UK Explanation of vote after SC adoption of DPRK Resolution

12 June 2009

Statement by Philip Parham, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

Thank you Mr President.

Mr President,

We have just passed a tough new resolution aimed at stopping North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Its unanimous adoption shows that the international community is united in condemning North Korea's continued proliferation activities, and its attempts to disrupt regional security.

The resolution is clear in its condemnation of North Korea's nuclear test of 25 May, and it demands that North Korea does not conduct any further nuclear tests or launches using ballistic missile technology. It shows that the international community will not tolerate North Korea flouting its international obligations. In particular, the resolution includes new measures which will impede North Korea's proliferation to other countries, toughen the arms embargo on North Korea and tackle the flows of finance which help to support North Korea's weapons programmes. We call on all Member States to implement these measures, including the new inspections regime, fully and without delay.

Mr President,

Just as when this Council adopted its Presidential Statement of 13 April in response to the previous violation, this resolution commits the Sanctions Committee established by Resolution 1718 to determine additional items, entities and individuals, to be designated. I can assure the Committee of the full and active cooperation of the United Kingdom in this regard, both in the immediate 30-day timeframe and in continuing to work with partners in the United Nations and the European Union to ensure prompt and effective implementation of all robust measures in the resolution.

Mr President,
We urge North Korea to refrain from any further provocative actions. Actions that breach UN Security Council Resolutions and North Korea’s obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and which undermine regional and global security and further isolate North Korea.

North Korea should return to the negotiating table and start engaging seriously with the international community. Only once North Korea starts re-engaging seriously on de-nuclearisation will the international community be willing to engage with it as an equal partner. North Korea and its people have everything to gain from such re-engagement.

Thank you, Mr President.