

Parliamentary Statement on Nuclear Testing

in response to the nuclear weapons test by North Korea

As parliamentarians/legislators from across the political spectrum, and from countries around the world, we share a concern about the announcement by the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea that they have tested a nuclear weapon.

This act increases tensions in North East Asia, increases the risks of further proliferation in the region and globally, and is in violation of obligations of North Korea and all other countries to end nuclear testing and work for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

There have been over 2000 nuclear weapons test explosions conducted by China, France, India, Pakistan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, each one contaminating the environment, threatening the peace and stimulating the nuclear arms race. There is no need for any more testing by any country.

We welcome the negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the overwhelming support it has already received. We call on those few States that have not yet ratified the treaty – particularly those with nuclear capabilities including North Korea, China, India, Israel, Pakistan and the United States – to do so.

We also call on North Korea to rejoin the Six Party talks, with China, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States, for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and to explore the possibility for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in North East Asia. We call on all six parties to refrain from any further provocative actions that could derail these talks, including any threats to use force against any of the parties.

We are encouraged by the international monitoring system developed by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation which has the technical capacity to detect nuclear tests anywhere in the world. And we look forward to the treaty's entry-into-force in order to make available its compliance mechanisms in the case of any treaty violation.

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