

**IAEA Board of Governors Meeting: 4 March 2015**

**Agenda Item 6 (c): Application of Safeguards in the DPRK**

Madam Chair

My delegation would like to thank the Director-General for his opening statement on safeguards in the DPRK.

The DPRK’s nuclear and missile proliferation programs pose a continuing threat to international peace and security and to the stability of our region. The DPRK’s persisting attempts to develop, produce, modernise and proliferate weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems are in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions and are an affront to the international community, including the IAEA.

Australia is deeply concerned by the DPRK’s threats to undertake a “new form of nuclear test” to bolster its nuclear weapons programme, and strongly opposes its claim to a “right” to conduct nuclear tests. Linked to this is our concern that the DPRK continues to develop its nuclear facilities, including by restarting the light water reactor at Yongbyon, and reportedly commencing construction of a centrifuge enrichment facility.

The DPRK’s actions challenge the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and undermine the objective and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Australia joins others in urging the DPRK to abandon its nuclear weapons program in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner; comply with IAEA resolutions calling for a restart of full cooperation with the IAEA and its safeguards obligations; heed the requirements of the UN Security Council to cease its nuclear activities; and fulfil its commitments to denuclearise under the 2005 Six-Party Talks Joint Statement and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Given the importance of these issues to international security, we support the IAEA in maintaining its readiness to play a key role in verifying and safeguarding the DPRK’s nuclear program.