

RENMUN VI

Finding Solace in Solidarity



March 6 – 7, 2021

CHAIR REPORT

International Atomic Energy Agency

Introduction

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of RENMUN 2021! We are Jacqueline Sin and Amelia Lau, your Head and Deputy Chairs, and we are delighted to have you in our council.

The IAEA is an intergovernmental organization under the United Nations, established to oversee the peaceful and sustainable use of atomic energy globally. IAEA promotes the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes, such as assisting member states in the generation of electricity as well as facilitating the exchange of nuclear technology between states. IAEA serves the important function of ensuring nuclear safety. Throughout the years, IAEA has developed nuclear safety standards and implemented various programmes to safeguard human health, food safety and environmental sustainability, in the increasingly popular use of nuclear energy.

We hope to see everyone fully immersing themselves in these two days of debate, representing your countries' stances well, as well as compromising to make all-rounded resolutions. As chairs, we expect you to do prior research and demonstrate your understanding of the topic. You are encouraged to step out of your comfort zone, and take one more step further in your MUN career, in order to make the best out of your experiences. We are more than happy to answer any and all queries you may have. If you have any such questions, feel free to contact us at sinjacqueline121@gmail.com or sp20166121@spcc.edu.hk! We look forward to sharing an amazing experience with you at RENMUN 2021!

Best wishes,
Jacqueline Sin and Amelia Lau
Chairs of IAEA, RENMUN VI

Question on the North Korean Nuclear Programme

Nuclear weapons are capable of inducing mass destruction, endangering millions of human lives, damaging the environment and harming human health in the long run. An example would be the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Apart from the enormous number of deaths, the sea waters and marine lives are still contaminated today after more than 70 years of time. As a result, the promotion of denuclearization around the globe is of utmost importance.

DPRK is one of the few countries possessing nuclear weapons with limited commitment to the Non-proliferation Treaty. DPRK has conducted numerous nuclear tests and revealed uranium enrichment facilities with the capability to create nuclear weapons. In 2017, DPRK even claimed to have successfully created a thermonuclear weapon. DPRK has also advanced rapidly in terms of missile technology, with one missile being able to travel as far as New York. Since it is likely that DPRK also possesses the technology to fit a miniaturised nuclear warhead inside a missile, the international community is extremely concerned with the denuclearization of DPRK, especially in view of tensions in the Korean peninsula between DPRK and South Korea.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Missile	Composed of four components: targeting, flight system, engine and warhead, a missile is a flying weapon that has its own engine so that it can travel a long distance before exploding at the place that it has been aimed at. A guided rocket that causes explosions at designated areas.
Nuclear weapons	Explosive devices that are powered by nuclear reactions. Only nine countries in the world, including DPRK and the US, possess nuclear weapons.

Deterrence	The idea that if countries have nuclear weapons, the threat of an overwhelming retaliation in response to an attack will keep the peace.
Treaty on the Non- proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)	Signed in 1968, the NPT is the most widely adhered-to international security agreement. The three pillars of the treaty are nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	Opened for signature in 1996 at the UN GA, the CTBT prohibits all nuclear testing if it enters into force. The treaty establishes the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) to ensure the implementation of its provisions and verify compliance through a global monitoring system upon entry into force.

Background Information

Reasons why DPRK developed nuclear weapons

There are many speculations revolving around DPRK's motives in developing nuclear weapons. Many debate whether DPRK wishes to use nuclear weapons merely in exchange for more political and economic benefits, or does DPRK have other intentions, such as unifying the Korean Peninsula or even attacking the United States. Despite the discussions, there are a few obvious objectives of developing nuclear weapons.

It was believed that DPRK first developed nuclear weapons to ensure national security. In the 1960s, DPRK believed that it could not rely too much on its allies for defense, namely the Soviet Union and China, especially after the Cuban Missile Crisis. Deterrence and national security is still one major concern nowadays. North Korea media once said, "History proves that powerful nuclear deterrence serves as the strongest treasured sword for frustrating outsiders' aggression." DPRK referred to Libya and Iraq. The Libyan leader Qaddafi was killed and Libya fell into chaos and civil war after Libya gave up its nuclear programme. Saddam Hussein in Iraq did not have nuclear weapons. DPRK believed that possessing nuclear

weapons is the key to protecting its leader and regime from possible foreign aggression, such as that from the United States.

Another important factor is international prestige, legitimacy and increased bargaining power. Possessing nuclear weapons contributes to national pride by achieving an equal status with the United States. It also provides increased leverage for international negotiations, especially in exchange for food, technology or aid.

Timeline of DPRK's nuclear programme

Year	Event	Detailed Description of Event
1953	Division of Korea	Korea was divided into the North and the South according to the 38th parallel, with the USSR setting up a communist government in the North and the US forming a military government in the South.
1959	Nuclear Cooperation Agreement	The USSR promised to support North Korea with basic nuclear training and technology in a cooperation agreement.
1985	Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)	North Korea ratified and joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), a multilateral agreement whose dozens of signatories have committed to halting the spread of nuclear weapons and technology and promoting peaceful cooperation on nuclear energy, with the aim to 'make the Korean peninsula a non-nuclear zone'.
1993	Threat to withdraw from the NPT	North Korea refused to admit inspection from the IAEA and threatened to leave the NPT.
1994	IAEA Membership	North Korea withdrew from membership in the IAEA.
	Agreed Framework	North Korea promised to halt its nuclear weapons programme and construction of reactors in the Agreed Framework. IAEA was allowed to monitor the 'disarmament' in North Korea.
1999	Easing of	North Korea agreed to suspend its long-range missiles

	sanctions	programme, and the US would ease economic sanctions in exchange.
2002	Collapse of the Agreed Framework	North Korea admitted that it had a secret uranium enrichment programme which created nuclear weapons, leading to a collapse of the Agreed Framework.
2003	Withdrawal from NPT	North Korea ordered IAEA inspectors to leave and announced its withdrawal on 11 January 2003.
2005	Breakthrough in Six Party Talks	In the Six Party Talks (which DPRK agreed to joining in 2003), DPRK agreed to abandon "all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs" and return to the NPT.
2006	First Nuclear Test	North Korea conducted a first nuclear test underground, with South Korea recording an explosion equivalent to 550 tonnes of TN. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 1718, prohibiting the export of military and luxury goods to North Korea.
2007	Agreement on Action Plan in Six Party Talks	In the Six Party Talks, North Korea agreed to 'shut down and seal for the purpose of eventual abandonment the Yongbyon nuclear facility' and that it would 'invite back IAEA personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verifications as agreed'. In return, North Korea could receive oil and a slight relaxation of sanctions.
2009	Second Nuclear Test	North Korea conducted another underground nuclear test. It decided to cease all cooperation with the IAEA and inspectors once again left the country.
	Breakdown of the Six Party Talks	The International community condemned the test, angering DPRK, who announced that it would leave the talks and would no longer be bound by previous agreements in the Talks.
2010	Uranium enrichment	North Korea was discovered to be developing a new uranium enrichment facility.
2012	Suspension of uranium enrichment	North Korea promised to suspend its uranium enrichment programme and adopt a moratorium on missile and nuclear testing. It also allowed IAEA inspection again.

2013	Third Nuclear Test	North Korea has conducted a third nuclear test, with authorities claiming that it was a 'miniaturised' nuclear device with a greater explosive force than those in previous nuclear tests.
	Stronger sanctions	The US, UK, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea all condemned the test. The United Nations Security Council passed stronger sanctions on DPRK with more severe restrictions on North Korean banking, travel and trade.
	Failed resumption of Six Party Talks	China pushed for the resumption of talks by holding a commemorative ceremony on the 10th anniversary of the Six Party Talks, which was boycotted by the US, Japan and South Korea in the absence of North Korean commitments.
2016	Fourth and Fifth Nuclear Test	The Fourth test was the first successful test of a hydrogen bomb, which is more powerful than an atomic bomb. North Korea's nuclear device in the fifth test was 'a nuclear warhead that has been standardised to be able to be mounted on strategic ballistic rockets,' with reports suggesting that it was the 'strongest nuclear test ever' comparable to that dropped by the US in 1945 on Hiroshima.
2017	Sixth Nuclear Test	North Korea successfully tested a miniaturised hydrogen bomb which could be loaded onto a long range missile, with seismic readings showing that the test was the biggest ever conducted.
2018	Completion of nuclear programme	North Korea declared that North Korean nuclear forces are "capable of thwarting and countering any nuclear threats from the United States".
	Stalemate	Talks were held between North Korea and South Korea, US, China, Japan and Russia on various occasions throughout the year. In the United Nations Security Council, North Korea argued for 'coercive measures' in sight of the deadlock in negotiations. China and Russia supported the easing of sanctions, while the US believed that sanctions should be implemented until complete

		denuclearisation is achieved.
2019	Stalemate	<p>North Korea stated that "that we would neither make and test nuclear weapons any longer nor use and proliferate them."</p> <p>Trump and Kim Jong Un met in February but were unable to come to terms on a signed agreement.</p> <p>The US and DPRK convened working-level negotiations again in October but talks fell apart as they failed to reach a consensus.</p>
2020	Stalemate	<p>The US and DPRK still failed to reach a consensus on the exchange of denuclearisation for the lifting of sanctions.</p> <p>Many urged for the resumption of US-North Korean talks, yet they would not be constructive unless concessions were made on either side</p>

Potential Clashes

Below are the key issues in this topic. For more details on the clashes, please refer to the sections on key stakeholders and possible solutions.

Possession of nuclear weapons

The issues of North Korea's nuclear weapons focus on the unresolved conflict of weapons possession. North Korea sees her nuclear capabilities as an assurance of security and defense, while the United States, however, does not tolerate any nuclear threats or the risk of transfer of nuclear technologies to hostile states or terrorist groups, and has threatened military escalation.

Lifting economic sanctions as an incentive

The US believed that sanctions should be in place until the complete denuclearisation of DPRK. On the other hand, Russia and China believed that sanctions could be lessened to encourage DPRK to return to more talks and make concessions.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	<p>Possessing nuclear weapons is paramount to its security and international status from the North Korean perspective. It is believed that nuclear tests are designed to demonstrate DPRK's power and capability to incite mass destruction, which could increase DPRK's bargaining power in international affairs. The DPRK government also claimed that developing nuclear weapons can bring about economic development, prosperity and stability with no threats from the outside world. Some analysts believe that the leader of North Korea is reluctant to give up its nuclear weapons for fear of being removed from power by the US as seen from the examples of Iran, Iraq and Libya.</p> <p>However, DPRK is also willing to cease production of nuclear weapons with certain benefits in exchange, as seen from its requests in negotiations. A non-aggression security pledge from the US is one of the things it repeatedly stresses in negotiations. In the eyes of DPRK, the US possesses naval fleets in the Pacific and troops in South Korea and Japan, posing a potential military threat to her. DPRK is thus against joint military training in the region involving the US, Japan and South Korea, and it wants a pledge of non-aggression from the US. In 2002, the US also claimed DPRK as one of the members of the 'Axis of Evil' along with Iran and Iraq in the 'War on Terror'. DPRK also wishes for normalized US-DPRK relations.</p> <p>Another factor is food and energy supplies. DPRK has a relatively low GDP and low living standards, especially with economic sanctions limiting the sales of fuel, coal and oil to her. Food aid and energy resources also act as incentives for DPRK to cease the production of nuclear weapons, in exchange for more humanitarian aid and more food and electricity for its citizens.</p>
United States	<p>The US is mainly concerned with the security threats brought by North Korea's nuclear program, as well as the potential</p>

	<p>sale of nuclear materials and technology to hostile states or terrorist groups. As a result, the US stresses on the importance of IAEA monitoring in DPRK. The US maintains relatively friendly relations and is open to talks with DPRK under the Trump administration. However, the US also insists on the imposition of economic sanctions until the complete denuclearisation of DPRK.</p>
China	<p>China has been an ally of North Korea and her biggest trade partner and main supplier of energy and food. The Chinese government prioritises over the denuclearization of North Korea. Moreover, their order of importance may shift in response to the overall situation of the Korean peninsula and the behavior of the other stakeholders involved. In 2017, for instance, China's primary concern was preventing war, after Trump stated that "all options are on the table" to resolve the North Korean conflict, including military action.</p>
Russia	<p>While Russia plays a significant role in East Asia and one of the major powers that can influence key issues, her view on the conflict is dependent on her relations with the United States. Russia condemned North Korea's nuclear and missile programme and pointed out how it would undermine the non- proliferation regime. Not only is Russia concerned about the possibility of nuclear technology and material falling into the control of terrorists, but also the loss of status if the nuclear capabilities of North Korea expands.</p>
Japan	<p>Japan is threatened by DPRK's nuclear programme as the missiles tested (which may possess the capability to carry nuclear weapons) are often launched at or over them with its proximity to DPRK geographically.</p>
South Korea	<p>South Korea's goal is to reunify the Korean Peninsula and seek reconciliation with North Korea, hence has been trying to promote dialogue between the United States and North Korea with an attempt to denuclearise North Korea.</p>

Past Actions

Treaty on Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was signed in 1968 by the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, the three states having nuclear weapons at that time, along with 59 other states. Currently, 191 countries have ratified the Treaty with the notable exception of India, Israel and Pakistan, who have refused to sign, and DPRK, who has signed and withdrawn from it in 2003.

The aim of the Treaty is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and eventually, to promote nuclear disarmament. The Treaty has established a safeguards system under the IAEA to verify compliance with the Treaty through regular inspections.

Agreed Framework between US and DPRK

The Agreed Framework was signed in 1994 between the US and the DPRK. DPRK agreed to freeze construction and operation of nuclear reactors (which were suspected to be a part of a nuclear weapon programme) in exchange for 2 proliferation-resistant reactors. In addition, the US would supply DPRK with fuel oil. The Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO) was formed to implement the agreement, and IAEA inspectors were allowed in North Korea again.

The Agreed Framework solved the nuclear crisis in which DPRK threatened to withdraw from NPT in 1993. However, after DPRK was discovered to be pursuing a secret uranium enrichment programme in 2002, the Agreed Framework collapsed. The US announced that it would suspend construction of the 2 nuclear reactors. DPRK expelled IAEA inspectors and announced its withdrawal from the NPT in 2003.

Six Party Talks

Six Party Talks are attended by China, Japan, Russia, the United States, South Korea and DPRK with the aim of denuclearisation of DPRK. Six-Party Talks began with the collapse of the Agreed Framework and the withdrawal of DPRK from the NPT in 2003.

These talks usually involved a discussion on the denuclearisation of DPRK in exchange for food and oil from the other states, such as fuel oil from Russia or humanitarian programmes from the US. In 2005, an agreement was reached where DPRK agreed to abandon its development of nuclear weapons and rejoin the NPT in exchange for food and energy assistance. In 2007, this agreement was put into action. DPRK disabled its Yongbyon plant and removed fuel rods. However, DPRK withdrew from the talks in 2009.

Possible Solutions

Securing IAEA Inspection

IAEA contributes to denuclearisation efforts through regular inspections of nuclear sites in DPRK. There are various purposes for these inspections. One aim is to verify DPRK's compliance with nuclear agreements such as the NPT or other agreed plans, such as the frameworks made in Six Party Talks. Other goals include gaining more information for the formulation of feasible and effective disablement plans which clearly outline the different stages and steps of denuclearisation matching DPRK's situation. Regulation inspections also allow IAEA to monitor DPRK's development in nuclear weapons and follow up through international negotiations accordingly.

However, DPRK has refused to allow IAEA inspection on multiple occasions throughout history, such as 1993, 2003 and 2009, to name just a few. Seeing the importance of IAEA inspection as outlined above, ensuring DPRK's cooperation with IAEA is thus a crucial step in denuclearisation.

UN Resolutions and Economic sanctions

The international community negotiates with DPRK and encourages DPRK to denuclearise with the imposition of economic sanctions in UN Resolutions. Various economic sanctions were imposed in response to DPRK's nuclear tests. In 2006, Resolution 1718 was passed in the United Nations Security Council, imposing sanctions on DPRK with restrictions on the sales and transportation of arms, coal, iron, crude oil, seafood, textiles and luxury goods. Resolution 1874 was passed in 2009, imposing further economic and commercial sanctions on DPRK and encouraging member states to search North Korean cargo. Resolution 2094 in 2013 increased the power of member states to enforce previous sanctions. In 2016,

the United Nations Security Council imposed new sanctions which aimed at cutting DPRK's annual export revenue by a quarter.

Lifting economic sanctions and providing food and energy supplies are the incentives for DPRK to denuclearise in negotiations. In fact, the extent to which economic sanctions should be lifted is the source of disagreement in recent US-DPRK talks. The US generally pushed for stronger sanctions and insisted on the lifting of economic sanctions only with complete denuclearisation in DPRK. On the other hand, Russia and China encouraged DPRK to go back to negotiations with the easing of sanctions in view of DPRK's willingness to talk. Despite the lack of a consensus on the amount of sanctions which should be imposed, economic sanctions and aid are indeed important ways to encourage DPRK to denuclearise.

Talks

DPRK agrees to denuclearise through agreements, which is only made possible through negotiations on bilateral, regional and international levels in all kinds of settings, including Six Party Talks, Summits, meetings between representatives and the United Nations, to name a few. Currently, talks between DPRK and the US have paused after multiple failed attempts to create a written agreement. The stalemate is due to a reluctance on both sides to make concessions regarding details of denuclearisation and the amount of sanctions lifted / aid given in exchange. Negotiation is undoubtedly the fundamental element for the complete denuclearisation of DPRK in the future. The question is how to initiate negotiations between uncompromising parties, and how to make talks effective with written agreements / progress made at the end.

Guiding Questions

- Should North Korea be allowed to possess nuclear weapons as a nuclear deterrent?
- Is it feasible for countries to be completely denuclearized?
- Is the nuclear non-proliferation regime possible if current atomic states continue to use nuclear weapons for deterrence?
- How to ensure the implemented sanctions are effective at making certain of compliance of all states?

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