



European Union

CTBTO

Special Session

12.02.2013

As Delivered

Mr Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and Croatia.
2. We are grateful for this informal meeting of the Preparatory Commission, and we would like to express our thanks also to the Provisional Technical Secretariat for this morning's prompt and comprehensive technical briefing on today's announced nuclear test by the DPRK. We appreciate the timely provision of information by the PTS in accordance with its mandate. We reiterate our full confidence in the CTBTO's verification regime, namely its monitoring system, that allows the international community to assess the situation and to respond to this threat to international peace and security accordingly.

Mr Chairman,

3. I would like to take this opportunity to quote from a statement delivered this morning by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the EU.

4. "The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the latest DPRK nuclear test earlier today - one more step in a long-running programme to develop a nuclear weapon capability - and urges the DPRK to refrain from further provocative actions.
5. This nuclear test is a further blatant challenge to the global non-proliferation regime and an outright violation of the DPRK's international obligations not to produce or test nuclear weapons, in particular under UN Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874 and 2087.
6. As such, it constitutes a serious threat to a lasting peace in the Korean Peninsula and to both regional and international security and stability in North-East Asia. UNSC Resolution 2087 adopted unanimously last month further clarifies the international community's determination to take significant action in the event of a nuclear test, which would lead the DPRK towards further isolation. The EU remains seized of the matter and will work with key partners and the wider international community to build a firm and unified response aiming at demonstrating to the DPRK that there are consequences for its continued violations of UNSC Resolutions. We once again urge the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons programme, including its uranium enrichment programme, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.
7. The EU strongly urges the DPRK to engage in a dialogue with the international community, including in the framework of the Six-party Talks which would be conducive to regional stability."

In conclusion, Mr Chairman,

8. The EU would like to stress that today's events highlight the urgency for prompt ratification and the immediate entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

