

Today's historic meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un: key points to be included in follow-up talks for peace and disarmament

12 June 2018

Brussels – Pax Christi International welcomes today's first step towards rapprochement between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. This summit will make history if it enables the two parties to come to the negotiating table and lays a foundation for peace. We hope that the Singapore summit can lead to new relations between the two countries. Dialogue, diplomacy and cooperation should replace hostile behaviour. Durable progress on denuclearisation and peace should also include South Korea, Japan and China.

Although the two leaders' joint statement¹ declares their commitment to the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and the world, Pax Christi International regrets the absence of more specific commitments towards that goal. Essential points are missing in the document that should be taken up if future talks are to actually lead towards disarmament and a durable peace:

- Both countries should take conclusive steps towards complete and verifiable denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, not only North Korea. The peninsula is not denuclearised if it remains under threat from U.S. nuclear weapons.
- Both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and North Korea should rejoin the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This is part of a five-step proposal for disarmament issued by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) which includes Pax Christi International.²
- The U.S. and North Korea should pursue the successful completion of a peace treaty between both Koreas to replace the armistice from the Korean War, also as a follow-up of the historic Panmunjom Declaration of 27 April 2018.
- The U.S. should raise concerns for human rights in North Korea as a condition to lift economic sanctions. Amongst other human rights abuses, up to 120,000 people continue to be arbitrarily detained in political prison camps.³ It is imperative that human rights are taken up in future talks, as their protection is intrinsically linked to peace and security.

¹ The joint statement of U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un can be found here: <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/06/12/politics/read-full-text-of-trump-kim-signed-statement/index.html>.

² The plan calls on the countries to recognise the unacceptable humanitarian risk of nuclear weapons; reject nuclear weapons by joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), remove existing weapons with verifiable and time-bound plans; ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and rejoin the world community through the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The full roadmap can be consulted on ICAN's website: <http://www.icanw.org/action/trump-kim-summit-ican-launches-roadmap-to-denuclearisation-of-korean-peninsula/>.

³ Further information about the human rights situation in North Korea is available on this Amnesty International website: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/north-korea/>.

Importantly, this outcome opens doors for confidence-building measures and dialogue among all interested parties. Pax Christi International urges the two Koreas, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia to add to the momentum created since the Winter Olympics by implementing bilateral and multilateral follow-up actions, for example, by opening the railroad line between North and South Korea, having new nuclear weapons reduction talks between the U.S. and Russia, and the U.S. and North Korea deciding to open offices in their capital cities before the end of 2018.