

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and twenty-eighth plenary meeting


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President: Julio Herráiz España..... (Spain)

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The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I call to order the 1428th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Excellencies, colleagues, Ms. Kaspersen, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for attending this afternoon's plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. I would like to begin by indicating that the Director General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has made a request to address the Conference on Disarmament on 5 September 2017. You will perhaps recall that the Conference had agreed that the address of the OPCW Director General would take place on 11 September; however, due to scheduling problems, I am hereby proposing that it take place on 5 September. If I hear no objections to this change, I take it that members agree.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Germany has asked me to announce that the meeting on lethal autonomous weapons systems in conference room VII will begin at 3 p.m. and not at 3.30 p.m. as had been scheduled.

Now, without further ado I will move on to the list of speakers I have for this afternoon, which includes the Republic of Korea, Japan, the United States, Estonia, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Romania, Hungary, Israel, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy and Peru. I now give the floor to the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, it would be no exaggeration to say — using a Shakespearean expression — that every third thought at this year's session of the Conference on Disarmament has been about the provocations and threats by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to international peace and security. Indeed, the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which are a threat to all United Nations Member States, as unanimously stressed by the United Nations Security Council at its emergency meeting yesterday, have been a matter of constant concern for the Conference; and members of the Conference have repeatedly responded with condemnations and calls for full compliance by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with its obligations under Security Council resolutions as well as their prompt coming out to the path of dialogue.

Given such concerns of the Conference and in the wake of yesterday's grave provocation consisting of a ballistic missile of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea flying over Japan, which many of us condemned here yesterday, it will be most opportune to share in this chamber an expert assessment of the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. So, with your indulgence, Mr. President, I will — without further ado — pass the microphone to my dear colleague, Lieutenant Colonel Park Seung-ho from our Ministry of National Defence, who will make an expert presentation on the issue at hand.

Mr. Park Seung-ho (Republic of Korea): Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Lieutenant Colonel Park and I am from the Nuclear Policy Planning Division of the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Korea.

It is my honour to be able to brief the United Nations Conference on Disarmament on the nuclear and missile threats posed by North Korea, which have the potential of being the greatest threat to world peace. Today's briefing focuses on reviewing why the North Korean nuclear and missile threats are the greatest threat to world peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia based on past provocations by North Korea and an assessment of the progress made in nuclear and missile programmes. It will also be about the countering posture of the military of the Republic of Korea to effectively deter and respond to the North Korean nuclear and missile threat.

First, as to past provocations by North Korea, since 1945 North Korea has pursued forceful reunification under communist rule as their objective. This is very clearly stated in the rules of the North Korean Labour Party. In accordance with the May 2016 Labour Party rules, the ultimate objective of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Labour Party is to unify the world under communist rule and to force the United States military to withdraw from the Korean Peninsula. This slide shows provocations by North Korea in the 1950s. On

25 June 1950, North Korea conducted a surprise invasion towards the south in order to unify the Korean Peninsula under communist rule by force.

At the time, North Korea was armed with massive firepower that they were given through military support by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and China. On the other hand, South Korea was far behind in terms of military force and firepower. In three days, North Korea occupied Seoul, the capital of South Korea, and continued to march south. However, South Korea was able to recover the lost territories with the participation of 60 Member States of the United Nations, including the United States, in July 1950. During the three years of the Korean War, 1 million Korean civilians, 620,000 Korean armed forces and 154,000 United Nations forces were killed.

On 21 January 1968, North Korea sent 31 special operations forces to assassinate the South Korean president. In 1974, South Korea detected North Korea digging underground tunnels to be used for infiltration. On 18 August 1976, North Korea killed two United States officers with an axe in Panmunjon. In October 1983, North Korea committed a terrorist bombing against Korean cabinet members who were visiting the Aung San cemetery in Myanmar, killing 21 people, including the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Trade Affairs.

Provocations by North Korea continued into and after the 1990s. On 18 September 1996, North Korea sent 26 armed spies into the Gangneung area using a submarine; it took 49 days of operations for South Korea to find them all. On 26 March 2010, North Korea conducted a torpedo attack against the Republic of Korea corvette *Cheonan*, killing 46 navy men. On 23 November of the same year, North Korea shelled the island of Yeonpyeong in north-western Korea with around 170 artillery shells, causing 18 military and 5 innocent civilian casualties. There have been 3,100 local provocations and infiltrations since 1950. All of them are a threat to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The next part of the briefing looks at the nuclear programme of the North, including an assessment of nuclear threats and its nuclear strategy and doctrine.

In 1965, North Korea acquired a research-purposed nuclear reactor from the USSR, and in 1970 it established a nuclear physics department at the University of Kim Il-sung. These actions provided a basis for a nuclear programme by acquiring the technology and talent for nuclear weapons.

In July 1980, North Korea began construction of a 25-megawatt thermal nuclear reactor in Yongbyon. This reactor was put into operation in October 1986 producing plutonium on site. United States special envoy James Kelly visited North Korea in October 2002. During his visit, North Korea admitted the existence of a secret nuclear weapon programme using highly enriched uranium. In February 2005, North Korea indefinitely delayed its participation in the Six-Party Talks and announced its possession of nuclear weapons. In May, North Korea withdrew 8,000 spent fuel rods from the Yongbyon nuclear reactor.

Finally, North Korea has conducted a total of five nuclear tests so far, designed for sophistication of its nuclear capability. North Korea displayed a maximum of 10 kilotons through these five nuclear tests and is suspected of being in possession of about 50 kg of plutonium. Given the progression of its nuclear programme, North Korea is expected to be capable of producing nuclear weapons with 6 kg or less of plutonium and is believed to have made substantial progress in its highly enriched uranium programme.

Also, in consideration of other nuclear nations' miniaturization timing of two to seven years as from their first nuclear test, miniaturization technology in North Korea should have matured considerably given that its first nuclear test was in 2006. We expect North Korea to continue its attempts at securing de facto nuclear status in the international community through additional nuclear tests and increasing its nuclear arsenal.

North Korea proclaimed the possession of nuclear weapons in February 2005 after three nuclear tests. North Korea has now been speaking of the possibility of a nuclear pre-emptive strike since March 2013. This indicates that as North Korean nuclear capability progresses, it may no longer be limited to existential deterrence but may be capable of nuclear pre-emption at the operational level. In April 2013, North Korea introduced the

Consolidation of Nuclear State Status Act, which states that North Korean nuclear weapons can only be employed by the final order of Kim Jong-un, thus creating the legal basis for Kim Jong-un's nuclear control. The same law also has a clause stating that North Korea will not use nuclear weapons as long as there is no attribution to invasion and hostile acts against North Korea. It is an indirect expression of the possibility of a North Korean nuclear attack against the Republic of Korea-United States alliance.

Next is an assessment of North Korean missile development and threat.

North Korea acquired Scud-B technology from the USSR in the mid-1970s and that spurred the development of missiles; as a result, they were able to field Scud-B and Scud-C missiles in 1988. During the 1990s, North Korea developed and fielded the Nodong missile, with a 1,300 km range, and also conducted a test launch of Taepodong, a long-range ballistic missile. In 2007, North Korea fielded the Musudan missile, with a range of more than 3,000 km. Since 2010, North Korea has continued long-range ballistic missile test launches with Taepodong, Musudan and Hwasong.

Especially in April and July 2017, North Korea shocked the world by conducting test launches of ballistic missiles with a range of about 8,000 km: Hwasong-14. We assess that North Korea is in possession of around 1,000 ballistic missiles of various ranges. Since Kim Jong-un came to power in December 2011, North Korea has launched 39 rounds of ballistic missiles. This year alone, it has launched 18 ballistic missiles. In particular, Hwasong-14, which was launched on 28 July, displayed the capability of reaching the continental United States.

Also, since 2014, North Korea conducted a ground and underwater ejection test of its submarine-launched ballistic missiles. After additional test launches and a review of long-range submarine operational capabilities, North Korean submarine-launched ballistic missiles can be fielded within three years. In the future, North Korea is expected to focus its national effort on acquiring re-entry vehicle technology and terminal guidance technology to complete its intercontinental ballistic missile development.

The next slide focuses on the Republic of Korea military's countering posture to effectively deter and respond to North Korean nuclear and missile threats. While the military is in the process of acquiring additional capabilities and postures necessary to effectively deter and respond to North Korean nuclear and missile threats, with a combination of alliance capability and independent capabilities of the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea-United States alliance has combined deterrence and response capabilities based upon a tailored deterrence strategy utilizing all factors of the Republic of Korea-United States capabilities under the concept of comprehensive counter-missile operations.

The Republic of Korea military is also in the process of establishing a Korean conventional triad system of deterrence with the Kill Chain system, the Korean Air and Missile Defense system and the Korean Massive Punishment and Retaliation plan. The Republic of Korea-United States alliance established the tailored deterrence strategy (TDS) in October 2013 to effectively deter and counter nuclear and weapons of mass destruction threats by North Korea. The tailored deterrence strategy includes factors such as diplomacy, information and economy, as well as the military factors of the United States nuclear umbrella, the alliance's conventional strike force and missile defence capabilities. Also, the Republic of Korea-United States alliance incorporated the 4D operational concept (detect, disrupt, destroy and defend) into the alliance's decision-making, planning, training and exercise, and capability development to enhance alliance counter-missile operations capabilities.

The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system to United States forces in Korea is part of the measures for developing the Republic of Korea-United States alliance missile defence capability to counter further sophisticated North Korean nuclear and missile threats.

Next is a review of the independent military capabilities of the Republic of Korea.

Kill Chain is a system that enables prompt detection and identification of high-priority targets, such as transporter-erector-launchers (TEL) and command centres within

the ballistic missile operation area of North Korea. For the timely decision and strike against such a target, the Republic of Korea military will introduce high-altitude reconnaissance unmanned aerial vehicles and additional acquisition of air-to-ground precision-guided munitions to secure detection, identification and strike capabilities against all of North Korea.

The Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD) system is a missile defence system focused on the terminal phase, with overlapping capabilities designed in consideration of the strategic environment of the Korean Peninsula. The Republic of Korea military will acquire additional early warning radar and upgrade a Patriot surface-to-air missile in order to enhance detection and interception capabilities.

The Korean Massive Punishment and Retaliation (KMPR) plan is to deliver punishment in retaliation to the enemy leadership in case of nuclear use by North Korea. The Republic of Korea military will continue to maximize our punishment and retaliation capabilities through development of a high-powered warhead and organization of specialized airlift forces.

I would like to add one last thing before concluding my brief. As of now, there are more than 2 million foreigners from 30 different countries residing or staying in South Korea. The North Korean nuclear and missile threat are not just a threat to us but are a direct threat to your people who may be staying in or in the vicinity of the Korean Peninsula. Therefore, now is the time to collect our strength and wisdom to resolve this complicated problem of the North Korean nuclear missile programme.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Republic of Korea for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Japan.

Mr. Takamizawa (Japan): Mr. President, as I stated yesterday, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — in defiance of strong requests from the international community to stop provocations, including the launch of ballistic missiles — continues to do so. As many are aware, this missile flew over the northern part of Japan. I therefore think it is very important for the Conference on Disarmament members to have a comprehensive expert briefing in the Conference so that we can have a very good understanding of what is happening. Perhaps you do not know exactly where the Japanese exclusive economic zone is located and where these missiles have landed.

In that sense, it is very important for the Conference to have a good understanding and to address this serious issue, which can constitute a serious threat to the international community and to international peace and stability. I would therefore like to introduce my colleague from Tokyo, Mr. Tomoyuki Tono, the Director of the Research and Study Office, Defence Intelligence Division, Bureau of Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence, who will give a presentation. His presentation will focus on the reality of the North Korean missile launches and nuclear tests. Since this room is a bit complicated, for those who have weak eyes or are located in a difficult position to see the screen, copies are available here in the room — please use the copy to understand better. I now turn the floor over to Mr. Tono.

Mr. Tono (Japan): It is a great honour to have this opportunity to present a Japanese view on this issue. My name is Tomoyuki Tono, and I am the Director of the Research and Study Office at the Japanese Ministry of Defence.

Since seceding from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in January 2003, North Korea has conducted continual nuclear tests, which goes against the international community's efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Of the five nuclear tests by North Korea, two occurred in 2016. These perpetual tests signified substantial progress in its nuclear weapons development. After the fifth nuclear test, in September 2016, North Korea announced that it had been the first successful test explosion of a nuclear warhead. Considering the probable technical maturity gained through these tests, it is possible that North Korea has already achieved the necessary miniaturization of the bombs and has actually completed its nuclear warheads. This situation, as well as the improvement in its ballistic missile capabilities, significantly impairs the peace and stability of the region, including Japan, and of the international community.

As for the launching of the North Korean ballistic missiles, the frequency became unprecedented in 2016; and yesterday it launched another one towards the Pacific Ocean over Japanese territory. The pace has not slowed down so far. As shown in the left part of the slide, various missiles were demonstrated during the military parade in April this year. They were all actually fired in a short time span. The missile on the top, which is likely a modified Scud, was launched on 29 May. The one in the middle, a new solid-fuel ground-launched ballistic missile, was fired on 12 February and 21 May. It is presumed to be a Pukguksong-2 per its North Korean name. The one on the bottom, probably an intermediate-range ballistic missile of a new type, was launched on 14 May. It appears to be a Hwasong-12 per its North Korean name.

In addition, in July, North Korea twice launched an intercontinental-range ballistic missile with a range of at least 5,500 km. As such, it has continued expanding its military on an unparalleled scale and speed. Despite its official explanation that its defence budget accounts for 15.8 per cent of the entire national budget, it is believed that this represents only a fraction of the real defence expenditures.

This table covers all ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests by North Korea in 2016 and 2017, but at the bottom we must add yesterday's launch over Japanese territory. The pink rows show nuclear tests. The blue ones show launches of missiles that fell into the Japanese exclusive economic zone. Although there have fortunately been no relevant accidents or damage to ships and aircraft in the area, it is obvious that very dangerous activity is being repeated. The green row indicates missiles that flew over Japanese territory. Sometimes, a few or 4 missiles were fired on the same day, so more than 20 were launched last year. This year, 15 ballistic missiles have been fired as of yesterday.

These are the ballistic missiles possessed and developed by North Korea. It has attempted to extend their ranges. The Taepodong-2 variant which was launched in February last year already had acquired the capability to reach Europe. Those fired on 4 and 28 July, presumed to be Hwasong-14, are regarded to have an intercontinental range.

This chart shows the ranges of North Korean ballistic missiles. The light blue circle is the range of Scud-Extended Range (ER), blue is for Nodong, orange is for Musudan and the purple circle is the range of the new intermediate-range ballistic missile; and the Taepodong-2 variant covers not only the entire Indo-Pacific but also almost all of Europe and the Middle East and some parts of Africa and North America.

North Korean progress in nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles development has become a serious and imminent threat to the security of not only East Asia but also the entire international community.

In addition to the activities I have explained, North Korea has continued making provocative remarks, such as "Seoul will turn into a sea of flame", "reducing the Japanese archipelago to ashes in a second" or "scorching with super strong strike the targets in South Korea, Japan, operational area in the Pacific and the United States mainland".

I have already mentioned the cases in which North Korea directed its missile launches towards the Japanese exclusive economic zone. These are the recent examples. The images at the left and centre are the launches last month of a new type of ballistic missile, estimated to be Hwasong-14. The map on the right shows the instance of 6 March. Four ballistic missiles — presumed to be Scud-ER missiles — were fired eastward on the same day. The sites of the launches were all different in the three cases. North Korea has been showing flexibility in time and space of its ballistic missile operations.

On 10 August it announced a plan to launch four ballistic missiles that would fly over Japanese territory and fall around the island of Guam, a remote territory of the United States. It may initiate further provocative military demonstrations. It has neglected numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for its nuclear abandonment and restraint of provocative actions. The relevant resolutions can be summarized as follows:

- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea shall not conduct any further launches that use ballistic missile technology, nuclear tests or any other provocation.

- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea shall suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme and in this context re-establish its pre-existing commitments to a moratorium on missile launches.
- It shall abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and immediately cease all related activities.
- It shall abandon any other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

North Korea has implemented none of them.

Nuclear and ballistic missile development is a problem from the viewpoint of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, too. It has been reported that North Korea has proliferated its ballistic missile airframes with relevant technology and materials, and that could destabilize such regions as the Middle East and Africa and raise the risk of exacerbating the regional conflicts there.

To summarize, nuclear and ballistic missile development and provocations such as the launches of these missiles by North Korea have posed a serious and imminent security threat to the region and beyond. The improvement of these capabilities in recent years justifies the view that these security threats have entered a new stage. It is necessary for the global community to closely cooperate in requiring that North Korea restrain its provocative actions and observe the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I will now brief you on the present Japanese defence posture, particularly its ballistic missile defence system and joint military exercise with the United States armed forces. It contributes to and promotes regional security.

First, the Japanese C3 (command, control and communications) ballistic missile defence system consists of a two-layered intercept form combining one working in outer space with Aegis-capable destroyers and another in the lower air space with Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) interceptors. The missile will be detected, discriminated and traced by the assets both on ships and on the ground. The whole system is interconnected and coordinated by the original Japanese system, the Japan Aerospace Defence Ground Environment (JADGE). It is designed and constructed to prevent damage inflicted by ballistic missiles flying to Japanese soil and territorial waters. At present, Japan has acquired 4 Aegis-capable destroyers, 17 PAC-3 fire units and 11 radars.

The Ministry of Defence has decided to pursue the introduction of new assets for missile defence, including the Aegis Ashore system. It is a genuinely defensive system to save Japanese people's life and property, and no Japanese person would think it reasonable to be defenceless against the threat of ballistic missiles and becoming an easy target of blackmail by those possessing such means of inflicting grave harm. Japan and the United States are cooperating to substantiate and enhance this defence capability. Japan has received shared early warning (SEW) information from the United States military in order to enable timely, swift responses to any dangerous military moves by other countries. The United States also has deployed its ballistic missile defence-capable Aegis destroyers, radars and Patriot PAC-3s in Japanese territory and the surrounding waters to supplement the ballistic missile defence of Japan. The two have maintained close cooperation and collaboration, including in information-sharing.

I will now explain the reason for Japan-United States joint military exercises.

With the surrounding environment becoming increasingly severe, such bilateral exercises will strengthen the alliance's deterrence and response capabilities and demonstrate our nations' resolve and effectiveness. It is obvious that, if the global community shows its will in this situation — for example, in United Nations Security Council resolution 2321 (2016) of last December — imposing diplomatic and economic pressure is crucial to persuade North Korea to become a better member of the international community. Military elements are to support and reinforce these efforts.

Japan has long offered and kept the door open to communication and dialogue with North Korea, but the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has ignored it. In this situation, Japan also needs to foresee the possibility of an unexpected, sudden and

undesirable course of development in the future and prepare for it. In June this year, the Self-Defence Forces conducted a joint exercise for tactical manoeuvring training with the United States navy that included two aircraft carriers. Destroyers and fighters participated in it from the Japanese side. Japanese fighters have engaged in joint exercises in formation flying with United States bombers, too. The United States is always trying to show its resolve and preserve peace and security in the region by diverse military assets. The Self-Defence Forces have every reason to cooperate in the effort and simultaneously forge themselves into an increasingly stout and unyielding defence force. So, these exercises are designed and executed to raise the tactical operational capability of the Self-Defence Forces and improve the competence of collaborative operation between the Self-Defence Forces and the United States armed forces in the midst of the present severe security environment.

The Self-Defence Forces are responsible for the defence of Japan, while, if necessary, Japan and the United States would jointly deal with contingencies according to the Japan-United States Security Treaty. The two are different States and hold separate command and control systems for each of their forces, which necessitates constant joint training and exercises. This practice itself will also generate a deterrent effect against potential provocateurs, demonstrating the effectiveness of joint operational capabilities.

Nobody should overlook the vital importance of the entire international community exerting diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea through the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Military means can buttress the effort. It is also necessary for Japan to foresee the possibility of unexpected and worrisome developments in the future and prepare for that in a reasonable way.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Japan for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the United States.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I have requested the floor in today's plenary meeting to address the undeniable threat North Korea poses to international peace and security. This conference is a critical forum for addressing the major arms control, non-proliferation and security problems facing the international community, and there is perhaps no bigger challenge to the global security environment than the continued development by North Korea of prohibited weapons programmes and its increasingly provocative and dangerous actions. We are not here today to debate the dangers posed by the United Nations-proscribed nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of North Korea. The time for debate has long passed. Those dangers are clear and it is now time for concerted action.

The proscribed programmes of North Korea have advanced rapidly, far outpacing our initial estimates and expectations. In response to the increasing threat, the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan have taken necessary measures to increase our capabilities to deter and defend against any attack from North Korea. Together with the international community, we have redoubled diplomatic and economic efforts to show North Korea that the only path to a secure, economically prosperous future is to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. But our efforts will only be successful with the full cooperation of the international community and nations willing to use decisive leverage against the increasingly dangerous and destabilizing actions of North Korea. If there is any doubt or question as to the urgency of this matter, the unrelenting pace of the nuclear and ballistic missile tests of North Korea, including its 4 July and 28 July intercontinental ballistic missile launches, demonstrates why the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan and our partners must take timely action to deepen diplomatic and defensive military cooperation. The actions by North Korea underscore the collective responsibility of every country represented in this room to hold nations accountable to their commitments to isolate the regime. All United Nations Member States have a responsibility to fully implement their Security Council resolution obligations and take additional actions to put diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea.

The unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017) on 5 August signalled the unwavering resolve of the international community to condemn the continued violations of international law by North Korea and demand that North Korea give up its prohibited nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. By tightening the web of sanctions

around North Korea both through United Nations measures and autonomous steps, we aim to increase significantly the cost of the weapons programmes of North Korea, reduce the resources available to support its weapons-of-mass-destruction proliferation activities and impede its ability to acquire dual-use technology. The goal of using such sanctions is to pressure the Government of North Korea to abandon its prohibited programmes and activities — not to punish the people or economy of North Korea or other countries. Full enforcement of the sanctions by all States will be necessary to achieve the maximum pressure needed to bring North Korea into compliance with its United Nations obligations.

United States policy towards North Korea is clear. The United States does not seek regime change, the collapse of the regime, an accelerated reunification of the Peninsula or an excuse to send troops north of the armistice agreement's demarcation line. We do not seek to be a threat to the Kim Jong-un regime. However, we must respond to the serious threats it makes towards the United States and to our allies. We want to be clear to North Korea that the United States has the unquestionable ability and unbending will to defend itself and its allies.

Our routine combined joint military exercises with the Republic of Korea and Japan and the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system have been heavily criticized by some countries in recent months. We firmly reject any false equivalency between the illegal nuclear and missile programmes of North Korea, which are enormously destabilizing and have been repeatedly condemned by the Security Council, and our long-standing joint activities with our allies, which are transparent and defensive in nature. Using discussions about North Korea to criticize United States-Republic of Korea-Japan joint military exercises and THAAD deployment is not helpful and only serves to encourage North Korea to continue its destabilizing activities. Our actions are measured and responsible, and the international community must speak with a unified voice against the destabilizing actions by North Korea, not create counterproductive equivalencies that cannot serve as a basis for future discussions.

That leads me to the prospect for dialogue with North Korea. The United States remains open to talks aimed at denuclearization and we have consistently stated our willingness to engage with Pyongyang. However, the statements by North Korea and its unlawful and escalatory actions, including its two intercontinental ballistic missile launches and its multiple ballistic missile launches just this past weekend, send a clear signal that Pyongyang has no interest in returning to serious dialogue at this time. As the United States Secretaries of State and Defense, Mr. Tillerson and Mr. Mattis, recently reaffirmed, it is "incumbent upon the regime to signal its desire to negotiate in good faith. A sincere indication would be the immediate cessation of its provocative threats, nuclear tests, missile launches and other weapons tests."

Distinguished colleagues, the presence of experts from Washington here today reflects the great concern of the United States over the current situation with North Korea and signals our commitment to address that threat. Our collective action to this matter underscores the value of the Conference on Disarmament as a forum to discuss international security and the non-proliferation challenges that affect all of us and explore ways to enhance our cooperation to increase security and defend our shared values in a rules-based global order.

I would like now to turn the microphone over to Captain Murzban Morris from our Department of Defense joint staff to help further explain the United States response to the threat North Korea poses to international peace and security.

Mr. Morris (United States of America): Ladies and gentlemen, I am Captain Murzban Morris and I am currently serving on the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Strategy and Policy Directorate. I am here today to discuss the United States perspective on several military efforts designed to counter the growing threat presented by North Korea.

United States military activities on the Korean Peninsula are generally twofold in design: first, as a standing posture to ensure the defence of and solidarity with our treaty allies; and, second, as a commensurate response to the provocative acts of North Korea. In either vein, the nature of the actions, activities or exercises is defensive and not designed to be provocative or escalatory.

Additionally, they are not unilateral in nature. Bilateral, trilateral and multilateral efforts, activities and exercises demonstrate the international concern with the threat from North Korea, and this threat is growing and intensifying in nature. Not responding to the provocative actions by North Korea implies that we have accepted and are resigned to a nuclear and ballistic missile programme that threatens peace and security worldwide.

United States policy is clear: the United States has no interest in regime change or accelerated reunification of Korea. We do not seek an excuse to garrison United States troops north of the demilitarized zone. We have no desire to inflict harm on the long-suffering North Korean people, who are distinct from the hostile regime in Pyongyang.

Our long-standing series of exercises as well as responsive actions to North Korean provocations are in line with this mindset. Likewise, the intensification of North Korean nuclear and missile tests, including recent intercontinental ballistic missile launches, demonstrates the need for us to continue defensive military activities in the region. Our posture and activities in the region and worldwide are guided by our national security strategies and directives. The Third Offset Strategy is a part. An offset strategy is part of a long-term competitive strategy, a peacetime competition between rival defence establishments that aims to generate and sustain strategic advantage. The Third Offset aims to develop technologies that can address multiple threats in order to preserve peace and security around the globe. It includes operational and organizational efforts based on policy, training and exercises that allow United States and allied forces to achieve an advantage and thus bolster conventional deterrents. Our efforts in response to the growing North Korean threat are associated with this strategy.

Military exercises with our allies and partners play an essential part in our efforts to display a defensive capability ready to respond to North Korean aggression. These exercises are transparent and fundamentally defensive in nature. The primary aims of these exercises are maintaining operational readiness, defending our allies, enhancing deterrence, strengthening our regional security cooperation and maintaining peace and stability in North-East Asia. For over four decades, we have conducted bilateral military defence exercises with the Republic of Korea under this mindset. The introduction of nuclear weapons to the Peninsula by North Korea as a tool of coercion or for use in the event of a conflict has raised the possibility of rapid escalation and made the need to conduct and enhance these long-standing exercises that much more urgent.

Exercise efforts expand beyond the United States-Republic of Korea alliance and are multinational in nature. A strong defence relationship among the United States and the Republic of Korea, the United Nations Command, the Combined Forces Command and other regional security cooperation efforts, such as our trilateral defence initiatives with Japan, serves as the anchor of stability in the region. In accordance with long-standing procedures and practice, the United Nations Command regularly informs the Korean People's Army in North Korea — through their Panmunjon mission — of the occurrence, purpose and focus of major exercises. North Korea, however, rejects the practice of notification, including notifying the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. Such rejection prevents the capability to provide transparency and predictability, in turn aiding in the management of crises that arise from miscalculation or miscommunication on the Peninsula.

A prime example of how exercises are approached by the United Nations Command can be seen in the recent Key Resolve-Foal Eagle 2017 exercises and the ongoing Ulchi-Freedom Guardian exercise. Key Resolve and Foal Eagle are two examples of long-standing military exercises in the region that have been and continue to be overseen by the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission. This commission has been overseeing exercises since the 1953 armistice agreement. These exercises are based on realistic scenarios with distinctions between each scenario that assume various threats.

These exercises occur annually and each is the culmination of many months of planning. While not directly connected, the Combined Forces Command executes them at the same time each year for various reasons. Exercises such as these are aligned with United States policy and not designed to be a precursor to offensive action. They are

defensive in nature and part of the overall strategy to present an internationally unified capability to respond to North Korean aggression.

In addition to exercising and developing multilateral capabilities, it is imperative to maintain an effective defensive posture that is ready to respond against threats in the region. The recent deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system to South Korea is an example of that enhancement to the capability to defend against North Korean aggression. Purely defensive in nature, the THAAD system provides the United States-Republic of Korea alliance a layer of upper-tier missile defence capabilities to address a threat from the extended-range Scuds and Nodong medium-range ballistic missiles of North Korea. Given the growing threat from North Korea, that is an essential piece to the defence of the Republic of Korea.

The THAAD system is designed to be globally transportable and provides a capability to intercept ballistic missiles during their final — or terminal — phase of flight. The system utilizes hit-to-kill technology, where kinetic energy destroys the incoming target.

The video here demonstrates the THAAD system in operation during a recent test. Released by the United States Missile Defense Agency, this video demonstrates how a drone target simulated a medium-range ballistic missile that was on a trajectory to threaten a pre-designated area that the THAAD system was defending. As a test drone is deployed and begins to descend towards the defended area, the THAAD radar system detects the target and computes an impact point based on that trajectory. Following a series of protocols, the system determines the target to be a threat and, with appropriate authorization, the necessary number of interceptors are launched. The number of interceptors will depend on several factors, including the type of threat, expanse of defended area and firing protocols.

In this particular test, one interceptor was launched. After launch, the interceptor was guided to impact and neutralized the target. Based on system capabilities and the extent of coverage, neither the THAAD interceptor nor the associated radar has the capability to negate the strategic nuclear forces of other nations. The systems are purposely focused on regional defence against high-altitude threats. Likewise, missile defence does not lower the nuclear threshold, as it is a purely defensive capability that raises the bar required for political will to launch a salvo of missiles and that is designed and aimed at defending against the real threat to the Republic of Korea: the North's weapons of mass destruction programmes and means of delivery.

The threatening nature of the nuclear and missile programme of North Korea is not limited to the Korean Peninsula. Tokyo, Sydney, Moscow, Addis Ababa, Shanghai, San Francisco, Paris, even here in Geneva: we are all in range. The new intercontinental ballistic missiles of North Korea might reach them all. The North's missiles can point in any direction. The most recent launches from this week highlight the extent of the threat.

The international community has come together to condemn and pressure North Korea to abandon its unlawful weapons programmes. We stand together with regional and international organizations, allies and like-minded partners, which include the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations. Numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, including the most recently passed resolution 2371 (2017), demonstrate the overwhelming international stance towards the continued provocative nature of North Korea.

The refusal by North Korea to abide by its international obligations and its own commitments demonstrate the necessity of coordinated regional and international diplomatic, economic and defensive military responses. An integral aspect of the international response is the trilateral efforts between the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan to be able to respond to North Korean aggression. Cooperation among our three nations on the nuclear and missile threats posed by North Korea is crucial to deterring North Korea and to maintaining peace and stability in North-East Asia. Examples of our trilateral efforts include sequenced United States bomber flights, trilateral missile defence informational link exercises, anti-submarine warfare, tracking exercises, observations of major bilateral exercises and policy discussions to address the North Korean threat.

These efforts are designed to demonstrate the solidarity and resolve we share with our allies to preserve peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. But the effort cannot stop at the regional level. The international threat calls for a multinational response. A key part of that international response is the continuation of discussions such as these to address concerns associated with efforts designed to defend against and, if necessary, respond to the growing threat from North Korea. It is that threat — the nuclear and missile programmes that North Korea continues to enhance regardless of international efforts to the counter — that serves as the primary driver for military activities on the Korean Peninsula; and as previously noted, the threat is not limited to the Peninsula or even to the region: it is a worldwide threat and requires an appropriate stance from all.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the United States for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Estonia, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Ms. Salsa-Audiffren (Estonia): Mr. President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union shares the grave concern over the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has continued to accelerate its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes with repeated launches of ballistic missiles, most recently over the territory of Japan. The European Union strongly condemns these actions which constitute outright violations of the international obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as set out in multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The advancement of the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea increases the threat to regional and international peace and security, including European security. The actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea undermine the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime, which the European Union has steadfastly supported for decades, and underline the necessity of universalization and the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

As stressed by the European Union foreign ministers last month, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must comply — without delay, fully and unconditionally — with its obligations under all relevant Security Council resolutions and refrain from any further provocative action that could increase regional and global tensions. The European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to make credible progress on its obligations to denuclearize, defusing tension and enabling negotiations and steps aimed at pursuing the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions.

The European Union is ready to support a credible and meaningful dialogue in consultation with key partners. The European Union is strongly convinced that a lasting peace and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula must be achieved through peaceful means. The European Union very much welcomes the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017) and yesterday's emergency meeting of the Council. The European Union will consider further appropriate responses in close consultation with key partners and in line with Security Council deliberations.

We call upon all countries to fully implement the United Nations sanctions. Maintaining the unity of the international community is essential in addressing the challenge.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Estonia for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Rowland (United Kingdom): Mr. President, the test of two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July and the rapid escalation of missile tests since 2016 have confirmed a simple, inescapable truth: that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is no longer a threat faced by a single country or region. This is now a very real threat that confronts us all

— an intercontinental threat that could reach a large part of the globe. In a world where North Korean missile tests seem routine, we need to remind ourselves that this is not business as usual.

As the regime's missile capabilities advance, so too does their contempt and disregard for its international commitments. We must meet this belligerence with clear, unequivocal condemnation and with clear, unequivocal consequences. The United Kingdom has been clear in the importance of maintaining pressure on the North Korean regime, both diplomatically and also through sanctions. We have seen this recently through the unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2371 (2017) on 5 August, following the intercontinental ballistic missile launches in July, which target the exports that sustain the regime's illegal programmes.

North Korea bears full responsibility for the measures enacted in this latest resolution. By acting in flagrant violation of its legal obligations, by going against the will of the Security Council, expressed in several other resolutions, North Korea has chosen the path it now finds itself on. It is a path that, at a minimum, will lead to the further suffering of its own people and, at most, could prove to be catastrophic for the world. It does not have to be this way. North Korea should forego the paths of provocation and further escalation. There is no reason why the people of North Korea cannot share the normal, prosperous life of their neighbours.

We call again on North Korea to halt and reverse its nuclear and missile development programmes. We also call on them again to prioritize the well-being of their people over their illegal and destabilizing military programmes which endanger peace and security both in the region and internationally. The security and well-being of North Korea do not depend on nuclear weapons or on far-reaching missiles. They do not depend on a myth of self-sufficient defiance of the wider world.

To live in constant tension with the world cannot be in the interests of the North Korean regime, let alone its people. We need to continue to speak with a unified voice to show that we are ready to act in response to the reckless pursuit by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Every country must use their influence to not only restrain the Democratic People's Republic of Korea but also guide its leaders towards a peaceful settlement.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Australia.

Mr. Quinn (Australia): Mr. President, Australia very much appreciates this initiative to address more comprehensively — in this Conference on Disarmament plenary — the current grave security threat posed by the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The presentations by capital-based experts from the Defence Ministries of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States have been informative and extremely valuable. It is, of course, vital that Conference members are well informed about this immediate, pressing threat to both global and regional security. Our discussion this afternoon is a vivid reminder of the challenging real-world security context in which we pursue our work in this forum. I might add that the discussion today is also a valuable contribution to transparency, particularly helpful in the current difficult geopolitical situation.

Australia strongly condemns the latest ballistic missile test by North Korea, which flew over Japanese territory. It poses an unacceptable threat to peace and stability in our region and the people of Japan. This launch represents a serious escalation by Pyongyang. North Korea continues to act in defiance of repeated demands by the international community to halt its actions. All countries need to implement fully existing Security Council resolutions, including the latest resolution 2371 (2017), which further limits the North Korean regime's access to finance through exports. We need to redouble our efforts to find ways to deter North Korea, bring it back to the negotiating table and de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Australia therefore welcomes the Security Council's latest unanimous condemnation of the outrageous actions by North Korea. In an international rules-based order, such blatant defiance of the Security Council cannot be tolerated. The authority of the Council and its binding resolutions must be upheld. The actions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are also a serious challenge to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

Implementation of Security Council resolutions quickly and fully by all Member States is an important part of increasing the pressure on North Korea. The latest sanctions are the toughest, most comprehensive to date and will have a serious impact on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We very much hope that they will change the risk calculations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and encourage it to focus its scarce resources on the well-being of its impoverished people rather than advancing illegal and destabilizing weapons programmes.

Australia stands ready to assist in any appropriate way that we can to pressure North Korea to reconsider its behaviour, which is illegal, provocative, threatening and presents a risk — as many have said — to both regional and, indeed, global security. The Foreign Minister of Australia continues to designate additional individuals and entities for targeted financial sanctions under the country's autonomous sanctions regime, including actors who have helped in the violation or evasion by North Korea of Security Council resolutions which target activities such as North Korean arms-dealing and weapons development.

Let me add, Mr. President, that the annual participation by Australia in the Ulchi-Freedom Guardian exercises supports the legitimate defensive interests of the Republic of Korea and the United States. It is the persistent threats by North Korea that continue to alarm and unite the international community against the regime. We will continue to work with our partners, including the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea and China, to uphold global peace and stability.

Let me thank you again for the opportunity to hear these presentations. We encourage similar such presentations to the Conference by experts on current pressing international security issues in future and believe the Conference should remain fully seized of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issue.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Australia for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Canada.

Mr. Davison (Canada): Mr. President, Canada takes seriously the threat to regional and international stability posed by the nuclear programme and associated activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We have made this clear to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea both in direct communication and publicly. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea needs to return to compliance with international norms. The path it is on can have no positive ending and ways must be found to de-escalate the situation.

We are disappointed that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has so far spurned offers at dialogue in favour of increasingly reckless and provocative acts. We are pleased that China supported the latest United Nations Security Council resolution — resolution 2371 (2017) — which was both strong and unprecedented in its purpose. The adoption of this resolution demonstrated that the international community is united in response to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Going forward, more effective implementation of Security Council sanctions is required to bring pressure to bear on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Ultimately, Canada believes that a negotiated peaceful and diplomatic solution is the only way to resolve the issue of the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

(*spoke in French*)

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada yesterday condemned the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. I would like to share an excerpt from the statement issued by Minister Freeland:

Canada strongly condemns the launch by North Korea, on August 29, of a ballistic missile, which overflowed Japanese territory. North Korea's reckless violation of its neighbours' territorial sovereignty and its direct threat to Japan's citizens have threatened both regional and international peace and security.

North Korea's repeated launches of ballistic missiles, in direct violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, demonstrate a total disregard for its international obligations. We call on North Korea to cease these provocations, comply with its obligations and immediately and verifiably abandon its ballistic missile programme.

Canada supports international measures that encourage North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes and resume dialogue towards a political solution.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Canada for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Romania.

Mr. Filip (Romania): Mr. President, as this is the first time we are taking the floor under your presidency, we would like to congratulate you on your assumption of this important task and to assure you of the full support of our delegation. Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by Estonia on behalf of the European Union and would like to add the following in a national capacity.

In recent months, we have witnessed an unprecedented escalation of tension in the Korean Peninsula in spite of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, which have been repeatedly ignored by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We consider that the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are not only illegal, but also represent a regional threat to international peace and security. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has to abandon its ballistic missile, nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, as required by the Security Council.

This is the reason why the presentations on the development of the nuclear and ballistic programme by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea come at the right and a crucial moment. We would like to recognize the common efforts carried out by the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States to provide this factual and substantive description of the state of play in the Peninsula. Within this context, as was stated yesterday by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our country strongly condemns the firing of a new ballistic missile, this time over the national territory of Japan. We reaffirm our solidarity with the people and Government of Japan. We share the same solidarity with our strategic partners, the Republic of Korea and the United States.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea needs to immediately re-engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community, in particular within the Six-Party Talks, as the only answer to the actual crisis. Dialogue alone, particularly in the above-mentioned format, is the proper answer to the present situation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Romania for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Hungary.

Ms. Kroll (Hungary): Mr. President, allow me to thank the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States for those very informative presentations. Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and, in a national capacity, I wish to add some thoughts regarding this issue.

The nuclear and the various ballistic missile tests conducted by Pyongyang show an alarming tendency. Hungary condemns the latest missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as well as all destabilizing steps by North Korea. We are also concerned at the apparent lack of respect by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to existing United Nations Security Council resolutions. We welcome the new and stricter United Nations sanctions in order to prevent Pyongyang from acquiring nuclear military capabilities. The level of threats emanating from the North has reached a level which cannot go unanswered by the international community. The international community

emphasizes a peaceful resolution of this conflict; however, it deems it doubtful that an appeasement approach will work with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Nevertheless, we support the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula and the elaboration of a lasting settlement through negotiations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Hungary for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Israel.

Ms. Yaron (Israel): Mr. President, we would like to thank the United States, the Republic of Korea as well as Japan for the useful, informative and in-depth presentations regarding the threat that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea poses to global security and stability.

Given the provocative behaviour by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over the course of many months and years now, this is indeed a topical issue which should rightly be addressed by forums dealing with disarmament and non-proliferation challenges, including the Conference on Disarmament. Israel condemns the provocative and destabilizing behaviour by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the nuclear and ballistic missile spheres, which is in violation of the United Nations Charter as well as numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions. This includes Security Council resolution 1718 (2006), resolution 1874 (2009), resolutions 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013), resolutions 2270 (2016) and 2321 (2016) and the recently adopted resolution 2371 (2017) of August 2017.

Israel urges the international community to continue its vigilance on this issue and respond decisively and effectively in order to diminish this threat to international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Israel for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Belgium.

Mr. Muylle (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me to begin by congratulating you on the exemplary and efficacious manner in which you are presiding over the Conference on Disarmament and by assuring you of the full support of the Belgian delegation. The Belgian delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and wishes to express, in a national capacity, its deep concern regarding the turn taken by the situation in the Korean Peninsula and the wider region. Yesterday, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Mr. Didier Reynders, expressed his unequivocal condemnation of the latest ballistic missile launches carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including the launch of a missile that overflew Japanese territory.

I would like to thank the delegations of the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan for their detailed presentations, which clearly demonstrated the threat posed by the development of nuclear and ballistic programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. President, dear colleagues, must we be reminded? The continuation of these programmes is illegal under international law. By acting as it does, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues to violate the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and, in so doing, to unacceptably defy the Council's authority. By acting as it does, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea threatens regional and international security. It puts paid to our hopes of exploring new opportunities for dialogue and undermines our work on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Once more, Belgium calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to put an immediate, complete, verifiable and irreversible end to its illegal nuclear weapons programme. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should refrain from conducting any new tests. It should comply with its international obligations and respect the relevant resolutions of the Security Council in order to lay the groundwork for renewed dialogue.

Belgium is firmly committed to implementing all relevant resolutions of the Security Council, in particular resolution 2371 (2017) of 5 August this year. Belgium considers that, in order to bring greater pressure to bear on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, it

is imperative that all members of the international community strictly respect the sanctions imposed on that country by the United Nations and avoid any action that could facilitate the continued development of its nuclear and ballistic programmes. Our objective remains that of having a peaceful Korean Peninsula, free from nuclear weapons.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Belgium for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Bulgaria.

Ms. Davidova (Bulgaria): Mr. President, allow me to thank the delegations of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States for the presentations that addressed the issue very comprehensively and helped to deepen our understanding and raise awareness about the seriousness and dimension of the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and, in a national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks.

The ongoing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea represent an increasing danger to regional and international security. We strongly condemn the recent ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We are especially gravely concerned by the news that the last missile was fired over the territory of Japan, thus endangering the lives and security of the people of Japan. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must cease these provocative actions, which are a flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, and immediately take steps for de-escalation of tension on the Korean Peninsula.

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to comply fully with its international obligations and to engage without delay in a meaningful and constructive dialogue with the international community in order to find a peaceful solution to this situation.

Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and lasting peace in the region can only be achieved through peaceful means. We join the appeal for strict implementation of all United Nations sanctions and the need for the unity of the international community in adequately addressing the situation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Bulgaria for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of France.

Mr. Riquet (France) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, France aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union, and I would like to make some additional comments in a national capacity. France shares the international community's deep concern regarding the North Korean crisis. The French delegation has far too often had to condemn the provocations by North Korea. Indeed, yesterday it condemned the tests carried out on 26 and 29 August. Unfortunately, today's discussion continues in that vein and I would like to thank the delegations of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States of America for their clear and instructive presentations on the scale of the threat posed by the nuclear and ballistic programmes of North Korea.

Mr. President, allow me to begin by quoting the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, who spoke on the North Korean crisis in his speech delivered yesterday, 29 August, during Ambassadors' Week in Paris:

With the leaders in Pyongyang having once again demonstrated their irresponsibility, I want to emphasize the solidarity of France with Japan. We will continue to call for uncompromising policies to be implemented with regard to North Korea, amid a growing ballistic and nuclear threat that is also of concern to Europe. France, which is in contact with the other permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, stands ready to take any new initiative liable to put an end to escalation, bring Pyongyang back to the negotiating table and rigorously implement the resolution adopted on 5 August.

I would now like to share with the Conference an overview of my country's analysis of the nuclear and ballistic programmes of North Korea.

Mr. President, dear colleagues, the international community faces an unprecedented threat to its collective security. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has violated every relevant resolution of the United Nations and the non-proliferation regime. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is now capable of building and detonating nuclear payloads to powerful effect. Its ability to operationalize its nuclear systems for military use remains difficult to gauge precisely, but it does appear to be able to attach small devices to ballistic missiles. What is more, the ballistic arsenal of North Korea is increasing in size and in quality at an ever faster rate. More than 30 launches have been conducted since 2016. The intercontinental ballistic missile launches carried out by North Korea on 4 and 28 July 2017 served to underline the political ambition of Pyongyang to acquire a credible nuclear deterrent and to be recognized as a *de facto* nuclear State. It has made significant progress thus far, demonstrating a rational approach to the development of its ballistic and nuclear programmes.

These disconcerting efforts undertaken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — which aims to acquire operational, long-range nuclear capacity in the near future — demonstrate its ambition to become a *de facto* nuclear State and a regional power with strategic capabilities. In the past, the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sought to grant the country some leverage in negotiations with the regional and global powers. Today, the programme is an end unto itself. Kim Jong-un has made clear his intention to enshrine the nuclear ambitions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as an inherent part of the regime's existence. Nuclear weapons therefore serve as means of acquiring not only international legitimacy for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but also personal legitimacy for the regime and its leaders. As such, operational nuclear capacity has come to represent the life-insurance policy of the current regime. In developing intercontinental capacity, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made clear its strategic priority to carve out a place for itself in the world, to guarantee the long-term survival of the regime, to promote its own interests, to destabilize its adversaries and to alter the regional balance of power, as well as to uncouple the interests of the United States from those of its regional allies.

Today, the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are carried out with strategic intent. They are a direct threat not only to our close allies and our interests abroad, but also to the international security architecture, the non-proliferation regime, strategic stability and global markets. The ballistic and nuclear programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are likely to give rise to serious strategic imbalances. They are a direct threat to the territories and the peoples of the Republic of Korea and Japan. They complicate the relations of deterrence in Asia and the broader deterrent influence of the United States. Considered in that light, the programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are escalatory in nature and their continuation will inevitably lead to security reprisals. At this stage of their development, these nuclear and ballistic programmes are a serious threat to international security and the non-proliferation regime.

The progress of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea towards the acquisition of military nuclear capacity, in spite of international sanctions, is likely to set a negative precedent for other countries. The increasing operational viability of North Korean missiles will bring at least three continents within the country's range. What is more, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has carried out its nuclear and ballistic programmes in violation of its international obligations, including its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), and in contempt of the United Nations Security Council. These programmes have continued thanks to organized efforts to evade international and national checks on goods, financial flows and persons by means of covert activities, money-laundering and concealment.

Our ambition to support and strengthen the NPT as the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime and the need to ensure peace and international security are at stake. Progress had been made in terms of the increased awareness and mobilization of the international community. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is now a priority issue on the agendas of multiple organizations and the sanctions regime

imposed on the country by the Security Council has intensified in recent months. Such efforts are useful, but we must do more to move towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Each destabilizing act carried out by North Korea must be subject to systematic political condemnation and the sanctions regime must be implemented effectively. This is an issue of national and collective responsibility for all our countries. Every State has the power to contribute to collective security. As the North Korean regime nears the threshold of operational capacity, the idea of a nuclear Democratic People's Republic of Korea can no longer be dismissed as outlandish.

North Korea has deliberately and repeatedly chosen to defy the collective security architecture, ignoring the multilaterally established rules prohibiting nuclear and ballistic proliferation. In view of the recent progress made by the country in that regard, we call for united, rapid and determined action. The credibility and durability of our collective security architecture, in particular the non-proliferation regime, would be at stake were we to underestimate the severity of the risk now posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of France for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Italy.

Mr. Mati (Italy): Mr. President, first of all, I would like to thank the experts for the interesting presentations they gave and that we listened to very carefully.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

We have been following the situation in the Korean Peninsula with great attention and increasing concern. We strongly condemn the nuclear proliferation and missile programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They are a serious breach of international law and of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. We also condemn in the strongest terms the launch of the ballistic missile which flew over Japan on 29 August: it represents a dangerous act, a growing matter of concern, as well as yet another clear violation of multiple Security Council resolutions. Our condemnation is even stronger since the test was conducted on the International Day against Nuclear Tests. It is of the utmost importance that the international community remains cohesive in its response. In this vein, we welcome the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017) and yesterday's emergency meeting of the Security Council.

Italy fully supports these initiatives, which are clear and significant signals of a common unity of purpose within the international community. We are convinced that we have to work in order to persuade the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to embark on a path of credible denuclearization respectful of the relevant international obligations, thus paving the way for a peaceful solution.

I wish to underline that sanctions are not a goal in themselves but an essential tool to convince the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to change its path. As Chair of the 1718 Committee within the Security Council, Italy continues to work with the wider United Nations membership for the full implementation of sanctions, notably through regional outreach meetings, which have proved very useful in disseminating information and best practices.

In addition, Mr. President, our Permanent Mission in New York is planning to organize an open meeting with the membership before the start of the next session of the General Assembly in order to explain in deeper detail the measures imposed by resolution 2371 (2017) so that they can be properly implemented.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Italy for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Peru.

Ms. Masana García (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I wish to express my appreciation for the statements made by the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States, which, they may be sure, were of great interest and utility for my own country. In the statement I made yesterday, I condemned the launch of a ballistic missile over Japanese

territory. In that same connection, I will now read out an official communiqué issued by my Government yesterday:

The Government of Peru strongly condemns the launch of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 28 August, which overflowed Japanese territory. The launch is part of that country's systematic policy of violating United Nations Security Council resolutions, and it requires a firm response on the part of the entire international community.

Faced with this grave threat to international peace and security, which led to an emergency meeting of the Security Council being called, the Government of Peru reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of sanctions imposed by the Council in order to ensure that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fulfils its international disarmament and non-proliferation obligations.

Lastly, Peru wishes to express its solidarity with the Government of Japan. It undertakes to support all diplomatic efforts geared towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during its forthcoming membership of the Security Council, beginning in January 2018.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Peru for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Brazil.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): Mr. President, I thank you for diligently overseeing our work in the Conference on Disarmament, allowing for a serious and opportune exchange to take place, yesterday and today, in respect of issues that are central to disarmament concerns and to overall peace and security. As others have expressed during the course of our discussions, Brazil also strongly condemns the launching of missiles by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The most recent of these, over the north of Japan, is an unacceptable act of provocation which defies security in the region. Brazil adds its voice to those who have called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and to actively contribute to a lowering of tensions and to creating the necessary conditions for the resumption of negotiations on peace and security in the Korean Peninsula.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Brazil for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of China.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, the relevant Security Council resolutions contain clear provisions regarding launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea using ballistic missile technology. China opposes such launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of Security Council resolutions. We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, while appealing to all parties concerned to exercise restraint, refrain from mutually provocative actions that exacerbate regional tensions and work together to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

In its resolution 2371 (2017), adopted on 5 August, the Security Council imposed further sanctions against the nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, called again for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks, committed to a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation and stressed the importance of all parties concerned working to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula. All parties should fully and comprehensively implement the relevant Security Council resolutions and avoid words or actions that exacerbate tensions on the Korean Peninsula, so as to create the conditions necessary for the resumption of negotiations as soon as possible.

Yesterday, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement expressing the consensus of the international community regarding missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The statement not only demanded that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should immediately cease all launch activities and called on all Member States to implement Security Council sanctions resolutions, but it also reiterated that the Council was committed to working towards a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation.

China has repeatedly pointed out that security concerns are what lie at the heart of the Korean Peninsula matter. The key to achieving a peaceful solution to the situation rests in the hands of the parties directly concerned, namely, between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. It is our hope that, under the current circumstances, the parties directly concerned with the issue will have the courage to shoulder their due responsibilities and play their respective roles, and take a genuinely responsible attitude with regard to peace and stability for their own peoples and the region, so as to make rational judgments and correct choices.

The "suspension-for-suspension" proposal and the "dual-track approach" proposed by China are currently feasible concepts for appropriately settling the issue. We hope that all parties concerned will seriously consider and respond positively to them, and join China in opening an effective path to settling the Korean Peninsula issue.

China has always insisted on achieving the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, upholding peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and settling the issue through dialogue and consultation, while opposing the outbreak of war and chaos on the Korean Peninsula. Stepping up military deployments to the Korean Peninsula is of no service to achieving the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula or that of regional peace and stability. Deploying the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the North-East Asia region seriously upsets the regional strategic balance and undermines the strategic security interests of the countries in the region, including China; and it exacerbates the tense stand-off on the Korean Peninsula, thereby making the problem even more complex and difficult.

China urges the parties concerned to cease that deployment process immediately and withdraw the related equipment. China also urges the countries concerned to cease imposing unilateral sanctions on entities or individuals in other countries on the basis of their own domestic laws. Achieving denuclearization and lasting order and stability on the Korean Peninsula accords with the interests of all parties. It is our hope that all parties concerned will join China in playing their due roles and shouldering their due responsibilities to put the Korean Peninsula issue on the correct track of peaceful resolution through dialogue at an early date.

Finally, I would like to point out that my country's understanding of the cause of the Korean War differs from that of the South Korean representative. China believes that in the current situation, excessive entanglement in historical details from more than 60 years ago is not conducive to easing tension on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of China for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Poland.

Mr. Ciolek (Poland): Mr. President, at the outset I would like to thank the delegations of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States for the in-depth and very informative expert presentations, which illustrated in detail the scale of security threats posed by the North Korean nuclear and missile programmes. Poland fully aligns itself with the European Union statement on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Nevertheless, I would like to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

Poland strongly condemns the missile test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We are particularly concerned by the latest missile test and the fact that the missile launched by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea flew over the territory of Japan. The activities of the Pyongyang authorities constitute a violation of existing international obligations, a threat to peace and security in the region and beyond and constitute a grave challenge to the international system of non-proliferation and arms control. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea authorities to immediately cease provocative ballistic missile tests and to abandon their nuclear and missile programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2371 (2017).

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Poland for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Ukraine.

Mr. Klymenko (Ukraine): Mr. President, on behalf of the delegation of Ukraine, I would like, first of all, to thank the delegations of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States for their detailed, informative and useful briefings on the threatening military preparations by North Korea as well as the development of the North Korean missile and nuclear programmes. We also appreciate the in-depth analysis shared by the delegation of France. In this context, I would like to bring to the attention of the delegations to the Conference on Disarmament the following statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on 29 August concerning the new intercontinental ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

Ukraine resolutely condemns the new launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This time it posed a serious threat to Japan.

The launch represents yet another serious challenge to all nations in the region and to regional stability, as it brazenly defies diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the security challenges on the Korean Peninsula. Continued missile launches by Pyongyang are a deliberate and systematic attack on international law and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the North Korean missile programme, especially following the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2371 (2017).

Ukraine aligns itself with all States who have condemned this dangerous act of Pyongyang and calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea leadership to stop their provocations immediately and restart dialogue with the international community. Otherwise, the United Nations Security Council sanctions should be expanded and strengthened.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Ukraine for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the Netherlands.

Mr. Gabriëlse (Netherlands): Mr. President, the Netherlands would like to make some remarks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a national capacity, in addition to the statement of the European Union and in addition to our statement made yesterday.

Let me start by thanking the briefers of today for their presentation. These briefings underline the continuous development of nuclear and ballistic missile programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of its international obligations. They are of great concern and pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. As stated yesterday, the Netherlands strongly condemns the recent missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and we call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately halt its ongoing provocations and re-engage in meaningful dialogue with the international community. To ensure this, the international community has a duty to fully implement the United Nations Security Council sanctions.

The Netherlands will continue to work with and through the United Nations and the European Union to make sure that the international community takes united and effective action.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Netherlands for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Slovakia.

Mr. Šefčík (Slovakia): Mr. President, I would like to thank, first of all, the experts from the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States for their presentations. Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union; nevertheless, I would like to read out the official statement of the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic strongly condemns the ballistic missile test that was carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 29 August. The fact that the missile flew above the Japanese island of Hokkaido was not only a manifestation of arrogance but also a useless danger placed over the lives of the Japanese civil population as well as an

unprecedented, unacceptable and serious threat to the safety of civilian, air and marine transport.

Instead of manifestations of goodwill and accommodating actions that would have favourable effects on the trustworthiness and international credibility of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North Korean regime continues choosing the way of provocations and intimidation. The ongoing missile tests and disregard for international commitments by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in such a strong way sabotage the efforts to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The Slovak Republic condemns the activities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that carry the potential of disturbing regional stability and international peace and concurrently calls on Pyongyang to carry out actions leading to building trust and a constructive dialogue with the international community.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Slovakia for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the Russian Federation.

Ms. Kuznetsova (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, yesterday the Security Council held an emergency meeting concerning the situation on the Korean Peninsula. In that connection, allow me to draw the delegations' attention to the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations on this issue and read out some excerpts from it:

Once again, we voice our principled position on the inadmissibility of Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programme. It must be promptly put to an end. The ballistic missile launches of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitute a major threat to sea and air transit in the region and jeopardize the lives of ordinary civilians, in this instance the citizens of Japan.

We call for full compliance with the Security Council's resolutions. Pyongyang must end the banned programmes, return to the non-proliferation regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to resume its verification activities. At the same time, Security Council members must seek a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The Council must seek to reduce tensions in the region. There is no other way.

We oppose the missile launches and tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but, as we have repeatedly noted, it is impossible to address the situation of the Korean Peninsula through sanctions and pressure alone. Taking such an approach would not give us the desired outcome since it would leave no scope for engaging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in constructive negotiations.

There can be no military solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula. We believe that all further Security Council resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must make that point clear. We must also rule out additional unilateral sanctions beyond those which the Council itself has imposed.

If the situation on the Korean Peninsula is to be normalized, there is a need for an approach that includes both an end to the missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and an abandonment of military infrastructure build-up, including the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system. There is also a need for reducing the scale of the exercises being carried out. There is an urgent need to create an atmosphere of trust among the States of the region and, in principle, to build an architecture of security in North-East Asia. The joint Russian and Chinese proposals advanced in various formats could serve as a road map for resolving the wide range of issues concerning the Korean Peninsula.

We wish to reaffirm that military approaches to resolving the situation on the Korean Peninsula are completely unacceptable. Political tools must be brought to bear. We welcome the fact that this is precisely the approach taken in the statement of the President of the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Russian Federation for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Mexico.

Mr. Heredia Acosta (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I would like to take this occasion to read out the salient points of a communiqué issued yesterday by the Government of Mexico:

The Government of Mexico wishes to assure the people and Government of Japan of its solidarity and support in the face of the launch of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which, according to available information, overflowed the territory of northern Japan. The Government of Mexico reaffirms its strong condemnation of this latest missile launch, which represents a threat to the security of Japan and of that region. Missile launches by North Korea, together with its development of a military nuclear programme, perturb international peace and security and constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of numerous binding resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. At the same time, they hinder multilateral efforts to create a climate of stability and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia.

Mexico wishes to reiterate that North Korea has an obligation to comply with the relevant resolutions that the Security Council has adopted since 2006 and which require that country to suspend launches using ballistic missile technology, its military nuclear programme and all other acts of provocation. In addition, Mexico will continue to apply the means envisaged in those resolutions, which all Member States of the United Nations have an obligation to fulfil.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Mexico for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Malaysia.

Ms. Ahmad Termizi (Malaysia): Mr. President, my delegation joins other delegations in condemning the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that flew over Japanese territory. The launch came as the United States and the Republic of Korea began their annual military exercises. This provocative action is yet again a flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. Such action by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will only further aggravate the escalating tension in the Korean Peninsula. It is another setback to efforts by the international community to de-escalate tension and find lasting peace in the region. In this regard, we call for the exercise of self-restraint by all parties and underscore the importance of creating conditions conducive for dialogue. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to desist from conducting further missile launches and to halt its nuclear and ballistic missile programme and to comply fully with its obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions in the interests of maintenance of international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Malaysia for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of Pakistan.

Mr. Jadoon (Pakistan): Mr. President, I have requested the floor to read out the statement issued by our Foreign Ministry in Islamabad yesterday regarding the latest missile launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

Pakistan expresses concern over the missile launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 29 August 2017. We urge all sides to exercise restraint and to abide by their obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Pakistan for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, my delegation strongly rejects the preposterous stories fabricated by the United States, South Korea and Japan in their so-called factual presentations, which are designed to shift all responsibility for tension on the Korean Peninsula to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

That can only be seen as a desperate attempt of these countries to exacerbate the self-defensive measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a threat to global peace so that they can earn international support for putting more pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Their historical behaviour of using this august chamber for their ill-minded intentions and propaganda reminds me of the saying which goes: "A drowning man will clutch at a straw." My delegation does not feel any need to respond in detail to such absurd arguments, especially the allegations made by South Korea, which has no authority or control over its military or its domestic security matters.

My delegation also expresses its deep frustration at the unacceptable practice of the Conference on Disarmament focusing on a specific member State out of sinister political motivations. If the Conference intends to address missile launches or nuclear tests, it must first discuss the nuclear tests and missile launches conducted by some of the United Nations Security Council permanent member States.

The United States, while waging war drills in South Korea, launched other provocations and confrontation in this chamber mobilizing its follower countries in order to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at any cost. Now that the Washington regime has openly disclosed its evil intention to obliterate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its sovereignty and right to existence and development, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will move towards resolute action, as it has already clarified. Earlier, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea warned the United States that it will closely watch every move of the United States before taking action. However, the United States responded with a provocative act by kicking off aggressive war exercises in disregard of our stern warning. Therefore, yesterday's launch conducted by our army was a prelude to the resolute countermeasures against these military exercises. The United States is wholly responsible for the current escalation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The United States and its followers should bear in mind that any threat or pressure will not threaten the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or block its path towards strengthening nuclear deterrence to protect its sovereignty against the hostile policy and nuclear threat of the United States.

Mr. President, access by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to a strong, powerful nuclear force is a just and legitimate measure for self-defence to protect the country's sovereignty and the nation's right to existence from the United States threat. The successive test launches of ballistic rockets by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were a stern warning to the United States, which wages reckless and dangerous military provocation and a despicable campaign of sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

To the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who experienced the disastrous disturbances of war on the Korean Peninsula imposed by the United States, a powerful war deterrence for national defence is an inevitable strategic option and is a precious strategic asset that can neither be reversed or bartered for anything. It is a just and legitimate right of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and no one can question it. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not, under any circumstances, put nuclear deterrence and ballistic rockets on the negotiation table, neither shall it flinch even an inch from the road to bolster up nuclear forces chosen by the people itself, unless the hostile policy and nuclear threat of the United States against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are fundamentally eliminated. Therefore, my delegation rejects the stereotyped allegations made by other countries, including European Union countries. If these countries really have grave concern over the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and value peace, they should first raise their voices to urge the United States to stop provoking military adventure and hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that undermine stability and security in the region.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's strong rejection of the latest statement of the United Nations Security Council yesterday as it is a product of the hostile United States policy to put pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and it is an extreme example of double-standard practices. The Security Council once again revealed that it is nothing other than a political tool serving United States policy. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is ready to take any response to any option that

the United States takes and has the capability to frustrate any provocations that could endanger its sovereignty and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the United States.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor but I think you could expect me to take the floor after listening to that diatribe from the representative from the Pyongyang regime. Let me just say that what we heard today in this chamber was a clear global condemnation — an indictment — of North Korea for its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons activities. We have heard this regime rejects United Nations Security Council resolutions. As you know, they are international law. It is somehow a political tool of the United States. This is just preposterous. This is clearly not a regime that is interested in having dialogue. It is interested in making threats. It is interested in undertaking provocative actions that threaten peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. I think it is very clear that the only alternative that it seems to be interested in is further isolation.

I think the Security Council, through its presidential statement yesterday, spoke very clearly about its concern over these latest tests. I have said this many times: if North Korea wants to get back in the good graces of the international community, it knows what it needs to do. But apparently it does not seem that the North has any interest in that. It is unfortunate that that is the situation we find ourselves in. But I want to thank everyone here today who spoke out loudly in condemnation of North Korea. We will continue to do so as an international community as long as Pyongyang continues to undertake these provocative and dangerous activities.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the United States for its statement and I now give the floor to the delegation of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, it is rather frustrating to get the same response over and over again from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but I think that the clear message today here from a lot of our members is that, despite the frustrating response from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, we will keep urging them to stop their illegal programmes. What has been presented today are things and facts. To repeat what I said at the beginning: this is it, with it, as it is. There is no addition, there is no subtraction. It is a matter of whether there are eyes that do not want to see and ears that do not want to listen. This is not a matter of whether the facts are there or not. And about exercises — military exercises and self-defence and so on — I will quote remarks by their Supreme Leader that was publicized in one of their public media after overseeing one of their military exercises last week:

We have to think only about pacifying the South by mercilessly sweeping away our enemies with our gun barrels and occupying Seoul in the blink of an eye.

I think that this says it all.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Republic of Korea for its statement. Are there any more statements? I recognize the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again. If the United States fails to act with discretion and persists in its reckless attempt to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not hesitate to take further tougher countermeasures. Any sanction or pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to isolate it will meet with failure. I wish to conclude my statement by quoting the famous saying that dogs bark but the caravan moves on.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its statement. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? That does not seem to be the case.

This brings us to the end of our plenary meeting. The next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will take place at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday 31 August 2017. The formal meeting will be followed by an informal gathering the purpose of which is to examine the draft of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly. After that, it is my intention to hold informal consultations with delegations that so wish, in room X.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.