



Security Council briefing on Non-proliferation/DPRK, 31 May 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations, New York

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

Malta strongly condemns yet another attempt to launch a military satellite by the DPRK. Any launch using ballistic missile technology is a grave violation of multiple Security Council resolutions, which were unanimously adopted. Accordingly, we joined other countries in calling for this important meeting.

While this launch reportedly failed, such tests can provide the DPRK with useful technological insights to advance its unlawful ballistic missile program. In fact, the rocket carrying the satellite allegedly tested a newly developed liquid oxygen and petroleum engine. We cannot remain silent in the face of these dangerous provocations.



The DPRK continues to implement its 5-year military plan, including through the relentless advancement of its illegal WMD program. This is deeply disquieting. It is a threat to international peace and security and severely undermines the non-proliferation regime.

President

For the past two years, the DPRK has escalated its reckless activities. It has conducted a record number of ballistic missile tests, including ICBMs and solid-fuel hypersonic ones. It has successfully placed a military reconnaissance satellite in orbit. It has incorporated nuclear policy into its constitution, lowering the threshold for the use of nuclear weapons. Last but not least concerning, it has engaged in arms and technology transfers in blatant violation of the 1718 sanctions regime.

Meanwhile, the Council stood idly by. We have repeatedly failed to collectively condemn these violations. This silence has emboldened the DPRK and, even worse, has sent a message of impunity to potential proliferators and enablers around the world.



Furthermore, the 1718 Panel of Experts mandate was terminated after fifteen years due to the veto of a Permanent member. We had a duty to support the Panel's professional and impartial investigations on the DPRK's sophisticated architecture of sanctions evasion. Instead, we have deprived the wider membership of an invaluable source of information on sanctions implementation, or lack thereof. This is deeply regrettable.

Lastly, we are concerned about the dire humanitarian situation in the country as well as the grave human rights violations perpetrated by the regime. These are closely linked to the promotion of its illicit WMD program and cannot be overlooked.

Once again, we urge the DPRK to engage in meaningful dialogue towards the complete, verifiable, and irreversible abandonment of its nuclear and ballistic missile program. We call on this Council to finally unite in the face of this growing threat to stability in the region and beyond.

I thank you.