



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by

H. E. Mr. Michal Mlynár

**Permanent Representative of Slovakia
to the United Nations**

at the

General Assembly Debate

on

“Non-proliferation/DPRK”

Agenda item 124 – Strengthening of the United Nations system

New York, 8 June 2022

Mr. President,

Slovakia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. The following remarks will be made in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

Slovakia strongly condemns an unprecedented series of ballistic missile tests (overall 31 ballistic missiles tests) conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) since the beginning of 2022. DPRK's ballistic missile launches are in violation of relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. They also demonstrate the DPRK's continued efforts to expand and further develop its ballistic missile capabilities.

The DPRK's pursuit of illegal weapons systems is a threat to international peace and security and goes against international efforts to resume dialogue and engage in actions to help its people. The DPRK should comply with its obligations under UNSC resolutions and refrain from all actions that undermine the environment for pursuing diplomacy and dialogue.

Slovakia is convinced that it was necessary for the Security Council to take measures through a new resolution in light of the rapid and illegal development of DPRK's nuclear and missile activities. It is therefore deeply regrettable that the veto was exercised against the draft resolution. We highlight the importance of unity of the international community in addressing this challenge.

Mr. President,

The Security Council and international community can't afford to turn a blind eye to DPRK's nuclear and missile development. DPRK's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs divert resources not only from the necessary investments into social and economic development and reform, but even in the period of what appears to be a severe COVID-19 outbreak in the country, which would benefit the DPRK population at large.

We are also convinced that it's necessary to end the obstructionism in the Security Council on the DPRK and support more responsible protection of international peace and security from the threat of DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile development.

Mr. President,

I thank you.