks of September 2005. Therefore, it is totally unacceptable for Japan, and Japan lodges a serious protest and strongly condemns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Following the recent nuclear test, the Security Council is currently undertaking consultations towards the adoption of a new resolution. In Security Council resolution 2094 (2013), the Council expressed its determination to take significant measures in the event of a further launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In accordance with that resolution, Japan will do its utmost as a member of the Security Council, through close coordination with relevant countries, to adopt a strong resolution as soon as possible.

Mr. President, Japan once again strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately and fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Japan for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of China, Mr. Ji Haojun.

**Mr. Ji Haojun (China):** Mr. President, actually I was waiting for some other countries to make statements. I would like to delay my statement, if other countries wish to take the floor.

**The President:** Very well, note is taken. I now give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom, Ambassador Rowland.

**Mr. Rowland (United Kingdom):** Mr. President, the United Kingdom strongly condemns the launch using ballistic missile technology by North Korea on 7 February as a clear violation of a number of United Nations Security Council resolutions. The

development by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its ballistic missile capabilities, in addition to its nuclear programme, poses a threat to international peace and security. These actions only serve to increase regional tension further and hinder the prospects for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs yesterday summoned the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in London to make clear my country's condemnation of the launch as a breach of United Nations Security Council resolutions. He told the Ambassador that the behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was completely unacceptable and will only bring his country even greater international isolation.

The British Foreign Secretary made clear in his statement on 7 February that the continued provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not be tolerated. Our focus now is to work with partners to increase international pressure on the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through a robust and comprehensive response at the United Nations Security Council.

As set out in the Security Council statement of 7 February, we and the other members restated our intent to develop significant measures in a new Security Council resolution in response to the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 January and recalled that we had previously expressed our determination to take further significant measures in the event of another launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In line with this commitment and the gravity of this most recent violation, the members of the Security Council will adopt expeditiously a new Security Council resolution with such measures in response to these dangerous and serious violations.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the United States, Ambassador Wood.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): Mr. President, the North Korean launch using ballistic missile technology falling so closely after its 6 January nuclear test represents yet another destabilizing and provocative action and is a flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The North Korean missile and nuclear weapons programmes represent serious threats to our interests, including the security of some of our closest allies, and undermine peace and security in the broader region. We condemn the launch and the determination of North Korea to prioritize its missile and nuclear weapons programmes over the well-being of its people, whose struggles only intensify with the Government's diversion of scarce resources to such destabilizing activities.

The United States is fully committed to the security of our allies in the region and we will take all necessary steps to defend ourselves and our allies and respond to North Korean provocations.

We call upon the international community to stand together and demonstrate to North Korea that its reckless actions must have serious consequences. We call on all those who have influence with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to use that influence in order to persuade Pyongyang to end its provocative behaviour.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the United States for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Australia, Mr. Ian McConville.

**Mr. McConville** (Australia): Mr. President, the Australian Government unreservedly condemns the North Korean ballistic missile launch on 7 February. This provocative, dangerous and destabilizing behaviour by North Korea further confirms its status as a rogue State and a continuing threat to international peace and security. This provocation so closely following the North's fourth nuclear test further aggravates the already tense situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The development by North Korea of nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and related technologies threatens the peace and security of not just the region but beyond. Its actions threaten the friends and partners of Australia in the region, including the Republic of Korea, Japan and China. The rocket launch is in clear breach of five unanimously agreed United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Australia will work with its partners for the strongest possible response to the continuing defiance by North Korea of the will of the international community. We also will work closely with the international community to improve implementation of existing sanctions and develop new ones to target the North Korean regime's capacity to develop weapons of mass destruction.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Australia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Italy, Ambassador Mati.

**Mr. Mati** (Italy): Mr. President, with reference to the latest long-range missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Italy associates itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union. Such a launch constitutes a further provocation and threat to international peace and security only one month after that country's most recent nuclear test.

We strongly condemn this initiative, which represents yet another open violation of Security Council resolutions. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon all its existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and to refrain from any further provocative actions.

Furthermore, we urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards at an early date, as well as to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Italy for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Canada, Mr. John Davison.

**Mr. Davison** (Canada): Mr. President, Canada condemns the long-range missile launch by North Korea using sanctioned ballistic missile technology. This launch, like the prohibited 6 January nuclear test by North Korea, constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security and to stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Any launch by North Korea using ballistic missile technology directly violates successive United Nations Security Council resolutions. The actions by North Korea show a blatant disregard for its international obligations, and Canada calls on North Korea to cease these disruptive and provocative actions and to return to compliance with its international obligations.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Canada for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand, Ms. Katy Donnelly.

**Ms. Donnelly** (New Zealand): As this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor under your presidency, please allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your

assumption of this role. With the experience of our own presidency still very fresh in our minds, I assure you — and subsequent Presidents in 2016 — of the full support and cooperation of New Zealand.

Mr. President, I am taking the floor today to add the voice of New Zealand to those that have condemned the North Korean long-range rocket launch of 7 February. Even if characterized as a satellite launch or space launch vehicle, this launch is a serious violation of Security Council resolutions demanding that North Korea cease any launches using ballistic missile technology.

The irresponsible decision by North Korea to conduct the launch and the nuclear test they carried out on 6 January are in grave violation of that country's international obligations and fly in the face of international opinion.

As outlined in the statement given by the Foreign Minister of New Zealand shortly after the launch, we again call on North Korea to refrain from actions which undermine peace and stability in the region. New Zealand is working with other Security Council members on an appropriate response to the launch.

**The President:** I thank the representative of New Zealand for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Peru, Ambassador Chávez Basagoitia.

**Mr. Chávez Basagoitia** (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, the Government of Peru condemns the rocket launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 7 February inasmuch as that launch, which involved ballistic missile technology, was in breach of Security Council resolutions demanding that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea suspend launches of such devices.

The Government of Peru endorses the Security Council statement of 7 February condemning the launch and reaffirms its commitment to the Council's decisions on maintaining peace and security in the region. In addition, it reiterates its support for the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to resume the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The Government of Peru expresses its concern at this test and stresses the negative consequences of the test for stability in North-East Asia in particular, and for global peace and security in general.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Peru for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of China, Mr. Ji Haojun.

**Mr. Ji Haojun** (China): As I said last week, Mr. President, China is very reluctant to have this meeting during the Chinese New Year and even unhappier that, while most Chinese people are launching fireworks, we have to discuss this unhappy event.

We note the declaration by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it has successfully launched a satellite. We also note the reaction from the relevant parties in the international community. China has time and again said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has the right to make peaceful use of outer space; that right is currently subject to restrictions under United Nations Security Council resolutions. We regret that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea insisted on going ahead with this launch against the wishes of international society.

Under the current circumstances, the most pressing task for the international community is how to move ahead with the process of denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula: how to safeguard peace and stability on the Peninsula — nothing else. If we looked back on the involvement of the Korean nuclear issue, we would know that the

current situation is left over from the cold war and is also the result of the policy of some countries aiming at regime change or looking forward to the collapse of some other country's government.

In order to push forward with denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, we issued a good joint statement — the 19 September Joint Statement — in which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea committed to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and returning at an early date to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

We also reached the 13 February agreement, in which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made clear its target and specific steps towards abandoning nuclear weapons. If we go back to more than 10 years ago, we also note that there was at a certain stage an agreement reached between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and some other parties on its programme of developing nuclear capabilities, but that agreement was scrapped by one country unilaterally.

As the Chair of the Six-Party Talks, the Chinese side has made strenuous efforts to make genuine progress in denuclearization and has encouraged all parties concerned to reach the formation of a consensus. However, it is regrettable that, due to some well-known reasons which have nothing to do with China, the consensus has been left unimplemented and the Six-Party Talks have come to a standstill.

During the stalemate of the Six-Party Talks, in response to relevant countries' constant outcry for pressure and sanctions, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea started nuclear tests and conducted them over and over again. In this sense, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea slapped the relevant country across the face. As to whose face the Democratic People's Republic of Korea slapped, the country itself knows very well. We hope that relevant countries can overcome differences through negotiations and consultations, and we do not want to see any escalation of tension. But if relevant parties insist on doing so, then it is not something that we can stop.

We must make one point clear. As a close neighbour of the Korean Peninsula, we will by no means allow war or instability on the Peninsula; and by no means will we allow any country to pursue its selfish gains while the international community is working towards the target of denuclearization.

China is deeply concerned that some countries are trying to take advantage of the situation and wish to deploy missile defence capabilities on the Korean Peninsula. Such missile defence systems have the capability of shooting down satellites in outer space in contravention of their long-stated policy that they are against the development of anti-satellite capabilities. We hope that countries will take a responsible attitude in this regard, because deployment of such systems on the Korean Peninsula would cause the escalation of tensions on the Peninsula and this is not in the interest of maintaining regional peace and security.

I would like to reiterate that the Chinese Government remains committed to realizing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, safeguarding peace on and the stability of the Peninsula and properly resolving the Korean nuclear issue through dialogue.

**The President:** I thank the representative of China for his statement and may I crave the indulgence of the Conference on Disarmament to wish you a happy new year. I actually tried to reach your Ambassador last week.

I now call on the representative of Ukraine, Ambassador Yurii Klymenko, to take the floor.



**Mr. Klymenko** (Ukraine): Mr. President, Ukraine strongly condemns the unacceptable and provocative actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the launch on 7 February 2016 of the so-called Kwangmyongsong-4 Earth observation satellite, which may be a disguised test of ballistic missile technology. The said launch, carried out shortly after the nuclear test in early January, constitutes a direct violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions 1695 (2006), 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009) and 2094 (2013) as well as other relevant documents.

These irresponsible actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have seriously aggravated the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and undermined regional peace and stability.

As a country that has voluntarily dismantled its own nuclear arsenal and has been strictly abiding by its obligations regarding non-proliferation of nuclear materials, technologies and their means of delivery, Ukraine will continue to work closely with our partners — including the United Nations Security Council members — to address the issue. Ukraine calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from such steps in the future and to return to the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

**The President:** I thank Ambassador Yuri Klymenko for his statement and for his kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico, Ms. Paola Ramírez Valenzuela.

**Ms. Ramírez Valenzuela** (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, as this is the first time I am taking the floor under your presidency, allow me to begin by assuring you of my delegation's support.

Mexico echoes the expressions of dismay at the rocket launch carried out by North Korea and is gravely concerned by the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to launch a rocket using ballistic missile technology on 7 February.

Mexico finds such acts regrettable inasmuch as they obstruct the international community's efforts to foster an atmosphere of peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia. My Government repeats its call for compliance with Security Council resolution 1718 (2006) and, in particular, resolutions 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013), in which the Council demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea suspend launches using ballistic missile technology and all acts of provocation.

The Security Council has condemned the launch by the North Korean Government and expressed its intention to adopt new measures in that regard. Mexico is following closely the discussions in the Council and the measures to be adopted with a view to contributing to efforts to maintain peace and security in the region.

Mexico aligns itself with the calls made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks as the appropriate framework for taking forward negotiations on the denuclearization of the Peninsula, and it reiterates its support for building an atmosphere of peace, stability and progress in the region.

This event occurred just one month after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had conducted a fourth nuclear test, on 6 January, in violation of Security Council resolutions and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. That test had been condemned by the international community, including Mexico.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Mexico for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey, Ms. Berna Kasnakli.

**Ms. Kasnakli** (Turkey): Mr. President, Turkey strongly condemns the launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea in violation of that country's international obligations. As with the fourth nuclear test by North Korea on 6 January, this launch constitutes once again a total disregard for regional and international security and stability.

We are deeply concerned by the possible negative implications of this irresponsible step taken by North Korea despite all international warnings. We urge North Korea to fully comply with its obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions without delay.

Turkey also attaches importance to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and encourages the immediate resumption of the Six-Party Talks to this effect.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Turkey for her statement and for her kind words. I now give the floor to the representative of Spain, Ambassador Julio Herráiz España.

**Mr. Herráiz España** (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, Spain wishes to add its voice to those who have condemned, including on behalf of the European Union, the launch using ballistic missile technology that was conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 7 February.

I will not make a formal statement because any substantive content would be aligned fully with the statement delivered by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. In a national capacity, however, and as Spain currently holds the Chair of the 1718 Committee of the Security Council, I would like to state that Spain will show itself equal to the task in responding appropriately to the launch carried out on 7 February.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Spain for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ambassador So Se Pyong.

**Mr. So Se Pyong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, first of all, I would like to express appreciation for your efforts thus far to formulate a comprehensive and balanced programme of work in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. We hope that your continued efforts will bring about a fruitful result, and we reassure you of our readiness to cooperate closely within the Conference on Disarmament to find an appropriate way to enhance the role and significance of the Conference.

Mr. President, I have requested the floor to exercise the right of reply to respond to the fact-falsifying accusations and irresponsible allegations made today by several delegations concerning the successful launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of an Earth observation satellite on 7 February 2016.

Before I offer my comments and clarify our position on this issue, I would like to point out that the Conference, as a unique expert forum with a special mandate to negotiate multilateral disarmament treaties, has been turning into a highly politicized platform where certain countries try to justify their unjustifiable logic, deliberately disregarding indisputable facts and vociferating groundless accusations infringing upon the independent right of a dignified United Nations Member State.

Outer space is the common heritage of humankind, and the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes — carrying this out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries — is ensured, irrespective of degree of economic or scientific development.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea launched the newly developed Earth observation satellite Kwangmyongsong-4 into orbit according to the 2016 plan of the five-year programme for national aerospace development in line with its policy for the peaceful development and use of space. The successful launch of Kwangmyongsong-4 is a precious

result of scientific research conducted by the scientists and technicians of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in order to develop and utilize working satellites that are indispensable for the country's economic and scientific development, pursuant to the Government's policy for the peaceful development and use of space.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has already notified relevant international organizations of the launch and related information in accordance with international regulations and procedures in order to ensure transparency, and it is officially recognized by the international community that the satellite was successfully put into orbit. This morning, I checked the tracking of the Kwangmyongsong-4 satellite through the website: it is still under way.

Nevertheless, it is a clear manifestation of intolerable double standards for some countries to assert that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not allowed to launch a satellite because it uses long-range missile technology and violates United Nations Security Council resolutions. This can be construed as nothing other than a sophistry that intentionally misinterprets entirely just space development in the mere pursuit of politically motivated purposes.

The satellite launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the exercise of an independent and legitimate right which fully conforms to universally agreed international laws on the peaceful use of space, including the Space Treaty. It is in fact the Security Council sanctions, forcibly fabricated by the United States, which deny and restrain the legitimate right of a sovereign State, that are to be questioned as they are unlawful and contrary to universal international law on the peaceful use of outer space.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will never tolerate any attempt to violate the exercise of its sovereign right to peaceful development.

If countries are really concerned about peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, they should adopt an impartial and objective stance — rather than blindly joining their voices against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — and take issue with the hostile United States policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and call for its withdrawal.

It is the unvarying stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as a spacefaring nation capable of manufacturing and launching satellites on its own, to continue launching satellites for peaceful purposes.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. Would any other delegation like to take the floor?

I give the floor to the representative of the United States, Ambassador Wood.

**Mr. Wood** (United States of America): I am taking the floor once again, Mr. President, just to respond to several things that were said. I would like to refer first off to a comment made by our Chinese colleague that somehow a particular country was slapped in the face by the recent nuclear test of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I would say it is an affront to the entire international community for this type of activity to take place, especially on the eve of the lunar new year.

To respond to the comments made by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, once again, and I have said this many times in this body, the United States is not a threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea insists that United Nations Security Council resolutions do not matter. They are international law. They have been supported by many in the international community, including China, I might add. It was very refreshing

to hear the representative from China in essence condemn the provocative acts by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and we hope that that condemnation will translate into support for much tougher sanctions in the Security Council on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its provocative behaviour and actions.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the United States. I now call on the representative of Colombia, Mr. Francisco González.

**Mr. González** (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, as this is the first time my delegation has taken the floor under your presidency, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you for the way you are guiding our work and to reiterate our delegation's support for your work and for a successful presidency.

Allow me to read out from a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia so that my country's position may be placed on the record:

"The Government of Colombia strongly condemns the launch on 7 February 2016 by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of a device using ballistic missile technology. This act contravenes relevant Security Council resolutions and has repercussions for regional stability and international peace and security.

"Colombia remains committed to international instruments and principles relating to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and urgently calls for the cessation of all acts which might jeopardize peace and political stability on the Korean Peninsula."

**The President:** I thank the representative of Colombia for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. I now call on the representative of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Deyneko.

**Mr. Deyneko** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, we respect the right of all delegations to raise any issues at the Conference on Disarmament that they feel are necessary and important from the standpoint of the Conference's mandate.

The Russian Federation has already made comments on the matter under discussion, so I will not take time from other delegations. I will only say that, on the website of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, there is a link to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; for those who are interested, I also have here some copies of the comments made by the Ministry.

I would, however, like to ask delegates a question: how do today's discussions and statements, which are already descending into polemics, bring us all, as members of the Conference, closer to achieving the main overall objective, namely, an early agreement on the programme of work of the Conference and resumption of its negotiating activity?

Allow me to conclude by saying that I wish all Conference members were as active in the discussions on the urgent issues facing the Conference.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Russia for his statement. I would now like to call on the representative of Korea. You have the floor, Ambassador Kim Young-moo.

**Mr. Kim Young-moo** (Republic of Korea): I would like to respond to the statement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding the right to peaceful use of outer space. The statement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is correct in that all United Nations Member States have the right to peaceful use of outer space; however, that does not apply to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. United Nations Security Council resolutions 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013) clearly prohibit any launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea using ballistic missile technology. So, it is

not a double standard. My delegation would like to reiterate that the launching of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the name of a satellite launch would represent a flagrant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. According to Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States should accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. Article 103 clearly states that the obligations under the Charter prevail over the obligations under any other international agreement. Thus, it is more than evident that North Korea is bound by its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

**The President:** I thank the representative of Korea for his statement. At this stage, I would like to ask if there is any delegation who would like to take the floor. I recognize again the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**Mr. So Se Pyong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): I am sorry to ask for the floor again, Mr. President. As already clarified, the satellite launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the exercise of its legitimate right to explore and use outer space for peaceful purposes, like many other spacefaring countries do as normal practice in accordance with their national development plans. In disregard of our peace-loving efforts for economic and scientific development, the United States and its allies continue to purposely link a satellite launch with missile tests in order to heighten the tension and take advantage of this opportunity to justify their military scheme to obtain the strategic goal of maintaining superiority.

I have to say one thing. If we launch a satellite, they call it a missile test; but if the same satellite is launched, they say it is a satellite. This is just a double standard. So, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will never give up the exercise of its legitimate right as a sovereign State. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea wants neither a vicious cycle of confrontation nor the escalation of tension in the Korean Peninsula.

I have to say one thing now — just a phrase: “the more the pressure, the more the reactions”. I think this is a very important motto and a good lesson for us all not to forget. Otherwise, we will face another Armageddon in the world.

**The President:** I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement. At this stage, I would like to ask again if there is any other delegation who would like to take the floor. That does not seem to be the case.

Please allow me, then, to brief you on the consultations that I have had so far on the programme of work and my thoughts on how we can move forward in the current session.

In the course of the past two weeks, we have been looking at ways to get the Conference on Disarmament working again. We have held several consultations and we believe that it is possible to make headway, notwithstanding the impediments we have identified so far. The Conference on Disarmament remains the single multilateral platform for negotiating disarmament in the international community. We encourage States not to lose sight of this noble but onerous role, as it were. While we continue with consultations, we urge States not to be discouraged but to remain committed to getting the Conference to work for our global community with a view to consolidating international peace and security. In 1978, when — in the wisdom of the accomplished diplomats — the enabling instrument that established the Conference at the United Nations General Assembly resolved that our activities in this forum would be consensus-driven, the intention was not to have a Conference that would remain in a stalemate for two decades and counting, but rather to reach decisions that would benefit humankind unanimously.

Let me use this opportunity to state that there is an urgent need for the Conference to get back to work and remain alive to its responsibilities. In the light of this, and as the first President of the Conference in the 2016 session, and drawing from the many consultations I

have had, my intention is to establish working groups that would focus on discussing the substance of the four core agenda items. In this connection, we will circulate a document that defines the parameters and mandate of the planned working groups before our next meeting in order to allow delegations enough time to study the document and understand where we are headed. We have also commenced consulting with those that would likely coordinate the working groups, so that — at the time of the establishment of the working groups — we will be ready with names of coordinators and a schedule of activities. Delegations should rest assured that we will update them accordingly in due course. Please feel free to make comments and ask questions.

Would any other delegation like to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case. I will continue my consultations over the coming days. This concludes our business for today. Our next meeting would be on Tuesday, 16 February 2016, at 10 a.m. The meeting is adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 11 a.m.*