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The Republic of  
**KOREA**

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**Statement by  
the Representative of the Republic of Korea  
at the 908th Meeting of the Permanent Council of the OSCE  
19 April 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to draw your attention to an incident of last Friday that caused serious security concerns in Northeast Asia. The DPRK launched a *de facto* long-range missile on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Although it turned out to be a failure, this provocative action constitutes a clear violation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1874, which bans the DPRK any launch using ballistic missile technology. Furthermore, this is a threat to the peace and security not only on the Korean Peninsula but that of the region as well. It is highly deplorable that the DPRK pushed forward with this launch, despite the international community's unified call for the withdrawal.

The international community quickly responded to the North's provocation. Countries around the world released statements condemning the launch, and the United Nations Security Council adopted the Presidential Statement just three days after the launch on April 16<sup>th</sup>. In its Presidential Statement, the Security Council strongly condemned the launch by the DPRK, stressing that last week's action is a serious violation of related Security Council resolutions and deploring that the launch caused grave security concerns in the region.

The Council demanded that the DPRK immediately comply fully with its obligations including that it: abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner; immediately cease all related activities; and not conduct any further launches that use ballistic missile technology, nuclear tests or any further provocation. The Council also expressed its determination to take accordingly in the event of a further DPRK launch or nuclear test.

However, the DPRK released a statement the next day commenting that the DPRK completely rejects the UN Security Council Presidential Statement and that it will continue to exercise its right to use outer space. However, it is complete nonsense that the DPRK claims its right stipulated by international laws, while committing so many breaches of these same laws. Furthermore, it is very regrettable that the DPRK has been spending enormous amount of its resources on developing military capabilities, while ignoring the urgent welfare issues of its own people such as chronic food shortage. My Government has continuously urged Pyongyang to depart from its past of developing weapons of mass destruction and concentrate on its economic development and the improvement of its people's living conditions.

The international community has stood firm and united in its position towards the DPRK's recent provocative action. I would like to invite the OSCE to continue to pay close attention to the situation and support the peace and stability of the region.

Thank you.