

To :
His Excellency Francois Delattre
Ambassador of France to the United Nations
President of the United Nations Security Council March 2019

Open Letter to the UN Security Council Members

The peace process on the Korean Peninsula must go on

21 March 2019

Dear Mr. President and other Members representatives,

We are 55 civil society organizations that act for peace on the Korean Peninsula. We are sending this open letter to raise our concerns on the deadlock between the DPRK and the U.S. after the last summit in Vietnam.

We appeal to the Members of the UN Security Council, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718, and the international community to ensure that the peace process on the Korean Peninsula is firmly sustained.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration

Sincerely Yours,

55 Civil Society Organizations in ROK :

80 Million Koreans Community Preparing for Reunification (K.P.R.), Asia Peace & History Education Network, Chuncheon Womenlink, Citizens' Coalition for Democratic Media, Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, Civil Peace Forum, Civil Society Organizations Network in Korea, Civilian Military Watch, Conference for Peace in East Asia, Daejeon Differently Abled Women Solidarity, Daejeon Women's Association United, Daejeon Women's Association for Peace-Making, Daejeon Women' Association for Better Aging Society, Daejeon Women's

Association for Democracy, Dongbuk Womenlink, Eco Horizon Institute, Green Korea, Gunpo Womenlink, Gwangju Womenlink, Incheon Womenlink, Jeju Peace Human Rights Center, Jeju Peace Human Rights Institute WHAT, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements, Korea NGO Council for Cooperation with North Korea, Korea Veterans for Peace, Korea Women's Associations United, Korea Women's Hot Line, Korean Sharing Movement, MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society, Movement for One Korea, Namseo Womenlink, National YWCA of Korea, NCYK (National Council of YMCA'S of Korea), Networks for Greentransport, Ok Tree, Peace Network, Peace Sharing Association, PEACEMOMO, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD), Professors for Democracy, Pyeongtaek Peace Center, Reconciliation and Reunification Committee, NCKK (The National Council of Churches in Korea), Research Institute for Peace and Reunification of Korea, Sejong Women's Corporation, Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK), The Corea Peace 3000, The Headquarters of National Unification Movement of Young Korean Academy, The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, The Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea, The Righteous People for Korean Unification, Women in Action for Life PAN, Women Making Peace, Womenlink, Won-Buddhism Diocese of Pyongyang, World Without War

* Among 55 Civil Society Organizations, Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements, Korean Sharing Movement, Korea Women's Associations United, MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD) have been in the Consultative Status with ECOSOC.

1. Open Letter to the UN Security Council Members

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The peace process on the Korean Peninsula must go on

We are 55 civil society organizations that act for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Since the last summit in Vietnam between the DPRK and the U.S. ended without result, concerns have been raised that the deadlock between the two countries will be prolonged. We wish to make it clear that there must be no further action to aggravate the situation. We appeal to the Members of the UN Security Council, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718, and the international community to ensure that the peace process on the Korean Peninsula is firmly sustained.

We request the Members of the UN Security Council to publicly announce in support of the following: the reopening of the DPRK-the U.S. dialogue; the lifting all the sanctions related to humanitarian assistance; and the starting of negotiations to build peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

We also request the 1718 Committee to lift all the sanctions against humanitarian support to the DPRK.

The dialogue between the DPRK and the U.S. must continue

The 2nd DPRK-U.S. summit clearly showed that removing tensions from the Korean Peninsula, where the Cold War still runs, is not an easy task. For the countries who have been enemies to each other for almost 70 years, it is not easy at all to trust and begin to have open talks with each other. This is why it is neither realistic nor appropriate for the U.S. to demand that the DPRK completely denuclearize at once. The DPRK needs to consider the fact that deep-rooted mistrust is also alive despite her stated willingness to denuclearize.

We would like to highlight that the DPRK and the U.S. committed in Singapore 'to establish new relations, to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula and to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula'. We expect the two countries will adjust their demands and expectations to start phased and simultaneous implementation of their promises at the smallest level they feel comfortable with. Once they start building trust in the process, they will be able to agree on larger issues. The DPRK and the U.S. must earnestly listen to each other and continue their dialogue.

At least, the sanctions against the DPRK that are related to humanitarian assistance must be lifted

The UN says that the sanctions against the DPRK are not the end, but the means. In the same light, all resolutions of the UN Security Council on the sanctions emphasize the commitment to “a peaceful, diplomatic, and political solution to the situation.” The true purposes of such resolutions are to urge “the DPRK and the U.S. to respect each other’s sovereignty and exist peacefully together” and also “the council members as well as other states to facilitate a peaceful and comprehensive solution through dialogue”. Humanitarian assistance is a universal and non-derogable value and spirit in the work of the UN. As the UN Security Council resolutions clarify that these resolutions “are not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK or to affect negatively or restrict those activities, ... the work of international and non-governmental organizations carrying out assistance and relief activities in the DPRK for the benefit of the civilian population of the DPRK.” However, the sanctions against the DPRK by the UN and the stronger ones imposed by the U.S. after the 1st DPRK-U.S. summit have aggravated the conditions for humanitarian assistance to the DPRK. We urge the 1718 Committee to lift all the sanctions that prevent humanitarian assistance to the DPRK.

These sanctions hamper implementation of inter-Korean agreements for exchange and cooperation. They even made it difficult to resume operation of Mount Geumgang tours and Gaeseong Industrial Complex, which are stopped activities unrelated to the UN sanctions. As initial steps for peace, the two Koreas need to expand meetings and cooperation among them in order to end military tension and confrontation, and thus paving way for peace in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. The sanctions against the DPRK which impede to conduct humanitarian assistance and build cooperative relationships between the two Koreas must be relieved as soon as possible.

‘Denuclearization as Peacemaking Process’ must be observed as a principle

The nuclear conflict on the Korean Peninsula is a product of the instability inherent to an armistice regime, grown out of the decades-long military confrontation and arms race. Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula is closely connected to building a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula with normalizing relations between the DPRK and the U.S. The denuclearization of the DPRK alone cannot be the entry point for negotiations to begin. Peace on the Peninsula cannot be achieved only through denuclearization. It can only be achieved, instead, when it becomes part of a peace-building process. Efforts to build a permanent peace regime here, such as signing a peace treaty or a non-aggression agreement, and normalizing relations between the DPRK and the U.S. must be paralleled.

The kind of complete denuclearization that people in the two Koreas sincerely wish to achieve is a state where all nuclear threats surrounding the Peninsula are removed. This cannot be achieved only by 'Complete, Verifiable, Irreversible Denuclearization' of the DPRK alone. Abolishment of the extended deterrence strategy to which the ROK, the U.S., and Japan rely on is one of the associated and necessary tasks. Nuclear-Free Korean Peninsula can become a stepping stone for Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and Nuclear-Free world.

There is no other way to achieve peace but through peaceful means

Achieving peace on the Korean Peninsula will serve as a testing case for whether humanity will be able to peacefully resolve the accumulated conflicts of today's world, or not. In Korea, we have recently witnessed that peace can be achieved through peaceful means and problems can be solved through dialogue and negotiation. Since the inter-Korean summit last year, the two Koreas have ceased all hostile activities, cherishing the most peaceful time ever since the armistice began. We should never return to the repeated threats of nuclear war and heightened military tension under any circumstances.

Once again, we urge the UN Security Council and the international community to support the painstaking efforts to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula. Cooperation from the international community is absolutely crucial. We plead that you do utmost to ensure the continuity of the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. For its part, Korean civil society will spare no effort.

21 March 2019

80 Million Koreans Community Preparing for Reunification (K.P.R.)

Asia Peace & History Education Network

Chuncheon Womenlink

Citizens' Coalition for Democratic Media

Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice

Civil Peace Forum

Civil Society Organizations Network in Korea

Civilian Military Watch

Conference for Peace in East Asia

Daejeon Differently Abled Women Solidarity

Daejeon Women' Association for Better Aging Society

Daejeon Women's Association United

Daejeon Women's Association for Democracy
Daejeon Women's Association for Peace-Making
Dongbuk Womenlink
Eco Horizon Institute
Green Korea
Gunpo Womenlink
Gwangju Womenlink
Incheon Womenlink
Jeju Peace Human Rights Center
Jeju Peace Human Rights Institute WHAT
Korea Federation for Environmental Movements
Korea NGO Council for Cooperation with North Korea
Korea Veterans for Peace
Korea Women's Associations United
Korea Women's Hot Line
Korean Sharing Movement
MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society
Movement for One Korea
Namseo Womenlink
National YWCA of Korea
NCYK (National Council of YMCA'S of Korea)
Networks for Greentransport
Ok Tree
Peace Network
Peace Sharing Association
PEACEMOMO
People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (PSPD)
Professors for Democracy
Pyeongtaek Peace Center
Reconciliation and Reunification Committee, NCCK (The National Council of Churches in Korea)
Research Institute for Peace and Reunification of Korea
Sejong Women's Corporation
Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK)
The Corea Peace 3000
The Headquarters of National Unification Movement of Young Korean Academy
The Korean Council for Justice and Remembrance for the Issues of Military Sexual Slavery by Japan
The Research Institute of the Differently Abled Person's Right in Korea

The Righteous People for Korean Unification

Women in Action for Life PAN

Women Making Peace

Womenlink

Won-Buddhism Diocese of Pyongyang

World Without War