



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council briefing on Non-Proliferation/ DPRK 30 April 2026

Greece's Statement delivered by
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Thank you, Mr. President,

I would like to thank Under Secretary General Di Carlo for her briefing and Mr. Byrne for his presentation.

Greece remains deeply concerned by the continued development of the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, which continue to pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. Recent ballistic missile launches by DPRK, including the latest short-range ballistic missile tests and reported testing of upgraded payload configurations, represent yet another destabilizing development. Combined with the steady expansion of nuclear-related activities, they further erode the credibility of the global non-proliferation and disarmament architecture, with the NPT as its cornerstone.

At the same time, as the latest report of the Director General of the IAEA from last August confirms, the DPRK's nuclear activities continue to be a cause of serious concern. The Agency has not been able since 1994 to conduct all necessary safeguards activities provided for in the NPT Safeguards Agreement, and its inspectors have not been present in the DPRK since 2009, while there are indications of expanded operation of uranium enrichment facilities, and possible construction of an additional enrichment facility. In other words, Mr. President, the DPRK continues to expand sensitive nuclear activities in direct contradiction to relevant Security Council resolutions.

Against such actions, which further escalate tensions in a security environment already aggravated by regional conflicts, this Council must continue to defend the integrity of its own decisions and of the wider non-proliferation regime.

It is against this background that Greece, as former - and hopefully future - Chair of the 1718 Committee, reiterates the importance of full implementation of Security Council resolution 1718 (2006) and all subsequent relevant resolutions. Sanctions remain an essential instrument aimed at peacefully encouraging the DPRK to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile activities and to return to meaningful diplomatic engagement.

In this regard, we regret that the Panel of Experts has still not been restored. Its absence weakens the Committee's - and therefore the Council's - technical monitoring capacity, precisely at a moment when increasingly sophisticated sanctions evasion patterns continue to emerge.

Mr. President,

Allow me to stress that sanctions are not an end in themselves. Their purpose remains clear: to create conditions conducive to dialogue and to the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

At the same time, Greece remains concerned by the humanitarian situation in the DPRK. The continued allocation of major national resources to military and nuclear development, while humanitarian needs remain acute, raises serious concerns. We therefore reiterate our call on the DPRK to facilitate humanitarian access, ease restrictions on aid delivery, and allow international humanitarian personnel to operate without unnecessary impediments.

Moreover, Mr. President, allow me to reiterate our concern regarding the military presence of the DPRK in the war against Ukraine, which includes transfers of ballistic missiles, ammunition and other military materiel. Such actions not only violate relevant Security Council resolutions but also directly link proliferation concerns on the Korean Peninsula with serious threats to European security.

In conclusion, Mr. president,

At a time when the IAEA confirms a continued expansion of nuclear activities, ballistic missile testing persists, and proliferation risks increasingly intersect with other major conflicts, unity within this Council remains indispensable to safeguarding regional and international peace and security.

I thank you.