



Security Council Briefing on DPRK, 13 July 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri
Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you President and I thank you Mr. Khiari for your important and informative briefing.

Malta is deeply concerned by yet another launch by DPRK of an intercontinental ballistic missile. This marks an alarming technological advancement in the country's missiles program. The missile travelled more than a 1,000 km, over the course of 74 minutes, a new worrying record. The Council cannot remain silent in light of these developments.

Malta strongly condemns this launch, which is a blatant violation of Security Council Resolution 2397. We recall that the Council had unanimously adopted this resolution. At the time, it had also established that it would act and place further restrictions on DPRK in the face of new launches.

Malta joined others in calling for this meeting as it recognises that the launch, the fourth this year, constitutes a grave threat to regional and international security. These acts erode the global non-proliferation regime.



Yet, the Council was unable to respond to any of the launches of 2022, and we remain firm in our belief that this trend must be reversed. The Council cannot continue to be silent in the face of these provocations. Persistent inability to act would simply undermine the Council's credibility as the guarantor of international peace and security.

Furthermore, this launch is only the latest act of a deeply concerning pattern of reckless behaviour by DPRK. In parallel to missile launches, it also announced a new doctrine that sets out conditions in which it could use nuclear weapons, including pre-emptively.

We strongly urge DPRK to engage in meaningful dialogue towards denuclearisation, and to adhere to its obligations under Security Council resolutions. It must completely, verifiably, and irreversibly abandon its nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes and return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA safeguards. We also call on the DPRK to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty.



Malta also remains deeply concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in the country. The WFP estimate that 10.7 million people are undernourished and in need of emergency relief. However, these serious humanitarian needs continue to be ignored by the DPRK leadership. Instead, it chooses to allocate its resources to costly ballistic missile launches and its illegal weapons programme. It also continues to restrict humanitarian access. Malta calls on DPRK to restore access to the UN and other humanitarian actors in order to provide its population with the aid it requires.

In closing, Mr. President, I would like to remind the Council of our shared objective: peace and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. To achieve this, we need unity and action, while divisions and delays would only push it further out of reach.

In this regard, Malta remains supportive of a Council product.

I thank you.