

C. Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

During the period under review, the Council held nine meetings under the item entitled “Non-proliferation/Democratic People’s Republic of Korea”. Eight meetings took the form of a briefing and one was convened to adopt a decision.¹⁰⁴³ The Council adopted one resolution, under Chapter VII of the Charter, by which it extended the mandate of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) in support of the Committee established pursuant to resolution [1718 \(2006\)](#).¹⁰⁴⁴ More information on the meetings, including on participants, speakers and outcomes, is provided in the table below. In addition to the meetings, Council members held informal consultations of the whole in connection with the item.¹⁰⁴⁵

During the period under review, Council members heard briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas of the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations. Their briefings focused on the continued launches by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea using ballistic missile technology, including multiple launches of an intercontinental ballistic missile,¹⁰⁴⁶ and attempts to launch military reconnaissance satellites during the year.¹⁰⁴⁷ The briefers also noted that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea had continued implementing its five-year military plan unveiled in January 2021,¹⁰⁴⁸ and further adopted a constitutional amendment in September 2023 to enshrine the policy on nuclear forces in its Constitution, demonstrating its strong intention to continue pursuing its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programme.¹⁰⁴⁹ The briefers reiterated the call by the Secretary-General for all States to reinforce and recommit to the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive

¹⁰⁴³ For more information on the format of meetings, see part II.

¹⁰⁴⁴ For more information on the mandate of the Committee and its Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

¹⁰⁴⁵ See [A/78/2](#), part II, chap. 33.

¹⁰⁴⁶ See [S/PV. 9264](#), [S/PV.9287](#), [S/PV. 9305](#), [S/PV. 9376](#), and [S/PV. 9514](#).

¹⁰⁴⁷ See [S/PV. 9336](#), [S/PV. 9406](#), and [S/PV. 9485](#).

¹⁰⁴⁸ See [S/PV. 9264](#), [S/PV.9287](#), [S/PV. 9305](#), [S/PV. 9336](#), [S/PV. 9376](#), [S/PV. 9406](#) and [S/PV.9485](#).

¹⁰⁴⁹ See [S/PV. 9485](#).

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. With tensions growing on the Korean peninsula, the briefers underlined the importance of diplomacy and dialogue, urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to resume dialogue and to re-establish communication channels, particularly between military entities, and called on Council members to unite and make full use of the tools available to halt the negative trend, including through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation. They also urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to maintain the highest level of safety at its nuclear facilities and to exercise maximum restraint to avoid unintended accidents or miscalculations.¹⁰⁵⁰ On the humanitarian situation in the country, the briefers continued to urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to allow unimpeded access of the international community to the country and reiterated the readiness of the United Nations to assist in that regard.

At those meetings, many speakers expressed deep concern and condemnation over the continued missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in violation of the relevant Council resolutions, which endangered international peace and security and undermined the global non-proliferation regime.¹⁰⁵¹ Some speakers deplored that the Council's silence and failure to act had emboldened the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reiterated their call for the unity of Council on the matter.¹⁰⁵² Believing that the Council should uphold its own decisions and responsibilities, several speakers expressed support for the proposal of the United States for a presidential statement.¹⁰⁵³ Noting that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea financed its unlawful proliferation activities through the evasion of sanctions, some speakers called for the full implementation of sanctions measures imposed by the Council resolutions and emphasized that all Member States should comply with the resolutions.¹⁰⁵⁴

¹⁰⁵⁰ See [S/PV. 9376](#), [S/PV.9406](#), [S/PV. 9485](#), and [S/PV. 9514](#).

¹⁰⁵¹ See, for example, [S/PV. 9514](#) (United States, Albania, France, Japan, Malta, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Brazil, Ghana, Gabon, Switzerland, Ecuador and Republic of Korea).

¹⁰⁵² See, for example, [S/PV. 9264](#) (United States, Albania, France, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Ghana, Switzerland, Malta and Republic of Korea); [S/PV. 9485](#) (France, Japan, Malta, Ghana and Republic of Korea); and [S/PV. 9514](#) (United States, France, Malta, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Republic of Korea).

¹⁰⁵³ See, for example, [S/PV. 9264](#) (United States, United Kingdom, Japan and Malta); [S/PV.9287](#) (United States, Albania, Japan, Malta, Brazil and Switzerland); and [S/PV. 9305](#) (Japan and Malta).

¹⁰⁵⁴ See, for example, [S/PV. 9264](#) (Albania, France, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Ghana, Switzerland, Malta and Republic of Korea); and [S/PV. 9305](#) (United States, Malta, France, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and Republic of Korea).

Some speakers emphasized alternative approaches to tackling the issue. The representative of Brazil, echoed by several other speakers, suggested that the Council make better use of its Chapter VI tools, including prevention and mediation, to promote dialogue and cooperation and a political settlement.¹⁰⁵⁵ Stressing the importance of a comprehensive multilateral security solution, the representative of Ghana opined that it was time for regional actors and other key stakeholders to lead the efforts of addressing the security and development challenges in their region.¹⁰⁵⁶

While noting tensions and intensified confrontation, the representative of China stated that efforts to pursue stronger military alliances and increase deterrence and pressure were counterproductive, only triggering more problems and aggravating tensions.¹⁰⁵⁷ In the same vein, he expressed reservations about the adoption of a Council resolution or presidential statement, as his delegation did not deem it constructive.¹⁰⁵⁸ The representative of the Russian Federation stated that one-sided approaches of only condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were the root cause of the Council's inability to choose the right optics for discussing the mounting threats.¹⁰⁵⁹ Both representatives reiterated that the joint Russian-Chinese draft political and humanitarian resolution remained on the table, the adoption of which, they believed, would contribute constructively to the process of regional settlement.¹⁰⁶⁰ The representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States expressed opposition to the easing of sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, proposed in the joint draft resolution on the ground, as it would reward countries that willfully violate the Council resolutions.¹⁰⁶¹

Several speakers expressed strong opposition to the claim by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that launches using ballistic missile technologies were its right to self-defence

¹⁰⁵⁵ See [S/PV. 9264](#) (Gabon); [S/PV. 9287](#) (Brazil); [S/PV. 9305](#) (Brazil); [S/PV. 9376](#) (Brazil); [S/PV. 9485](#) (Switzerland, Brazil and China); and [S/PV. 9514](#) (Mozambique).

¹⁰⁵⁶ See [S/PV. 9485](#).

¹⁰⁵⁷ See [S/PV. 9514](#).

¹⁰⁵⁸ See [S/PV. 9287](#).

¹⁰⁵⁹ See [S/PV. 9514](#).

¹⁰⁶⁰ See, for example, [S/PV. 9336](#) and [S/PV. 9485](#).

¹⁰⁶¹ See [S/PV. 9287](#) (United Kingdom and United States); [S/PV. 9336](#) (United States); [S/PV. 9485](#) (United States); and [S/PV. 9514](#) (United States).

aimed at safeguarding sovereignty and security,¹⁰⁶² pointing out that it was not about exercising the right to self-defence, but rather a challenge to the international non-proliferation regime and violations of Council resolutions.¹⁰⁶³

At the meetings, some Council members also raised the issue of the humanitarian situation in the country and urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate with the United Nations and the international community to alleviate the dire humanitarian situation affecting its people and to allow humanitarian assistance to resume within the country.¹⁰⁶⁴

On 23 March, the Council unanimously adopted resolution [2680 \(2023\)](#), extending the mandate of the Panel of Experts appointed pursuant to resolution [1874 \(2009\)](#) for a period of 12 months, until 30 April 2024.¹⁰⁶⁵ Five Council members made statements after the adoption of the resolution.¹⁰⁶⁶ The representative of the United States, the penholder of the resolution, stated that prior to the majority decision to seek a technical rollover, Council members had discussed several proposals, including concerns about leaks, the inner working and composition of the Panel of Experts, and improving the process of receiving regular assessments from the Panel of Experts on the country's ballistic missile advancements through briefings or incidents reports, and noted that the Council could not come to a decision on a package that would address all the concerns. He expressed hope of continuing discussions on those issues through the Committee's regular business. Noting the efforts of the penholder to address the concerns of the parties, the representatives of China expressed regret that the main elements of the changes proposed by his country had not been taken on board, and that some of the suggestions on the working methods and performance of the Panel of Experts were not reflected either. The representative of the Russian Federation found regrettable that the penholder had not incorporated a number of important proposals of his delegation, including the need to minimize the unintended adverse

¹⁰⁶² See [S/PV. 9376](#) and [S/PV. 9406](#).

¹⁰⁶³ See [S/PV. 9406](#) (United States and Japan); and [S/PV. 9485](#) (Albania, Japan and United States). For more information on Article 51 relating to self-defence, see part VII, sect X. s

¹⁰⁶⁴ See [S/PV. 9264](#) (United Arab Emirates, Switzerland and Malta); [S/PV. 9287](#) (United Kingdom, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and United States).

¹⁰⁶⁵ See resolution [2680 \(2023\)](#), para. 1. For more information on the mandate of the Committee and its Panel of Experts, see part IX, sect. I.B.

¹⁰⁶⁶ See [S/PV. 9292](#) (United States, China, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Japan).

impact of sanctions on the population of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea as well as to enhance coordination within the Panel of Experts and improve its overall functioning. Noting that not all views had necessarily been reflected due to a lack of consensus, the representative of Japan commended the efforts of the penholder to maintain unity among Council members. The representatives of Japan and Switzerland underlined the critical role of the Panel of Experts and its reports as an invaluable source of information for the Committee and Member States on the implementation of sanctions in line with the relevant Council resolutions.

Meetings: Non-proliferation / Democratic Republic of Korea, 2023

<i>Meeting record and date</i>	<i>Sub-item</i>	<i>Other documents</i>	<i>Rule 37 invitations</i>	<i>Rule 39 and other invitations</i>	<i>Speakers</i>	<i>Decision and vote (for-against-abstaining)</i>
S/PV. 9264 20 February			Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV. 9287 20 March			Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV. 9292 23 March		Draft resolution submitted by United States (S/2023/215)			Five Council members (China, Japan, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States)	Resolution 2680 (2023) 15-0-0 (adopted under Chapter VII)
S/PV.9305 17 April			Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.9336 2 June			Republic of Korea	Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	All Council members, all invitees	

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S/PV.9376 13 July			Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.9406 25 August			Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.9485 27 November			Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific	All Council members, all invitees	
S/PV.9514 19 December			Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea	Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific		