

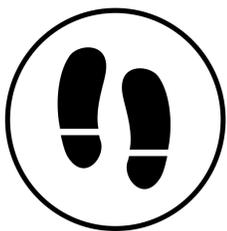


*Long-term stability, peace, and security on the Korean Peninsula is possible through a comprehensive approach that puts achieving peace and denuclearization on equal footing.*

The U.S. should take a new approach 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 the conflict establish trust with confidence-building measures and meaningful, reciprocal actions.
- **The U.S. must re-evaluate its sanctions-first policy, which is not working to prevent North Korea's nuclear weapons expansion and harms ordinary people, especially amidst strict national lockdowns due to COVID-19.**

## STEPS TOWARDS PEACE



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

- The commitments made in the Singapore Summit's joint statement towards establishing a peace regime, the repatriation of American servicemember remains, and a renewed push towards nuclear disarmament still provide a path forward for U.S.-North Korea negotiations.
- 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 continue to make peace, not stall them.

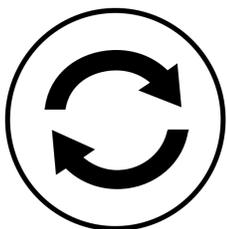
## MAXIMUM ENGAGEMENT, NOT MAXIMUM PRESSURE



The Biden administration must reject the Trump team's failed "maximum pressure" strategy, in favor of a **U.S. strategy towards North Korea 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 former 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 South Korea's goals.
- 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 long current impasse in U.S.-North Korea negotiations — punctuated by Trump's shifting goalposts in Hanoi — is largely due to the U.S. strategy of exacting unilateral demands that are unlikely to be accepted without corollary U.S. steps to address North Korea's security concerns. President Biden must change course: The U.S. must be willing to offer security guarantees and phased sanctions relief to move the denuclearization process forward.

### 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. **The U.S. can directly help alleviate North Koreans' suffering by incorporating humanitarian steps into the action-for-action roadmap.** For example, the U.S. should offer humanitarian assistance and allow broad humanitarian exemptions to the international sanctions regime in exchange for a verifiable freeze on fissile material production.





## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

Members of Congress must support comprehensive peace on the Korean Peninsula and oppose efforts to derail further diplomatic negotiations. Congress can take 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

Support the bipartisan resolution sponsored by Rep. Ro Khanna ([H.Res. 152](#) in the 116th Congress) that calls for an end of war declaration and an eventual peace treaty between the parties to the Korean War – important steps in de-escalating tensions and creating lasting peace.



### 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. Experts estimate it could take 10 years to achieve North Korea's denuclearization. The U.S. should not jeopardize slow, forward momentum for the sake of unrealistic, rapid results.

### SELECT PAST LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON NORTH KOREA

- **July 2019:** Two Khanna Amdts to H.R. 2500 (FY20 NDAA) pass the House: 1) to provide \$10 million within the “defense nuclear nonproliferation” account to prep for a monitoring and verification program related to the phased denuclearization of North Korea. 2) to express the sense of Congress that a military confrontation with North Korea would pose unacceptable risk and that diplomacy should be pursued to achieve denuclearization and a formal end to the war. (Both amendments were stripped in conference).
- **March 2020:** Divided Families Reunification Act passed in the House. The bill instructs the State Department to periodically report on opportunities discussed with South Korea to connect Korean-Americans to family in North Korea. Identical legislation introduced in the Senate. [H.Res. 410](#), a resolution encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families passed the House 391-0.
- **June 2020:** Rep. Andy Levin/Sen. Ed Markey introduce [H.R. 7218/S. 3908](#), the Enhancing North Korea Humanitarian Assistance Act, to ensure nongovernmental organizations can operate to provide humanitarian assistance in North Korea.
- **Oct. 2020:** [H.Res. 152](#) – Calling for a formal end to the Korean War reached 50 cosponsors!



For further questions and additional resources:



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