



## Situation in Korean Peninsula: Responses of Six Party Members (North Korea, United States, South Korea, China, Russia and Japan) - Who Said What

**December 20-31, 2017**

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On December 22, 2017, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed a new set of sanction against North Korea in response to its ICBM launch on November 28, 2017. The U.S. drafted resolution seeks to slash refined petroleum product exports to North Korea by 89 percent. The council imposed an annual cap of 2 million barrels in September, and the new resolution calls for a further reduction to 500,000 barrels.<sup>1</sup>

Country	Comments
North Korea	<p><b>Kim Jong-un</b></p> <p>January 1, 2018<sup>2</sup></p> <p>“The Winter Games to be held in South Korea will be a good occasion</p>

<sup>1</sup> “Non-proliferation/Democratic People’s Republic of Korea”, UNSC, December 22, 2017, [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2397\(2017\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2397(2017))

<sup>2</sup> “N.K. willing to send delegation to PyeongChang Olympics: leader”, The Yonhap News, January 1, 2018, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/29/0401000000AEN20171229005253315.html>; “Kim Jong Un says the nuclear button is always on his desk”, The CNN, January 1, 2018, <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/12/31/asia/kim-jong-un-new-year-address-nuclear/index.html>

for the country. We sincerely hope that the Winter Olympics will be a success.”

"We are ready to take various steps, including the dispatch of the delegation. To this end, the two Koreas can immediately meet."

"This year marks the 70th anniversary of the North Korean regime's establishment, and the South will host the Winter Games. This year holds significance for the two Koreas.”

"The entire mainland of the US is within the range of our nuclear weapons and the nuclear button is always on the desk of my office. They should accurately be aware that this is not a threat but a reality,"

"We need to mass-produce nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles and accelerate their deployment.”

. "We should always keep readiness to take immediate nuclear counterattacks against the enemy's scheme for a nuclear war."

#### KCNA

December 30, 2017<sup>3</sup>

"The DPRK, an undeniable new strategic state and nuclear power of Juche, declares: Do not expect any change in its policy. Its entity as an invincible power can neither be undermined nor be stamped out."

"On February 12 the DPRK successfully test-fired the new type strategic weapon system Pukguksong-2, ground-to-ground intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket...On Nov. 29, the DPRK succeeded in the test-fire of new type ICBM Hwasong-15 reflecting its tremendous might as a world-class military power.”

"The U.S. persistent moves against the DPRK in political, economic, military, diplomatic and all other fields till the end of this year could not stop even a moment the advance of the DPRK confident in the victory of its cause.”

"The DPRK, as a responsible nuclear weapons state, will lead the trend

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<sup>3</sup> "No Force Can Prevail over Independence and Justice: KCNA's Detailed Report", KCNA, December 30, 2017, <https://kcnawatch.co/newstream/1514680252-367646841/no-force-can-prevail-over-independence-and-justice-kcnas-detailed-report/>

of history to the only road of independence and justice, weathering all tempests on this planet.”

**Rodong Sinmun**

December 25, 2017<sup>4</sup>

"Our satellite launch is a legitimate exercise of the right that thoroughly fits the U.N. Charter that enshrines the basic rights of respect for sovereignty and equality, and the international law that governs the peaceful use of space.”

"Our country is also in step with the trends of space development that is taking place broadly across the world.”

**KCNA**

December 25, 2017<sup>5</sup>

"(We) sternly reject the sanctions resolution which we define as an illegal document that does not have any legitimacy and legality.”

**Spokesman - Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee**

December 25, 2017<sup>6</sup>

The fabrication of another "sanctions resolution" proves once again that the brigandish U.S. imperialists are the sworn enemies of the Korean nation with whom we can no longer live together and principal enemies with whom we have to settle final accounts.”

“Time has come for the whole world to see clearly whose nuclear weapons defend the peace and stability in Korean peninsula and the rest of Asia-Pacific- the nuclear weapons of the brigandish U.S., enemy common to humankind, or the nuclear weapons of Juche Korea, fortress of independence and justice.”

“No one can ever check the dynamic advance of the army and people of the DPRK toward further bolstering the state nuclear force under the

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<sup>4</sup> "N. Korea defends space development as 'legitimate right'", The Yonhap News, December 25, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/25/60/0401000000AEN20171225002051315F.html>

<sup>5</sup> "N. Korea defends space development as 'legitimate right'", The Yonhap News, December 25, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/25/60/0401000000AEN20171225002051315F.html>

<sup>6</sup> "U.S. Sanctions and Pressure Racket Will Be Foiled: KAPPC Spokesman", KCNA, December 15, 2017, <http://kcna.kp/>

uplifted great banner of simultaneous development of the two fronts, defying the sanctions and pressure racket.”

**Spokesperson- Foreign Ministry**

December 24, 2017<sup>7</sup>

“The United States, completely terrified at our accomplishment of the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force, is getting more and more frenzied in the moves to impose the harshest-ever sanctions and pressure on our country.”

“If the U.S. wishes to live safely, it must abandon its hostile policy towards the DPRK and learn to co-exist with the country that has nuclear weapons and should wake up from its pipe dream of our country giving up nuclear weapons which we have developed and completed through all kinds of hardships.”

“We will further consolidate our self-defensive nuclear deterrence aimed at fundamentally eradicating the U.S. nuclear threats, blackmail and hostile moves by establishing the practical balance of force with the U.S.”

**Kim Jong-un**

December 22, 2017<sup>8</sup>

“The rapid development of the DPRK’s nuclear force is now exerting big influence on the world political structure and strategic environment, the Chairman of the WPK (Kim Jong-un) informed of the situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula and the international political situation around the DPRK. He stressed that nobody can deny the entity of the DPRK which rapidly emerged as a strategic state capable of posing a substantial nuclear threat to the U.S.”

“Although grave challenges that should not be overlooked face us, we neither feel disappointed nor are afraid of them but are optimistic about progress of our revolution under this situation.”

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<sup>7</sup> "Statement of DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman", KCNA, December 24, 2017, <http://kcna.kp/>

<sup>8</sup> "Kim Jong Un Makes Opening Address at 5th Conference of Cell Chairpersons of WPK", Rodong Sinmun, December 22, 2017, [http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01\\_02\\_01&newsID=2017-12-22-0001](http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-12-22-0001)

### **Spokesman- Korea-Europe Association**

December 22, 2017<sup>9</sup>

In response to British Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson statement, "the pariah regime is on the pathway to have ballistic missiles that could strike London", "this is a real threat to the U.K." and "Britain has to step up in terms of dealing with it" the spokesperson said,

"Our nuclear force would not pose any threat to any country and region as long as the interests of the DPRK (North Korea) are not infringed upon."

"Nevertheless, the British defense secretary is crying out that our nuclear force is posing a threat to the U.K."

"This cannot be explained in any other way but as a servile act of Britain to give good impression to the U.S."

### **Spokesperson- Foreign Ministry**

December 22, 2017<sup>10</sup>

North Korean reaction to President Trump's first National Security Strategy,

"The report openly reveals Washington's aspirations to attack us."

"As the U.S. set its diplomatic and security policy at crushing us militarily and is publicly aiming a sword at us, we will make the U.S. bitterly regret its strategy with our cannons."

"The international community should be aware of Trump's scheme to set off a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula. And it should also see his real intentions behind Washington's dialogue offer as aiming to mask the U.S.' evil intentions and how it ridicules the world."

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<sup>9</sup> "Press Statement of Korea-Europe Association", KCNA, December 22, 2017, <http://kcna.kp/>

<sup>10</sup> "DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman Snipes at U.S. Report on "National Security Strategy"", KCNA, December 22, 2017, <http://kcna.kp/>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement- Institute for American Studies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b></p> <p>December 20, 2017<sup>11</sup></p> <p>"The DPRK, as a state party to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), maintains its consistent stand to oppose development, manufacture, stockpiling and possession of biological weapons."</p> <p>"The more the U.S. clings to the anti-DPRK stifling move...,the more hardened the determination of our entire military personnel and people to take revenge will be.."</p>
USA	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Donald Trump</b></p> <p>December 28, 2017<sup>12</sup></p> <p>"Caught RED HANDED - very disappointed that China is allowing oil to go into North Korea. There will never be a friendly solution to the North Korea problem if this continues to happen!"</p> <p>December 28, 2017<sup>13</sup></p> <p>"China's hurting us very badly on trade, but I have been soft on China because the only thing more important to me than trade is war."</p> <p>"I'm disappointed. You know that they found oil going into. ... Oil is going into North Korea. That wasn't my deal!"</p> <p>"So I'm not happy about it."</p> <p>"China on trade has ripped off this country more than any other element of the world in history has ripped off anything. But I can be different if they're helping us with North Korea. If they don't help us</p>

<sup>11</sup> "N.K. rejects claim it is developing biological weapons ", Yonhap News, December 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/20/0401000000AEN20171220011500315.html>

<sup>12</sup> Donald Trump, Twitter, December 28, 2017, <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/946416486054285314>

<sup>13</sup> "Excerpts From Trump's Interview With The Times, New York Times, December 28, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/28/us/politics/trump-interview-excerpts.html>

with North Korea, then I do what I've always said I want to do. China can help us much more, and they have to help us much more. And they have to help us much more. We have a nuclear menace out there, which is no good for China, and it's not good for Russia. It's no good for anybody."

"China can solve the North Korea problem, and they're helping us, and they're even helping us a lot, but they're not helping us enough."

**Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State**

December 27, 2017<sup>14</sup>

"A central component of our North Korea strategy is persuading China to exert its decisive economic leverage on Pyongyang. China has applied certain import bans and sanctions, but it could and should do more."

**Steven T. Mnuchin- Treasury Secretary**

December 26, 2017<sup>15</sup>

The United States on December 26, 2017 sanctioned two senior North Korean officials for their involvement in the regime's illicit ballistic missile program.

"Treasury is targeting leaders of North Korea's ballistic missile programs, as part of our maximum pressure campaign to isolate the DPRK and achieve a fully denuclearized Korean Peninsula."

"These actions follow Friday's United Nations Security Council Resolution, which imposed strong new sanctions on North Korea further shutting down its ability to raise illicit funds."

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<sup>14</sup> "I Am Proud of Our Diplomacy", US Department of State, December 27, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/12/276770.htm>

<sup>15</sup> "Treasury Sanctions Senior North Korean Officials Involved in Weapons Development", US Department of Treasury, December 26, 2017, <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/smo245>

**Donald Trump- President**

December 22, 2017<sup>16</sup>

"The United Nations Security Council just voted 15-0 in favor of additional Sanctions on North Korea. The World wants Peace, not Death!"

**Nikki Haley – Ambassador to UN**

December 22, 2017<sup>17</sup>

"On November 29, Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile -- this was another attempt by the Kim regime to masquerade as a great power while their people starve and their soldiers defect."

"But for the international community, this is an unprecedented challenge from a defiant state, so we have leveled an unprecedented response."

**Lt. Col. Chris Logan- Pentagon Spokesman**

December 20, 2017<sup>18</sup>

"The United States and our allies and partners in the region have long conducted routine exercises to maintain readiness," told Yonhap. "But it would be inappropriate to discuss plans for future exercises at this time."

**Statement- South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command**

December 20, 2017<sup>19</sup>

"We want the PyeongChang Olympics to be successful and have committed to our ally that we will aid their success."

<sup>16</sup> Donald Trump, Twitter, December 22, 2017,  
<https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/944308373373308929>

<sup>17</sup> "U.N. Security Council unanimously adopts new sanctions against N. Korea", The Yonhap News, December 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/23/0401000000AEN20171223000353315.html>

<sup>18</sup> "U.S. distances itself from S. Korea's call to postpone military drills", The Yonhap News, December 21, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/21/0401000000AEN20171221000200315.html>

<sup>19</sup> <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/20/0401000000AEN20171220009200315.html>



	<p>“We, as allies, are committed to an alliance decision on the exercises and will announce the decision when appropriate,” according to the release.”</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Noh Kyu-duk – Spokesman, Foreign Ministry</b></p> <p>December 26, 2017<sup>20</sup></p> <p>On December 26, 2017 South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo reported that U.S. reconnaissance satellites found that China and North Korea had engaged in illegal trading of oil by sea on about 30 occasions since October. On this matter foreign ministry said,</p> <p>“Currently, the UNSC sanctions committee (on the North) is leading a related discussion.”</p> <p>“China has been underlining its stance of faithfully implementing related UNSC resolutions under the principle of not tolerating North Korean nuclear (weapons) and of seeking a peaceful resolution of the issue.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement- Ministry of Unification</b></p> <p>December 26, 2017<sup>21</sup></p> <p>“North Korea may continue to advance its nuclear and missile capabilities while searching for an outlet externally.”</p> <p>“In searching for the recognition of its status as a de facto nuclear-possessing state, (the North) would explore the possibility of negotiations with the U.S.”</p> <p>“North Korea is forecast to maximize efforts to endure (the impact of sanctions) by tightening social control and mobilizing its people for building the economy.”</p>

<sup>20</sup> “Oil trade between N. Korea, China under review at UNSC committee: ministry”, The Yonhap News, December 26, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/26/0401000000AEN20171226007500315.html>

<sup>21</sup> “N. Korea likely to explore possibility of talks with U.S. in 2018: ministry”, The Yonhap News, December 26, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/26/0401000000AEN20171226003251315.html>

### **Statement- Ministry of Unification**

December 26, 2017<sup>22</sup>

"North Korea may continue to advance its nuclear and missile capabilities while searching for an outlet externally," the ministry said in its predictions for North Korea in 2018. "In searching for the recognition of its status as a de facto nuclear-possessing state, (the North) would explore the possibility of negotiations with the U.S."

### **Official- Foreign Ministry**

December 24, 2017<sup>23</sup>

"North Korea is projected to suffer an export loss of about \$250 million due to the newest U.N. sanctions resolution. The amount accounts for about 10 percent of its annual exports," said a ranking ministry official.

"On the import side, the North is expected to sustain a reduction of some \$1.2 billion, or about 30 percent of its annual imports."

### **Statement- Foreign Ministry**

December 23, 2017<sup>24</sup>

"We welcome and support the decision," it said in a release. "We again urge Pyongyang to stop its reckless provocations and come out to the path of dialogue for peace and denuclearization that our government and the international community have proposed."

Seoul also said the adoption of the fresh sanctions is yet "another indication of stern determination that the North's continuing nuclear

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<sup>22</sup> "N. Korea likely to explore possibility of talks with U.S. in 2018: ministry", The Yonhap News, December 26, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/26/16/0401000000AEN20171226003251315F.html>

<sup>23</sup> "Resolution 2397 may cut N. Korea's annual exports by \$250 mln: Seoul official", The Yonhap News, December 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/23/0401000000AEN20171223001500315.html>

<sup>24</sup> "U.N. Security Council unanimously adopts new sanctions against N. Korea", The Yonhap News, December 23, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/23/0401000000AEN20171223000353315.html>

	<p>and missile developments will never be tolerated in any way."</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cho Myoung-gyon - Unification Minister</b></p> <p>December 22, 2017<sup>25</sup></p> <p>"If we can hold talks with North Korea, we are willing to have talks with the North over issues of concerns to it in an open-minded manner and without conditions."</p> <p>"In that sense, we will make efforts to restore strained inter-Korean relations and make better ties to help resolve North Korea's nuclear problem."</p>
China	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hua Chunying- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</b></p> <p>December 29, 2017<sup>26</sup></p> <p>"In response to the individual cases reported by the media, especially about a Chinese ship's alleged involvement in transferring oil to a DPRK ship in international waters on October 19, the Chinese side carried out investigations immediately. The fact is that since August, there have been no records of this ship docking, entering or leaving a China's port. Whether this ship has ever called at other countries' ports is not ours to tell. Therefore, what these reports claimed is not true."</p> <p>"I want to draw all of your attention once again to the fact that the DPRK-related resolutions of the Security Council, including Resolution 2397, not only spell out sanctions measures, but also call for a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the issue and support for the resumption of Six-party Talks. We call on all relevant parties to comprehensively implement all these resolutions in entirety and make concerted efforts to maintain peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and the region at large, advance the Peninsula denuclearization process, and promote a settlement of the issue through dialogue and negotiation."</p>

<sup>25</sup> "S. Korea open to talks with N.K. without preconditions: minister", The Yonhap News, December 22, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/22/0401000000AEN20171222001500315.html>

<sup>26</sup> "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 29, 2017, [http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1522875.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1522875.shtml)

	<p>December 27, 2017<sup>27</sup></p> <p>“China's relevant position remains unequivocal. I would like to reiterate that the Chinese government has been comprehensively, accurately, faithfully and strictly implementing the Security Council's DPRK-related resolutions. Our attitude is earnest and serious, and our measures and actions are forceful and effective. If there is solid evidence proving that there is on the Chinese side any violation of the Security Council resolutions, China will surely deal with it in accordance with laws and regulations, and not a single case of violation should get away with it.”</p> <p>December 25, 2017<sup>28</sup></p> <p>“The new resolution, while moderately tightens sanctions against the DPRK, also stresses that the resolution is not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK, or to affect negatively those activities, including economic activities and cooperation, food aid and humanitarian assistance that are not prohibited by relevant resolutions, or impede the activities of diplomatic or consular missions of the DPRK pursuant to the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.”</p>
Russia	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Statement- Foreign Ministry</b></p> <p>December 30, 2017<sup>29</sup></p> <p>Foreign Ministry comments on reports in the media, claiming Russian tankers made a few trips to North Korea.</p> <p>"Russia observes fully the sanctions regime."</p> <p>"We would like to remind, that fuel (oil processing products) supplies, of course, have quotas, but no absolute ban (Resolution 2397)."</p> <p>"The control over the sanctions regime's observing is authority of Committee 1718."</p>

<sup>27</sup> “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 27, 2017,

[http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1522467.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1522467.shtml)

<sup>28</sup> “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference” Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 25, 2017

[http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1521984.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1521984.shtml)

<sup>29</sup> "Russia observes fully sanctions against North Korea - Foreign Ministry", TASS, December 30, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/983788>

### **Statement- Foreign Ministry**

December 26, 2017<sup>30</sup>

Regarding Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,

"The sides agreed that North Korea's nuclear missile developments were violating UN Security Council requirements. Mr Lavrov again stressed that it was unacceptable to escalate tensions around the Korean Peninsula by Washington's aggressive rhetoric against Pyongyang and buildup of war preparations in the region. The need to switch from the language of sanctions to the negotiating process as soon as possible was emphasised."

### **Dmitry Peskov- Kremlin Spokesman**

December 26, 2017<sup>31</sup>

"Russia is ready if both sides need it and want it."

"It is impossible to become a mediator between two parties only if one side seeks so, the will of two sides is needed here. As the exchange of confrontational rhetoric is between Pyongyang and Washington, therefore Russia's readiness is rather evident to open the way for de-escalating tensions."

### **Statement- Foreign Ministry**

December 22, 2017<sup>32</sup>

"In the course of extremely intensive work on the coordination of the resolution's text, the sides managed to adjust the very harsh initial approach proposed by of the United States, which stipulated a total trade and economic blockade of the DPRK and the imposition of sanctions against all of its top officials."

"At the insistence of the Russian delegation, the final resolution provides for the further implementation of the major Russian-North

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<sup>30</sup> "Press release on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's telephone conversation with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, December 26, 2017,

[http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3008194](http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3008194)

<sup>31</sup> "Moscow ready to act as mediator between US, North Korea, says Kremlin", TASS, December 26, 2017,

<http://tass.com/politics/983093>

<sup>32</sup> "Comment by the Information and Press Department on UN Security Council Resolution 2397", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, December 22, 2017, [http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3001355](http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJEo2Bw/content/id/3001355)

	<p>Korean project on Khasan-Rajin coal transit and the continuation of direct flights between our countries. It was decided not to impose sanctions on all North Korean leaders, the government and the Labour Party, as well as to abandon the complete embargo on oil and oil product deliveries to the DPRK. The provisions on detention, search and actions related to “suspicious” vessels were mitigated.”</p> <p>“In addition to enforcing the sanctions adopted by the Security Council, it is time to begin implementing the provisions that call for a peaceful, political and diplomatic settlement of the crisis through dialogue and negotiations. It is clear that the obsolete, inefficient algorithms for the solution of the Korean nuclear problem have not brought any results. Isolation and pressure must give way to dialogue and negotiations.”</p> <p>“We urge all concerned parties, primarily the DPRK and the United States, to exercise restraint and abandon steps that are fraught with unpredictable and devastating consequences for the entire Northeast Asia and beyond.”</p>
Japan	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Itsunori Onodera- Minister of Defense</b></p> <p>December 26, 2017<sup>33</sup></p> <p>“North Korea's nuclear and missile development is posing a more serious and imminent threat than ever, a new level of threat to Japan's security. “</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Shinzo Abe- Prime Minister</b></p> <p>December 23, 2017<sup>34</sup></p> <p>“Japan highly appreciates the unanimous adoption of the robust United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2379 at the UNSC under Japan’s presidency, which further enhances the sanctions measures against North Korea to an unprecedented level.”</p> <p>“North Korea’s nuclear and missile development represents an unprecedented, grave and imminent threat. It is not an exaggeration to state that the security situation surrounding Japan has become most</p>

<sup>33</sup> “Press Conference by Defense Minister Onodera”, Ministry of Defense, Japan, December 26, 2017, <http://www.mod.go.jp/e/press/conference/2017/12/26.html>

<sup>34</sup> “Comment by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the Adoption of a Resolution by the United Nations Security Council concerning North Korea’s Ballistic Missile Launch and Other Activities”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, December 23, 2017, [http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp/page11e\\_000016.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp/page11e_000016.html)

severe since the end of World War II. It is totally unacceptable that North Korea is continuing its provocative actions in disregard of the strong desire of the international community to achieve a peaceful resolution.”

“Japan will continue to strongly urge North Korea under its principle of “dialogue and pressure” and “action for action” to take concrete actions towards the comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern regarding North Korea, including nuclear and missile issues as well as the abductions issue, which continues to be the most important.”

### **Taro Kano- Foreign Minister**

December 23, 2017<sup>35</sup>

“Japan highly appreciates that, on December 23 (afternoon of December 22, New York time), the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted the robust United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2379 at the UNSC under Japan’s presidency, which further enhances the sanctions measures against North Korea to an unprecedented level, in response to the launch of what appears to be a new type of the ballistic missile with the range of an ICBM on November 29 and other activities.”

“In order to corner North Korea to change its policies, it is essential for Japan to carry out resolute and firm diplomacy and cooperate closely among Japan-U.S. and Japan-U.S.-ROK as well as the relevant countries, including China and Russia, to fully implement relevant UNSC resolutions, enhancing international community’s pressure on North Korea to the maximum degree.”

### **Statement- Foreign Ministry**

December 20, 2017<sup>36</sup>

“The Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK on December 20 (December 19 local time) was adopted by consensus, at

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<sup>35</sup> “The Adoption of a Resolution by the United Nations Security Council concerning North Korea’s Ballistic Missile Launch (Statement by Foreign Minister Taro Kono)”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, December 23, 2017, [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000016.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000016.html)

<sup>36</sup> “The Adoption of the Resolution on the Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) at the Plenary Meeting of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, December 20, 2017, [http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_001849.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_001849.html)

the Plenary Meeting of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly currently being held in New York. The resolution, co-tabled by Japan and the European Union (EU), has been adopted for 13 consecutive years.”

“The resolution also condemns North Korea for diverting its resources into pursuing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles over the welfare of its people.”

“The consensus adoption of the resolution demonstrates the international community’s grave concerns about human rights violations in North Korea, including the abduction.”

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*Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.*