



➤ *Long-term stability, peace, and security on the Korean Peninsula is possible through a comprehensive approach that puts achieving peace and denuclearization on equal footing.*

The U.S. should capitalize on the current diplomatic momentum on the Korean Peninsula to build a concrete, action-for-action roadmap towards peace and nuclear disarmament:

- The U.S. must abandon the failed notion that enough coercive pressure will force North Korea to denuclearize unilaterally.
- North Korea's nuclear disarmament can only be achieved if the parties to conflict establish trust, built by meaningful, reciprocal actions and confidence-building measures.
- A fixation on North Korea's rapid, unilateral denuclearization burdens negotiations with unrealistic expectations.

STEPS TOWARDS PEACE

The Singapore Summit between the U.S. and North Korea, as well as three valuable Inter-Korean Summits, resulted in important progress:



- The commitments made in the Singapore Summit's joint statement towards establishing a peace regime, the repatriation of American service member remains, and a renewed push towards nuclear disarmament are a welcome improvement from previous "fire and fury" rhetoric.
- The three Inter-Korean Summits highlight the two Koreas' shared political will to embark on a peace process on their own terms, creating progress on economic collaboration, military de-escalation, and cultural exchange.
- If the U.S. wants to be in lockstep with its ally in South Korea, it should empower both countries' efforts to make peace, not stall them.

MAXIMUM ENGAGEMENT, NOT MAXIMUM PRESSURE

Instead of the "maximum pressure and engagement" mantra popularized by former Sec. of State Rex Tillerson, U.S. strategy towards North Korea should be premised on maximum *engagement* and *pressure*.



- Relying on a strategy of maximum pressure alone resulted in brinkmanship and edged the world closer towards a "catastrophic war" in the words of Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis.
- Comprehensive dialogue with a goal of peace and reconciliation has produced more momentum on key steps towards nuclear disarmament and supports the goals of South Korea.
- The U.S. must abandon its maximalist approach to negotiations that seek North Korea's unilateral disarmament before any reciprocal steps, and instead embrace an action-for-action diplomatic plan.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RECIPROCITY

Nuclear disarmament and peace can only be achieved through reciprocal action:

The current impasse in U.S.-North Korea negotiations is largely due to the Trump administration's strategy of exacting unilateral demands that are unlikely to be accepted without corollary U.S. steps to address North Korea's security concerns. The U.S. must be willing to offer security guarantees and phased sanctions relief to move the denuclearization process forward, including an end-of-war declaration and renouncing the United States' willingness to use nuclear weapons first on the Korean peninsula.



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

Engaging in diplomacy with North Korea does not equate turning a blind eye to the regime's human rights atrocities. While calling for basic human rights, the U.S. can directly help alleviate North Koreans' suffering by allowing humanitarian exceptions to the sanctions regime. Moreover, Trump must immediately end his escalatory measure of banning U.S. aid groups from providing humanitarian assistance to North Korea, which not only hurts the people but also harms diplomacy.





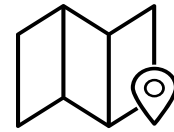
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

Members of Congress must diligently work to maintain the momentum towards comprehensive peace on the Korea Peninsula and undermine any efforts to derail diplomatic negotiations. Congress can take positive action to empower the peace process by advocating for and enacting the following policy recommendations:



SUPPORT A FORMAL END TO THE 1950-53 KOREAN WAR

Introduce or co-sponsor a **Sense of Congress Resolution** stating the war is over to signal to President Trump to move forward with an **end of war declaration**, which is an important political symbol towards de-escalating tensions.



CALL FOR AN ACTION-FOR-ACTION ROADMAP TO PEACE

The U.S. should make clear reciprocal steps it will take towards peace, including the phased lifting of sanctions and a peace treaty, in exchange for North Korean actions towards denuclearization.



FOLLOW SOUTH KOREA'S LEAD

Put the desires of the Korean people, who want peace on the Peninsula, at the forefront of diplomacy. If the U.S. wants to be in lockstep with its ally South Korea, the U.S. must empower both countries' efforts to make peace, not stall them.



ENCOURAGE INCREMENTAL DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS

Gradual steps forward remain substantially more desirable than stalled negotiations or a slide back into war. The U.S. should not jeopardize slow, forward momentum for the sake of unrealistic, rapid results.

PREVENTING OBSTACLES TO PEACE:



Stop the development of any missiles that violate the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

These missiles could be installed in the region, undermining potential U.S. security guarantees to North Korea and jeopardizing their willingness to dismantle their nuclear weapons program.



Prevent miscommunication and mistrust by calling for answers to fundamental questions.

The heart of the dysfunction within U.S.-North Korea negotiations is the lack of a shared definition of "denuclearization" and the process by which it will be achieved, including what the U.S. is willing to offer North Korea (i.e. phased lifting of sanctions and a peace declaration). Congress must encourage negotiations to address these fundamental questions.



Disempower individuals who use diplomatic setbacks as pretext for war.

Experts estimate it could take 10 years to achieve North Korea's denuclearization. There will be setbacks during this long process. Congress must prevent those eager for war from using these setbacks to undermine peace.

For further questions and additional resources:



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