

**2026 11th Review Conference of the Parties to the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**

Statement by Anne Lazar, Head of Delegation of France

7 May 2026

-- Addressing the North Korean nuclear challenge --

I have the honour of delivering this speech on behalf of the following 82 countries and the European Union: **Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor Leste, Tonga, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Yemen, and my own country, France.**

We, State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), express our grave concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) continuous build-up of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, including continued ballistic missile launches, as well as recent ballistic missile launches that the DPRK claims involved hypersonic systems. The DPRK's nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, and ballistic missile programmes, pose a grave and urgent threat to regional and international peace and security, and undermine the global non-proliferation regime. They are in clear violation of multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, which decide that the DPRK shall abandon all nuclear weapons, existing nuclear programmes and any other existing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programmes in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. This challenge remains central to the NPT and to the work of this Review Conference.

We strongly condemn the DPRK's continued nuclear activities in defiance of its international obligations, as outlined in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General's most recent safeguards report and statements, and call

on the DPRK to immediately stop all nuclear-related activities and any efforts to expand or modify its nuclear facilities. We express serious concerns over the ongoing fissile material production activities in the DPRK, which comprise both plutonium reprocessing and uranium enrichment. These programmes are dedicated to the stated objective of exponentially increasing the DPRK's nuclear weapons. We also express serious concerns over the DPRK's continued irresponsible and destabilising nuclear rhetoric, which accompanies its nuclear build-up.

We condemn the continued escalatory actions taken by the DPRK in accelerating its unlawful ballistic missile programme that poses a threat to neighbouring countries and undermines regional and international peace and security.

We urge the DPRK to reverse course and to take concrete steps towards completely abandoning all nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and related programmes and to immediately cease all related activities in accordance with all relevant UNSC resolutions.

We urge the DPRK not to conduct any additional nuclear tests and immediately cease taking further destabilising steps in violation of relevant UNSC resolutions.

We reiterate our steadfast commitment to the objective of the DPRK's return at an early date to, and full compliance with, the NPT and IAEA safeguards, as well as its international obligations under UNSC resolutions. Only these concrete steps will ensure the preservation of regional and international peace and security and that the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, of which the NPT is the cornerstone, is upheld.

Expressing our firm conviction on the maintenance of the international regime on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we reaffirm that the DPRK cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT, as stated in UNSC resolutions 1718 (2006) and 1874 (2009), and in the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. We remain concerned by statements or actions by others that support, accept and/or refer to the DPRK's nuclear weapons program as a "closed issue".

We reaffirm our commitment to the international non-proliferation regime and urge all UN Member States to exercise strict vigilance over potential proliferation to and from the DPRK. We regret that the UN Security Council did not agree to renew the mandate of the UN DPRK Panel of Experts on 28th March 2024,

making our ability to hold the DPRK to account even more difficult. We reiterate that we will, nonetheless, continue to fully implement relevant UNSC resolutions and call on all UN Member States to uphold their non-proliferation commitments and fully implement all UNSC sanctions. We encourage and support all efforts to facilitate full implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions. To this end, we commit to further strengthening international cooperation.

We continue to support all efforts to resume dialogue through proactive de-escalation and confidence-building measures, aiming to achieve sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula, and call on the DPRK to accept the repeated offers of dialogue put forward by all parties concerned, including the United States, the Republic of Korea and Japan for meaningful diplomacy and negotiations. We are committed to working with all relevant partners toward sustainable peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

The official English-language version will be published on the secretariat website together with the French-language version.