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### U.S. Statement on DPRK, June 4, 2008

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IAEA Board of Governors Meeting, June 2-6, 2008

Agenda Item 7 (b)

Report by the Director General on Monitoring and Verification in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

U.S. Statement

Mr. Chairman,

We continue to make progress toward the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through the Six-Party Talks, though there is still much to be done. The DPRK is continuing to disable the three core facilities at Yongbyon, but we are still waiting for the DPRK to provide a complete and correct declaration of all its nuclear programs, materials, and facilities, including uranium enrichment and proliferation, which was due on December 31, 2007. With regard to proliferation, we have made our concerns about North Korea's nuclear cooperation with Syria known to the DPRK in a frank and comprehensive way. The DPRK has acknowledged our concerns, and agreed to cooperate on verification activities in line with its past commitments on non-proliferation. We continue to urge the DPRK to provide its declaration as soon as possible to the Chinese, as chair of the Six-Party Talks.

While we still are waiting for the provision of the declaration, the United States remains encouraged by the ongoing disablement activities at the DPRK's three core nuclear facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex, as well as by recent developments in the Six-Party process, including the DPRK's provision of over 18,000 pages of operating records from the 5-MW(e) reactor and from the reprocessing plant, both at Yongbyon, dating from the reactor's start-up in 1986. The discharge of the 5-MW(e) reactor spent fuel is ongoing, with over 3,400 rods (or about 42%) of the fuel rods already discharged. U.S. experts are working with the DPRK technicians, in a way consistent with verification requirements, to ensure a safe discharge of the spent nuclear fuel to the pool, so as to avoid problems with the future disposition of the spent fuel. The United States hopes that it can be completed as soon as possible and urges the DPRK to conclude the discharge expeditiously. Once the set of all agreed disablement activities is completed, U.S. experts believe it would take upwards of one year to reconstitute the three core facilities at Yongbyon.

In May, the DPRK provided over 18,000 pages of documents that it stated were operating records and other records from the 5-MW(e) reactor and the reprocessing plant, both at Yongbyon, dating from the start-up of the reactor in 1986. A team of U.S. experts is currently in the process of analyzing these documents. It is important to note that the provision of these documents does not constitute a declaration by the DPRK, nor does it preclude the provision of additional documents that also may be necessary to conduct verification activities. The documents, however, will provide a basis to begin verification of the DPRK's declaration in order to ensure its completeness and correctness, once the DPRK provides the declaration to China, as chair of the Six-Party Talks.

The United States believes that a comprehensive verification regime, to include, among other activities, access to facilities; the deployment of verification equipment to and from those facilities; taking and removal of environmental and material samples; copying and removal of documents; and interviews with DPRK personnel, is important to ensure the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

To that end, the United States desires that the IAEA play an important role at all stages of the DPRK's denuclearization and return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and IAEA safeguards, including the Agency's routine involvement in the verification of the DPRK's declaration, and in future dismantlement activities. In the September 2005 Joint Statement, the DPRK pledged to return, at an early date, to the NPT and to IAEA safeguards. The DPRK's verifiable denuclearization and its fulfillment of all other commitments will make possible the realization of the full range of benefits envisioned in the Joint Statement, including economic and energy cooperation, security provisions, and normalization of its relations with the United States and Japan.

While we have made important progress toward the full implementation of the September 2005 Joint Statement, much work remains ahead on the road to verifiable denuclearization of the DPRK. The United States reiterates that the October 2006 United Nations Security Council Resolution 1718 remains in effect. All Member States should continue to abide by the provisions required by this mandatory Chapter VII resolution.

The United States appreciates the continued professional support provided by the IAEA's personnel on the ground at Yongbyon and commends the IAEA for its ongoing work in the DPRK and for its contributions to peace and to strengthening the global non-proliferation regime. I would also note that U.S. personnel on the ground in Yongbyon report extremely good and close cooperation with their IAEA counterparts there.

The role of the IAEA, and full DPRK cooperation with the IAEA, will be important throughout this process. The United States has worked closely with the IAEA to ensure that our efforts are in harmony throughout the process of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. We expect to continue our close collaboration as the disablement phase moves towards verification, dismantlement, and the verifiable abandonment of all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs by the DPRK.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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