

Statement delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Jacek Czaputowicz at the Security Council 27th of September, 2018

during the briefing on North Korea

I would like to thank Secretary of State Michael Pompeo for his briefing on the efforts to denuclearize the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Poland greatly appreciates today's timely debate, as well as the transparent and open approach to this important subject.

A few months ago, we were all pleased to hear that one of the most complicated problems of nuclear proliferation affecting regional and international security might be resolved peacefully, thanks to goodwill, a spirit of cooperation and common interests.

We all agree that long-lasting peace on the Korean peninsula can be achieved only through peaceful means. We therefore welcome the continued progress in the inter-Korean dialogue. We are pleased to note that the third summit organized this year between the leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, which took place a few days ago, was another important step in invigorating and maintaining the dialogue on the peninsula.

We also welcome the diplomatic process related to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, marked by the historic summit in Singapore earlier this year. We hope that further steps in that regard can be made following the intensive contacts between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In that context, we all welcomed the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the suspension of its nuclear and intercontinental-ballistic-missile tests. Another step in the right direction was the destruction of a nuclear-weapon-test site in Punggye-ri. Nonetheless, it remains to be seen if that threat will continue in the future.

It will be crucial to maintain the momentum, keep the window of opportunity open and move forward on a path to de-escalation. The denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must remain a top priority for the entire international community. Despite the positive developments, Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes are still a threat to international security and stability in the region. We are also deeply concerned about the risk posed by the potential proliferation of sensitive goods and technology to other States or non-State actors.

Pyongyang continues to defy Security Council resolutions in an increasingly sophisticated manner. We reiterate our position that despite the political and legal difficulties that may be

involved, it is mandatory for all States, without exception, to comply with their obligations arising from the relevant Council resolutions.

We are well aware that lasting peace cannot be achieved without the complete and irreversible denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in compliance with Security Council resolutions. Despite the encouraging developments and declarations, the process has not yet started. We must therefore remain united in maintaining consistent pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

We call on other Security Council members to show their collective intention to fully implement sanctions, end the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to circumvent United Nations sanctions and prevent other Member States from undermining them. Council members should recommit to implementing all existing and future sanctions so as to put maximum pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take immediate and meaningful steps towards denuclearization.

The progress made so far has been possible thanks to the common and concerted action of all States. We hope that that same spirit of cooperation and unanimity will characterize future activities in this area. Positive developments will have profound implications and beneficial consequences for international relations, including enhancing the credibility and reliability of the international non-proliferation regimes for weapons of mass destruction.

In that regard, as the sole sponsor of General Assembly resolutions on the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, we would like to express our hope that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will soon adhere to the Convention, filling a gap and bringing it close to universalization.

Another crucial step for Pyongyang towards de-escalation and confidence-building would be signing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I would like to remind the Council of the Treaty's effectiveness in helping us to deal with the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, even though it has not yet entered into force.

As a member of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, Poland has been actively supporting international efforts to promote peace and stability in the region. We will continue to engage in all activities that can lead to the permanent denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. That also means supporting further initiatives and actions aimed at reducing tension and facilitating dialogue.

Poland will continue its engagement in international bodies, as well as in other global and regional initiatives. Examples of our engagement in that regard include our recent chairmanship of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and The Hague Code of Conduct

against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, as well as ongoing international partnerships for nuclear-disarmament verification.

In conclusion, let me express our deep conviction that the current momentum will not be wasted. The list of activities is long: denuclearizing North Korea, strengthening the universalization of non-proliferation regimes, securing verification mechanisms, implementing good practices and tightening international cooperation in the field.

If we want to be successful, we must stand united.