



IAEA Board of Governors – June 2024

Agenda item 7(d)

Application of safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

STATEMENT BY SWITZERLAND

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The continuous and fast development of the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, continues to be a matter of deep concern. These programmes pose a threat to regional and international peace and security.

We condemn the recent attempted launches of military satellites using ballistic missile technology, as well as the launches of five intercontinental ballistic missiles last year, in contradiction of Security Council resolutions, which are destabilizing and exacerbate tensions. We remain deeply concerned about the activities at locations of relevance for the DPRK's nuclear programme, as well as by the reopening of the nuclear test site, as previously reported by the Director General.

The proliferation of ballistic missiles and related dual-use technologies to and from the DPRK, including reports that Russia may have received weapons and used ballistic missiles from the DPRK in attacks against Ukraine is also a matter of particular concern. We call on all States to ensure the effective implementation of relevant UN Security Council sanctions and urge them to cooperate fully with the UN Security Council Committee 1718. In this regard, Switzerland deeply regrets that, following last March's veto, the mandate of the 1718 Panel of Experts has not been renewed, seriously affecting the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and therefore the multilateral non-proliferation architecture.

Attempts to publicly legitimize the development of the DPRK's nuclear programme require our continued vigilance. Switzerland is of the view that the DPRK cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT, as reaffirmed at various occasions.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the adoption of the Resolution on the DPRK by consensus by the General Conference last year. We also welcome the Agency's intensified efforts to enhance its readiness to play its essential role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear programme, including its capability to promptly re-establish the implementation of safeguards-related activities in the DPRK, once a political agreement has been reached.

Switzerland supports diplomatic efforts of the parties involved to return to a fruitful dialogue promoting peace and stability in the region, on the path to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We strongly encourage all parties to return to a meaningful dialogue.

Thank you.