

UN chief encourages Korean leaders to act swiftly on agreements at 'historic' summit

Following Friday's summit between the leaders of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his hope that the two countries swiftly implement all agreed actions, including ridding the Peninsula of nuclear arms.

"The Secretary-General applauds today's [truly historic summit](#)," said Mr. Guterres' Spokesman, Stéphane Dujarric, in a statement. "Many around the world were moved by the powerful imagery of the two leaders coming together to advance harmony and peace on the Korean Peninsula."

According to the declaration signed by both leaders and released after the summit, the two nations agreed on a number of measures, including realizing the common goal of "complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," and pursuing phased military arms reduction and talks to declare an official end to the Korean War, which devastated the Peninsula from 1950 to 1953.

An armistice brought about a ceasefire to the Korean War in 1953, but the conflict never officially ended because the parties could not agree to a formal peace treaty.

"The Secretary-General salutes the courage and leadership that resulted in the important commitments and agreed actions outlined in the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula," noted the Spokesman.

The UN chief "counts on the parties to build on their first meeting and swiftly implement all agreed actions to further inter-Korean trust-building and reconciliation; sincere dialogue; and progress towards sustainable peace and verifiable denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula," Mr. Dujarric said, adding: The Secretary-General "looks forward to these gains being consolidated and advanced" at the US-DPRK summit expected to take place soon.