

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

Issue: Limiting the political impact of the North Korean nuke expansion

Student Officer: Vaia Aslanoglou

Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee,

My name is Vaia Aslanoglou, I am 15 years old, I am a 10th-grade student at Costeas-Geitonas School, and I have the utmost honor to serve as a Co-Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in the 5th session of the ACGMUN. Undoubtedly, in the last few years, MUN has played an important role in my life. I have cultivated many skills, whether we refer to either socializing, public speaking, or even writing skills. By the time of the conference, I will have attended 11 conferences in total, including two of them in which I served as a Chair. My first ever conference was the CGS MUN in 2019 in which I participated in the Youth Assembly. This will be my second time serving as a Co-Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, with my first being at CGSMUN.

With this year's conference's theme being "Decent Work & Economic Growth" and the topic of this guide being Limiting the political impact of the North Korean nuke expansion I firmly reckon that all of you will be challenged to both thoroughly comprehend the ongoing situation and also attempt to resolve the current situation. Fundamental information will be provided to you through this study guide, but this should not be your only source of preparation. You are required to conduct your own research. If any questions arise during your preparation for the conference do not hesitate to contact me at: baiaaslanoglou@gmail.com.

I am looking forward to meeting you all at the 4th ACGMUN annual session!

Kind regards,

Vaia Aslanoglou

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The hazards that arise from the very existence of nuclear weapons are multiple and catastrophic. The first-ever nuclear explosion took place in a testing site in New Mexico in July 1945, merely a month before the United States deployed the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since then, countries such as Russia, the US, India, France, and North Korea have begun the production of nuclear-armed missiles and are some of the momentous nuclear powers in the world.

As humanity has witnessed many times before, nuclear weapons pose a precarious threat to life on this planet. The Chernobyl, Fukushima, and Kyshtym nuclear disasters have proved that atomic energy is of grave danger, beholding the consequences of the disasters long-lasting to this day. The release of large amounts of radioactive pollution into the atmosphere as particulate and gaseous radioisotopes is the largest inadvertent discharge of radiation into the environment as of 2022.

North Korea showed an interest in developing nuclear weapons since the 1950s, however its atomic weapons program dates to the 1980s. As stated before, the use of nuclear weapons can be catastrophic. Even the possession of such weapons by North Korea has a serious political impact on a global scale. That impact needs to be eradicated and that elimination needs to be prioritized universally mainly for safety reasons. There have been various attempts to limit North Korea's nuke expansion in the past, but they have not resulted in a successful outcome.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Atomic Energy Agency

The IAEA is the international organization for nuclear cooperation and is well regarded as the world's "Atoms for Peace and Development" institution inside the United Nations community. Its objective is to promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies, the Agency collaborates with its Member States and diverse partners throughout the world.

Delta Asia Financial Group

Delta Asia Financial Group is a Macau-based bank owned by the Delta Asia Financial Group and founded in 1935 by Au Wing Ngok, father of Stanley Au, the current chairman, and majority shareholder. It is the 10th largest bank in Macau with eight branches and 150 employees.

Nuclear Disarmament/ Denuclearization

The removal of nuclear weapons from a place, the process of eradicating and prohibiting their development. The elimination of the possibility of a nuclear war outbreak due to the catastrophic consequences as demonstrated by the United States' bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

Nuclear Weapons

Considered to be the most threatening and hazardous weapons of Mass Destruction, with the capability of inflicting catastrophic consequences to both the lives of present, future generations as well as the natural environment. Nuclear fission and fusion are the two processes that result in the release of energy in an explosive manner. Fusion weapons mainly include hydrogen or thermonuclear bombs, and fission weapons are frequently referred to as atomic bombs.

Sanctions

“An official order, such as stopping of a trade, that is taken against a country in order to make it obey international law.”¹

Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Weapon, with the ability to inflict death and destruction on such a vast scale and so indiscriminately that its mere presence in the hands of a hostile power can be considered a grievous threat. Nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, known colloquially as NBC weapons, are the most prevalent type of modern weapons of mass destruction.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Six-Party talks

The Six-Party talks, launched in 2003 and continued until 2007, refer to six rounds of negotiations conducted aiming to put a stop to North Korea's missile and nuclear program as a whole. The talks were set in motion right after North Korea announced its intention to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.² In the aforementioned negotiations, the parties involved were North Korea, The United States, South Korea, Japan, Russia, and China.

¹ “Sanction.” Cambridge Dictionary, <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/sanction>.

² “Timeline: North Korean Nuclear Negotiations.” Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>.

China had the role of the mediator of the talks since they have interests in preserving peace in North Korea due to a large number of refugees it would receive if tensions rose.



Figure 1³: Image depicting the Six-party talks in 2007. Negotiators pose before the closing ceremony of the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear program in Beijing on February 13, 2007.

No significant progression had been noted until 2009 when Pyongyang announced its withdrawal from the negotiations and approximately a year later⁴, they announced a new vast uranium facility that U.S. scientists had the ability to overlook and monitor. In 2011 Kim Jong-un was elected as the new governor and made public that all missile and nuclear tests would be suspended and, moreover, announced that international inspectors were allowed to surveil the moratorium with the condition of interchange with food aid from the United States.⁵

However, Pyongyang's defiance of UN resolutions along with a long-range missile launch in late 2012 and another test in early 2013 led Russia to initiate Pyongyang's return to the negotiation table.

The Six-Party Talks began in August 2003 with numerous rounds of negotiations that resulted in a September 2005 agreement in which Pyongyang pledged to cease its pursuit of nuclear weapons, marking a reversal of Washington's nonengagement stance with Pyongyang. During his 2002 State of the Union speech, former President George W. Bush referred to North Korea as an

³ Six-Party Talks End with Joint Document, "http://www.china.org.cn/features/nuclear/2007-02/14/content_1200086.htm."

⁴ "Timeline: North Korean Nuclear Negotiations." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>.

⁵ "Timeline: North Korean Nuclear Negotiations." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>.

"Axis of Evil," while the CIA assessed later that year that Pyongyang was pursuing a uranium enrichment program in violation of a 1994 normalization agreement.⁶

North Korea acknowledged its conduct and then withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), restarting its plutonium enrichment program and forcing IAEA inspectors to depart. Conflict arose further in March 2003, when a North Korean fighter plane intercepted a US spy plane over the Sea of Japan⁷, prompting the US, North Korea, and China to convene trilateral negotiations a month later in Beijing as a prelude to the first round of Six-Party Talks.

Pyongyang agreed to suspend its nuclear program, rejoin the NPT, and allow Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitors to return in exchange for food and energy aid in September 2005. The treaty also enabled Pyongyang to normalize relations with both the US and Japan, as well as put in effort so as to attempt to result in a peace agreement for the Korean peninsula.

The US Treasury Department imposed sanctions on Macao-based Banco Delta Asia, which Washington feared of laundering millions for North Korea. Pyongyang's accounts in Macau were later frozen by the Macau authorities. North Korea increased its provocations as the talks broke down, launching a long-range rocket and conducting its first underground nuclear explosion later on during 2006.

An overview of North Korea's Nuclear Tests (2006-2017) and recent nuclear material production

North Korea has put a halt to nuclear and long-range missile testing. Since 2006, it has carried out six nuclear-weapons tests. Each test resulted in subsurface explosions that grew in intensity and yield over time.

In 2006, a plutonium-fueled atomic bomb with a yield of two kilotons of TNT, an energy unit used to measure the power of an explosive detonation, exploded for the first time. According to data from the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan think tank, the 2009 test yielded eight kilotons; the 2013 and January 2016 tests both produced around seventeen kilotons, and the September 2016 test generated 35 kilotons.⁸

⁶ "Fact Sheets & Briefs." Chronology of U.S.-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy | Arms Control Association, <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/dprkchron>.

⁷ Schmitt, Eric. "North Korea Mig's Intercept U.S. Jet on Spying Mission." The New York Times, The New York Times, 4 Mar. 2003, <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/04/world/north-korea-mig-s-intercept-us-jet-on-spying-mission.html>.

⁸ "Nuclear Disarmament North Korea." The Nuclear Threat Initiative, 5 Nov. 2021, <https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/north-korea-nuclear-disarmament/>.

On September 3, 2017, North Korea launched its most recent test. According to a North Korean press statement, the country has successfully tested a hydrogen bomb (also regarded as a two-stage thermonuclear warhead) that it was developing for delivery on an intercontinental ballistic missile. Experts state that the nuclear test on September 3, 2017, was far larger, indicating that the country has developed much more potent bomb-making technology.⁹ According to estimates based on seismic activity, the explosion was likely more than 200 kilotons. A massive explosion like this lends validity to North Korea's claims of developing a hydrogen bomb.

North Korea's Expanding Missile Range

Missile models' first known successful test dates with estimated maximum ranges



Figure 2¹⁰: Image depicting missile models' first known successful test dates with estimated maximum ranges

North Korea said in April 2018 that it had met its objectives, would no longer conduct nuclear tests, and would shut down its Punggye-ri nuclear test site. It erupted at the entrances to two test tunnels in front of a group of journalists in May 2018, just before the first Trump-Kim summit. Kim Jong-un "requested inspectors to visit the test site to verify that it has been permanently disassembled"¹¹ in an October 2018 meeting with then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, but this has yet to happen.

North Korea has appeared to be continuing to manufacture fissile material for weapons (plutonium and highly enriched uranium). After withdrawing from a nuclear agreement in 2009,

⁹ "2017 North Korean Nuclear Test Order of Magnitude Larger than Previous Tests, New Study Finds." AGU Newsroom, <https://news.agu.org/press-release/2017-north-korean-nuclear-test-order-of-magnitude-larger-than-previous-tests-new-study-finds/>.

¹⁰ "What's the Status of North Korea's Nuclear Program?" Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities/>.

¹¹ Wires, News. "North Korea Says Will Dismantle Nuclear Test Sites, Allow Inspectors." France 24, France 24, 19 Sept. 2018, <https://www.france24.com/en/20180919-north-korea-says-will-dismantle-nuclear-test-sites-allow-inspectors-south-korea-usa-kim-joon>.

North Korea reopened its plutonium production facilities, and it now operates centrifuge uranium enrichment plants at the Yongbyon nuclear complex and perhaps at Kangson. North Korea's Radiochemical Laboratory (reprocessing) plant and its Yongbyon Experimental Light Water 5MW(e) Reactor were both operational, according to an IAEA report from August 2021. This reactor's spent fuel has previously been treated to extract plutonium for military use. The North declared during the Pyongyang Summit in September 2018 that unless the US adopted "corresponding measures," it would "permanently disable" the Yongbyon facilities.

North Korea's Nuclear capabilities

North Korea's nuclear power still remains undefined. Although it has been calculated to fluctuate between twenty and sixty assembled nuclear weapons, 1.2 million military personnel, and an unknown number of missiles.¹² Additionally, a large number of biological and chemical (ulfur mustard, chlorine, phosgene, sarin, and VX nerve agents) weapons are suspected to be produced and possessed by the DPRK. Even though six nuclear tests have been conducted in total, four of them have been directed by Kim Jong-un from February 2013- September 2017 and a large number of missile tests surpassed 125.¹³

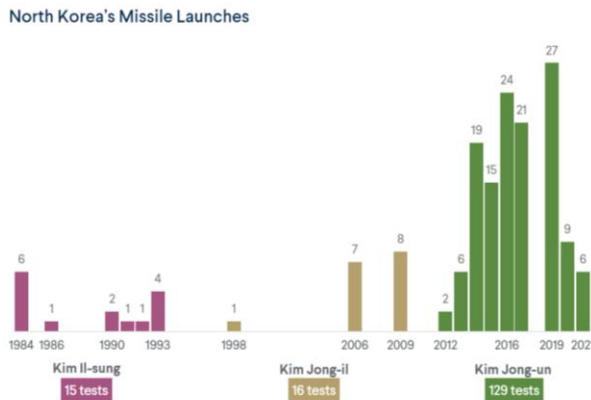


Figure 3¹⁴: North Korea's Missile Launches

North Korea has tested over a hundred nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, including short-, medium-, intermediate-, and intercontinental-range missiles along with submarine-launched

¹² "What's the Status of North Korea's Nuclear Program?" Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities>.

¹³ "What's the Status of North Korea's Nuclear Program?" Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities>.

¹⁴ "What's the Status of North Korea's Nuclear Program?" Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities>.

missiles. An estimated five percent of North Korea’s population is accounted as military personnel and more than six hundred thousand others serve as soldiers¹⁵.

To discourage future assaults, North Korea has positioned explosives near and along the border with South Korea, as well as conventional missiles directed towards its neighbor and Japan. The North Korean military has approximately 550 combat-capable aircraft, 290 helicopters, 400 combatant vessels, 280 amphibious vessels, 70 submarines, 4,000 tanks, 2,500 armored vehicles, and 5,500 multiple-rocket launchers, according to a 2021 report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.¹⁶

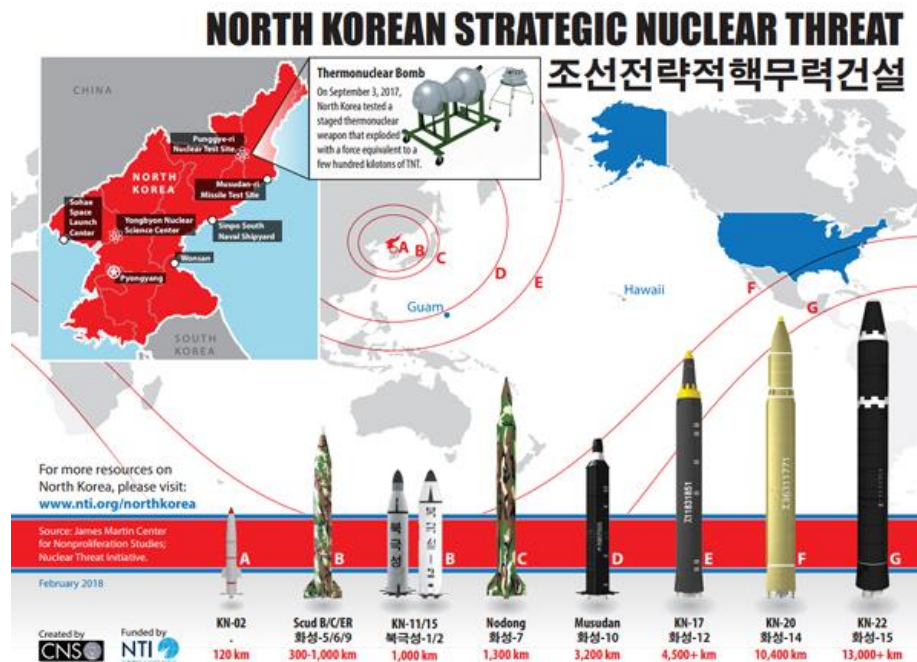


Figure 4: North Korean strategic nuclear threat

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

North Korea has initiated a total of six nuclear tests and continues the production of missiles and other nuclear weapons. They have been involved and engaged with negotiations such as the Six-

¹⁵ “What’s the Status of North Korea’s Nuclear Program?” Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities>.

¹⁶ “What’s the Status of North Korea’s Nuclear Program?” Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities>.

party talks but none of them have resulted in their denuclearization. The DPRK emphasizes that the existence of the nuclear program is based on their need for self-defense.

United States of America

One of the most critical and complex concerns the US' international affairs faces is dealing with the threat posed by North Korea's nuclear weapons. Developing, implementing, and maintaining a verifiable diplomatic process that reduces risk and slows Pyongyang's production of nuclear weapons necessitates a whole-of-government strategy, which includes constructive contributions from members of the US Congress. They seek the denuclearization of the state, hence they contributed to the Six-party talks and initiated other negotiations aiming as that objective between the two countries. They have taken initiative and multiple measures such as bilateral talks and the UNSC imposition of sanctions. Past President Barack Obama stated this on North Korea's Nuclear Test: "To be clear, the United States does not, and never will, accept North Korea as a nuclear state. Far from achieving its stated national security and economic development goals, North Korea's provocative and destabilizing actions have instead served to isolate and impoverish its people through its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile capabilities. Today's nuclear test, a flagrant violation of multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, makes clear North Korea's disregard for international norms and standards for behavior and demonstrates it has no interest in being a responsible member of the international community."¹⁷

People's Republic of China

Even though China actively supports and strives for North Korea's denuclearization, they do not believe that this intention can be achieved in the short term. China has been considered to be North Korea's closest ally and trade partner, however, the repetitive nuclear tests and programs have disturbed that relationship. China, as a geographically close country to the DPRK, is one of the nations that North Korea's nuke expansion poses an existential threat. A single nuclear test could negatively impact the vast majority of Beijing's population.

South Korea

The citizens of South Korea do not believe that North Korean nuclear weapons currently pose a threat. Given how North Korea treated South Korea during the nuclear talks, it is believed South Koreans now reckon that diplomatic overtures can only succeed if South Korea becomes a more powerful country with nuclear missile technologies. The president of South Korea is facing

¹⁷ "Statement by the President on North Korea's Nuclear Test." National Archives and Records Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/09/statement-president-north-koreas-nuclear-test>.

mounting pressure from South Koreans to develop nuclear weapons or redeploy tactical nuclear weapons in response to probable military provocations by North Korea. All in all, South Koreans view the North competitively and antagonistically.

Pakistan

Due to the financial crisis Pakistan faced, as its foreign exchange reserves plunged, the first real evidence of the country offering nuclear information to the North Koreans surfaced. Pakistan invited a group of 20 delegates of the North Korean embassy to observe a nuclear test and learn more about the building of uranium-based nuclear weapons, which were later exchanged for North Korean missiles. Thanks to the information provided by the Pakistani delegation, North Koreans had acquired the knowledge imperative, the blueprints in order to construct nuclear weapons.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

The International Atomic Energy Agency has been playing a major and decisive role in the DPRK's nuke expansion since they first took initiative back in 1977 with the first safeguards agreement. They have been responsible for overseeing the progress and ensuring that the sanctions have been imposed, the facilities are being monitored, etc. North Korea has been urged to fully comply with relevant UN Security Council resolutions, cooperate promptly with the Agency in the full and effective implementation of its global Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreement, and resolve all outstanding issues, particularly those that have arisen while Agency inspectors have been absent from the country. The Agency stated that it was continuing to improve its readiness to return to North Korea and strengthen its ability to play an important role in verifying the DPRK's nuclear development.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
5 th August 1963	Test Ban Treaty was signed
1997	IAEA's first safeguards agreement
12 th December 1985	North Korea ratifies the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT)
30 th January 1992	The DPRK signs an IAEA safeguards agreement

September 1991	The United States removes Nukes from South Korea
January 1992	North and South Korea agree to Denuclearize Peninsula
March 1993 – June 1993	North Korea threatens NPT Withdrawal
9 th August 2003	Six-Party Talks Open
27 th August 2003	1 st Round of Six-Party Talks
25 th February 2004	2 nd Round of Six-Party Talks
23 rd June 2004	3 rd Round of Six-Party Talks
15 th September 2005	Freeze of Banco Delta Asia Funds
19 th September 2005	4 th Round of Six-Party Talks
9 th October 2006	North Korea carries out the 1 st underground nuclear test
September 2007	The freeze in Banco Delta Asia is lifted
25 th May 2009	2 nd Nuclear test
12 th February 2013	3 rd Nuclear test
6 th January 2016	4 th Nuclear test
9 th September 2016	5 th Nuclear test
3 rd September 2017	6 th Nuclear test

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)¹⁸

The NPT is a revolutionary international treaty whose goal is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and advance the goal of nuclear disarmament and universal disarmament. The Treaty is the only multilateral treaty that contains a legally binding commitment to the aim of nuclear disarmament by nuclear-weapon states. The Treaty was signed in 1968 and came into force in 1970. The Treaty

¹⁸ "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) – UNODA." United Nations, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/text/>.

was renewed indefinitely on May 11, 1995. The Treaty has been signed by 191 countries, including the five nuclear-weapon states. The NPT has been ratified by more countries than any other arms control and disarmament agreement, demonstrating the Treaty's importance.

Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT)¹⁹

The PTBT forbids parties from carrying out nuclear explosions in any situation where such explosions result in radioactive debris outside the state in which the explosion occurs. The Limited Test Ban Treaty (LTBT), commonly known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), is an arms control treaty aimed at limiting nuclear weapon testing and proliferation. Initially, the LTBT was a trilateral agreement between the US, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom. The original signatories requested "an end to the contamination of man's environment by radioactive substances" when they signed the document in Moscow on August 5, 1963. As a result, nuclear weapons cannot be tested in the atmosphere, beneath the water, or in space, according to the treaty. It does, however, allow subterranean nuclear test explosions. The LTBT entered into force and was extended for signature by additional countries on October 10, 1963, after being ratified by the United States Senate on September 24, 1963.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)²⁰

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) states that "any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion" is prohibited everywhere on a global scale. The treaty was signed by 185 countries and ratified by 170 others when it was opened for signature in September 1996. China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel, Iran, Egypt, and the United States are the eight countries that have yet to ratify the treaty. The treaty cannot be entered to force until the aforementioned eight countries ratify it.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)²¹

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) contains a long list of limitations on nuclear weapon participation. These commitments include promises not to develop, test, produce, acquire, retain, stockpile, use, or threaten nuclear weapons. The Treaty also outlaws the deployment of nuclear weapons on national territory, as well as providing aid to any State engaged in forbidden acts. States parties shall be required to prevent and suppress any conduct

¹⁹ Alexander, Kena. "Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water." UNODA Treaties, https://treaties.unoda.org/t/test_ban.

²⁰ Alexander, Kena. "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty." UNODA Treaties, <https://treaties.unoda.org/t/ctbt>.

²¹ Alexander, Kena. "Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." UNODA Treaties, <https://treaties.unoda.org/t/tpnw>.

forbidden by the TPNW that is carried out by individuals or on property under their jurisdiction or control. The Treaty also requires States Parties to provide adequate assistance to individuals affected by nuclear weapons use or testing, as well as to take necessary and appropriate environmental remediation measures in areas under their jurisdiction or control that have been contaminated as a result of nuclear weapons testing or use.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

To this day there have been many attempts aiming to put an end to North Korea's nuclear program. Some of them have partially been successful and contributed to the solution of the issue at hand but the vast majority of them have failed since the DPRK hasn't stayed true to the agreements.

The Six-Party Talks launched in 200 are undeniably the most effective initiative and measure taken so far. Dialogue and negotiations opened between Japan, South Korea, Russia, China, and the USA and the Joint Statement of Principles of 2005 as well as the two Action Plans were the successful outcome of them. The primary reason that initially led to their failure stemmed from the inability of all sides to trust the intentions of one another. For instance, in April 2009 North Korea made an announcement stating a possible launch of a rocket whose primary production purpose was to put a satellite into orbit. The specific incident marked the beginning of the end of the Six-Party talks.

Moreover, other actions have been taken such as the exchange of letters, December 2002, the shutdown of nuclear facilities, 14-18 July 2007, inspections and bilateral agreements, Joint Declaration of 1992.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

China's role

China constitutes the main trade partner of North Korea. Even when the US exchanged heavy fuel oils combined with energy substitutes with North Korea, under the circumstances that North Korea would put on hold its missile testing, China maintained bilateral economic relations with North Korea. Consequently, it was easier for the DPRK not to abide by the agreement that was made with the United States. Additionally, the imposition of sanctions proved to be ineffective since China continued the transactions and the financial, economic activity through the banking system and companies. China's close economic ties with the DPRK instead of ensuring and facilitating the process of its denuclearization, realistically deter the application of possible

effective measures. Hence, it can be understood that China's economic ties with the DPRK make the determination of a solution almost impossible. China needs to contract an agreement with the United States prohibiting China from continuing economic trades with China in the case of imposition of sanctions. Furthermore, the economic relations of the two countries should be monitored in such cases by the United Nations.

Negotiations

Although none of the previous negotiations and mediated talks have limited the political impact of the DPRK's nuke expansion, attention must be drawn to the fact they took place under circumstances where numerous exterior factors were negatively impacting the situation and created an environment where it was unlikely that the DPRK would agree to the outcome of the talks, for instance, their bilateral economic relations with China. North Korea has previously stated that the reasoning behind the development of a nuclear program is ensuring safety and security from international threats. If this issue was to be resolved, negotiations would probably be more efficient and effective since North Korea's interests are taken into consideration. There is no guarantee though that the DPRK will after all comply with the agreement made. Ideally, a new bilateral agreement should be negotiated where the end of North Korea's nuclear activities would be verified, IAEA inspections would be conducted, and all plutonium-based programs would be dismantled.

Sanctions

The Security Council has imposed multiple sanctions in the past, but they did not result in a successful outcome due to implications and reasons analyzed before. Harsher, limited, and extensive sanctions should be imposed aiming at the economical strain of North Korea. However, it cannot be determined that all the responsible countries will, after all, abide by the responsibility to impose sanctions as well as their willingness to impose them in the first place. Apart from the Security Council, tight sanctions can also be imposed as they have been imposed in the past by South Korea, Japan, Australia, and the European Union. Certain nations lack the ability to perform enforcement activities such as the inspections of shipments at ports of entry and conduct complicated investigations. It must be also highlighted that sanctions have left people in the past malnourished and impoverished as certain areas lack clean water and medicine.

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www.armscontrol.org/reports/2021/congressional-perspectives-us-policy-toward-north-korea-denuclearization-korean.

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