

GECMUNIV

UNSC

**BACKGROUND GUIDE:
NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND
MISSILES IN THE DPRK**

DANIEL SON

HANNAH SEO

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Greetings honourable delegates,

We are Daniel Son and Hannah Seo, both from North London Collegiate School Jeju, who will be serving you as co-chairs for the Security Council at GECMUN IV. Throughout the conference, we will be helping you to engage in a fruitful debate regarding pressing international issues with fellow delegates and devise effective resolutions.

In the Security Council, you will be discussing the agenda of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in North Korea. When researching for the conference, we would like to kindly advise you to make efficient use of various online and offline resources, such as, but not limited to, the CIA World Factbook, government statistics, newspaper articles, research papers, and this chair report.

We wholeheartedly look forward to meeting you at the conference.

Regards,
Daniel Son and Hannah Seo

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

As one of, if not the most influential committee in the United Nations, the Security Council has since 1946 been protecting international peace and security in countless different conflicts and incidents around the world. With five permanent members and ten non-permanent members, It strives to derive peaceful solutions to pressing security threats and mediate between conflicting interests.

In GECMUN IV, the Security Council will be thoroughly discussing the issue of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK), or, more simply, North Korea. Continuing nuclear experiments of the nation is, in the present situation, one of the greatest security risks constantly threatening the security of not only the East Asian region but the entire international community. Hence, as a committee, the Security Council must devise methods with which a peaceful end regarding the issue at hand can be reached.

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

A treaty that came into effect in 1970 to prevent further proliferation of nuclear weapons by prohibiting nuclear weapon development (by the “non-nuclear nations”) and further production of nuclear weapons (by the “nuclear nations”). Currently, all members of the UN, apart from North Korea, India, Pakistan, Israel, Iran, and Cuba, are a member of the NPT. There are claims, however, that the treaty has fundamental limitations that hinder it from achieving its goal of complete non-proliferation. The most widely acknowledged of these claims is that it legally protects the nuclear nations’ already existing weapons while prohibiting the non-nuclear nations’ development of them, in turn officially maintaining the current unbalance of nuclear weapons.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

An international organisation, founded in 1957 and headquartered in Vienna, Austria, that aims to prevent military use and encourage peaceful use of nuclear power. While it is officially an independent organisation, it maintains close relationships with the UN.

Agreed Framework between the USA and DPRK

An agreement made in 1994 between North Korea and the United States in response to North Korea’s leaving of the NPT. North Korea had the responsibility to denuclearize according to the specified timeline, while the United States agreed to support North Korea’s peaceful use of nuclear power when denuclearisation took place.

Nuclear experiment

Experiments carried out, in most cases by a country, to test the overall effectiveness of nuclear weapons.

Intercontinental Ballistic Missile(ICBM)

A type of missile on which nuclear weapons are carried over long distances. North Korea is known to have developed it, giving the country the ability to launch their nuclear weapons to wherever they want to.

Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile(SLBM)

An ICBM that is launched from a submarine. It is known that North Korea has developed SLBMs as well as ICBMs.

AGENDA

INFORMATION

Historical Background

While minor efforts to develop nuclear energy for unknown purposes were continuously made by North Korea from the mid-20th century, it was not until the termination of the Cold War that the communist nation began in earnest to seek its own nuclear capabilities. As the Soviet Union, its closest ally, collapsed in 1991, the North Korean regime's need for self-protection against western powers and the nearby adversary of South Korea increased rapidly. As a result, in 1993, North Korea officially left the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) after refusing the periodic inspection of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Although the international community was able to negotiate the country's return to the treaty by 1994 through the Agreed Framework, which stated North Korea's responsibility for its denuclearisation, North Korea left the treaty once more in 2003, and, in 2006, carried out its first nuclear experiment--a clear and direct violation of the Agreed Framework. As of October 2017, North Korea carried out five more nuclear experiments since 2006, in 2009, 2013, 2016, 2016, and 2017 respectively.

Status Quo

In the current situation, many expert organisations, such as CNN and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), predict that as a result of its continued nuclear experiments, North Korea has already developed ICBMs and SLBMs, and can install nuclear warheads onto them and target major adversaries such as the United States and South Korea. In short, it is very close to developing a nuclear weapon system that is fully and immediately usable.

The South Korean National Intelligence Service (NIS) estimates that if the sanctions for North Korea's nuclear programme are thoroughly implemented, the political burden of the Kim Jong-Un regime will increase due to the economic plights at the level equivalent to the "hardship march" in the mid-1990s since last year. The economic growth rate will be 3.9% in 2016, But it is likely to fall to 5%. In this case, the NIS predicted that Pyeongyang would face a situation in which it would have to choose to respond to the denuclearization negotiations, mitigate the sanctions, or suppress internal complaints with stronger control and to continuously improve the level of nuclear-armed forces.

Past Attempts

- *The Agreed Framework (1994)* regarding the issue was agreed upon between the United States of America and North Korea. The framework specified the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries and America's technical support for North Korea's peaceful use of nuclear power as 'rewards' for North Korea's denuclearization. However, while this framework managed to convince North Korea back into the NPT temporarily, it was unilaterally revoked as North Korea began nuclear experiments eight years later, primarily because the rewards offered were marginally attractive for the regime.

Since its first nuclear experiment, the UN attempts for the non-proliferation in North Korea has primarily been focused on sanctions.

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- *UNSC resolution 1695 (2006)*, the first resolution to call for sanction against North Korea for its nuclear development, urged the implementation of a trade ban that would prevent the regime to purchase any material that would be used for the development of its ballistic missiles.
 - *UNSC resolution 1718 (2006)* banned countries from trading military vehicles, weapons and luxury goods with North Korea. Furthermore, overseas assets of the individuals and organisations to do with the country's nuclear programme were frozen. Similar *UNSC resolutions 1874 (2009)*, *2087 (2013)*, and *2094 (2013)* were passed as well.
 - *UNSC resolution 2270 (2016)* prohibited all weapons trade with North Korea and furthered the previous sanctions on luxury goods.
 - *UNSC resolution 2375 (2017)* unanimously furthered the existing oil sanction of the international community on North Korea, from four barrels annually to two.
 - These sanctions, however, are not strong enough to the extent at which North Korea will be forced to forfeit its nuclear weapons due to the detrimental effects of the sanctions on the country. This is mainly because resistance from nations that maintain close relationships with North Korea, namely China and Russia, hinders any stronger sanctions from being implemented.
 - *The Six-Party Talks*, in which delegates of six stakeholding nations (North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Russia, China, and the United States) sought a diplomatic solution to the issue, took place intermittently from 2003. No more meetings have taken place since 2007 despite notable achievements from previous meetings, due to the worsened relationships between North Korea and America (and South Korea).
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STANCES OF UN MEMBER STATES AND PARTIES

Japan

While it is a member of the Six-Party Talks with a shared perception that North Korea must give up its nuclear weapons, Japan is choosing to remain diplomatically inactive in relation to other stakeholding nations; Its defense ministry plans to double, to eight, the number of ships equipped with the Aegis missile-defense system.

South Korea

It is not desirable to develop into a military alliance with Korea, the US, and Japan in response to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. Cooperation with South Korea and the United States as well as with Japan has become important, but the cooperation is aimed at countering North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations. In response to its northern neighbour's actions, South Korea conducted a missile drill.

China

Although China, calling for fewer and weaker sanctions, has been slightly more approving of North Korea's actions, it has recently been pushing for North Korea's continued nuclear and missile provocations in tandem with the international community, raising the intensity of its pressure on North Korea. With the Trump's comment, their position is the North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved by political means and that "all relevant parties" should avoid "remarks and acts that may escalate the conflict.

United States

A senior White House official said, "We need much more action," while positively evaluating China's participation in UN Security Council sanctions. President Donald Trump told reporters in a media interview earlier that he repeatedly stressed that China has the power to make progresses regarding North Korea. The tremendous deficit problem that the United States has in trade with China is another major task for President Trump to solve. The White House says it will demand China's plundering trade and investment practices, as well as correcting market entry barriers. Trump, who looks to Korea and Japan after China, is likely to focus on a strong ROK-US alliance and ties to North Korea.

Germany

The German government set up a North Korean ambassador to Germany to protest North Korea's sixth nuclear test. Chancellor Angela Merkel, along with French President Emmanuel Macron, called on the European Union (EU) for additional sanctions against North Korea. Recently, the German government has reportedly sent some diplomats from the North Korean embassy in Germany to North Korea in the form of deportation. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has proposed a way to negotiate with Iran to halt its nuclear and missile development program.

France

President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement that "the international community must respond to North Korea's new provocations as fastly as possible in order to proceed without any conditions and to ensure complete, verifiable and irreversible nuclear and ballistic missile disposal." He urged the members of the UNSC to immediately respond to North Korea's new violations of international law, calling for "a unified and unequivocal reaction of the European Union."

Sweden

Prime Minister Tjepane R fben met with President Trump during the United Nations General Assembly in September, urging strong dialogue with Pyongyang and expressing his intention to actively support North Korea if it is necessary. At the SDP debate, Sweden expressed a deep interest in one of its negotiating strategies for freezing the North Korean nuclear program.

Italy

Italy is strongly condemning North Korea's missile launches over Japan last night. "North Korea's repeated missile tests and ongoing development of related technologies have become a source of growing concern as well as breaking the regional balance." "The blame for North Korea's missile launch today, which is against the world's nuclear test, is of more significance," the minister of military and national defence, Alfano said. "North Korea must immediately abandon its nuclear weapons development."

Egypt

About ten days before Egypt condemned North Korea, it announced that it would hold millions of dollars in aid to Egypt for human rights concerns. Observers, however, pointed out that the reason the United States forcibly retained its aid to Egypt was that it was also related to the North's political and economic isolation of the United States. The Egyptian government's position on the North Korean nuclear issue is clear and that North Korea must abide by UN Security Council resolutions, and that the Egyptian government will continue to listen to its voices and support Korea.

Ethiopia

During the past socialist regime, North Korea maintained friendly relations with North Korea, and it was reported that cooperation was concentrated around the military field. However, he has been drawing a line on relations with North Korea, such as actively cooperating with the recent UN Security Council's implementation of sanctions on North Korea.

Ukraine

Ambassador Huntsman pointed out that North Korea is not only an American problem but an international threat. He added that the United States and Russia could work together to get North Korea out of the negotiating table. The Ukraine security footage elaborates shadowy world of North Korea's missile to improve its ability to hit and other adversaries with long-range missiles.

Uruguay

On January 6th, The minister, Nin Noboa said that he would support South Korea's position on the North Korean nuclear issue shortly after the fourth nuclear test and join the sanctions against Pyongyang. "Uruguay supports Korea's position on North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations and further supports its goal of denuclearization," North Korea said. "We must realize that armed provocations do not help the situation in Northeast Asia." "The sanctions must be directed at the regime, not the people of North Korea," he said.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Improving denuclearisation negotiations

Considering that the primary reason for North Korea's nuclearisation is to maintain the regime's stability, providing the nation through negotiation with other means to do so, such as technical and financial support or peace treaties, may be the most effective way to its denuclearisation. This may be done in many ways including the revival of the halted Six Party Talks or the application of successful historical precedents like the Joint Comprehensive Plan Of Action with Iran in 2015. However, it is imperative for the international community to significantly improve the effectiveness of the current intermittent and slow negotiations in order to make meaningful progress with this approach.

Additional Sanctions

Additional, stronger sanctions could be placed on North Korea by the United Nations for the country's future nuclear experiments or any other acts of nuclear development. If works as intended, additional sanctions could force the regime to give up its nuclear programme to maintain its existence. In order to succeed, any sanction must be agreed upon by the nations diplomatically close to North Korea, be of a much stronger level than the current existing ones, and yet have minimal impact on the North Korean civilians' lives.

Reformation of the NPT

Given that the current world order in regards to non-proliferation, represented by the NPT, is deemed as unfair and ineffective in nature, reforming the treaty so that it is more agreeable by the non-nuclear nations as well as the nuclear nations may bring some progress to the issue with North Korea as well. Possible positive outcomes of the reformation of the NPT range from increased pressure exerted on North Korea's nuclear programme due to the willing participation of other non-nuclear nations to North Korea's resigning of the treaty. Any reformation must address the inequality between nuclear and non-nuclear states by either reducing or completely eliminating it.

Preemptive strikes

Since the inauguration of President Trump in early 2017, possibilities of the United States's preemptive attack on North Korean nuclear facilities started to arise from several relevant White House officials and politicians. The UN may conduct a similar operation in order to directly remove the nuclear threat posed by North Korea. However, provided that this approach will inevitably result in great damage and regional instability, it is encouraged that it is considered, if at all, as a last resort.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- With North Korea's nuclearisation plan already almost complete, should the international community admit the fact that the nation has nuclear weapons and attempt to reduce their number, or maintain the current goal of complete denuclearisation of North Korea?
- Is negotiation or sanction more effective at forcing North Korea to denuclearize? Which approach has seen more progress until this point? Are there any other approaches that the international community could take?
- What can be done to make the current sanctions more effective? Is there a way for a strong, extensive sanction plan to gain support from all stakeholding countries, including those that are close to North Korea?
- With what provisions and offers could the international community convince North Korea to denuclearize? Can some historical precedents, such as the denuclearisation negotiations with Iran in 2014, be applied to this situation as successful models?
- Can preemptive strikes of North Korea, either by a specific country or by the UN, be at any time considered as a possible solution?

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