

Fact Sheet
Office of the Spokesman
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Initial Actions To Implement Six-Party Joint Statement

The Six-Party agreement (North Korea – Denuclearization Action Plan) reached in Beijing on February 13 is an important initial step toward the goals of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and a more stable and secure Northeast Asia. It requires concrete actions within 60 days that will begin implementation of the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement (Joint Statement of the fourth Round of the Six-Party Talks), in which the DPRK committed to "abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and returning, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to IAEA safeguards."

This agreement was reached through patient, creative and tough diplomacy. Unlike previous accords it is a multilateral agreement. All of the major players in the region now share a stake in its outcome, the need for results, and accountability. All six parties are the guarantors of this agreement, and there is great interest in the rest of the region to see that it is fully implemented. While this is only a first step, it is a good beginning toward achieving the goal of a complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Unlike past efforts, this agreement is a part of a broad and comprehensive effort to go beyond the denuclearization the Korean Peninsula to advance as well a future of peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia. Our approach has always encompassed the need to address these two goals together, and that is what we are doing.

Under this agreement, North Korea will, in the next 60 days:

- * Shut down and seal the Yongbyon nuclear facility for the purpose of abandonment
- * Invite the IAEA to return to the country to conduct all necessary monitoring and verification as agreed between the IAEA and the DPRK
- * Discuss a list of all its nuclear programs and materials, including the plutonium extracted from fuel rods that will be abandoned pursuant to the Joint Statement.

In the follow-on phase, the DPRK will provide a complete declaration of all

nuclear programs and disablement of all existing nuclear facilities.

In concert with these actions, the other parties will:

- * Provide emergency assistance to the DPRK equivalent to 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil in the first 60-day phase.
- * Establish five working groups to carry out the initial actions required in the agreement and to work on full implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement.

As we move into the disablement phase, positive actions by North Korea will lead to additional economic, energy and humanitarian assistance up to the equivalent of one million tons of heavy fuel oil.

In order to maintain momentum in this process and continue toward our eventual goal, we have also agreed to meet at the level of foreign ministers after the end of the 60-day implementation period.

North Korea's nuclear program has been going on for almost 30 years. Many efforts have been made to address this concern, but we have now laid the groundwork for its permanent resolution by bringing together the right states to bring together the right set of incentives and disincentives.

Equally as important, the patterns of cooperation that we are building between countries in the region should be a source of growing stability and trust in this dynamic part of the world.

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