

Background Information

The question of North Korean's Nuclear Arsenal is still a source of concern for the world community as the constant threats might endanger the world peace. As of now, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the only country that withdrew from the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). They signed NPT in 1985 just to call of the signature 18 years later, in 2003.¹ Subsequently, in the same year DPRK proclaimed they possess nuclear weapons.

Just to briefly mention the treaty, it contains of three pillars: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.² The full text can be found in the link attached bellow in the fourth section of this document.

DPRK have withdrawn from the treaty in order to conduct nuclear tests. Consequently, there have been six nuclear tests over the course of the past 15 years. The first one occurred in 2006, followed by five more – in 2009, 2013, two in 2016 and in 2017. Henceforth, the above-mentioned treaty was violated.

UN Involvement

According to Arms Control Association, *“the United Nation Security Council has adopted nine major sanctions resolutions on North Korea in response to the country's nuclear and missile activities since 2006.”*³ Those resolutions introduced several measures of dealing with the nuclear proliferation of DPRK. The measures are described below.

Resolution 1718 of October 2006

The resolution was adopted in response to the first North Korean nuclear test introduced several demands (DPRK's refrain from further nuclear or missile tests, DPRK's return to the NPT...) as well as description of the sanctions – *“member states are prohibited from the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer to North*

¹ <https://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/29/world/asia/north-korea-nuclear-timeline---fast-facts/index.html>

² <https://www.nti.org/learn/glossary/#treaty-non-proliferation-nuclear-weapons>

³ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea>

Korea, of: heavy weaponry, such as tanks, armoured vehicles, large calibre artillery, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships and missile systems...spare parts for the above mentioned heavy weaponry...materials and technologies that could contribute to North Korea's WMD programs and ballistic missile related activities, as set out in prior Security Council documents and luxury goods."⁴

Furthermore, this resolution established a committee composed of the 15 current members of the Security Council *"to function as a monitoring body to review and adjust the imposed sanctions and violations of the sanctions. The body was to provide a report on the status of sanctions implementation every 90 day."*⁵

Resolution 1874 of June 2009

This resolution expanded the embargo laid out by the first resolution – it banned all imports and exports of weapons, with an exclusion of small arms. Moreover, the member states were now authorised to inspect North Korean cargo on land, air and sea, *"if the state has reason to believe that it contains prohibited items and seize any prohibited materials or technologies."*⁶

In addition, the resolution set up a *"seven-member expert panel to assist the sanctions committee in enforcing the resolution and monitor implementation."*⁷

Resolution 2087 of January 2013

Once again, this resolution built on sanctions included in the two previous resolutions, those built ups included *"clarifying the catch-all provision, clarifying the state's right to seize and destroy material suspected of heading to or from North Korea, directing the sanctions committee to take action to designate individuals or entities that have assisted in sanctions evasion."*⁸

Resolution 2094 of March 2013

The biggest impact of this resolution was an expansion of number of sanctions that were introduced earlier. Most importantly, there was a whole new

⁴ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

section of financial sanctions that *“blocked the North Korea regime from bulk cash transfers and restricted North Korea’s ties to international banking systems.”*⁹

Resolution 2270 of March 2016

The document *“prohibits states from providing any specialized teaching or training on DPRK’s nationals in disciplines which could contribute to North Korea’s proliferation.”*¹⁰ On top of that the arms embargo was expanded and now included small and light weapons and additional luxury goods were prohibited as well. The financial sanctions included *“prohibiting UN member states from hosting North Korean financial institutions that may be supporting proliferation activities in North Korea, prohibiting states from opening new financial institutions or bank branches in North Korea, requiring states to terminate existing joint ventures within ninety days of the adoption of the resolution.”*¹¹

Resolution 2321 of November 2016

Once again, new sanctions were introduced, North Korea was not prohibited from exporting minerals, selling statues, selling helicopters, selling or transferring iron and iron ore, selling or transferring coal in amounts that exceed a particular amount annually.¹²

Resolution 2371 of August 2017

This resolution further bans the export of several materials such as coal or seafood. Also, it prohibits joint ventures between North Korea and other nations and bans countries from allowing in additional North Korean laborers.¹³

Resolution 2375 of September 2017

In accordance to U.S. press release, this resolution introduced the strongest sanctions yet as it *“fully bans textile exports, caps refined petroleum product imports at 2 million barrels per year, freezes the amount of crude oil imports, bans all natural gas and condensate imports, prohibits member states from providing authorizations*

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

for North Korean nationals to work in their jurisdictions, unless otherwise determined by the committee established UNSCR 1718, imposes asset freezes on additional North Korean entities, including the Organizational Guidance Department, the Central Military Commission and the Propagation and Agitation Department Directs the 1718 committee to designate vessels transporting prohibited items from North Korea, bans all joint ventures or cooperative entities or the expansion of existing joint ventures with DPRK entities or individuals.”¹⁴

Resolution 2397 of December 2017

This resolution basically repeats many of the principles of the previous resolution, introducing a bit more detail than the previous one by for example specifying amounts of banned goods et cetera.¹⁵

Questions to Consider

- What is your country’s approach towards DPRK?
- Does your country possess any nuclear weapons?
- What is your country’s position on nuclear weapons testing?
- Is your country in favour of continuation of sanctions towards DPRK?
- What is in your country’s opinion the best way of achieving nuclear disarmament of DPRK? Should the sanction policy be extended? If yes, what sanctions does your country suggest?
- Is there any point in establishing a new body/committee that would concert itself exclusively with the DPRK nuclear proliferation question? If yes, what should be the core responsibilities/duties?
- Why have the sanctions now worked as of yet?
- Why is DPRK so stubborn about their Nuclear industry?

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea>

Works Cited and Useful Links

Full text of the NPT: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/text/>

UNSC Resolution 1718: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res1718>

UNSC Resolution 1874: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res1874>

UNSC Resolution 2087: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2087>

UNSC Resolution 2094: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2094>

UNSC Resolution 2270: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2270>

UNSC Resolution 2321: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2321>

UNSC Resolution 2371: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2371>

UNSC Resolution 2375: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2375>

UNSC Resolution 2379: <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res2379>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/10/29/world/asia/north-korea-nuclear-timeline---fast-facts/index.html>

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<https://www.nti.org/learn/countries/north-korea/nuclear/>

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