

Remarks by Russian Governor of the IAEA Board of Governors, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation at International Organisations in Vienna, Mikhail Ulyanov, during the IAEA Board of Governors session on the agenda item “Implementing the IAEA

Category: Foreign Policy News Thursday, 07 June 2018 13:00 Written by Vladimir I Poluektov Hits: 516

Mr Chairman,

---

Unfortunately, some of the preceding remarks show that inertia is still strong in international relations. We could hear similar statements many times in the past, but the situation has changed radically since then. We have real hope that we can achieve the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula. We believe that the Board of Governors' current session should send a signal of support for the dialogue between the two Koreas and the upcoming meeting between US President Donald Trump and North Korean President Kim Jong-un on June 12. We are sure that if the sides refrain from making patently unacceptable demands of each other and affirm that they are ready for a mutually respectful dialogue, there will be a prospect for denuclearising the Korean Peninsula.

We will be able to seriously talk about resuming the IAEA inspections in North Korea only after a political and diplomatic solution has been reached, and all the parties concerned still have to do much work on it. Russia proceeds from the assumption that the IAEA remains the only international organisation with sufficient prestige and technical capabilities to monitor and control North Korea's nuclear activities, including in the context of efforts to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula. We welcome the Agency's readiness to resume its inspections in strict conformity with the IAEA Charter. We also appreciate relevant efforts undertaken by the Department of Safeguards and are ready to render it all possible assistance.

We note with pleasure that the upcoming contacts and the general dynamics of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula confirms the relevance of the path outlined in the Russian-Chinese roadmap adopted on July 4, 2017, and published as IAEA Information Circular INFCIRC/922. Another critical matter, in light of the current situation around Iran, is that we must devise effective mechanisms from the outset that can guarantee that all sides will unfailingly honour future agreements due to deal with the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula.

Insofar as the IAEA will soon play an important role in guaranteeing the exclusively peaceful nature of North Korea's nuclear activities, we insistently call on the agency's leadership to keep the doors open to possible contacts with North Korean representatives.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.