

Item 18 - Plenary  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE  
AGENCY AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Thank you, Mr President,

I take the floor to introduce draft resolution GC(48)/L.2 on "the Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement between the Agency and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." This resolution is based closely on the resolution adopted without a vote at last year's General Conference, with updates to reflect events since that time. It is the product of intensive consultations with those countries most directly involved in efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the DPRK nuclear issue. In addition to the 43 cosponsors listed on the draft resolution itself, the delegations of Argentina, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador, Panama, Ukraine and \_\_\_\_\_ have informed us of their co-sponsorship. It therefore enjoys wide support from diverse regions.

The draft resolution before us underscores the abiding interest of the Agency and its governing bodies in the DPRK nuclear issue. It urges the DPRK to reconsider those actions and announcements which run contrary to non-proliferation obligations, calls upon the DPRK to accept comprehensive IAEA safeguards, and urges the DPRK to dismantle any nuclear weapons programme in a prompt, transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, maintaining the essential verification role of the IAEA.

At the same time, the resolution encourages the diplomatic efforts underway to find a peaceful solution, and particularly welcomes the process of 6-party which have take place in Beijing at the initiative of the Government of China. It is important to maintain the momentum begun by that process. I believe that all member states of the Agency are appreciative of the role China has played in seeking a peaceful settlement to the DPRK nuclear issue.

Mr President,

It is my impression that this resolution represents the consensus view of the General Conference, and I hope it will be adopted without a vote, in order to express the international community's united resolve to achieve a nuclear weapon free Korean Peninsula.

Thank you, Mr President.