



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

December 11-20, 2017

*Compiled by Dr. Jojin V. John **

Country	Comments
North Korea	<p>Rodong Sinmun</p> <p>December 19, 2017¹</p> <p>“The DPRK has no interest in the dialogue intermittently put up by the U.S. which is sneered by the international community for failing to mind its internal affairs.”</p> <p>“As the DPRK has consistently insisted, the way to solve the issue between the DPRK and the U.S. is for the U.S. to drop at an early date its heinous hostile policy, which defines the DPRK as an enemy, and co-exist peacefully with the DPRK possessed of nukes.”</p> <p>“As long as the U.S. hostile policy and nuclear threat toward the DPRK are not fundamentally removed, the DPRK will never put its nukes and ballistic missiles on the table of negotiations nor flinch even an inch</p>

¹ “DPRK Will Never Flinch from Road of Bolstering Nuclear Force: Rodong Sinmun”, KCNA, December 19, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

from the already chosen road of bolstering up the nuclear force. This is the fixed stand of the DPRK.”

Spokesman-Consultative Council for National Reconciliation

December 18, 2017²

“South Korean puppet regime additionally announced a "plan for independent sanctions on the north".

“The foolish sanctions and pressure racket of the rabid dogs serving the U.S. will only make them pay a dear price.”

Rodong Sinmun

December 17, 2017³

“Worthless trip (President Moon’s visit to China) of a beggar trying to get rid of the international isolation caused by his policy of toeing the U.S. line.”

Moon's trip was for "escalating confrontation with the fellow countrymen through strengthened cooperation with the foreign forces in the anti-DPRK sanction and pressure racket."

Kim Jong-un

December 12, 2017⁴

“He (Kim Jong-un) solemnly declared that the development of new strategic weapon systems including A-bomb, H-bomb and ICBM Hwasong-15 with indigenous efforts and technology and the realization of the great cause of completing the state nuclear force serve as a great historic victory of our Party and people of the country achieved by the death-defying struggle at the cost of high price.”

² “S. Korean Regime Will Be Made to Pay Dearly for Anti-DPRK Moves”, Rodong Sinmun, December 18, 2017, http://www.rodong.rep.kp/en/index.php?strPageID=SF01_02_01&newsID=2017-12-18-0012

³ “N. Korea condemns Moon's trip to China”, Yonhap News, December 17, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/17/0401000000AEN20171217003900315.html>

⁴ “8th Conference of Munitions Industry Closes”, KCNA, December 13, 2017, <https://kcna.kp/>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Thae Jong-su- Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea</p> <p>December 12, 2017⁵</p> <p>"North Korea has laid the solid material and technical ground in the nuclear weapons research field to produce any kinds of strong nuclear weapons."</p> <p>"A breakthrough has been made for the development of strategic weapons, having researched and completed the production of cutting-edge technologies and materials, which had been the exclusive property of the countries claiming to be military powers in the rocket sector."</p> <p>"Kim Jong-un set forth the strategic line of simultaneously pushing forward the economic construction and the building of nuclear force, and provided a legal foundation for bolstering up the nuclear force."</p> <p>"This became as a historic turning point in putting the DPRK on the position of a matchless nuclear weapons state and hastening the final victory in the showdown with the U.S."</p> <p>"It (November 29 ICBM launch) is the great victory of the nation, a great event to be specially recorded in the history of the country ... in efforts to carry out the historic cause of completing the state nuclear force."</p>
USA	<p style="text-align: center;">Tom Bossert- Homeland security Adviser, White House</p> <p>December 19, 2017⁶</p> <p>"After careful investigation, the United States is publicly attributing the massive WannaCry cyberattack (May 2017) to North Korea. We do not</p>

⁵ "N. Korean defense conference calls for intensifying nuclear force", The Yonhap News, December 12, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/12/29/0401000000AEN20171212003351315F.html>

⁶ "Press Briefing on the Attribution of the WannaCry Malware Attack to North Korea", The White House, December 19, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/press-briefing-on-the-attribution-of-the-wannacry-malware-attack-to-north-korea-121917/>

make this allegation lightly. We do so with evidence, and we do so with partners.”

“Other governments and private companies agree. The United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Japan have seen our analysis, and they join us in denouncing North Korea for WannaCry.”

“At this point, North Korea has done everything wrong as an actor on the global stage that a country can do. And President Trump has used just about every lever you can use, short of starving the people of North Korea to death, to change their behavior. And so we don’t have a lot of room left here to apply pressure to change their behavior.”

Heather Nauert- Spokesperson, State Department

December 19, 2017⁷

“On North Korea, the Secretary and foreign minister (Canada) talked through upcoming plans to convene the United Nations Commanding Sending States meeting in January.”

“We would like to have the opportunity to talk with North Korea when the time is right, and I want to be clear about that; the time is not right, right now.”

“We are not going to be sitting down for talks with North Korea at this time. They are showing no interest, they’re showing no willingness to sit down and have conversations with the U.S. Government.”

HR McMaster- National Security Advisor

December 19, 2017⁸

"We're committed to a resolution. We want the resolution to be peaceful - but as the president has said, all options are on the table," Gen McMaster said.

"We have to be prepared, if necessary, to compel the denuclearisation of North Korea without the co-operation of that regime."

⁷ "Department Press Briefing", The US Department of State, December 19, 2017, https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2017/12/276694.htm#_ftnref1

⁸ "HR McMaster: Russian meddling 'sophisticated subversion'", BBC, December 19, 2017, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42409144>

The chance of war could change "based on what we all decide to do".

"North Korea is a grave threat to all civilised people across the globe."

Donald Trump- President

December 18, 2017⁹

"Our campaign of maximum pressure on the North Korean regime has resulted in the toughest-ever sanctions. We have united our allies in an unprecedented effort to isolate North Korea. However, there is much more work to do. America and its allies will take all necessary steps to achieve a denuclearization and ensure that this regime cannot threaten the world.

"This situation should have been taken care of long before I got into office, when it was much easier to handle. But it will be taken care of. We have no choice."

December 15, 2017¹⁰

When asked about talks with North Korea without preconditions, President Trump said,

"Well, we're going to see what happens with North Korea. We have a lot of support. There are a lot of nations that agree with us — almost everybody. We can't let that happen. And we're going to see what happens with North Korea. We hope it works out."

Regarding the telephone conversation that he had with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Trump said,

"The primary point was to talk about North Korea, because we would love to have his help on North Korea. China is helping. Russia is not helping. We'd like to have Russia's help — very important."

⁹ "Remarks by President Trump on the Administration's National Security Strategy", The White House, December 18, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-administrations-national-security-strategy/>

¹⁰ "Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure", The White House, December 15, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-marine-one-departure-4/>

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

December 15, 2017¹¹

“With respect to the talks, the pre – we are not going to accept preconditions. You heard others who have called for a freeze for freeze. We do not accept a freeze for freeze as a precondition to talks. We do not accept any relaxing of the sanctions regime as a precondition of talks. We do not accept a resumption of humanitarian assistance as a precondition of talks. So we are not going to accept preconditions for these talks, but as I indicated in my remarks, our communication channels remain open. North Korea knows they’re open; they know where the door is; they know where to walk through that door when they want to talk.”

December 15, 2017¹²

“Continuing to allow North Korean laborers to toil in slave-like conditions inside Russia in exchange for wages used to fund nuclear weapons programs calls into question Russia’s dedication as a partner for peace. Similarly, as Chinese crude oil flows to North Korean refineries, the United States questions China’s commitment to solving an issue that has serious implications for the security of its own citizens.”

“We have been clear that all options remain on the table in the defense of our nation, but we do not seek, nor do we want, war with North Korea. The United States will use all necessary measures to defend itself against North Korean aggression, but our hope remains that diplomacy will produce a resolution. As I said earlier this week, a sustained cessation of North Korea’s threatening behavior must occur before talks can begin. North Korea must earn its way back to the table. The pressure campaign must, and will, continue until denuclearization is achieved. We will, in the meantime, keep our channels of communication open.”

¹¹ "Press Availability at United Nations", US State Department, December 15, 2017, Press Availability at United Nations, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/12/276633.htm>

¹² "Remarks at the UN Security Council Ministerial Meeting on D.P.R.K.", US State Department, December 15, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/12/276627.htm>

December 15, 2017¹³

“There is but one party that has been targeted with punishment and penalties through the most vigorous regime sanction ever enacted, and that is the Kim regime in North Korea. They alone are responsible for these tensions, they alone must take responsibility for these tensions, and they alone can solve these tensions.”

Jim Mattis- Secretary, Department of Defense

December 15, 2017¹⁴

On US willing for conversation with the North Koreans, Secretary said

“Yeah, that's what we've been saying all along, that we're going to have to know when the time is right. And you've seen Secretary Tillerson, again, this is a diplomatically-led effort by him and the president, and you've seen him come out with what are some of the conditions that have to be met. Diplomacy continues. You see it up in New York constantly on DPRK. There were meetings on DPRK. I know yesterday or -- and two days ago, by our U.S.-U.N. mission with other nations. And it continued to be a diplomatically-led effort.”

Adm. John M. Richardson- Chief, Naval Operations

December 15, 2017¹⁵

"It's not empty words."

"To have a legitimate deterrence, I think, you have to have legitimate, I guess, options. So we're prepared."

¹³Remarks at the UN Security Council Ministerial Meeting on D.P.R.K.", US State Department, December 15, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/12/276631.htm>

¹⁴“Off-Camera Media Availability with Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis”, The US Department of Defense, December 15, 2017, <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/1398517/off-camera-media-availability-with-secretary-of-defense-james-n-mattis/>

¹⁵“U.S. Navy chief says military options on N. Korea are real”, The Yonhap News, December 14, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/15/0401000000AEN20171215002600315.html>

Comment-Spokesperson, White House

December 13, 2017¹⁶

"Given North Korea's most recent missile test, clearly now is not the time."

"Administration policy on North Korea has not changed."

"As we have stated repeatedly, we are open to the possibility of dialogue with North Korea, with the aim of de-nuclearizing the Korean peninsula."

"The administration is united in insisting that any negotiations with North Korea must wait until the regime fundamentally improves its behavior."

"This administration will not repeat the failed policies of the past."

Heather Nauert- Spokesperson, State Department

December 13, 2017¹⁷

"The Secretary was not creating any new policy. Our policy remains exactly the same as it was, the very same policy that we've talked about in this room for months and months now. First and foremost, diplomacy is our top priority. We have worked very hard on our maximum pressure or peaceful pressure campaign. We continue to work on that every single day. The second thing is the policy has not changed. I just want to be very clear on that. We remain open to dialogue, and we've long said this. We remain open to dialogue when North Korea is willing to conduct a credible dialogue on the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Rex Tillerson- Secretary of State

December 12, 2017¹⁸

¹⁶ "White House snubs Tillerson's offer for talks with N. Korea", The Yonhap News, December 13, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/14/0401000000AEN20171214000351315.html>

¹⁷ "Department Press Briefing", The US State Department, December 13, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2017/12/276591.htm>

“We need the DPRK to come to the – come to the table for talks. We’re ready to talk anytime they’d like to talk, but they have to come to the table and they have to come to the table with a view that they do want to make a different choice.”

“In our judgment, they (China) have participated; they are fully implementing the sanctions. That’s why it is having an effect. The President would like to see China cut the oil off.”

“We’ve said from the diplomatic side we’re ready to talk anytime North Korea would like to talk, and we’re ready to have the first meeting without precondition. Let’s just meet and let’s – we can talk about the weather if you want.”

I don’t think – it’s not realistic to say we’re only going to talk if you come to the table ready to give up your program. They have too much invested in it. And the President is very realistic about that as well.

“The only – if there was any condition at all to this, it’s that, look, it’s going to be tough to talk if in the middle of our talks, you decide to test another device. It’s going to be difficult to talk if in the middle of our talks, you decide to fire another one off. So I think they clearly understand that if we’re going to talk, we have to have a period of quiet.”

“It’s clear to us that they would not just use the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent. This would become a commercial activity for them. Because we already see elements of it in the commercial marketplace.”

Ed Royce- Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

December 11, 2017¹⁹

"There's always irritants with respect to what North Korea does, but I don't think it's going to impact the Olympics and I think the whole world will stand with South Korea there in the Olympics and it is going to be tremendously exciting."

¹⁸ "On "Meeting the Foreign Policy Challenges of 2017 and Beyond"", US State Department, December 12, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2017/12/276570.htm>

¹⁹ "N. Korea tensions won't affect PyeongChang Olympics: Rep. Royce", The Yonhap News, December 12, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/12/0401000000AEN20171212003600315.html>

	<p style="text-align: center;">Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Robert Manning</p> <p>December 11, 2017²⁰</p> <p>Japanese News paper recently report on North Korea has completed development of five prototypes for an upgraded SLBM and will likely test it soon. On this matter Pentagon spokesman said,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"I can't comment on any matters of specific intelligence regarding North Korea, but I will tell you that within the deep arsenal that we have of capabilities, we're well postured to deal with that."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"We watch them closely."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"We'll remain vigilant along with our partners from the Republic of Korea and Japan, our alliance partners there, to make sure that we can counter any North Korean threat."</p>
<p>South Korea</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Comment- Official, Presidential office</p> <p>December 20, 2017²¹</p> <p>"The delay would be limited to the duration of the Olympic Games, including the Paralympic Games."</p> <p>"It cannot but affect a decision (by the allies) should there be an additional provocation."</p> <p>"Because the Olympics is an international event and the North Korean nuclear issue is creating a global crisis, it is only natural that we make efforts to find a solution (to the North Korean nuclear issue) through the Olympic Games if we must."</p> <p>"North Korea's participation in the Olympic Games is important for the success of the games, but it does not mean we cannot host the</p>

²⁰ "U.S. 'well postured' to deal with possible N.K. SLBM: Pentagon", The Yonhap News, December 12, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/12/0401000000AEN20171212000300315.html>

²¹ "Delay in military drills requires halt to N. Korean provocations: Cheong Wa Dae", The Yonhap News, December 20, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/20/46/0401000000AEN20171220004252315F.html>

Olympic Games without it."

Moon Jae-in- President

December 19, 2017²²

"It is possible for South Korea and the U.S. to review the possibility of postponing the exercises. I have made such a suggestion to the U.S. and the U.S is currently reviewing it. However, all this depends on how North Korea behaves."

"Given their track record, North Korea is likely to make the decision to participate in the Olympics at the very last minute."

Cho Yoon-je- Ambassador to USA

December 19, 2017²³

"There is a consistent stance in the U.S. administration that it seeks to resolve North Korea's nuke issue peacefully and through dialogue."

"On the surface, waves are rolling, but beneath it, there are undercurrents that are consistent."

Noh Kyu-duk – Spokesman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

December 19, 2017²⁴

"The strategy (Trump's new national security strategy) reaffirmed that the U.S. will double commitments to its allies and partners and cooperation with its allies is key in coping with common threats including North Korea's nuclear problem and preserving interests."

"We assess that the report reaffirmed that the Seoul-Washington

²² "Moon says S. Korea, U.S. could review postponing military drills before Olympics", The Yonhap News, December 19, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/19/45/0401000000AEN20171219016552315F.html>

²³ "Washington 'consistently' seeks peaceful solution to N.K. nukes: Seoul envoy to U.S.", The Yonhap News, December 19, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/19/0401000000AEN20171219015400315.html>

²⁴ "Trump's nat'l security strategy reaffirms strong Seoul-Washington alliance: S. Korea", The Yonhap News, December 19, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/19/0401000000AEN20171219010900315.html>

alliance is stronger than ever."

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

December 18, 2017²⁵

"The North Korean nuclear issue still remains the most urgent task facing us."

"Against this, our government and the international community, under the principle of not tolerating North Korean nuclear force, have been calling on the country to stop provocations and come back to the negotiating table."

"At the same time, South Korea will push to secure room for its own diplomacy and search for a range of measures to bring North Korea back to the table for dialogue, tirelessly mustering efforts for a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue."

Cho Hyun- Vice-Foreign Minister

December 16, 2017²⁶

"I would like to underscore that the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games should be an Olympics for peace.

"Seize this opportunity for dialogue."

"We should not be coerced by North Korea's continuing provocations, but rather uphold our principles while firmly responding to its reckless behaviors. At the same time, we should not be provoked into conflict nor should we shut the doors of dialogue and peace."

Moon Jae-in- President

December 15, 2017²⁷

²⁵ "S. Korea will 'tirelessly' seek diplomatic solution to N.K. nuke issue: top diplomat", The Yonhap News Agency, December 18, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/18/0401000000AEN20171218004400315.html>

²⁶ "Vice Foreign Minister calls on N. Korea to join in PyeongChang Winter Olympics", The Yonhap News, December 16, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/16/0401000000AEN20171216002000315.html>

²⁷ "S. Korean leader urges joint efforts to denuclearize N. Korea, ensure global peace", Yonhap News Agency, December 15, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/15/0401000000AEN20171215004700315.html>

"North Korean nuclear and missile issues are not only limited to South Korea. North Korea is also a neighbor of China, and a rise in tension in the region due to North Korea's nuclear development is threatening the peace and development of not only South Korea but also China."

"What we want is not confrontation or competition with North Korea. I again stress that we, along with the rest of the international community, will provide a bright future if North Korea makes the right choice."

"China is a country whose existence shines when it is together with neighboring countries and not alone."

Yoon Young-chan- Press secretary, Presidential Office

December 14, 2017²⁸

"The four principles agreed by the two leaders (President Moon and President Xi) were that first, a war on the Korean Peninsula can never be tolerated. Second, they will firmly maintain their principle on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

Cho Myung-gyon- Unification Minister

December 13, 2017²⁹

"North Korea should stop any further provocations and come out for talks without conditions".

Cho Myung-gyon- Unification Minister

December 13, 2017³⁰

"North Korea should stop any further provocations and come out for talks without conditions."

²⁸ "Moon, Xi vow efforts to improve ties, peacefully denuclearize N. Korea", The Yonhap News, December 14, 2017, <http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/14/0401000000AEN20171214012052315.html>

²⁹ "Unification minister calls on N. Korea to come to negotiating table unconditionally", The Yonhap News, December 13, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/13/0401000000AEN20171213008800315.html>

³⁰ "Unification minister calls on N. Korea to come to negotiating table unconditionally", The Yonhap News, December 13, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/13/44/0401000000AEN20171213008800315F.html>

Moon Jae-in- President

December 12, 2017³¹

"It is delusional thinking for small countries like North Korea that lag behind in terms of economy to say that they can protect their security only with nuclear weapons," Moon said. "Rather, inter-Korean peace and cooperation will protect its security."

"Therefore, it is very important for the North to change its perception on the nuclear issue and come on to the path toward denuclearization".

"I think what is most needed is close cooperation between South Korea and China," Moon said. "(I) believe that there will surely be a good outcome should South Korea and China make efforts to bring the North to the negotiating table while taking the same stance (on denuclearization)."

"The top priority of my visit to China is placed on recovering mutual trust."

"I think relations based on mutual trust are a very important starting point for advancing relations going forward."

"South Korea will pay extra heed to make sure that THAAD will not go beyond its (intended) objectives of defending against the North's nuclear and missile threats and hurt China's security interests."

"I can say that we have been assured by the United States on this matter."

Kang Kyung-wha- Foreign Minister

December 11, 2017³²

"Opening effective communication channels should be pursued in order to deliver the international community's voice to the isolated and

³¹ "Moon urges N.K. to stop delusional thinking, come to denuclearization talks", The Yonhap News, December 12, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/11/0401000000AEN20171211010500315.html>

³² "Top S. Korean diplomat calls for building effective communication lines with N. Korea", The Yonhap News, December 11, 2017,

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/northkorea/2017/12/11/0401000000AEN20171211005952315.html>

	<p>secluded North Korea."</p> <p>"It's (also) crucial to arrange reunions of separated families between South and North Korea and restore a hotline between the military authorities."</p> <p>"The South Korean government plans to start with contact (with North Korea) to achieve those specific tasks in the process of seeking a more meaningful inter-Korean relationship."</p>
<p>China</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lu Kang- Foreign Ministry Spokesperson</p> <p>December 13, 2017³³</p> <p>"We have noted this remark by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Peaceful settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation remains the consistent position of the Chinese government. China welcomes all efforts that will help ease the tension and resolve the issue through dialogue. To this end, China has put forward the dual-track approach and "suspension for suspension" proposal. We hope that the US and the DPRK will work towards the shared goal and make a meaningful step towards dialogue and engagement. China stands ready to continue to play a positive role in promoting the proper settlement of the relevant issue of the Korean Peninsula through peaceful means."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lu Kang- Spokesperson, Foreign Ministry</p> <p>December 12, 2017³⁴</p> <p>"China and the ROK share common interests and similar position on realizing the denuclearization of the Peninsula through dialogue and negotiation and upholding peace and stability there. We always approve of and firmly support the efforts made by both DPRK and the</p>

³³ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 13, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1519191.shtml

³⁴ "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 12, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1518866.shtml

	<p>ROK to improve their relations through dialogue, promote reconciliation and cooperation, and play a positive role in easing the tension and upholding peace and stability of the Peninsula.”</p> <p>December 11, 2017³⁵</p> <p>“The situation on the Korean Peninsula, which has been caught up in a vicious cycle of provocation and confrontation, has remained grave. However, it is important to highlight that the hope of peace remains alive, and the possibility of negotiation still exists. War is by no means acceptable. China approves of taking concrete actions to curb the DPRK’s nuclear and missile development, and we have put forward the “suspension for suspension” proposal with the aim of creating conditions for resuming dialogue and negotiation. Just like what Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the day before yesterday, going forward, parties need to give serious consideration to China’s “suspension for suspension” proposal, take the first step toward de-escalation to at least take the situation out of the “black hole” of confrontation, and endeavor to create the right conditions and atmosphere for the resumption of dialogue and negotiation.”</p>
<p>Russia</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sergey Lavrov- Foreign Minister</p> <p>December 15, 2017³⁶</p> <p>“Major international agreements, in particular on the Iranian nuclear program, are under threat of collapse, which would send a very wrong signal to those who hope to solve the problems on the Korean Peninsula,”</p>

³⁵ “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference”, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, PRC, December 11, 2017,

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1518491.shtml

³⁶ “Lavrov warns collapse of Iran nuke deal would send wrong message to North Korea”, TASS, December 15, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/981257>

Dmitry Peskov- Presidential Spokesman

December 15, 2017

"[The presidents- Putin and Trump] spoke out in favor of building dialogue and contacts with North Korea and agreed to exchange information and initiatives in this regard."³⁷

December 13, 2017

On Tillerson's statement about readiness to talk with North Korea without preconditions, Kremlin's spokesperson said,

"We can only welcome that, as it is in line with our proposals, as President Putin has said many times that confrontational rhetoric and steps which can further raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula are totally counterproductive."

"It was Putin who has been constantly calling on all the interested parties to make every possible effort to build dialogue."

"So such statements [made by Tillerson] are definitely welcome."

Vladimir Putin- President

December 14, 2017³⁸

"As follows from what Mr. Tillerson said, the United States looks ready for direct contacts. This is a very good signal, which indicates that there is some progress in the American leadership in general and in the Department of State, the awareness of realities."

"Pyongyang sees no other way of self-protection than the development of weapons of mass destruction and missile program."

³⁷ "Putin, Trump speak in favor of building dialogue with North Korea — Kremlin", TASS, December 15, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/981337>

³⁸ "Putin calls Tillerson's remarks about dialogue with North Korea very good signal", TASS, December 14, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/981048>

"We believe that both sides (the US and North Korea) should stop whipping up tensions. It is necessary to end this spiral, because this is a very dangerous thing. One North Korean launch will be enough to make its consequences disastrous."

"Your congressmen and senators, who look good and seem to be smart, have put us alongside North Korea and Iran. At the same time, they are prodding the president [Donald Trump] to persuade us to solve the problems of North Korea and the Iranian nuclear program together with you."

"Are you people normal or not? It's strange, you should agree. This is beyond common sense."

"We are still trying to work constructively with everyone on hot-button international security issues. We try not to pout our lips and not get offended at someone's decisions, which are sometimes incomprehensible to us, to tell you the truth."

"We do not recognize North Korea's nuclear status."

"We believe that everything that is happening there is counterproductive."

Sergei Ryabko- Deputy Foreign Minister

December 13, 2017³⁹

"We've never had a direct and unambiguous confirmation on the part of the U.S. as regards its readiness to sit down to the conference table and to join actions in the format of the Russian-Chinese roadmap."

"We've always felt the U.S. skepticism, which stems from its reliance on sanctions and the application of forceful pressure in this case, too."

"The U.S. statements on readiness for dialog are certainly encouraging signs."

"We've taken note of it and are prepared to continue considering the situation and the emerging ideas in their entire entirety with our U.S. counterparts."

³⁹ "Russian US always skeptical about Russian-Chinese plan for DPRK problem — Russian diplomat", TASS, December 13, 2017, <http://tass.com/world/980806>

"In one way or another, we need a double freeze - something we spoke about this summer."

"This suggestion was also made at the level of Russian and Chinese Foreign Ministers. The very logic of developments prompts us to adopt an approach of this kind and shows an absence of alternatives to it."

"That's why we'll be speaking to the Americans and we'll see to what degree they're perceptive of the logic that denies forceful pressure."

December 13, 2017⁴⁰

"North Korea is our neighbor. We need to develop relations with that country, and political dialogue is very important."

"We use any opportunities for direct communication, and we will continue using them in the future, including through the Defense Ministry."

Maria Zakharova- Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman

December 13, 2017⁴¹

"The state of affairs on the Korean Peninsula has aggravated more since North Korea tested a ballistic missile on November 29. We state with regret that against this background the United States continues its former unconstructive policy related to and aimed at increasing military activity in North East Asia."

"Not only can this muscle-flexing help ease tensions, but on the contrary is fraught with the most serious repercussions for the situation in the sub-region".

"We strongly urge all the sides concerned, primarily the United States and DPRK [the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or North Korea] to refrain from any steps that might end up in another escalation and

⁴⁰ "Russia ready to foster dialogue with North Korea — diplomat", TASS, December 13, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/980695>

⁴¹ "Briefing by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation, December 13, 2017, http://www.mid.ru/en/press_service/spokesman/briefings/-/asset_publisher/D2wHaWMCU6Od/content/id/2988576

	<p>to immediately start joint practical work of looking for political and diplomatic solutions to the entire range of problems on the Korean Peninsula."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sergey Lavrov - Foreign Minister</p> <p>December 11, 2017⁴²</p> <p>"We pointed to the absence of an alternative to the solution of the specified problem solely by political and diplomatic means: in line with the Russian-Chinese roadmap."</p>
Japan	<p style="text-align: center;">Taro Kono- Foreign Minister</p> <p>December 15, 2017⁴³</p> <p>"It is our responsibility not to repeat such past mistakes as conducting dialogue for the sake of dialogue. It has only served North Korea to stall for time on its nuclear and missile development. Relevant Security Council resolutions have already clearly decided that North Korea must abandon its programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. We should not backtrack from that goal. A prerequisite for a meaningful dialogue is North Korea's commitment and concrete action toward denuclearization."</p>

**Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi.*

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

⁴² "North Korean conflict may be settled by diplomatic means only, top diplomat says", TASS, December 11, 2017, <http://tass.com/politics/980178>

⁴³ "Statement by H.E. Mr. Taro Kono" Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the United Nations Security Council Briefing on Non-proliferation / Democratic People's Republic of Korea", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 15, 2017, http://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/unp/page4e_000729.html