

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and eighteenth plenary meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 23 May 2017, at 10.10 a.m.

President: Mr. Coly Seck(Senegal)

The President (*spoke in French*): I call to order the 1418th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

The following delegations have requested the floor: Malta, Belgium, Canada, Republic of Korea, Slovakia and Argentina. I now give the floor to the representative of Malta.

Ms. Kemppainen (Malta): Mr. President, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union strongly condemns the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May 2017. The European Union reiterates its grave concern over the illegal activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which threaten regional stability, and the continued serious violations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its international obligations under multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. The European Union welcomes the fact that the Security Council is actively engaged on this threat to peace and security and will meet again today to discuss the latest missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Once again, the European Union urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to stop all nuclear tests and halt all launches using ballistic missile technology. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must comply with all its international obligations fully, unconditionally and without delay and thus abandon its nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

The nuclear and missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea represent a critical and increasing threat to international peace and security and undermine the global non-proliferation regime. A strong and timely international reaction is required. The European Union calls on all States to fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions with regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The European Union calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community, to return at an early date to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to refrain from any further action that would only increase regional tensions.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Malta, who spoke on behalf of the European Union. I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium.

Mr. Muylle (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, the Belgian delegation aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to highlight a few aspects in a national capacity. Belgium strongly condemns the launch of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May. This is a further violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea thus continues to defy the authority of the Security Council and this is unacceptable. Moreover, the continuation of the North Korean ballistic missile programme is illegal under international law. This programme demonstrates Pyongyang's desire to develop systems capable of delivering nuclear weapons. The conduct of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is highly destabilizing inasmuch as it poses a threat to regional and international security, seriously erodes willingness to explore ways of reopening dialogue and undermines disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Belgium once again calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately abandon its illegal nuclear weapons programme in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must refrain from conducting further tests and must abide by its international obligations in order to create conditions that are conducive to the relaunching of dialogue.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Belgium and now give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Davison (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, Canada condemns the missile launch conducted on 21 May by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of multiple resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

(*spoke in English*)

We call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with its international obligations and to take concrete steps to engage in meaningful negotiations for a peaceful political solution.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Canada and now give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I would like to start by expressing our deepest condolences to the victims and the families of the victims of the suspected terrorist attack in Manchester last night. I would also like to express our solidarity with the people and the Government of the United Kingdom in these difficult times.

Regarding the missile launch on Sunday by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Government of the Republic of Korea condemns in the strongest terms the repeated missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are reckless and irresponsible acts. They are a slap in the face and a bucket of cold water on the expectations and aspirations of the new Government of the Republic of Korea and the international community for denuclearization and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Government of the Republic of Korea clearly demonstrated its firm will to find a fundamental resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue, seeking to make use of every available means, including sanctions and dialogue. While it remains open to the possibility of dialogue, the Government of the Republic of Korea will not tolerate any provocative acts by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea against our security.

The Government of the Republic of Korea once again calls upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease all forms of provocation in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and to return to the path of denuclearization.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea. Before giving the floor to the representative of Slovakia, I would like to convey our sympathy and solidarity to the delegation of the United Kingdom following the cowardly attack in that country. You have our full sympathy and solidarity.

I now give the floor to the representative of Slovakia.

Mr. Rosocha (Slovakia): Mr. President, I too would like to start by conveying our sincere condolences to the delegation of the United Kingdom. We are deeply saddened by the large loss of lives and injuries caused by the brutal terrorist attack which happened last night in Manchester.

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. Slovakia condemns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for yet another ballistic test conducted on 21 May, which comes a week after the launch of the mid-range ballistic missile. We categorically reject such irresponsible and repeated provocative acts by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which clearly represent flagrant violations of its international obligations. This act constitutes a serious threat to regional stability and international peace and security. Such conduct by North Korea is unacceptable to the international community — it ignores completely the calls of the international community to de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Repeated provocations require similarly relentless refusal and condemnation by all those who care about maintaining peace, security and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The Slovak Republic urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to stop immediately these provocations and to refrain from any action that could escalate tension in the Korean Peninsula and undermine diplomatic efforts in search of a peaceful solution in the region. We call upon North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapon and missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

It must cease all related activities and comply with all its international obligations, including United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Slovakia and now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. Cima (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, allow me to begin by conveying the support of Argentina to the people and Government of the United Kingdom after yesterday's suspected terrorist act, which we strongly condemn. We wish a speedy recovery to the wounded and we send our condolences to the victims and their families.

Mr. President, it is our intention to move forward promptly with the working group on the way ahead and with the discussions taking place in the various subgroups. We believe that this opportunity will allow us, if we approach it constructively, to find common ground for negotiations and to identify the obstacles that are preventing this forum from fully discharging its mandate.

Argentina strongly condemns the latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This further act of hostility and provocation towards the international community significantly escalates tension on the Korean Peninsula and deepens the international isolation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We reiterate our call for the denuclearization of the Peninsula and for the abandonment of military nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

We also ask that the conditions be created, through dialogue, for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. All parties must exercise restraint, work towards a shared goal and adopt a constructive attitude in order to ease tensions. Similarly, measures are needed to ensure peace, stability and security in the region and adherence to the principles and objectives of the United Nations, which will help to safeguard the interests of all parties on the basis of good neighbourly relations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Argentina and now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, let me first express my delegation's condolences to the victims of the horrific terrorist attack in Manchester. The people of the United States stand with the people of the United Kingdom in this very difficult moment and we are united in our joint efforts to fight terrorism in all its forms.

Mr. President, once again the regime in Pyongyang has defied the international community with another ballistic missile test. The wanton disregard the regime shows towards world opinion is unprecedented and unacceptable. We strongly condemn this launch. One thing that Pyongyang must understand is that the world community is united against its provocations, threats and hostile actions. The international community will not be intimidated. We will continue to demand that North Korea end its nuclear sabre-rattling, that it halt its dangerous and reckless behaviour and that it come into compliance with its United Nations Security Council obligations. Pyongyang must also know that it will never be recognized as a nuclear-weapon State. It must also know that the United States commitment to the defence of its allies is ironclad, I repeat, ironclad.

Mr. President, North Korea is a pariah — it is an outlier. As long as it continues its defiance, its isolation will only deepen. The choice is the regime's.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the United States and now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Ağacikoğlu (Turkey): Mr. President, at the outset Turkey condemns the heinous terrorist act that took place in Manchester and we reiterate our solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom.

Turkey strongly condemns the ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May 2017, which constitutes a flagrant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. The second ballistic missile launch in a week by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — in total disregard of appeals by the

international community and opportunities for dialogue — is concerning and dangerous to the security of the region. We once again call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease its provocative behaviour which harms peace and security in the region.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Turkey and give the floor to the representative of Australia.

Ms. Wood (Australia): Mr. President, Australia adds its voice to those who have expressed condolences to the victims, their families, and the people and the Government of the United Kingdom following the terrible terrorist attack in Manchester.

Australia condemns the ongoing development of nuclear and ballistic missile programmes by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including its 21 May launch — the second missile test in one week. The United Nations Security Council statements of 15 and 22 May strongly rebuked the ongoing missile testing by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should not continue down this path of risking regional and global security. Its behaviour is unacceptable. Australia calls on all countries to redouble their efforts to implement unanimously agreed Security Council sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to press upon it that its current path is unsustainable.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Australia and give the floor to the representative of the Netherlands.

Mr. Verstedden (Netherlands): Mr. President, let me also start by conveying our condolences to the delegation of the United Kingdom and to the victims and their families in the wake of the terrorist attack yesterday in Manchester.

In addition to the statement of the European Union, we would like to make the following statement:

The Kingdom of the Netherlands strongly condemns the missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May. This second launch in a week's time is again a blatant violation of United Nations resolutions. The ballistic missile launches in addition to the nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are a grave threat to peace and stability in the region and should be ceased immediately. Furthermore, we urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to immediately halt these ongoing provocations and re-engage in meaningful dialogue with the international community. To ensure this, the international community has the duty to implement fully the sanctions as instated by the United Nations Security Council, for it is only through persistent efforts by all that these sanctions will be effective. To this end, the Kingdom of the Netherlands continues to work with and through the United Nations and the European Union.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Netherlands and give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Ms. Masana García (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, allow me to express the sorrow and solidarity of Peru to the people and Government of the United Kingdom and our utmost condemnation of the abhorrent act of terrorism perpetrated last night in Manchester.

I would also like to transmit an official communiqué issued by my Government:

The Government of Peru condemns in the strongest terms the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue its ballistic missile tests, which constitute a grave threat to international peace and security.

The launch of another ballistic missile last Sunday is a further violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and is an open challenge to the international community. Peru therefore urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease all such launches, return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency for the inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Peru is firmly committed to the implementation of Security Council resolutions and encourages the relaunching of the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Peru and give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Ms. Ramírez Valenzuela (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, as this is the first time that I am taking the floor under your presidency, allow me to assure you of my delegation's full support as you perform your duties. I wish also to take this opportunity to convey our most sincere condolences to the delegation of the United Kingdom and to the victims of yesterday's tragedy in Manchester.

Mexico wishes to add its voice to those condemning the recent launches carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea using ballistic missile technology. These launches are in flagrant violation of international law and of numerous Security Council resolutions. They also highlight the reckless determination of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue defying the appeals of the international community that it cease such acts. Mexico reaffirms that such actions jeopardize international peace and security and, when accompanied by threats to conduct further nuclear tests, they undermine multilateral efforts to promote dialogue, trust and cooperation with a view to securing peace and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Mexico draws attention to the obligation to abide by Security Council resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which require the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to suspend all activities relating to its nuclear programme, including launches using ballistic missile technology and all other acts of provocation.

Furthermore, Mexico endorses the statements formulated in respect of those launches by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council and will remain attentive to their follow-up and the statement being prepared by the Security Council on this matter.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Mexico and give the floor to the representative of Bulgaria.

Ms. Davidova (Bulgaria): Mr. President, first I would like to join others in expressing our deepest condolences to the delegation of the United Kingdom and to the victims and their families after the terrorist attack in Manchester.

With regard to the latest missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bulgaria aligns itself fully with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and in addition wishes to make the following remarks.

We condemn the latest ballistic missile launch carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May 2017. This and previous provocative actions pose a direct threat to the region and to international peace and security, and it is yet another flagrant violation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. We strongly call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to suspend immediately its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and to resume dialogue with the international community in a credible and meaningful way.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Bulgaria and give the floor to the representative of Poland.

Mr. Broilo (Poland): Mr. President, let me first address our condolences and words of sympathy to our British colleagues after the heinous attack in Manchester.

Poland aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. I will add some remarks in a national capacity. Poland condemns the ballistic missile test carried out on 21 May by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is another example of a violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. Such acts stand clearly against the will and expectations of the international community. We again urge the North Korean authorities to return to dialogue aimed at building security and stability in the whole region.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Poland and give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Lagos (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, Chile as well wishes to express its condolences to the people and Government of the United Kingdom in the wake of the terrorist attack in Manchester.

Chile is deeply concerned at the recent launching of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was the second such launching in the space of one week. Such actions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea generate tension in the Asian region, pose a direct threat to the security of South Korea and Japan and are an affront to the international community. In addition, they constitute — as signalled by various other delegations here — a flagrant violation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, which prohibit that country from conducting nuclear tests or performing launches using ballistic missile technology.

We once again call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to regularize its status under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a State that does not possess nuclear weapons and to open all its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Chile joins the international community in once again calling upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from engaging in any belligerent actions that undermine peace, urging that country to return to the path of dialogue within the framework of the Six-Party Talks.

Lastly, this worrying situation confirms how urgent it is for us to move forward towards our priority objective of securing the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Chile and give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Ms. Donnelly (New Zealand): Mr. President, I would like to join others in expressing our deep condolences to the United Kingdom and to the victims and their families on the tragic loss of life in Manchester following last night's terrorist attack.

New Zealand condemns the most recent test launch of a ballistic missile by North Korea. Our Foreign Minister released the following statement in response to the launch:

United Nations Security Council resolutions prohibit North Korean ballistic missiles. The disregard by North Korea for its obligations under these resolutions continues to be of deep concern. New Zealand strongly urges North Korea to start taking responsibility and contribute to the stability of the region. This is the eighth test conducted by North Korea this year, some with multiple missiles. We will continue to support sanctions and international efforts to address the situation. The extent of sanctions will be dependent on the actions of North Korea.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of New Zealand and give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Demchenko (Ukraine): Mr. President, first of all, we would like to join others in extending our deepest condolences to the people of the United Kingdom and to the families and victims of the heinous terrorist attack in Manchester.

Ukraine condemns the recent medium-range ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which brutally violates relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. In spite of sanctions imposed by the international community, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continues its aggressive actions. By diverting State resources to the pursuit of ballistic and nuclear programmes, Pyongyang causes suffering to its own people and feeds a dangerous spiral of destabilization in the region.

Ukraine believes that the ongoing provocations of Pyongyang require more decisive action and supports the use of all required levers of influence to return the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the tenets of international law.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Ukraine and give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Ms. Yaron (Israel): Mr. President, we send our sincere condolences to the victims of the terror attack in Manchester.

Israel would like to add its voice once again to other delegations which have expressed their concern over the recent ballistic missile launch conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May. Israel condemns the provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which are in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and pose a threat to international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Israel and give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Ms. D'Ambrosio (Italy): Mr. President, at the outset I would like to convey our condolences to the United Kingdom delegation and to the victims of the horrific attack in Manchester and their families.

Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier by the European Union. As other delegations before me, in a national capacity I would like to reiterate that Italy condemns in the strongest terms the latest ballistic missile test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The test constitutes another clear violation of multiple existing Security Council resolutions. The missile and nuclear programme of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea represents a serious threat to international peace and security and to the global non-proliferation regime.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea must abandon the road taken towards self-isolation and its continued challenge to the international community. Once again, we call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon without delay all its existing ballistic missile and nuclear programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as well as to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Italy will continue to contribute to a firm and cohesive response of the international community, including in its current capacity as Chair of the Security Council Resolution 1718 Committee.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Italy and give the floor to the representative of Japan.

Mr. Takamizawa (Japan): Mr. President, first of all I would like to express our sincere condolences to the victims, their families and the people of the United Kingdom after the attack in Manchester yesterday. We need to accelerate our efforts to fight against terrorist attacks.

With regard to the launch, again, of a ballistic missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to express the following. Despite repeated strong calls from the international community, on 21 May the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again launched a ballistic missile — one week after the latest launch — in clear violation of a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions and against the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks. This launch is unacceptable and undermines the efforts by the international community for a peaceful solution. The recent launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea constitute a grave and increasing threat not only to Japan but also to regional and international peace and security.

We strongly condemn the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and urge it to immediately and fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions and other commitments without taking further provocative actions. We also call upon all States to intensify efforts to address the threat posed by the nuclear and missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through the full and effective implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Japan and give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Pollard (United Kingdom): Mr. President, allow me to express my Government's sincere thanks and gratitude to all those States expressing condolence for the

suspected terror attack which happened in Manchester last night. This attack focused on the young in our society, many just the age of my own two children. Its intention was to sow fear. Its intention was to divide. But it will not succeed. It was a cowardly attack and our resolve is only strengthened to bring those who perpetrate and support such acts to justice.

Along with our continued resolve to tackle all forms of terrorism, we remain resolved to keep holding States accountable for their irresponsible actions that threaten the fabric of international security. It was only one week ago in this chamber that we condemned the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for their missile launch. We find ourselves doing so again this week. These are not the actions of a responsible State, but the threats and sabre-rattling of a belligerent one.

We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage with — rather than stand aside from — the international community, not only for the benefit of their people but for humanity as a whole.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the United Kingdom and give the floor to the representative of China.

Mr. Fu Cong (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Mr. President, China condemns in the harshest terms the terrorist attack that took place last night in Manchester. The President of China, Xi Jinping, has sent a message of condolence to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II expressing deep sorrow at the death of innocent victims and sympathy for those who were wounded, and offering heartfelt condolences to the victims' families. President Xi said that, at this difficult time, the Chinese people stand resolutely side by side with the people of the United Kingdom.

In respect of the launch of a missile on 21 May by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs made the following statement:

The position of China on this issue has been consistent and clear. The relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council contain clear provisions relating to the use by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of ballistic missile technology to carry out launches. China opposes that State's violation of Security Council resolutions in carrying out such launches. The current situation on the Peninsula is complex and sensitive, and we again urge all parties to remain calm, show restraint, refrain from mutual provocations or heightening of tension and work to quickly de-escalate the situation and return to an appropriate path of dialogue and consultation.

With regard to the nuclear question on the Peninsula, there is a consensus in the international community on at least three points: denuclearization of the Peninsula; comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolutions; and support for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear question on the Peninsula. China will do everything possible to fully implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, while working to encourage a de-escalation of the situation on the Peninsula with the ultimate aim of resolving the nuclear question by appropriate, peaceful means.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of China and give the floor to the representative of Austria.

Mr. Hajnoczi (Austria): Mr. President, I also have the sad duty to start my statement with condolences to the United Kingdom. Certainly, we all condemn this terrible terrorist attack. I am also grateful to the delegation of the United Kingdom for its very pertinent words.

Austria fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in a national capacity. Just one week ago in this very room, many delegations, including my own, took the floor to voice their deep concern about the then-latest ballistic missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Five days later, the world has seen another flagrant violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Austria strongly condemns this latest ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Constant provocations and breaches of international law are not acceptable. We urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to demonstrate the willingness to assume its responsibilities as a member of the international community, among them respect for and compliance with international law and entering into negotiations.

The Charter of the United Nations enshrines the maintenance of international peace and security as our prime purpose. The same Article 1 calls for the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of international law. Nuclear testing as well as ballistic missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea serve to aggravate tensions at both the regional and the global levels and pose a risk to global peace and security. The quest for security through nuclear weapons leads only to increased risks for all.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Austria and give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Masmajeán (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me to begin by expressing our condolences and sympathy to the people and Government of the United Kingdom following the recent terrorist attack in that country.

I have requested the floor in connection with the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that it conducted a new ballistic missile test on 21 May. Switzerland strongly condemns any missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Not only do such acts constitute a violation of several Security Council resolutions, they are a threat to the peace and security of the region and beyond. Switzerland urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to abandon its nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programme and to resume the implementation of its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Switzerland is convinced that a solution to the nuclear and security problem in the Korean Peninsula can be found only through a diplomatic negotiation process. Accordingly, it reaffirms its support for the Six-Party Talks.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Switzerland and give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Makarowski (Sweden): Mr. President, let me begin by conveying my delegation's deepest condolences to the victims of yet another senseless terrorist attack on innocent people, their families and the people of the United Kingdom.

As for the latest violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the position of Sweden has been expressed by the European Union. To that, my delegation would like to add, yet again, that in order to lower tensions on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, the best way forward is dialogue and negotiations. We strongly encourage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take that path instead of continued violations of international norms.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Sweden and give the floor to the representative of Spain.

Mr. Herráiz España (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, my delegation wishes to express its solidarity and condolences to the United Kingdom after the abhorrent terrorist attack in Manchester yesterday. In our understanding, terrorism is a threat that must be addressed through international cooperation.

In relation to the ballistic missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 21 May, my delegation reiterates its condemnation of that act. As on many previous occasions, this new launch constitutes a violation of Security Council resolutions and poses a threat to international peace and security and to the non-proliferation regime.

We therefore again urgently appeal to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, to engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community, to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy

Agency safeguards regime and to promptly ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Spain and give the floor to the representative of France.

Ms. Guitton (France) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me to start by expressing my sincere and profound condolences to the United Kingdom, its Government and all of its people, especially the families of the victims, following the attack in Manchester. As a country that has itself been a victim of terrorism acts in recent years, France stands squarely behind the renewed and determined efforts that will be invested in continuing the struggle against this appalling menace.

France fully endorses the statement delivered by the delegation of Malta on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make some additional comments. France strongly condemns the repeated violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions by North Korea, including the latest missile launch conducted by that country on 21 May. By pursuing its illegal nuclear and ballistic weapons programme, North Korea is acting in violation of the non-proliferation regime and poses a serious threat to the stability of North-East Asia and international security. France stands with its partners in the region and reaffirms the goal of the complete, irreversible and verifiable abandonment by North Korea of its nuclear and ballistic weapons programme. Convinced of the urgency of the situation, France intends to take action so that the Security Council, which is meeting today, responds quickly, firmly and with determination.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of France and now give the floor to the representative of Finland.

Ms. Hakala (Finland): Mr. President, the hearts of the Finnish people go out to the people of the United Kingdom today in the wake of the horrific terrorist attack which took place in Manchester last night. We condemn this act in the strongest terms.

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement read out by the representative of the European Union, and I wish to make some additional remarks in a national capacity. Finland condemns the latest missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The launch once again violates multiple, unanimously agreed United Nations Security Council resolutions and is again one more addition to its serious violations of international commitments and obligations. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea should take these strong messages of the international community seriously. Finland urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to strictly comply with all of its international obligations and to engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue and cooperation with the international community.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Finland and give the floor to the representative of Germany.

Mr. Pilz (Germany): Mr. President, I would also like to start off by conveying our deep-felt condolences to the British people.

I have taken the floor in order to condemn the latest ballistic missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to express our unequivocal support to the strong signal sent out by the European Union and its associated partners in its statement, which is a message both of European unity and resolve to tackle the issue.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Germany and give the floor to the representative of Ireland.

Ms. Cullen (Ireland): Mr. President, let me — as others have done — begin by offering the sincere and heartfelt condolences of my country to the United Kingdom on the loss of life and injury occasioned in yesterday's dastardly and cowardly lone-wolf terrorist attack on happy-go-lucky young music lovers in Manchester. We remain united in our fight against terrorism and in the protection of our values and of an open and free society.

Ireland fully aligns itself with the remarks made this morning in this chamber by the European Union. I will now add a couple of remarks in a national capacity, joining with the

chorus of outraged condemnation regarding the latest missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Sunday.

Ireland is appalled at this latest missile test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, coming so soon after the previous one. It is an irresponsible, provocative act and a flagrant violation of international law as well as a violation of a number of Security Council resolutions. We call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease forthwith all such tests and to engage urgently with the international community in the context of the Six-Party Talks.

The pathway to a peaceful, denuclearized Korean Peninsula is open only if our sustained messages of invitation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage with us are heard in Pyongyang. We strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to listen carefully to our collective voices and to the consistency of our message.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Ireland and give the floor to the representative of Hungary.

Ms. Kroll (Hungary): Mr. President, let me first express our deepest condolences to the United Kingdom following the terrorist act yesterday.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union today and, in a national capacity, we would like to stress again, as we did last week, that more than ever we need international cooperation and active steps from all States to stop the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in a peaceful way.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of Hungary and give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, my delegation rejects all the unacceptable accusations made against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which are intended to portray the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a threat to peace and stability and thus impose maximum pressure upon it. The right to self-defence is the first and very important criterion of sovereignty. Therefore, accusations against this right are an open encroachment upon sovereignty and an act of outrageous interference in internal affairs. The self-defensive measures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to protect its dignity and vital rights and genuine peace from the escalating nuclear threats of the United States are the legitimate right of a sovereign State and they are not against any international law.

It is the hostile United States policy and its aggressive joint military drills, nuclear threats and military build-up around the Korean Peninsula that are aggravating the situation in the Korean Peninsula and the region and which compel the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to bolster up its nuclear deterrence. However, some countries describe this legitimate exercise of the right to self-defence as a violation or threat, and the United Nations Security Council has issued a series of press statements pursuant to the vicious anti-Democratic People's Republic of Korea policy of the United States, while turning a blind eye to the numerous missile tests conducted by other countries, including the United States, which have recently conducted two intercontinental ballistic missile test-fires.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea categorically and totally rejects the latest United Nations Security Council press statements, which called into question the legitimate rights of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a fully fledged nuclear Power, whether someone recognizes it or not. Though the United States is trying, in every way and in collusion with its followers, to create an international atmosphere for sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, they should bear in mind that putting more pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would only serve for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to continue to bolster up its nuclear deterrence and drive my country to push ahead preparations for more tests.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this time? I recognize the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I have one brief thing to say after having heard the remarks by the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Those remarks were more or less a copy of what we heard here last week. It seems to me that it is an attempt to somehow vindicate the violations and provocations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is constantly trying to make the claim that it cannot be held responsible by absurdly claiming at the same time that it is in a status of victimhood. Such claims do not change the facts.

The continued reiteration by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of the same thing over and over again whenever the majority in this room have condemned their reckless behaviour only shows that claiming victim status is the sole means left on which the Democratic People's Republic of Korea can base its false sense of being not guilty. No matter how many times the Democratic People's Republic of Korea repeats its claims, they cannot change the facts. We all know who has to cease the threats, provocations and violations and abide by international law, including Security Council resolutions. We strongly call upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease them immediately.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea and I again give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I cannot help but advise South Korea to abandon its policy of stifling and isolating its compatriots by aligning with outside forces.

Explicitly speaking, the nuclear deterrence for self-defence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its building up of self-defence military capabilities are to cope with the hostile United States policy, which is trying to antagonize, isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It should be noted that recently the hawkish ring of the United States Administration pressed other countries to make a choice between supporting the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or the United States. They even threatened that the United States would impose harsh sanctions upon any country, any organization or any individual — and that an international agency was no exception. Such behaviour is a vivid reminder of the former Bush administration, which showed its arrogance by saying “You are either with us or against us.” The United States threat and blackmail with maximum pressure and sanctions can never work on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will bolster its capabilities for self-defence at a higher pace, as it has already clarified, as long as the United States continues its hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and I again give the floor to the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again. There is not much more I can add to the eloquence of what the Republic of Korea Ambassador just said, but I will say this with regard to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: it continues to justify its threats, provocations and actions by saying that the United States is a threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United States, as I have said many times before, is not a threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The biggest threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea — to the regime — is the regime itself. It needs to come into compliance with its international obligations and it needs to do it now. It is under sanctions. It will continue to be under sanctions. This ridiculous remark that United Nations Security Council resolutions are not international law is just ridiculous. But again, this is a regime that professes to be about peace, but indeed is the biggest threat to stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the United States of America and I again give the floor to the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Mr. Ju Yong-chol (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr. President, if the United States thinks that they can get something through sanctions, it would be the greatest mistake and miscalculation. The days are gone when the United States could rely on unilateral sanctions to impose its demands upon other countries.

If the United States truly wants lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, it should draw lessons from the preceding administration's failure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea policy and should take a decision to conclude a peace treaty with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and abandon its hostile policy.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this time? That does not appear to be the case. Before making some remarks of my own, I will first give the floor to the representative of Myanmar to comment on the status of the consultations being conducted within the framework of the working group on the way ahead.

Mr. Lynn (Myanmar): Mr. President, allow me first of all to join the previous speakers in expressing our condolences to the victims and their families after the barbaric attack at the Manchester Arena last night. Our heart and soul are with the people of the United Kingdom at this difficult moment.

Mr. President and dear colleagues, I have two points to make. The first is on the draft proposal that I have circulated through the secretariat to you all. Secondly, I will then explain how we should be moving forward within the context of the working group.

The draft proposal on the establishment of subgroups under the working group on the way ahead has, at least to me, two purposes. One is to register the outcome as well as the state of affairs of the 61 consultations that my delegation and I have conducted so far. The second is that it could serve as a litmus test for all of us as to whether we are close enough to identifying common ground for a possible consensus leading to creating a trigger for meaningful work here in the Conference on Disarmament for us.

The activities I am seeking in the draft proposal are not feel-good ones. They are, in my view, do-good ones — preparing ourselves for substantive work during our session this year or in the future. However, Mr. President, and to my regret, I must report to you that consensus on my draft proposal is not yet in sight and more time is required to conduct further consultations, not only on the draft proposal but also on other options and possibilities of our liking. As such, I will not put on the table today the draft proposal for a decision on the establishment of subgroups of the working group on the way ahead, but will wait until I have a clear sense of consensus on any further proposal.

This brings me to my second point. As I continue with consultations under the mandate contained in document CD/2090, I believe that the Conference should maximize the time available to us. I therefore intend, Mr. President, to hold a series of meetings of the working group on the way ahead: perhaps two meetings per week, without any parallel meetings. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, 1 June 2017, back to back with the plenary meeting we usually have every Thursday. The first meeting will be very broad in nature, in line with the first bullet point of my mandate: to take stock of the progress on all agenda items of the Conference. We shall also discuss in that meeting how to better organize future meetings of the working group, of which there will be two. If you so wish, I can propose an agenda for the first meeting. After our group meetings this week, if you so wish, I can propose an agenda for it. That, then, was my second point.

Mr. President, in closing, I would like to thank all delegations who have received me and my delegation for my consultations and for providing me with their views, advice and useful thoughts in discharging my mandate effectively.

The President (*spoke in French*): As the Senegalese presidency of the Conference on Disarmament comes to an end today, I would like to thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for the

consultations you have undertaken and for striving to bring those consultations — conducted in the framework of the working group on the way ahead established pursuant to the decision contained in document CD/2090 — to a successful conclusion. The presidency of Senegal having coincided with the adoption of that decision, we thought that rather than distract the Conference from its work by submitting new proposals to the working group, we should simply get behind the decision in order to provide you with support and to try to achieve tangible outcomes. However, we note that after some weeks of discussion, progress has not been possible. We remain hopeful that, with the support of all delegations and the enthusiasm that has been demonstrated recently, it will soon be possible to reach a consensus on the way ahead and thus unblock the work of the Conference. In any case, I wish to thank you most sincerely.

Now, I would like to bid farewell to Ms. Mary Soliman, Acting Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference, who will be leaving Geneva to take up a new position at the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York. On behalf of all the delegations, I wish to thank her for her positive manner, her dedication, her dynamism, her spirit of consensus and for all the good that she has contributed to the Conference on Disarmament. Madam, thank you for being attentive to the member States and for devoting such enthusiasm, for all of this time, so that the Conference might move forward. It was a pleasure to work with you during our presidency. We will miss you, and we wish you all the best and good fortune in your new role.

Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this time? I recognize the representative of India.

Mr. Gill (India): Mr. President, as you conclude your presidency today, I would like to express my delegation's sincere appreciation for your work on behalf of the Conference on Disarmament. I would also like to join other colleagues in expressing my delegation's sincere condolences to the United Kingdom after the terrorist attack in Manchester last night.

I would like to join you, Mr. President, in wishing Mary Soliman all the best for her next assignment. She has been a bulwark of the work of the Conference on Disarmament these past few months. It is sad to see her leave Geneva, but I am sure she will make a mark in New York in her new capacity.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to express my delegation's sincere thanks to the Chair of the working group on the way ahead, Ambassador Htin Lynn of Myanmar. The report that he presented to us today underlines the extensive consultations that he has held and the hard work he has put in on the mandate given to him. While we understand that more work is required for a concrete decision on setting up subgroups, it is heartening that he is already thinking of a substantive discussion through meetings of the working group itself.

Half the year has passed and we should now get down to having a substantive discussion on the items on the Conference's agenda. There are important developments taking place. There are developments of concern and my delegation shares the concern that has been expressed today on continued testing of delivery systems capable of carrying nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula in violation of Security Council resolutions. These developments underline the importance of negotiating and implementing multilateral, legally binding instruments through our substantive work here in the Conference. My delegation would wish to see such work commence at the earliest.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of India and I again give the floor to the representative of the United States of America.

Mr. Wood (United States of America): Mr. President, I apologize for taking the floor again. I will be very brief. I just want to thank you for your efforts during your presidency to try to get the Conference on Disarmament back to work. We have really appreciated working with you and your delegation. Lastly, I would just like to say to Mary Soliman: Mary, you will indeed be missed. Thank you for all your efforts here and we look forward to seeing you at some point in the future, maybe even in the First Committee again. So, I wish you all the best in your new assignment.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the United States and I again give the floor to the representative of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Kim In-chul (Republic of Korea): Mr. President, I am sorry for taking the floor again but I felt that I would be remiss if I did not congratulate you on your presidency and thank you for all you have done for us. And since our Acting Director, Mary, is leaving, I cannot but recognize all the hard work and cooperation that she rendered to us. I was thinking about what I could say today and I found a sentence in Latin that is in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*. It is in Latin and reads: *Stat rosa pristina nomine, nomina nuda tenemus*, which roughly translates as: "The pristine name of the rose remains, the bare name is what we have." We all know what you have done for us, Mary, but your name will remain forever with us. I wish you all the best.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the representative of the Republic of Korea and I again give the floor to the representative of Canada.

Mr. Davison (Canada) (*spoke in French*): Mr. President, allow me to thank you and all the members of the Senegalese delegation for all of their efforts under your presidency.

(*spoke in English*)

It is always a tough act to follow the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea. He has got quite the way with words, but I would like to join others, Mary, in thanking you very much and very sincerely for all your hard work. You have shown a level of professionalism and dedication which we have appreciated and of which you should be very proud. We will miss you. You have left the Office for Disarmament Affairs stronger for your efforts and more efficient. We have always appreciated your openness to us when we had issues or concerns. So, thank you very much and we wish you all the success in the world in New York.

The President (*spoke in French*): If no other delegation wishes to take the floor at this point, I would like to announce that the next plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament will be held on Tuesday, 30 May 2017, at 10 a.m. in the Council Chamber under the presidency of Slovakia. That concludes our business for this morning.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.