

**Forum:** *Security Council*

**Issue:** *The Situation of DPRK*

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## Introduction

Over the years, the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has remained one of the most highly debated issues. For decades, the DPRK, also known as North Korea, is one of the world's most isolated societies. Over the past few years, North Korea's acceleration of rapid development and engagement towards nuclear weapons and intercontinental missiles has put the world into an intimidating crisis. Regardless of the multiple attempts of negotiations, compromise, and sanctions and embargoes in the past 50 years, nothing seemed to have discouraged its rapid development of their nuclear weapons project. Countries have been taking matters into their own hands, but even if the DPRK had agreed to the deals after negotiations, the deals were all eventually disregarded.. In response, countries have attempted to pursue their own interests on the situation through means such as sanctions, which only succeeded in worsening the the DPRK's common citizens' standards of living. In the light of the growing number of tests in recent years, including two nuclear explosions in 2016 alone, the DPRK has made developments proving their capability to deliver nuclear weapons that would threaten the whole international community. Moreover, with its development on the missile program at an ever faster rate than before, the tense situation in the DPRK is intricate. The escalation in the region has become very wary and in thin line, especially regarding the exchanges between the United States (US), Japan, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China (PRC), DPRK, and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The exchanges started after the missile test in November, which proves that the DPRK's programme poses a serious threat to the international community. International reaction to the situation in DPRK has not been uniformed. While the US has talked up a military response, other world powers have emphasized different approaches. With such actions, Russia has step forward offering to be the mediator to ease tension between the DPRK and US, along with joining on China's side in expressing opposition to the deployment of the US THAAD missile defence system in South Korea. However, there has been an improvement regarding the long-lasting tensions between the North and South, with the first peace talk in two years in bid to end the crisis at January 4. Ultimately, the

Security Council would have to come up with appropriate solutions that unifies the actions that all member states would agree on to take.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Six-Party Talks (6PT)

The Six-Party Talks aimed to find a peaceful resolution to the security concerns with the DPRK's Nuclear Programme. The six parties involved in these talks include: DPRK (North Korea), Republic of Korea (ROK/ South Korea), Japan, United States of America (USA), People's Republic of China (PRC), and the Russian Federation. These talks were formed after DPRK's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003. The talks were successful after several meetings with the DPRK, where they were willing to shut down their programme in exchange for fuel aid and normalized relationships with the US and Japan. On April 13, 2009, DPRK declared to pull out of the Six-Party Talks and resume their development in nuclear weapons.

### Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBMs)

Primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) can travel within a range of more than 3,500 miles (5,600 KM). However, only the United States (US), Russia, and China had flown missiles of this range. Currently, the DPRK is highly engaged in developing and improving their ICBMs. Recently, they have claimed that they are capable of striking the US with their weapons after their November 2017 ballistic test.

### Korean Demilitarized Zone (Korean DMZ)

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (Korean DMZ), informally known as the 38th Parallel, served as a buffer zone between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea (ROK/ South Korea) under the Korean Armistice Agreement. The agreement was made between the DPRK, China, and the United Nations (UN) in 1953, and this strip of land running through the Korean Peninsula divides the Peninsula roughly into half. Near the western part of the DMZ, there is a Joint Security Area where negotiations can take place. However, there have been various incidents within the area that resulted in military and civilian casualties on both sides.

### Korean Armistice Agreement

Signed on July 27, 1953, the agreement was designed to "insure a complete cessation of hostilities and all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved." In other

words, the agreement between the DPRK, China, and the United Nations wishes to put ceasefire in place until a negotiation is made within.

## Background Information

### Japan Occupation (1910-1945)

From 1910 to 1945, Korea was occupied and ruled by Japan after the Russo-Japanese War. While the Japanese tried to overpower Korean traditions, culture, and economy, resistance groups known as the Dongni Gun (Liberation Army) started to fight against the Japanese with guerilla warfares. One of the leaders from the Liberation Army was Kim Il-Sung, who will later become the first leader of the DPRK.

### Division of North and South Korea (1945-1950)

Korea was divided into North and South at the end of World War II. The peninsula was divided into half along the 38th Parallel (later known as the Korean DMZ) with the North ruled by the Soviet Union, and the South ruled by the United States of America (USA). The agreement between the two was immediately accepted and decided after the surrender of Japan. This division had made it a challenge for a unified Korea today, where the possibility is challenged through the differences between the political, economic, and social systems of these two seperate states. Under the Soviet's rule, Kim Il-Sung was established as the chairman of the Provincial People's Committee for North Korea, and landlords and Japanese collaborators started to flee into the South after the Soviet's chief accomplishment of a land reform program broke North Korea's class system. After a series of uprisings including the Jeju Uprising, the South finally declared itself as a state in May 1948. Later on in 9 September 1948, the DPRK was established, with the former Soviet general serving as the ambassador along with Kim Il-Sung as the premier.

### Korean War (1950-1953)

The Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel in June 25, 1950. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war siding with the South Koreans. During the ongoing back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, American officials worked for a solution to negotiate a possible ceasefire with the DPRK. However, they feared for the possibility of an even more catastrophic war with Russia and China, or even the start of the World War III. The Korean War finally came to an end in July 1953 with the Korean Armistice Agreement, which created today's Korean DMZ. The Korean War resulted in the death of around 5 million soldiers and civilians, along with two divided Korea with high

mutual tension. However, the Korean War technically never ended since the armistice serves only as a “ceasefire”, but not an actual declaration to the end of the war.

## The 21st Century Crisis

Starting in 2003, the US, Russia, China, ROK, and Japan began negotiating with Kim Jong-Un to stop the DPRK from further development and expansion on their nuclear programme. The meetings came to be known as the Six-Party Talks, and they were ultimately unsuccessful. As the world still tends to underestimate the DPRK, no attention was particularly given to the region until the cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment in November 2014. There was no attention nor expectations given to the DPRK cyber capabilities. Henceforth afterwards, the world started to realize that their nuclear program was further along than originally expected. In 2016, the DPRK has conducted their fourth missile test in January, and used a ballistic missile to launch a satellite into orbit a month later. The UN responded with harsh new sanctions that blocks the DPRK from exporting coal and other valuable commodities, while also banning imports of everything from airplane fuel to luxury goods like watches, jet skis, and snowmobiles. With tensions running high on the Korean Peninsula, and the major players failing to agree on a uniform reaction to the situation, the DPRK carries on their projects that threatens the international security. Recently, the escalation in tensions between the US and the DPRK are now very wary and in thin line, with both leaders hurling insults publically with a back-and-forth taunt with provocative language. Played out in public, the war of words is unprecedented. However, regardless of how the two nations have continuously threatened each other for military responses, there are a lot of concerns to be looked that would limit the actions that the US could actually take. As an example, if the US decides to attack the DPRK in ways realm, the DPRK would retaliate by firing missiles already positioned to hit Seoul (Capital of South Korea/ ROK). If the DPRK choose to attack Seoul, an ally and partner of the US, the response would be devastating and overwhelming. Bordering nations of the DPRK are threatened by the distance the missile could fly by November in 2017, where many of the prime ministers and presidents have addressed regarding the issue during the New Year’s message. As leaders around the world stress over to find a solution to the issue, the upcoming years are said to be dangerous and important, where a former North Korean diplomat, Thae Yong-Ho, mentions how Kim Jong-Un is desperate to finish his goal of acquiring ability to attack US territory from the DPRK land.

## Key Issues

### Non-uniformed approaches: The P5 Players & Their Allies

One of the major factors that makes it so hard to seek for an agreement for an agreed solution for the crisis in the DPRK is that it sits at the juncture of three great influential powers. These three states

includes China, Russia (both shares borders with the DPRK), and the US. Each of these countries are looking for a different step to take in order to solve the crisis. On one hand China is wary of a destabilized DPRK, which would mean uncertainty on its border, something that China definitely doesn't want. At the same time, China would not want the DPRK to become too powerful either, but would still need to maintain their diplomatic relations as one of their major trading partners and ally. Russia has remained in silence for most of the time regarding the issue, but would pretty much be considering the same factors as they have similar roles as China is standing at. However, with the US, the considerations would be a little bit different. For decades, US has had long standing security arrangements both with both Japan and the ROK, and it is important for the them to keep those arrangements as iron-clad. If they back down in the face of the provocations of the DPRK, that would have a ripple effect with American relationships and security alliances around the world. As importantly, the other main players would include the other neighboring states of the DPRK, the ROK and Japan. The ROK have their own course of view about what should happen about the DPRK, though the North and South are ethnically the same people. They don't relish the idea of being the meat in a sandwich between these great powers. The last concern would leave us to the situation within the DPRK, regarding the Kim Dynasty. After the current leader, Kim Jong-Un came to power, he has taken great pains to consolidate his power in Pyongyang. He is showing his people, and world, that he remains a powerful and stable leader with his regime firmly in place. As the DPRK's nuclear programme continues to advance, there is little to no chance on any change of the stance that the major players would make, but what could be changed is how these players would like to counter this challenge.

### The Nuclear ICBM Programme

*"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,"* said Kim Jong-Un in his 2018 New Year address. Currently, the nuclear programme advancements have reached the range that potentially puts the whole world in danger except for Latin America and Antarctica. The DPRK's longest traveling ICBM that flew for about 53 minutes before landing in the sea, the Hwasong-15, was estimated capable of traveling a potential distance of 13,000 km after a performance test in November 29, 2017. Although it would be hard to ensure a successful attempt, the US, South Korea (ROK), and Japan are equipped with anti-missile systems that would be able to intercept and destroy a missile if the DPRK decides to launch a potentially threatening missile in the future.

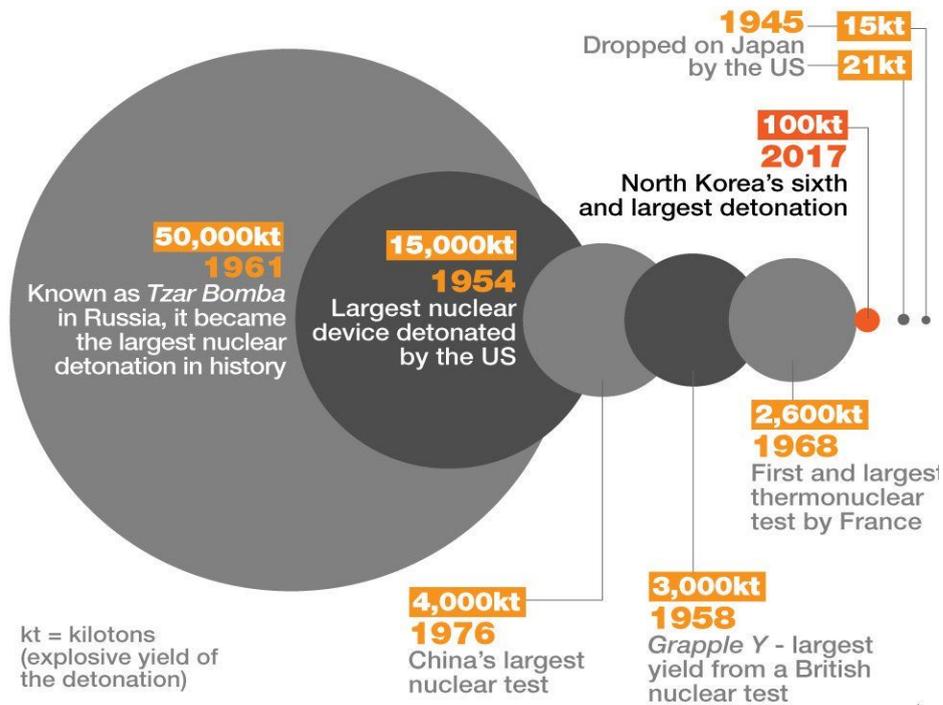
### Chance of Nuclear Attack

As the DPRK had continuously threatened for a nuclear attack with its rapid developing missile programs, the world starts to realize that their development are further along than expected. The isolated nation has achieved this progress despite the attempts where the UN

Security Council tried to impose sanctions for its nuclear tests and long-range rocket launches dating back to 2006. However, if the DPRK wants to launch a nuclear attack, they will need to produce nuclear devices that are small enough to fit their missiles, which is not known to have yet been successfully developed and tested.

## Major nuclear detonations

A comparison of North Korea's latest nuclear test with the largest nuclear detonations by other major powers.



Caption #1: Comparison of DPRK & other nuclear state's ICBMs



Caption #2 Inspection on the so-called hydrogen bomb that can be loaded on an ICBM

## The Humanitarian Crisis: Refugees and Detained Individuals

Resulting from the focus the DPRK has placed on their nuclear programs, more than eight million people, which is over a third of the population is now in urgent need of food aid. Not only today, an estimation of 3.5 DPRK citizens have suffered in the past between 1995 and 1998 for death related to starvation and illness. Due to its investments in the nuclear program, the DPRK is now in the midst of an acute humanitarian crisis but still refuses to take action towards remedying this crisis. Despite receiving one of the largest allocations of food aid in the world (almost a million tonnes yearly), most of their citizens feed on roots and edible grass for survival. Realizing how brutal the regime is after the death of Kim Jong-Nam, the UN has carried out investigations regarding the human rights in the DPRK. The results of the investigation in February 2017 indicated that the regime partook in more brutal treatments for their citizens. As a result of the aforementioned treatment, there already are concerns towards results of a potential refugee crisis (in many cases of starving and harsh life) that would probably directly head straight towards neighboring nations. This result would actually directly impact countries such as China, since China lays directly across the DPRK across the Tumen River. Of course, in a crisis, they'll cross the border in any case, in numbers that will draw the world's attention. It would be a similar scenario to Turkey's role in handling the refugee crisis originating in neighboring Syria, and these detained individuals would then be of national interest for other nations since they might jeopardize their national security. Thus, the crisis must then be taken seriously to prevent security concerns.



**Caption #3: The frozen Tumen River in China from the Hunchun City in the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, right across from the DPRK**

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### Republic of Korea (ROK)

As a neighboring country of the DPRK, the ROK has been regularly carrying out simulated attack on North Korea's test site, approved the deployment of the US-missile system in order to remind the DPRK of their military firepower that would be able to counter their provocations. However, they are still keeping the door to dialogue and negotiations open, but would still be working closely with the US for their own security and defence system in response to any threat that might occur. ROK is delighted of how the tensions between the North and South seem to have ease and wishes for further improvement in the future, and is especially delighted when the DPRK accepted the offer of the recent peace talk in January. However, regarding the November missile test, the president and government officials of the ROK are in agreement that their response would be to strengthen the ROK military system rather than to hold talks considering how our security system is now under threat.

### People's Republic of China (PRC)

As the most important trading partner and main food and energy resource of the DPRK, China has been put under a lot of pressure to cut ties and place restrictions in order to have the DPRK surrender their illegal development on the nuclear programmes. Promoting ties between the two countries was a major hope China had aimed for, but now under the intense pressure from the United States (US) to do more to restrict the nuclear development that raised tensions globally, China had recently tightened trade limits with the DPRK in January 2018 under the UN sanctions, limiting exports of crude oil and refined petroleum to the DPRK. Also, China recently congratulated and applauded for the ROK and DPRK for the recent reduce of tensions and cooperation made regarding the Winter Olympics in South Korea. This is an action that China supports a lot, believing that this serves as a step that gradually advance the settlement of the issue in DPRK. Such initial dialogue between the two Korean states would eventually open possibilities for confidence and trust building in the Korean Peninsula, reduce tensions and drive toward denuclearization. Since China is an ally of the DPRK, China favors peaceful solutions such as peace talks on DPRK's nuclear issue and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula beyond the scope of February's Olympics. Parties like the DPRK and the United States would also need to act as the key players, with China serving as a supporting bridge towards peace in the Peninsula.

### United States of America (USA)

USA administrators have tried continuously with various strategies to try and convince the DPRK to halt their programs for years already. The U.S knows that for much of this time, the DPRK's government have been working on expanding their nuclear program. The U.S. had tried diplomatic

inducements including normalizations of relations, security guarantees, as well as with economic and food aid. Unfortunately, none of them had lasting results. The DPRK always violated the deal, and simply refused international monitoring and verification after being caught. The problem remains unsolved is because of the attitude the DPRK has held up towards the rest of the world until now, walking away from all denuclearization agreements. In face of sanctions, the DPRK still clearly values its nuclear weapons more. With the new president, the US has limited their development or rather unpredictable expansions by deploying the THAAD defence system in the ROK. Even with the strong criticisms from China and Russia, the US government believes that military actions and threats may be the only available choice left to solve the issue. The door is open to negotiations. However, with the US's constant threats of any imminent actions made, tensions would only grow near the region.

### Russian Federation

Not directly related to the issue as much as the other major parties are, Russia is still concerned about the tight tensions between the United States (US) and DPRK especially regarding the issue of denuclearization. Russia does not agree with how the U.S. is trying to force the DPRK into a position of negotiating by putting more and more sanctions on the them, and even pulling China into the situation. However, Russia on the other hand certainly worries about how the DPRK has continued to firmly proceed with its nuclear programme, where Russia reject to see DPRK as a new nuclear state, knowing how that would completely change their influences in Northeast Asia. Therefore, Russia on this issue would support the solution of holding "multilateral talks" as the best option aimed to reduce these tensions between the DPRK and the other member states. Russia could also play a very effective role in the issue, if with the help of its close ally, China.

### Japan

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the security environment surrounding Japan is at its severest since World War II. I will protect the people's lives and peaceful living in any situation. It is absolutely unacceptable that North Korea is trampling the strong desire of Japan and the rest of the international community for peaceful resolutions and continuing with its provocative behavior." said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in his New Year Speech. As a neighboring country of the DPRK, Japan cannot accept the DPRK's behavior and activities that would create potential threats to the lives of their citizens. The Japanese government disapproves of DPRK's recent missile tests and launches. Japan is now in constant contact with the U.S. aiming to diplomatically solve the crisis. As one of the members of the Six Party-Talks, Japan now not only work in close coordination with other member states actively on the issue, but also entertain unofficial talks with the DPRK on topics of political relations and situations. For this issue, Japan would wish to normalize relations with the DPRK and to resolve these matters as soon as possible.

## Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of event
October, 2002	<p><b>Discovery of North Korea's Secret Nuclear Programme Development</b></p> <p>US and its key Asian allies Japan and South Korea halt oil shipments following North Korea's reported admission that it has secretly been developing a uranium-based nuclear programme.</p>
January, 2003	<p><b>North Korea withdraws from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty</b></p> <p>The withdraw marked the beginning of a series of Six-Party Talks (6PT) involving China, the Koreas, the US, Japan and Russia to try to resolve the nuclear issue.</p>
August 27-29, 2003	<p><b>1st Round of Six-Party Talks (6PT)</b></p> <p>No agreements between the parties were made, but all agreed upon further round of talks in the future.</p>
February 8-12, 2007	<p><b>North Korea agrees to surrender their programme</b></p> <p>With slow and little net progress in the past 4 years of talks, North Korea finally agrees to shut down their nuclear developments in exchange with fuel aid and would like to step towards normalizing relations with US and Japan.</p>
April 14, 2009	<p><b>North Korea withdraws from Six Party Talks and resume their programme</b></p> <p>This action was due to how North Korea was angered by the statement that condemned the failed satellite launch they conducted issued by the United Nations Security Council's President Statement (April 13, 2009). Furious, North Korea declared that they would pull out from the Six-Party Talks (6PT), resume their nuclear programme development, and expel all nuclear inspectors in the country.</p>
September, 2013	<p><b>China bans exports that may be misused to North Korea</b></p> <p>The strongest ally of North Korea, China, finally takes actions on them by banning exports of items that could be used to make missiles or nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.</p>
December, 2015	<p><b>US imposes New Sanctions on North Korea</b></p> <p>The new sanctions the United States imposes on North Korea is regarded over the weapons of proliferation, which targets their banks, shipping companies.</p>
November, 2016	<p><b>United Nations Security Council (UNSC) tightens sanctions on North Korea</b></p>

The tightened sanctions the UN Security Council proposes aims to cut one of North Korea's main exports (coal) by 60%

#### **Assassination of Kim Jong-nam**

February 13 , 2017 Kim Jong-nam, Kim Jong-un's half brother, is killed in Malaysia by two women who attacked him with a VX nerve agent (lethal chemical weapon). As the assassination is under investigations, it is widely believed that it might have been ordered by the North Korean government.

#### **North Korea Threatens to Attack Guam**

August, 2017 After July, 2017's successful long-range missile test into the Sea of Japan, North Korea threatens to fire a ballistic missile near US Pacific Territory of Guam.

## **Relevant UN Treaties and Events**

- SC Resolution 1540, 28 April 2004 (**S/RES/1540**): Asks for the association between of all member states to prevent any kind of partnership or help related to the possession of nuclear weapons by the DPRK.
- SC Resolution 1718, 14 October 2006 (**S/RES/1718**): Sets sanctions and monitoring mechanism to take on topic of the missile programme and future nuclear test, also wishing to provide reports every 90 days.
- Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 18 March 2010 (**A/HRC/13/L.13**): First resolution that disapproves the human rights violations by the DPRK.
- Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 18 December 2013 (**A/RES/68/183**): One of the many General Assembly (GA) resolutions that expresses concern on the topic of the situation in DPRK.
- Korean Armistice Agreement, June 25 1950: This resolution created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (Korean DMZ), as well as upholding forceful ceasefire until negotiation and agreements are made between the DPRK and ROK.

## **Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

### **Six Party-Talks (6PT)**

The Six Party Talks aim to find a peaceful solution/ resolution to resolve the international concern on the security in the Korean Peninsula. However, regardless of the past efforts made during these talks,

the DPRK still chose to continue on with the development of their nuclear programme, proving these talks to be ineffective. However, since China is very committed in getting these process in a manner of considering this as their priority solution to the issue, a major ally and most persuasive power to the DPRK had made these talks efficient and effective to the issue. However, the effort was ultimately unsuccessful when we see the DPRK begun to restart the plutonium based reactor, and showing very little interest in pursuing denuclearization concluding a rejection towards the whole purpose of the talks. To assess the overall efforts made in the last ten year period, the positive aspects were to establish some patterns of cooperation between these member nations, and to express that these states are all interested in reaching out opening room for negotiated settlement. Indeed, there was progress in the early stages in terms of shutting the nuclear reactor as well as stopping the production of the bomb-making material, but in recent years the DPRK have clearly withdrawn themselves completely from expressing any interest for any room of cooperation.



**Caption #4: Russia and China urges the DPRK to resume talks over the nuclear weapons programme, and their continuous developments is unacceptable and threatens the international committee**

## Sanctions

Since the 1950s, the US government, has placed sanctions on the DPRK. Yet, the regime still won't surrender their nuclear developments. As the international committee stress over on the issue in the DPRK, the UN, US, and other states tried multiple methods to discourage their rapid expansions on the programme through placing sanctions that aims to cut the financial resource the DPRK uses for the development of their programme. Therefore, although it might be possible for sanctions to successfully combat the issue by completely depriving the DPRK from financial support for the developing programme, the consideration of the lives of the citizens in the region is a huge barrier that restricts even

harsher sanctions to be placed on the DPRK. Also, China has been previously found smuggling oil onto North Korean ships, so having China as a key player for the situation in the DPRK, the international committee would need to somehow persuade China to collaborate and agree to join on the same side for the sanctions to work properly. The fifteen-member United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed 8 rounds of sanctions, all unanimously, all against the DPRK since its first nuclear test. However, the UN sanctions regime still allows for humanitarian assistance to flow into the DPRK. European Union (EU) has adopted a number of legal acts imposing restrictive measures against the DPRK, which implement several UNSC resolutions and include additional autonomous measures that complement and reinforces the UN-based sanctions. In the same fashion, in November 2017, the DPRK has called for a halt to what they called "brutal sanctions". The calls for an immediate end to sanctions was declared as US President Donald Trump sets off a trip to Asia- including China, ROK, and Japan- looking for help to pressure the DPRK to stand down from the nuclear crisis. The global community has been ramping up the pressure on the isolated country after its Sixth and most powerful nuclear so far on November. This is the first time the DPRK has indicated that sanctions are hurting them.

## Possible Solutions

### Rejoin/ Renew Structure of Six Party-Talks and New Talks

Since the Six-Party talks are one of the lasting negotiations the DPRK has agreed to participate in and showed the willingness for possible changes, the DPRK might as well be willing to rejoin if the terms of the talks are considered fair to them. Having a third-party monitoring would be a possible consideration that would make the talks fair, and considering bilateral treaties that wouldn't force the DPRK to take actions would also be a solution to a more successful invitation of the DPRK to the talks. Also, other than the ongoing Six Party Talks (if successfully negotiated), new talks could also be formed to combat the existing problems within the original Six-Party Talks, which could promise more talks in the future that might lead to concrete, measurable changes.

### Humanitarian Aiding for Citizens

Since the issue at hand is not only about the demilitarization of the Korean Peninsula, the council would also need to at the same time find a solution that would aid the people suffering from extreme poverty in the region. However, knowing that the multiple deliveries of these humanitarian aids has not been making a big change in the region, at least not with their government so putting all economic incomes into their obsession with security and its development of strategic weaponry, even while its people starve. But still, a little effort put into this issue could be done by collaboration with NGOs by having them provide resources for basic human living requirements, and on the other hand ensuring the

safety of these NGO personnels through ways such as the immediate withdrawal of personnels once they are physically harmed, and the decisions to take further action should the DPRK physically harm any personnel.

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