

Conference on Disarmament

20 September 2017

Original: English

Note verbale dated 15 September 2017 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting "the Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on the DPRK's Sixth Nuclear Test on September 3"

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to Mr. Michael Møller, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and has the honor of transmitting to the Secretariat "the Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on the DPRK's Sixth Nuclear Test on September 3".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea would appreciate the Secretariat's assistance in issuing and circulating this statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the Conference the assurances of the highest consideration.



Statement by the Government of the Republic of Korea on the DPRK's Sixth Nuclear Test on September 3

1. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a nuclear test in Punggye-ri, Gilju in North Hamgyong Province on September 3, 2017. The DPRK nuclear test following the launch of ICBM-class ballistic missiles and resulting in an explosive yield much greater than previous tests is not only a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions but a grave and serious challenge to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. As such, the Republic of Korea (ROK) Government strongly condemns this nuclear test.
2. The DPRK's reckless and irresponsible nuclear test which was conducted despite the repeated warnings of the ROK Government and the international community will not be tolerated by any means.
3. It is up to the DPRK to make its choice. The DPRK should realize that repeated provocations will only deepen diplomatic isolation and economic pressure. The DPRK needs to understand even at this point in time that making the decision for denuclearization is the only path that can guarantee its security and economic development and respond positively to the message of dialogue offered by the ROK Government and the international community. We once again urge the DPRK to come out to the path towards denuclearization and establishing solid peace on the Korean Peninsula.
4. Based on a stalwart ROK-US alliance, the ROK Government maintains a robust readiness posture capable of responding to any threats by the DPRK in close cooperation with the US, and will remain steadfast in safeguarding the lives of its people and the security of the nation.
