

Forum: Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

Issue: Containing the Militarization and Missile Escalation on the Korean Peninsula

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TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare –in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945– about 13,400 reportedly remain in our world today, and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. ¹12,241 nuclear warheads existed worldwide in 2025. About 2,100 were on high operational alert, ready for rapid use. ²One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge.

North Korea's recent missile and nuclear tests have exacerbated tensions on the Korean Peninsula with serious implications for regional and international security. North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, also said his country would accelerate production of nuclear weapons to deter the US. This followed earlier threats by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to destroy Kim's regime if the North uses nuclear weapons.³

North Korea has been testing more and more advanced ballistic missiles and warheads, some with the range to reach the US, since 2022, and has also stated it is developing ship-launched cruise missiles, while the Americans have been mounting repeated shows of force, including military exercises using nuclear-capable aircraft and the visit of a nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea.

¹ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. "Nuclear Weapons." *United Nations*, <https://www.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

² United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. *Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nuclear Weapons*. United Nations, <https://www.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³ Reuters. "North Korea's Kim Jong Un Calls for 'Exponential' Nuclear Expansion after Inspecting New Plant, KCNA Says." *Reuters*, 3 June 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/north-koreas-kim-inspects-new-nuclear-material-plant-urges-expansion-arsenal-2026-06-03/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.



Figure 1: depicting the rise of North Korean Missile Tests from 2012 until 2023⁴

As the risks of the use of nuclear weapons grow, driven by threats, inflammatory rhetoric, and the increasing prominence of nuclear weapons in security policies and doctrines, the

⁴ Richter, Felix. "The Rise of North Korean Missile Tests." *Statista*, 19 Dec. 2023, <https://www.statista.com/chart/9172/north-korea-missile-tests-timeline/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

international community's response must be to stigmatise and delegitimise nuclear weapons and to build a robust global norm against them.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Korean Peninsula

"The East Asian peninsula that comprises North Korea and South Korea.⁵"

Missile Escalation

"Escalation, in a military context, refers to the intensification of a conflict, where actions become more extreme and the scope of the conflict widens. This can occur when states engage in unprovoked military attacks against one another, a concept defined as aggression in international relations⁶"

Sanctions

Sanctions are "economic and political measures that aim to influence the behaviour of a state, a group or individuals. For example, sanctions can be introduced in an attempt to change the policies of a state that threatens international peace and security, or to induce a state to cease systematic violations of human rights.⁷"

Security Dilemma

"A situation where actions taken by a state to increase its security lead to increased tensions and insecurity.⁸"

Denuclearisation

"the action of removing nuclear weapons from a place.⁹"

⁵ <https://www.isdp.eu/publication/containing-crisis-korean-peninsula/>

⁶ "Escalation." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/escalation>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

⁷ Government Offices of Sweden. "What Are Sanctions?" *Government.se*, <https://www.government.se/government-policy/foreign-and-security-policy/international-sanctions/what-are-sanctions/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

⁸ "Security Dilemma." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/security-dilemma>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

⁹ "Denuclearization." *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/denuclearization>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Overview of the Korean Peninsula

The Korean Peninsula in East Asia is home to two countries with starkly contrasting political ideologies, economies, and cultures: North Korea and South Korea. These nations, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK), have a shared history dating back to ancient times. However, the division that arose in the mid-20th century has led them down drastically different paths.¹⁰

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) of the Korean Peninsula is one of the world's most heavily fortified borders. Established at the end of the Korean War in 1953, the DMZ serves as a buffer zone between North and South Korea.¹¹ This 250-kilometer-long and approximately 4-kilometer-wide strip of land has become a symbol of division and hope for reunification.

The DMZ stretches from the Yellow Sea in the west to the Sea of Japan (East Sea) in the east. It traverses diverse landscapes, including mountains, rivers, and forests. Despite its name, the DMZ is heavily fortified on both sides, with barbed wire fences, landmines, and military personnel. The area is also home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, having evolved into an unintended nature reserve due to the lack of human presence.¹²

¹⁰ [History.com](https://www.history.com/news/north-south-korea-divided-reasons-facts) Editors. "Why Are North and South Korea Divided?" *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, <https://www.history.com/news/north-south-korea-divided-reasons-facts>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹¹ "The Demilitarized Zone." *Introduction to World Regional Geography*, Salt Lake Community College Pressbooks, <https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/worldgeography/chapter/2-7/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹² "The Demilitarized Zone." *Introduction to World Regional Geography*, Salt Lake Community College Pressbooks, <https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/worldgeography/chapter/2-7/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.



Figure 2: Map depicting the demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea

The peninsula is also home to several major rivers, including the Han River in the south and the Yalu and Tumen Rivers in the north, which form natural boundaries between North Korea and China. These rivers have historically played crucial roles in agriculture, transportation, and trade.

Tensions between the two Koreas erupted into full-scale conflict in 1950 with the outbreak of the Korean War. The war, which lasted until 1953, resulted in significant loss of life and destruction.¹⁴ An armistice agreement brought an end to active combat, but a formal peace treaty was never signed, leaving the two Koreas technically still at war.

North Korea is a one-party state led by the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). Since its establishment, the country has been ruled by the Kim dynasty, with Kim Il-sung, Kim Jong-il, and

¹³ "Title of Article." *BBC News*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-66239840>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹⁴ "2.7 Korean Peninsula." *Introduction to World Regional Geography*, Salt Lake Community College Pressbooks, <https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/worldgeography/chapter/2-7/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

Kim Jong-un serving as its leaders.¹⁵ The government maintains strict control over all aspects of life, heavily emphasizing military strength and self-reliance (The principle of Juche).

South Korea is a democratic republic with a multi-party system. Its vibrant political landscape includes regular elections and high political freedom. The president heads the state and government, while the National Assembly is the legislative body.

Over the years, several attempts have been made to improve relations between North and South Korea. Notable efforts include the Sunshine Policy of the late 1990s and early 2000s, which aimed to foster cooperation and dialogue.¹⁶ However, progress has been inconsistent, with periods of heightened tension and hostility.

North Korea's Missile and nuclear programs

A critical component of North Korea's military capabilities is its nuclear weapons program. The regime has conducted multiple nuclear tests since its first detonation in 2006, prompting widespread international condemnation and escalating tensions in the region.¹⁷ Despite stringent international sanctions aimed at curtailing its nuclear ambitions, North Korea continues to develop and test ballistic missiles with increasing range and sophistication.

North Korea's nuclear program has far-reaching implications for regional and global security. They have developed ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. The potential for miscalculation or accidental escalation remains a constant concern among international observers.¹⁸ Efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula have seen limited success, with intermittent periods of dialogue and diplomatic engagement often giving way to renewed provocations and standoffs.

Recent Missile Escalation

Beginning in 2021, North Korea explicitly stated an intention to develop tactical nuclear weapons, sharply intensifying the perceived threat in South Korea. Since then, Pyongyang has developed an array of new short-range nuclear delivery systems, rendering its ambitions more credible. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, meanwhile, has indicated that many of these

¹⁵ Council on Foreign Relations. "North Korea's Power Structure." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 17 June 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/north-koreas-power-structure>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹⁶ Council on Foreign Relations. "North Korea: What Is the Sunshine Policy?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-sunshine-policy>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹⁷ Arms Control Association. "North Korea: Nuclear." *Arms Control Association*, <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/north-korea-nuclear>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

¹⁸ Council on Foreign Relations. "North Korea: What You Need to Know." *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

short-range systems will be deployed with so-called frontline units of the Korean People's Army.¹⁹ Although Kim remains the sole authority on nuclear weapons use in North Korea, he has indicated further that there may be conditions under which the authority to use nuclear weapons could devolve to military commanders.

Recent events on the Korean peninsula are among the most dramatic on the world stage. Amid cycles of rapprochement and disaffection between North and South, relations between Pyongyang and Washington careen back and forth from hostility to diplomacy. At stake are not just North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs but also peace and security in North East Asia.

China, the North's most important ally, has cooperated in enforcing strict sanctions in an attempt to temper its partner's bravado. But ultimately, it prefers the status quo to the instability that would follow radical change.²⁰ Crisis Group works to decrease the risk of war on the peninsula while advocating for creative solutions for all parties to implement as they pursue their long-term goals.

The importance of containment

The path to reconciliation remains fraught with challenges, including ideological differences, security concerns, and the North's nuclear ambitions. Despite these obstacles, there is hope that dialogue and diplomacy can eventually lead to a peaceful resolution and the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

The Demilitarized Zone of the Korean Peninsula is a paradoxical landscape of tension and tranquility.²¹ While it stands as a testament to the unresolved Korean conflict, it also offers a glimpse of hope for a future where the peninsula might be reunified. The DMZ's unique history, geography, and role in global diplomacy make it a remarkable and complex symbol of division and the aspiration for peace.

¹⁹ Gettinger, Daniel M., and Mary Beth Nikitin. *North Korea's Nuclear Weapons and Missile Programs*. Congressional Research Service, 26 Sept. 2025, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10472>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁰ International Crisis Group. *Fire on the City Gate: Why China Keeps North Korea Close*. Asia Report No. 254, 9 Dec. 2013, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/north-east-asia/korean-peninsula/fire-city-gate-why-china-keeps-north-korea-close>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²¹ Council on Foreign Relations. "North Korea: What You Need to Know." *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/background/north-korea>. Accessed 31 July 2026; United Nations Command. "Korean Demilitarized Zone." *United Nations Command*, <https://www.unc.mil/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

United States of America (USA)

In seventy years, the U.S.-South Korean alliance has evolved from a patron-client relationship to a global, comprehensive strategic alliance.

In 1991, U.S. President George H. W. Bush announced his decision to remove all U.S. tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea. The next year, the two Koreas signed the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Under this agreement, the two countries commit not to test, manufacture, produce, receive, possess, store, deploy, or use nuclear weapons.

In 2018 North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in held the first inter-Korean leader summit in eleven years. Kim becomes the first North Korean leader to set foot in South Korea since 1953.²² The two leaders reaffirm their commitment to usher in a new era of inter-Korean relations based on peace, prosperity, and reunification of the Korean Peninsula. They also signed the Panmunjom Declaration, aimed at defusing military tensions and fostering peace on the Korean Peninsula. Two more inter-Korean summits occurred in May and September 2018. The September inter-Korean summit held in Pyongyang resulted in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration, which led to the adoption of the Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjom Declaration in the Military Domain (also known as the Comprehensive Military Agreement, or CMA).²³

North Korea

According to President Kim, North Korea's nuclear and ballistic programs are meant to establish "equilibrium" with U.S. forces. Kim craves the ultimate deterrent: a nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of reaching the United States. In his eyes, this option is a necessary guarantee for his and his party's continued rule—indeed, their survival. The brisk increase in the number and scope of missile and nuclear tests in 2016 and 2017 is consistent with this goal. Kim may also be indulging in more daring thoughts, like taking advantage of North Korea's nuclear and ballistic programs to militarily pursue unification with the South.²⁴

²² Snyder, Scott A., and Jennifer Ahn. "The U.S.–South Korea Alliance." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 1 Dec. 2023, <https://www.cfr.org/articles/us-south-korea-alliance>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²³ Snyder, Scott A., and Jennifer Ahn. "The U.S.–South Korea Alliance." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 1 Dec. 2023, <https://www.cfr.org/articles/us-south-korea-alliance>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁴ International Crisis Group. *North Korea: How to Respond to a Nuclear-armed Pyongyang*. International Crisis Group, 2017,

South Korea

South Korea is a key country on the Korean Peninsula and has remained technically at war with North Korea since the Korean War ended with an armistice in 1953. South Korea is, of course, directly affected by North Korea's military actions. North and South Korea agree to march under the same flag at the Winter Olympics in South Korea in a thaw in relations. At a summit meeting in April 2018, President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's Kim Jong-un agreed to end hostile actions and work towards reducing nuclear arms on the peninsula.²⁵

Japan

Japan is affected by North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes because some missiles have been tested over or near Japanese territory. Japan is closely involved in regional security.

Japan faces mounting security challenges, including North Korea's advancing nuclear and missile programs, closer military ties between Russia and North Korea, and strengthening military relations between China and Russia. In particular, expanding Russia-North Korea military ties—potentially involving troop deployments and technology transfers—poses a complex security threat that could enhance North Korea's conventional and strategic capabilities.²⁶

Despite this worsening security environment, Japan's approach to North Korea has shown little innovation. Since the inauguration of the Takaichi administration, Tokyo has sought to engage in dialogue with Pyongyang. However, these efforts have been unequivocally rebuffed.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations

The Republic of Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) reaffirmed their commitment to deepening their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) during the 30th ASEAN–Republic of Korea Dialogue, held in Seoul on July 7.

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/north-east-asia/korean-peninsula/north-korea-how-respond-nuclear-armed-pyongyang>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁵ "North and South Korea Agree to March under Same Flag at Winter Olympics in South Korea in a Thaw in Relations." *BBC News*, BBC, 9 Jan. 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-42559017>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁶ Council on Foreign Relations. "What Does the Russia-North Korea Partnership Mean for Global Security?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/what-does-russia-north-korea-partnership-mean-global-security>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁷Participants also exchanged views on major regional and international issues, including developments on the Korean Peninsula, the South China Sea, and the situation in Myanmar.

The Korean delegation reiterated Seoul's commitment to building a peaceful Korean Peninsula where both Koreas can coexist and prosper together, while emphasizing the importance of continued cooperation with ASEAN in promoting lasting peace, stability, and regional prosperity.

International Atomic Energy Agency

This agency monitors nuclear activities and reports on nuclear developments.

As one of the world's leading nuclear energy countries, the Republic of Korea is a crucial partner and a strong supporter of the IAEA's work for peace and development around the world, said the Director General during an important visit to the country this week.

Rafael Mariano Grossi met with Foreign Minister Cho Hyun during his third visit to the country, as well as former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. He also travelled to the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

Reaffirming his remarks from the telephone conversation with the Director General on March 9, Minister Cho emphasized that the ROK has fully complied with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has implemented the highest level of safeguards.²⁸

He reiterated that the ROK will communicate transparently with the IAEA throughout the process of introducing nuclear-powered submarines, and requested the IAEA's cooperation. Director General Grossi stated that he expects the ROK to continue its faithful compliance with non-proliferation and safeguards obligations, and agreed to maintain close cooperation.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

²⁷ "The 30th ASEAN–Republic of Korea Dialogue Held in Seoul." *Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Seoul*, 27 July 2026, <https://philembassy-seoul.com/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

²⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. "Outcome of Meeting between ROK Foreign Minister and IAEA Director General (Apr. 15)." *Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea*, 15 Apr. 2026, https://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=323277. Accessed 31 July 2026.

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1945	Korea is divided after WWII. ²⁹
1948	North Korea and South Korea are officially established ³⁰
1950-1953	Korean War ³¹
1993	North Korea announces plans to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). ³²
2006	North Korea conducts its first nuclear test. ³³
2017	North Korea tests intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs). ³⁴
2018	Inter-Korean and U.S.–North Korea summits. ³⁵

²⁹ "Division of Korea." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Korea/Division-of-Korea>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³⁰ "Korea: The Post-WWII Partition and the Origins of the Korean War." *The History Reader*, <https://www.thehistoryreader.com/military-history/korea-post-wwii-partition/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³¹ "Korean War." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/event/Korean-War>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³² "The Agreed Framework Between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." *Disarmament Diplomacy*, no. 66, Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, Oct. 2003, <https://www.acronym.org.uk/old/archive/docs/0301/doc02.htm>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³³ "When Did North Korea Conduct Its First Nuclear Test?" *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/question/When-did-North-Korea-conduct-its-first-nuclear-test>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³⁴ Gettinger, Daniel M., and Mary Beth D. Nikitin. *North Korea's Nuclear Weapons and Missile Programs*. Congressional Research Service, 26 Sept. 2025, <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IF10472>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³⁵ Jonsson, Gabriel. "Outcomes of the 2018 Inter-Korean and North Korea-United States Summits." *Beyond the Horizon: International Strategic Studies Group*, 30 Aug. 2018, <https://behorizon.org/outcomes-of-the-2018-inter-korean-and-north-korea-united-states-summits/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

2022- present	Sharp increase in missile tests and military exercises. ³⁶
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RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Korean Armistice Agreement

The Armistice Agreement ended active fighting in the Korean War. It was signed July 27th, 1953. The Armistice Agreement created a Military Demarcation Line (MDL) at the last line of contact between the opposing forces. To separate combat forces, both sides withdrew two kilometers from the MDL to form a four-kilometer-wide Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which runs 241 kilometers across the width of the Korean peninsula. Both sides were permitted access to their two-kilometer portion of the DMZ, but were prohibited from crossing the MDL without approval from the other side.

The signatories of the Armistice Agreement intended the agreement to facilitate a more permanent, peaceful settlement. In the meantime, the Armistice Agreement is a "living document." Paragraph 62 of the Agreement permits "mutually acceptable amendments and additions." This process allows subsequent agreements to be added to the Armistice Agreement in order to reflect the current situation on the Korean peninsula.

Event United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718

Resolution 1718 (14 October 2006) imposes comprehensive sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) following its claimed nuclear test of 9 October 2006. Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the resolution bans the supply of heavy weapons, nuclear technology, and luxury goods to the DPRK, and imposes a travel ban and asset freeze on persons involved in its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

It establishes a sanctions committee to oversee implementation and demands that the DPRK return to the Six-Party Talks and abandon its nuclear weapons program in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner.

³⁶ "Korean Peninsula Update, July 7, 2026." *Institute for the Study of War*, 7 July 2026, <https://understandingwar.org/research/china-taiwan/korean-peninsula-update-july-7-2026/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

To monitor and adjust the sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Council decided to establish a committee consisting of all 15 members of the body, which would provide a report every 90 days, beginning with the passage of the resolution.³⁷

Following the vote, several members of the Council condemned what many called an irresponsible step by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, stressing the importance of the Council's swift and decisive action and emphasizing that, should the country implement the provisions of the new resolution, the sanctions could be lifted.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874

Resolution 1874 (12 June 2009), (Official number: S/RES/1874) imposes significantly strengthened sanctions on North Korea in response to its nuclear test of 25 May 2009, conducted in violation of resolution 1718 (2006). Adopted under Chapter VII, it broadens the arms embargo to a near-total ban on weapons exports and imports, tightens financial sanctions, strengthens cargo inspection requirements, including authorization for states to inspect vessels on the high seas with flag state consent, and expands restrictions on the transfer of proliferation-sensitive technologies.³⁸

The resolution demands that North Korea not conduct any further nuclear tests or launches using ballistic missile technology, abandon all nuclear weapons and programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner, and return to the Six-Party Talks. It reduced the risk of further political escalation.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

North Korea joined in 1985.

The NPT aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament. The Treaty

³⁷ United Nations Security Council. "Security Council Condemns Nuclear Test by Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 1718 (2006)." *United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases*, 14 Oct. 2006, <https://press.un.org/en/2006/sc8853.doc.htm>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

³⁸ United Nations Security Council. *Resolution 1874 (2009): Adopted by the Security Council at Its 6141st Meeting, on 12 June 2009*. S/RES/1874, 12 June 2009, <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/1874-%282009%29>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

establishes a safeguards system under the responsibility of the IAEA, which also plays a central role under the Treaty in areas of technology transfer for peaceful purposes.³⁹

Sought to bring North Korea's nuclear activities under international oversight. North Korea withdrew from the treaty in 2003.

Agreed Framework

The Agreed Framework was a 1994 political agreement between North Korea and the United States, where North Korea agreed to suspend its nuclear power program in exchange for energy aid from the U.S.. The U.S. would supply light-water reactors, which are more resistant to nuclear proliferation, to replace North Korea's nuclear power program.

In return, North Korea would freeze activity at Yŏngbyŏn and allow IAEA inspectors to monitor the facility. The U.S. would supply North Korea with 500,000 tons of heavy fuel oil annually until the reactors were complete.⁴⁰ The two nations would pursue normalized diplomatic relations, and North Korea would reopen a political dialogue with South Korea. The agreement ended in 2003 due to hostility between the two countries.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Restart Diplomatic Negotiations

Resumed talks between North Korea, South Korea, the United States, China, Japan, and Russia are necessary to tackle this issue. There is a need for a focus on reducing tensions and building trust.

It is time to begin multilateral dialogue to rebuild trust between the two Koreas and transition to a peace regime on the peninsula. The peace regime would serve as a foundation for sustainable peace not only on the Korean Peninsula, but also in the entire Northeast Asia

Gradual Denuclearization

North Korea gradually limits its nuclear and missile programs. In return, sanctions are gradually eased, and economic assistance is provided. There is a need to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement with a permanent peace agreement and address one of the root causes of

³⁹ United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)." *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*, <https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/nuclear/npt/>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

⁴⁰ Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State. "Agreed Framework Between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." *Milestones: 1993–2000*, U.S. Department of State, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/foreword>. Accessed 31 July 2026.

long-term military tensions. In order to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, South and North Korea shall conduct inspections of particular subjects chosen by the other side and agreed upon between the two sides, in accordance with the procedures and methods to be determined by the South-North Joint Nuclear Control Commission.

Arms Control Agreements

A key solution is to establish limits on missile testing, military exercises, or weapons deployments in order to reduce the risk of accidental escalation. It is necessary and sufficient for peace and stability for the two Koreas to implement the 9-19 Military Agreements to the full extent. To do so, the two Koreas must take supplementary measures through continuous dialogue in the Joint Military Committee to implement the 9-19 Military Agreement fully and successfully. To reduce tension and prevent military clashes by separating forces from each other, measures such as setting up a buffer zone and no fly zone alone are not sufficient to build long-term and durable trust and peace. By engaging each other on all levels of contact and communications, the two Koreas will be able to build a long and trusting relationship.

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