

Conference on Disarmament

7 September 2016

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Note Verbale dated 30 August 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting to the Secretariat the statement by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on Democratic People's Republic of Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missile issued on 24 August 2016.

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 honour of transmitting to the Secretariat the statement by the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea on Democratic People's Republic of Korea's submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) issued on 24 August 2016.

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 its highest consideration.

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson's statement on Democratic People's Republic of Korea submarine-launched ballistic missile launch

1. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) off its eastern port city of Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province, at 5:30 a.m. on August 24, 2016, using a submarine. The Republic of Korea government strongly condemns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for firing another SLBM after a series of provocations that it has continuously made with its nuclear test and ballistic missile launches while ignoring repeated warnings from the international community and violating relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

2. The Republic of Korea government strongly calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately stop its nuclear and missile development that poses a threat to the peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and beyond and to abandon such activities in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We will also make all-out efforts with the international community to impose strong and effective sanctions and pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

3. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea regime must immediately realize that if it continues to pursue only the advancement of its nuclear and missile capabilities while turning a blind eye to the extreme hardship its people are experiencing, it will only bring about self-destruction with tougher sanctions imposed and further diplomatic isolation.

4. The Republic of Korea government will be fully prepared to protect the lives of its people and the safety of the nation and to thoroughly respond to any provocation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. /end/
