

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and thirty-first plenary meeting


Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 5 September 2017, at 3.10 p.m.

President: Mr. Julio Herráiz España..... (Spain)

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The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I declare open the 1431st plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Moving directly to the list of speakers I have for this afternoon, I begin by giving the floor to the delegation of Ukraine. Ambassador, you have the floor.

Mr. Klymenko (Ukraine): Mr. President, the delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the delegation of the European Union. At the same time, I would like to make some comments in a national capacity.

First of all, Ukraine resolutely condemns the conduct of yet another nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which represents a threat to international peace and security and constitutes a flagrant breach of the non-proliferation regime, including universal norms prohibiting nuclear testing. In conjunction with Pyongyang's aggressive ballistic missile programme, it now poses a real threat not only to the neighbouring countries but also to the entire international community.

As a country that voluntarily renounced its third largest nuclear arsenal along with the strategic means of their delivery, Ukraine regards Pyongyang's recent actions as a conscious, reckless and dangerous provocation. It is most deplorable that the North Korean leadership has again defied bluntly and cynically numerous Security Council resolutions.

Ukraine calls on Pyongyang to refrain from any demonstration of force, cease all nuclear tests without delay and restart constructive dialogue without preconditions in order to ensure complete, irreversible and verifiable renunciation of its nuclear and missile programmes. Ukraine stands ready to join other members of the international community in taking stronger and more decisive measures to curb future nuclear and missile threats.

In order to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, Ukraine yesterday called upon the Security Council to undertake an in-depth investigation into the development of the North Korean nuclear and missile programmes in order to expose any possible foreign assistance to Pyongyang in this area.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of Ukraine for his statement. I now give the floor to the delegation of Canada. You have the floor.

Mr. Davison (Canada): Mr. President, with regard to the matter of the recent nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I wish to quote a statement made by Prime Minister Trudeau yesterday:

Canada unequivocally condemns the nuclear test by North Korea on 3 September, which, combined with its aggressive programme of ballistic missile testing, represents a clear and present threat to the safety and security of its neighbours and the international community. This most recent test, which appears to have been of a much greater magnitude than its five previous nuclear explosions, is in direct contravention of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and demonstrates once again the flagrant disregard of international law by North Korea.

These continued provocations by the leadership of North Korea, along with their profoundly dangerous push to develop nuclear weapons and test ballistic missiles near neighbouring countries, only serve to further isolate them.

(*spoke in French*)

Canada continues to firmly insist that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea abandon its current course of action and its aggressive rhetoric. We ask that it resume a constructive dialogue that will ultimately allow for a comprehensive and verifiable solution. We urge the Security Council to take further decisive action to effectively curb proliferation efforts by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We also call on all countries to fully implement the relevant sanctions imposed by the United Nations. We will continue to work with our main regional partners, including the United States, South Korea and Japan, and with the international community as a whole, to counter the North Korean threat.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Canada for its statement and give the floor to the delegation of Pakistan.

Mr. Jadoon (Pakistan): Mr. President, I have requested the floor to read out the statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan on 3 September 2017:

Pakistan condemns the reported nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Pakistan has consistently maintained that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should comply with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and refrain from provocative actions. Pakistan urges all sides to display utmost restraint and return towards the path of peaceful negotiated settlement of the issue.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Pakistan for its statement and give the floor to the delegation of Chile.

Mr. Lagos (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, Chile shares the concern expressed by many other countries over the recent nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In that regard, I would like to share the communiqué issued by the Government of Chile two days ago.

The Government of Chile condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which constitutes a grave provocation and a threat to the international peace and security of the Korean Peninsula and of the international system.

This nuclear test contravenes the rules of international law and recent Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2321 (2016) and 2270 (2016), as well as previous resolutions, calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to conduct further nuclear detonations and to cease all related activities, which are contrary to United Nations mandates and the international non-proliferation system.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must refrain from carrying out further nuclear detonations, respect the rules of the international system and take steps towards the necessary agreements that will allow the country to return to the status of a non-nuclear-weapon State under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, subjecting its nuclear facilities to safeguards inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

That concludes the official statement of the Government of Chile; I will now add some further remarks on behalf of my delegation.

We listened carefully to the statement made by the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at this morning's meeting. In that regard, we regret the defiant tone of his statement, we stress that the possession of nuclear weapons should not be a source of pride for any country and we reiterate our solidarity with the Republic of Korea and Japan in the face of this threat.

We will continue to insist on the need to persevere with efforts to find a diplomatic solution to this crisis.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Chile for its statement. I now give the floor to the delegation of Australia.

Ms. Wood (Australia): Mr. President, the claim by North Korea to have successfully tested a nuclear device on Sunday, 3 September, is a serious escalation by Pyongyang. Australia utterly condemns this flagrant defiance of Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council meeting on 4 September demonstrated that North Korea is completely isolated. The entire international community condemns its behaviour as a completely unacceptable threat to global peace and security. Australia urges the Security Council to consider strong further measures to pressure North Korea to change its course. All countries need to fully implement existing Security Council resolutions, including the latest Security Council resolution 2371 (2017), which further limits the North Korean regime's access to finance through exports. We will continue to work with our partners to uphold global peace and stability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Australia for its statement. I now give the floor to the delegation of Israel.

Ms. Yaron (Israel): Mr. President, Israel would like to add its voice to others' condemnations of the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In that regard, we would like to deliver the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson's communiqué:

The State of Israel condemns the recent nuclear test conducted by North Korea. The test is a continuation of the pattern of defiant activity by North Korea. North Korea must comply with all Security Council resolutions on this issue and refrain from testing and developing weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Only a determined international response will prevent other States from behaving in the same way.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Israel for its statement and give the floor to the delegation of Bulgaria.

Ms. Davidova (Bulgaria): Mr. President, Bulgaria fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and, in a national capacity, I would like to make the following remarks, which are based on the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria on 3 September this year.

Bulgaria strongly condemns the sixth nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017. This nuclear test and the recent ballistic missile launches are in flagrant violation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. These are provocative and dangerous actions that further increase the tension in the region and present a threat to international peace and security. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to comply fully with its international obligations and to commit without delay to a meaningful and constructive dialogue with the international community in order to find a peaceful solution to the situation.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Bulgaria for its statement and give the floor to the delegation of Sweden.

Mr. Nord (Sweden): Mr. President, my delegation fully aligns itself with the statement previously delivered by the European Union and, in addition, I would like to make some national comments.

I would like to highlight the statement by the Foreign Minister of Sweden, Ms. Wallström, on Sunday, 3 September, where she condemned the nuclear weapons test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which constitutes a serious violation of its international obligations, legally binding Security Council resolutions and the principles of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The action of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a threat to international peace and security. Sweden calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately cease its provocative actions, abide by its international obligations and commence a complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear weapons and missile programmes. It is now more important than ever before to take action to reduce tensions and the risk of misunderstandings and mistakes. We share the grave concerns of countries in the region and elsewhere.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Sweden for its statement and I give the floor to the Ambassador of the Netherlands.

Mr. Gabriëlse (Netherlands): Mr. President, the Netherlands would like to make some remarks on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a national capacity, in addition to the statement of the European Union.

The Netherlands strongly condemns the sixth nuclear test which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea conducted last Sunday. This is a reckless provocation in times of mounting international tensions. Nuclear tests are totally unacceptable. The nuclear tests and ongoing missile launches performed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea severely destabilize the region and are a threat to global peace and security and should be ceased immediately.

The Netherlands welcomes the unanimous condemnation by the Security Council members of Sunday's nuclear test. Effective enforcement of the sanctions that the Security Council imposed on North Korea is crucial. To ensure this, the international community has the obligation to fully implement the sanctions regime, for it is only through persistent, joint efforts by all that these sanctions will be effective. To this effect, the Netherlands continues to work with and through the United Nations and the European Union to make sure that the international community takes united and effective action.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of the Netherlands for his statement and give the floor to the delegation of Malaysia.

Ms. Ahmad Termizi (Malaysia): Mr. President, my delegation would like to read out the press statement issued by our Foreign Ministry regarding the latest nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

Malaysia strongly condemns the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017. The latest test, its sixth since its first nuclear test in 2006, is another blatant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. This provocative action poses a grave threat to international peace and security. Malaysia deeply regrets this latest incident, which will further exacerbate the already tense situation in the Korean Peninsula and the region as a whole.

Malaysia strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to stop conducting further tests and halt its nuclear and ballistic missile programme. Malaysia also strongly urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with its international obligations in the interests of maintaining regional and international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Malaysia for its statement and give the floor to the Ambassador of Mexico.

Mr. Heredia Acosta (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, I would like to share with the room the text of the communiqué issued by the Government of Mexico on Sunday, 3 September.

The Government of Mexico deplores and condemns in the strongest possible terms the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This test, the sixth by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is an irresponsible and hostile act that runs contrary to the calls of the international community for it to cease its military nuclear programme and the development of ballistic missiles. Nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are unacceptable and are a threat to international peace and security. They constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of multiple mandatory resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. They hinder multilateral efforts to foster a climate of stability and cooperation in the Korean Peninsula and in North-East Asia.

Mexico reiterates that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has an obligation to comply with the resolutions that the United Nations Security Council has adopted on this subject since 2006, which require the cessation of its military nuclear programme, of launches using ballistic missile technology and of other acts of provocation.

Mexico reaffirms its solidarity with the Republic of Korea and Japan in the face of these reprehensible acts and calls on the members of the Security Council to condemn this nuclear test and to adopt the necessary measures to ensure that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ceases this type of activity.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of Mexico for his statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Brazil.

Mr. De Aguiar Patriota (Brazil): Mr. President, I would like to read out note No. 297 of 3 September 2017 issued by the Foreign Ministry of Brazil:

The Government of Brazil vehemently condemns the nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Sunday, 3 September. The military exercise allegedly involving the detonation of a hydrogen bomb constitutes an unacceptable act of destabilization of security in the region.

The Government of Brazil reiterates its support for the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council and urges the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully comply with them.

Brazil was one of the leading countries involved in the negotiations which resulted in the recent adoption, in the United Nations, of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The peaceful use of nuclear technology is a commitment of the highest order enshrined in the Constitution of Brazil.

In the context of the ninth summit of the leaders of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), in Xiamen, China, on 4 September, Brazil subscribed to the ensuing final declaration, whereby we strongly deplored the nuclear tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressed deep concern over the ongoing and prolonged tensions associated with the nuclear question in the Korean Peninsula and emphasized that its resolution can only be achieved through peaceful means and dialogue among all interested parties.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of Brazil for his statement and give the floor to the delegation of Slovakia.

Mr. Šefčík (Slovakia): Mr. President, Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Slovakia strongly condemns the sixth nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017.

The ongoing missile and nuclear tests and absolute disregard for international commitments by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly sabotaged efforts to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula. The Slovak Republic condemns the irresponsible activities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that have the potential to disturb regional stability and international peace. It calls on Pyongyang to carry out actions leading to building trust and constructive dialogue with the international community.

The Slovak Republic will continue to actively voice its support for initiatives focused on the prevention of tensions and to promote dialogue that will lead to verifiable and irreversible denuclearization and a peaceful solution to the tense situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Slovakia for its statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Latvia.

Mr. Karklins (Latvia): Mr. President, as this is the first time the Latvian delegation is taking the floor under your presidency, I would like to congratulate you upon your accession to this high office and on the way you have been conducting the business of the Conference.

The Latvian delegation aligns itself fully with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and, in a national capacity, would like to share a statement made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia expresses deep concern over the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September, which is already the sixth and the largest nuclear test that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has carried out so far.

Latvia condemns in the strongest terms the irresponsible, aggressive and provocative actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in holding ballistic missile launches and nuclear tests, which increase instability and pose a threat to peace and security not only on the Korean Peninsula but also on a global scale. These exercises are in blatant disregard of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council,

which impose obligations on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its current ballistic missile and nuclear programmes.

The aggressive move by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September is a reminder that the international community should be strong and united to achieve a peaceful resolution to the situation. Latvia supports and welcomes international efforts to date and calls on the region's countries, China in particular, to continue exerting pressure that would urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to resume a dialogue with the international community.

Latvia also supports the efforts of the United Nations Security Council and calls on all countries to implement, strictly and without exception, the sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by the Security Council.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must, without further delay and unconditionally, resume fulfilment of its international obligations, fully comply with Security Council resolutions, restart participation in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and resume its obligations under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguard programme as well as accede to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of Latvia for his statement and give the floor to the delegation of India.

Ms. Bhandari (India): Mr. President, I have taken the floor to read out the press statement of 3 September by the Ministry of External Affairs of India on the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

India deplores the nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this morning. It is a matter of deep concern that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has once again acted in violation of its international commitments, which goes against the objective of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula which has been endorsed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea itself. We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from such actions, which adversely impact peace and stability in the region and beyond. India also remains concerned about the proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies which has adversely impacted the national security of India.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of India for its statement and give the floor to the delegation of South Africa.

Mr. Mahomed (South Africa): Mr. President, the South African Government unequivocally condemns the sixth nuclear-weapons test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 3 September 2017. The test was also strongly deplored by the leaders of Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) on 4 September 2017 in the Xiamen Declaration.

South Africa believes that the test constitutes a clear violation of the Security Council resolutions calling on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea not to conduct any further tests. Nuclear-weapons tests constitute a grave threat to international peace and security and this provides all the more reason why the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty needs to enter into force without delay. Recent developments in North-East Asia once again illustrate that nuclear weapons and the pursuance of such capabilities do not enhance security but rather constitute a source of international and regional insecurity.

South Africa once again calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to verifiably dismantle its nuclear weapons, to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty without delay and to place all its facilities under comprehensive verification by the International Atomic Energy Agency. We remain resolute in our view that for as long as some States, no matter the justification nor the historical reasons, continue to possess these weapons of mass destruction, other States may always aspire to acquire similar capabilities. The recently adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons provides a significant legal framework for the total elimination of these weapons.

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and all parties involved to refrain from any actions that would further escalate tensions and exacerbate the volatile

situation in the region. There are no military solutions to the conflict: only through diplomacy and negotiations can lasting solutions be found to the challenges affecting the Korean Peninsula. South Africa believes that the continued emphasis by some States possessing nuclear weapons on the alleged security benefits of nuclear weapons, together with the continued modernization of nuclear arsenals, weaken the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation provisions of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We call on all States possessing nuclear weapons to fulfil the obligations and commitments towards achievement of a world free from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of South Africa for its statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Han Tae-song (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I do not think I need to elaborate again the position of my country on nuclear deterrence and intercontinental ballistic missiles, since it has already been stated several times. However, I would like to remind you of the following facts.

The United States is the main offender that poses a nuclear threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States was the first country to develop nuclear weapons and it is the only country that has inflicted nuclear disaster on humankind by using the atomic bomb. The United States is the only heinous nuclear criminal that possesses a large nuclear arsenal and openly threatens to conduct a nuclear pre-emptive attack against countries that stand against it by deploying nuclear weapons in several parts of the world. If the United States had not developed nuclear weapons in the first place, and if it did not resort to nuclear threats, other countries would not possess nuclear weapons with painstaking efforts. Likewise, the terminology of denuclearization or nuclear-weapons ban would have never been made.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been exposed to a constant nuclear threat posed by the United States from the very beginning of the birth of nuclear weapons. The United States imposed nuclear threats and blackmail for more than half a century against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with ceaseless political and military pressure and economic sanctions. If the United States had not pursued a hostile policy and nuclear threats against my country, it would have no reason to have fears about the self-defence measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. So I would like to advise you to try to understand correctly the root cause of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula before expressing concerns or criticism over my country's self-defence measures.

History proves, and everybody knows, that nobody will defend a country if it is attacked; only the people of that country will defend their country. I would like to ask you — all of the delegates who spoke here in this room — what would your country do if it were under the same conditions as my country is? I think the answer is quite clear. I think some countries would do at least the same as what we did or more than what my country did.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for his statement and give the floor to the delegation of Austria.

Ms. Hammer (Austria): Mr. President, Austria aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. In a national capacity, we would like to add the following remarks.

Austria condemns in the strongest possible terms the latest nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Let me quote the Austrian Foreign Minister, Sebastian Kurz, who referred to this nuclear test as a reckless act in times of heightened tensions in the region. The systematic disregard for international law and Security Council resolutions is unacceptable for the international community. As the current chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, we underline our readiness to support any action approved by the United Nations.

International peace and security lie at the core of our multilateral efforts. International peace and security are built upon respect: respect for international law, respect for the international community and respect for the systems and mechanisms we have all

put in place and shaped together. Against this backdrop, it is important to emphasize that the call by the international community upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions and to end all ballistic missile and nuclear programmes is unequivocal.

The international community is called upon to find a resolute, united and unequivocal answer to this persisting, irresponsible sequence of serious provocations. In this regard, we welcome the swift reaction by the Security Council. The provocation and continued pursuit of nuclear and ballistic missile programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is severely challenging the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We are deeply concerned about all efforts undermining its integrity. Bearing in mind the firm objective of creating a safer planet for all, we have committed ourselves to further develop and strengthen the regime and to adapt it to today's world.

The actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea make the need to strengthen the current regime and to make it more effective all the more urgent. The regime consists of mutually reinforcing elements. While the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force, its international monitoring system demonstrated once again its operational readiness and the usefulness of its comprehensive data collection. We therefore call upon all States to ratify the Treaty in order for it to enter into force. The latest test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a worrisome reminder of the limits of the non-proliferation regime. Relying on weapons of mass destruction that possibly eradicate a country or a region and would then, if the deterrence logic is applied, trigger a response of massive destruction on their own territory seems anachronistic, to say the least.

The more that the alleged security benefits of nuclear deterrence are proclaimed, the more we run the risk that other countries might develop second thoughts. It is the responsibility of the international community to accept all efforts and prevent further proliferation crises and therefore a possible increased risk of detonation of nuclear weapons. Our shared objective should be a safer world for all and not increased risk for all.

In the light of the unbearable, unacceptable humanitarian consequences, the only logical consequence is the prohibition of nuclear weapons. We encourage all States — whether they have nuclear weapons or not — to sign and ratify the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Austria for its statement. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the United States.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again. Let me just say that it is very heartening to hear some of the ban proponents speaking up on this issue with regard to North Korea. Of course, the ban treaty will do absolutely nothing to deal with this question. The ban treaty does not deal in real-world issues with regard to nuclear disarmament, but so be it.

Just to respond to the comments made by the representative of the Pyongyang regime. On the contrary, it is North Korea that is the nuclear criminal that is, in essence, pursuing a nuclear weapons programme in violation of a number of Security Council resolutions, which — I might remind the North Korean delegation — are international law. My last point will be with regard to the so-called gift packages that the North is presenting. My recommendation to the North would be that, instead of spending an inordinate amount of money on nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, it give its people a gift package of peace with their neighbours, economic development and an opportunity to rejoin the family of nations.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of the United States for his statement. I now give the floor to the delegation of Poland.

Mr. Broilo (Poland): Mr. President, Poland fully aligns itself with the European Union statement made at the beginning of the debate. I would like to add a few remarks in a national capacity.

Poland condemns the continued development by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes and its inflammatory and

threatening rhetoric. We are deeply concerned by the persistent provocative and destabilizing behaviour of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and strongly condemn the sixth nuclear test and its numerous tests of ballistic missiles and ballistic missile technology.

The actions of North Korea are in direct violation of its international legal obligations, including relevant Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions, and they are contrary to its own commitments. They seriously undermine regional stability, defy the non-proliferation regime rooted in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, jeopardize the prospects for lasting peace in the Korean Peninsula and pose an increasing threat to international peace and security.

We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from further provocative acts and abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and engage in credible and authentic talks on denuclearization of the North Korean Peninsula.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of Poland for its statement and give the floor to the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again but the remarks of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea deserve or merit a response from me.

When everybody says that the sky is blue and only one denies it, that is not defiance, that is not arrogance — that is delusion. And under that delusion they dared to make the preposterous advice which is inadmissible in the Conference on Disarmament: that it is OK to pursue a nuclear programme. It is a very serious remark because it even could signify that they openly admit that they will be able to proliferate. Everybody knows that the root cause of the issue is the North Korean nuclear programme itself. There is no other root cause. I repeat, again, that the only path to guarantee the security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is there and it is only up to them to choose this path. There is no other path.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea for his statement.

Would any other delegation like to take the floor?

I see the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Please, go ahead.

Mr. Han Tae-song (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I just quickly wish to respond to the comments made by the representative of the United States. He talked about gifts of peace. If he really wants to give a gift of peace to North Korea, the United States first has to stop its provocative behaviour and hostile policy against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. They should at once stop all large-scale joint military exercises being conducted on the Korean Peninsula. That is the gift of peace, if they are considering a gift of peace.

I do not wish to respond to the ridiculous, tiring and boring, illogical arguments made by South Korea.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its statement.

Would any other delegation like to take the floor? That does not appear to be the case.

As I indicated previously, this formal meeting will be followed in this room, after a short break, by an informal plenary meeting to continue our discussions on the draft report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly. And tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3 p.m., we will hold another informal meeting in this chamber for the same purpose.

That concludes our business for today. The next formal plenary meeting of the Conference will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 12 September 2017.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.