



Security Council briefing on DPRK, 25 August 2023

Malta Statement delivered by Mr Darren Camilleri

Political Coordinator of Malta to the United Nations, New York

Thank you, Madam President, and I thank ASG Khiari for his informative briefing.

Malta is deeply concerned about the recent attempt to launch a satellite by DPRK, and strongly condemns it. The launch is another blatant violation of Resolution 2397, which prohibits DPRK from conducting any launch using ballistic missile technology. We are gravely concerned about DPRK's intention to conduct another launch in October, which would constitute yet another act of defiance and destabilization.

Even though this launch has failed, such tests can help DPRK improve its technology and advance its programme. Malta joined others in calling for this meeting as it recognises that these acts increase tensions and risk further destabilising the region. They pose a serious threat to international peace and security and erode the global non-proliferation regime.

We recall that the Council had unanimously adopted Resolution 2397. At the time, it had also established that it would act and place further restrictions on DPRK in case of new violations.



We remain firm in our belief that the Council cannot 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.

We strongly urge DPRK to cease all provocative acts, engage in meaningful dialogue, and adhere to its obligations under Security Council resolutions. It must completely, verifiably, and irreversibly abandon its ballistic missiles programme and return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and IAEA safeguards.

Malta also remains deeply concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in the country, the restrictions to humanitarian access, and the grave human rights violations perpetrated by the regime, as highlighted during last week's discussion. Serious humanitarian needs continue to be ignored by the DPRK leadership. Instead, it chooses to allocate resources to its costly ballistic missile and illegal weapons programmes. 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, Madam President, we reiterate that our shared objective is peace and denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. In order to achieve this, we need a strong and united Council, while divisions and inaction will only postpone our objectives indefinitely.



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To this end, Malta remains supportive of a Council product to express this Council's determination in ensuring peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

I thank you.