



Statement of the People's Republic of China regarding the issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The current situation on the Korean Peninsula remains complex and sensitive. The People's Republic of China maintains a consistent position to maintain and promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. Recalling Article 2 of the UN Charter, we support the improvement of relations and reconciliation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) through open dialogue and consultation, leading to the eventual realization of independent and peaceful reunification. As a Korean neighbor and having maintained diplomatic relations with both countries, the People's Republic of China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in relations between the DPRK and the ROK. The People's Republic of China accepts the U.S. military presence on the Korean peninsula as requested by the ROK for the time after the reunification of the North and South. However, the People's Republic of China reiterates the necessity of independent and peaceful reconciliation and the promotion of North-South relations. The People's Republic of China is willing to play a central role in negotiations with the DPRK, acting as a mediator between the United States and the DPRK. However we are strongly condemning moves for harsh multilateral sanctions, since we are convinced that these would lead to a refugee crisis in the region.

The People's Republic of China is reaffirming the urgency of the reinstatement of the Six-Party Talks. The challenge now is that we need to have further consultations on how and when the talks can be resumed. We still need to reach consensus on this point. As known to all, China has been an active supporter of the bilateral contacts and dialogues between the relevant parties. We believe that such dialogue and contacts and the Six-Party Talks can be mutually reinforcing. At the same time, we cannot expect the issue to be resolved overnight. The Six-Party Talks is a diplomatic practice where no established precedent can be followed. It is important that all the parties involved work even harder. As an old Chinese proverb reads, one can not travel a thousand miles without taking a succession of solid steps, like an

ocean cannot take shape without admitting numerous small streams. As long as we get the dialogue off to a start, we can find more and more common languages.

A Korean Peninsula that enjoys peace, stability, progress and prosperity serves the common interests of countries in the region, China included, and the rest of the international community. China hopes that the parties concerned will adopt a long-term perspective, solve relevant issues through dialogue and consultation, continue to push forward the Six-Party Talks, and work together for peace and stability on the Peninsula and lasting peace and tranquility in the region.