

**Conference on Disarmament
High-Level Segment**

Joint Statement

Delivered on behalf of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States

Geneva, 26 February 2025

Madame President,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Republic of Korea, Japan and the United States in response to the statement by the DPRK.

It is deeply regrettable that the DPRK persists in distorting reality and disseminating false information about its unlawful WMD and ballistic missile programs.

The DPRK continues to advance its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities and to escalate its destabilizing activities in a clear violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

On the contrary, the ROK-U.S.-Japan trilateral security cooperation as well as bilateral deterrence and defense posture, including our bilateral and trilateral exercises, are defensive measures conducted in accordance with international law and reflect the responsibilities of our governments to further peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the region.

It is the DPRK that has continued its reckless provocations through the launching of ballistic missiles, including an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) last October, along with an “Intermediate Range Hypersonic Ballistic Missile (IRBM)” last month all in blatant violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It has also continued its irresponsible and destabilizing nuclear rhetoric, openly threatening the preemptive use of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, the DPRK deployed its troops to Russia and they have engaged in combat against Ukraine in addition to transferring deadly munitions and ballistic missiles to Russia.

It is evident who is threatening whom.

Moreover, it is a choice by the DPRK to prioritize its unlawful WMD programs over the welfare of the people of DPRK. In this regard, we condemn the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread, and gross violations of human rights in and by the DPRK. We are also committed to the immediate resolution of the issues of abductees, detainees, and unrepatriated prisoners of war as well as the issue of separated families.

Let it be clear. The international community has been consistent and resolute that the DPRK cannot and will never have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT under any circumstances. We once again call on Pyongyang to abandon its WMD and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner and return to dialogue for denuclearization.

I thank you, Madame President. /END/