

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council Committee Session IGMUN 2019.

My name is Dianne Chung and I will be your chair for this committee. I look forward to hearing everyone's discussion on the current political situation between the Koreas and if a peace treaty creates viability for unification while keeping in mind the past history of conflict and tension as well as the USA hegemonic influences on both countries.

Introduction

Along with the establishment of the UN Charter, the United Nations created six main organs – one of which is the Security Council. Out of the four purposes outlined in the UN Charter, the Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It is the only organ with the power to make decisions that member states are obligated to implement. It is noted that actions should be focused against those responsible for the practices condemned by the international community while minimizing the impact on other parts of the population and economy.

The actions and powers vested in the Security Council are as follows:

- When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before the council, first actions may include but are not limited to:
 - o Setting forth principles for an agreement
 - o Undertaking investigations and mediation
 - o Dispatching a mission
 - o Appointing special envoys
 - o Requesting the Secretary-General to achieve a settlement of the dispute
- When a dispute leads to hostile behavior, actions may include but are not limited to:
 - o Issuing ceasefire directives to prevent an escalation of the conflict
 - o Dispatching military observers or peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions
 - o Separating opposing forces and establishing a calm environment for peaceful settlements to be reached
- Other actions include enforcement measures such as:
 - o Establishing economic sanctions
 - o Collectivizing military action
 - o Setting a blockade
 - o Severing diplomatic relations
 - o Restricting finances
 - o Banning travel
 - o Creating arms embargoes
 - o Penalizing monetarily

A Divided Nation

A great power rivalry resulted in the the institution of a socialist North Korea and a democratic South Korea. It was clear that the United States intended to revive Japan as the key to the cold war system in Asia, but it was a move that would reintegrate part of Korea into Japan's sphere of influence. Kim Il Sung held a different vision: to allow a united Korea a greater freedom within the Socialist bloc. Despite North Korea taking over 90 percent of South Korea by 1950, Mac Arthur's landing at Incheon kept the North Koreans at the Busan Perimeter and defeated the takeover. Kim Il Sung and North Korea were saved by the Chinese People's Volunteers and the fighting ended in a stalemate in July 1953.

The Korean War was a disaster for North Korea. It became the most heavily bombed country in history with major cities leveled to the ground, shattering industries. Human losses were estimated at 15 percent of the population, a traumatic loss for the country. Kim Il Sung became a symbol of national resistance and North Koreans grew to hate Americans and American foreign policy for intervening in a war that was already won. Since then, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea have embraced very different and competitive strategies for modernization and development.

A Brief History of Conflict between the Two Koreas

Border conflict is a familiar scene between North and South Korea where threats are exchanged and attacks ensue across the demilitarized zone (DMZ). Tensions erupted in August 2015 when two South Koreans were wounded by landmines in the DMZ. South Korea blamed North Korea for sneaking into the DMZ and planting new mines. However, rather than using aggressive tactics to warn the North Korean military dictator, South Korea decided to use a tactic that wasn't used since 2004: blasting recordings that criticize the leaders of North Korea via loudspeakers on their side of the border. These messages were heard a dozen miles into North Korea. Promptly, North Korea called this action a declaration of war and threatened to blow up the speakers. This is just one of many examples of erupted tensions between North and South Korea due to the lack of a peace treaty after the Korean War in the 1950s. The timeline of the various conflicts and tensions are as follows:

JUNE 1950 - Korean War begins between North Korea (assisted by the Soviet Union and China) and South Korea (assisted by the USA and the UN)

JULY 1953 - End of the Korean War with a ceasefire agreement + Creation of the DMZ

OCTOBER 1966 - DMZ conflict begins as troops from both ends invade the zone

JANUARY 1968 - North Korean commandos attempt to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung Hee, but are stopped just a few hundred yards from his residence

AUGUST 1974 - A second assassination attempt is made against President Park Chung Hee, resulting in the death of First Lady Chung Hee

APRIL 1996 - North Korea sends thousands of military troops into the DMZ as it announces that it will no longer adhere to the armistice of 1953

JUNE 1999 - The battle of Yeonpyeong: North Korean patrol ships cross the maritime border and clash with several South Korean Ships, resulting in 20 North Korean military personnel killed

JUNE 2002 - Two North Korean boats cross the maritime border in the Yellow Sea and engage with South Korean patrol ships before being forced to retreat, resulting in the killing of 30 North Koreans and 4 South Koreans

OCTOBER 2007 - South Korean President Roh Moo Hyun walks across the DMZ with Kim Jong Il with talks for a call to peace on the Korean peninsula and to update the 1953 armistice

NOVEMBER 2009 - North and South Korea exchange fire near the maritime border for the first time since 2002

MARCH 2010 - A North Korean torpedo sinks a South Korean naval vessel, killing 46 sailors that were on board

NOVEMBER 2010 - North Korea kills two South Korean marines and two citizens on Yeonpyeong Island near the disputed maritime border, and South Korea retaliates with open fire using fighter jets

MARCH 2014 - Two drones sent from North Korea are found with photographs of the South Korean government buildings

OCTOBER 2014 - Open fire is exchanged between two patrol boats in the Yellow Sea

AUGUST 2015 - North and South Korea blare propaganda over the DMZ while exchanging fire

Past and Current Actions

In 1994, North Korea clashed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for possible nuclear capabilities that threaten the stability in East Asia.

In October 1994, the United States and North Korea signed an agreement designed to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons. The agreement was the first constrictive measure that the United States and North Korea had taken to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula. The United States also negotiated to persuade North Korea to remain a member of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to dissuade it from further developing nuclear capabilities by providing alternative energy sources.

Updated on January 2018, the United Nations Security Council has adopted nine major sanctions resolutions on North Korea in response to the country's nuclear and missile activities since 2006.

All nine resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Security Council. In addition to imposing sanctions, the resolutions give UN member states the authority to interdict and inspect North Korean cargo within their territory as well as seize and dispose of illicit shipments. The resolutions also call upon North Korea to rejoin the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty after North Korea withdrew in 2003 after the United States made allegations that the country was pursuing an illegal uranium enrichment program. The Security Council also call for North Korea to return to the Six Party Talks for negotiations with South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and the United States - resulting in a joint statement on denuclearization in 2009.

Current Political Situation

On September 21st, 2018, North and South Korean leaders struck agreements at a summit, raising the potential for significantly reducing tensions. The arrangements cover a range of security issues:

North and South Korea declare a buffer and no-fly zone around the demilitarized zone (DMZ) and bodies of water separating the two (Note: The two countries are still technically at war due to the absence of a formal peace treaty)

North Korea agrees to permanently dismantle its Dong Chang-Ri missile launch platform and rocket engine-testing facility in the presence of international experts

Flag the possibility of taking further measures to permanently dismantle the Yong Byun nuclear complex

Produce a second timeline for North Korea's denuclearization process upon a second summit with U.S. President Donald J. Trump

Withdraw 11 guard posts from the DMZ by December 2018 with the goal of removing all guard posts

Build trust between the North and South Korea without the removal of U.S. troops in South Korea for an eventual full peace deal

On December 12th, 2018, troops crossed the DMZ in peace for the first time ever. Dozens of soldiers inspected the sites of the guard posts to ensure that they've been removed - a result of the denuclearization talks.

Other Countries and Their Influence

Korea remains one of the few divided nations as a product of World War II and the Cold War. The division imposed by victors of the second World War in 1945 produced two ideologically opposing political entities. Thus, the Koreas remain at the center of attention among foreign policy makers from related nations since conflict and competition between the two Koreas affect the balance of power among East Asian nations as Korea forms a strategic

center with China, Russia, and Japan bordering each side. Some countries to especially note are: the United States of America, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Soviet Union.

The Viability of Reunification

Many important facets of modernization in the two Koreas remain surprisingly comparable. Both countries have progressed from large families to small ones. Both have achieved a rapid transition out of agriculture and out of the countryside into urban centers. Both have achieved near universal enrollment in their grade school and secondary school systems with a high proportion of graduates or attendees of higher education in their adult populations.

Progress with unification can be measured by two criteria: Assimilation and Development.

The purpose of this committee is to consider the options that both North and South Korea have to explore and whether absolute peace talks can be accomplished with full transparency despite foreign intervention, historical context and enmities, and lingering distrust. Keeping in mind the actions and powers in the Security Council and the responsibility of peace the organization holds to the international community, will North and South Korea's bold goals of final peace and no nuclear arms be achieved?

Important Questions to Consider

1. Could political agreements between North and South Korea actually defuse tensions?
2. What exactly does it mean to have a country be "denuclearized"?
3. What is Kim Jong Un's long term strategy?
4. Will the current trade conflict between the USA and China impact denuclearization talks?
5. Does President Moon Jae In's fluctuating political capital have an effect on the relations between Kim Jong Un and Donald J. Trump?
6. What are the differences between North and South Korea's economy and sociopolitical structure and how does each play a role in peace treaty talks/unification?
7. Is unification a viable option for the two countries?

A list of UN Security Council Resolutions against North Korea

Resolution 1718 (2006)

Resolution 1874 (2009)

Resolution 2087 (2013)

Resolution 2094 (2013)

Resolution 2270 (2016)

Resolution 2321 (2016)

Resolution 2371 (2017)

Resolution 2375 (2017)

Resolution 2379 (2017)

Listed resolutions are detailed here:

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea#res1718>

Sources

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