

AGENDA ITEM 6: NUCLEAR VERIFICATION

(B) APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Chairperson,

South Africa thanks the Director General for his introductory remarks on this agenda item and continues to regret the lack of progress on the IAEA's verification mandate in the DPRK.

Recent developments are a cause of deep and serious concern and all parties should exercise restraint and work towards negotiations in order to restore peace. The Six-Party Talks should be resumed as soon as possible with a view to implement the agreed step-by-step joint actions, and to actively continue in the recognized declared intention of the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and towards sustainable peace and security in the region.

South Africa once again urges the DPRK to rescind its announced withdrawal from the NPT, and to fully and verifiably terminate any nuclear weapons programme, to refrain from further nuclear tests or any launch using ballistic missile technology and to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). It continues to be of utmost importance that the DPRK places all its nuclear facilities and materials under comprehensive IAEA safeguards to provide the international community with credible assurance of the peaceful nature of the DPRK's nuclear activities.

Chairperson,

My delegation believes that it is incumbent on all parties concerned to redouble their efforts to de-escalate the volatile situation, and to refrain from any actions that might exacerbate the situation.

Thank you, Chairperson.