



Progress for Peace on the Korean Peninsula

1. Since the 2013 WCC 10th Assembly in Busan, South Korea, and in the response to escalating tensions, confrontation and risks of nuclear-armed conflict in the region, the World Council of Churches (WCC) and its member churches have renewed and strengthened their support for and commitment to increased ecumenical efforts for peace, reconciliation and reunification of the divided Korean people.
2. The WCC central committee meeting in Geneva on 15-21 June 2018 is convened in a year of celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the WCC in 1948. That year also saw the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in North Korea and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in South Korea. Together with representatives of the Korean Christian Federation (KCF) of North Korea, the National Council of Churches in South Korea (NCCCK) and WCC member churches from South Korea also taking part in our meeting, the WCC central committee joins in hope-filled affirmation of the recent steps towards the reduction of nuclear-armed military confrontation, towards peaceful co-existence on the Korean Peninsula, and towards the resolution of the long, painful and tragic division of its people.
3. The Panmunjom Joint Declaration, signed and issued by the two leaders of South Korea and North Korea on 27 April 2018, paved the way for the success of the historic first face-to-face encounter between the leaders of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States of America (USA) at the Singapore Summit on 12 June 2018. The WCC central committee affirms, as declared by the two leaders at the Singapore Summit, that the establishment of new USA-DPRK relations will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and of the world, and we welcome the commitment to swift follow-on negotiations for the realization of this vision.
4. The central committee acknowledges with joy how closely the commitments expressed in the Panmunjom Declaration match the key focuses and objectives of over three decades of ecumenical advocacy for peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula, in particular the commitments to:
 - the principle of autonomy of the Korean people to decide their own destiny.
 - promoting dialogue and negotiations, and to alleviating military tensions and confrontation.
 - resolving the humanitarian issues that resulted from the division of the nation, including the reunion of separated families.
 - improving and cultivating inter-Korean relations, and encouraging more active cooperation, exchanges, visits and contacts at all levels.
 - declaring an end to the Korean War, and replacing the 1953 Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty.
 - turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear-free zone through complete denuclearization.
 - promoting economic growth and co-prosperity, and to actively implementing the projects previously agreed in the 2007 October 4 Declaration.
5. The recent international ecumenical delegation visit to Seoul and Pyongyang on 30 April-7 May 2018, led by the WCC general secretary and the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) general secretary, was a timely and constructive occasion for expressing international ecumenical support for the recent Korean-led initiatives for peace, and for reaffirming continued ecumenical engagement in such efforts.

6. In this new season of hope for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula, the WCC central committee, meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, 15-21 June 2018

- ***Calls*** for the continuation of dialogue and the implementation of commitments between South and North Korea, and between the USA and North Korea.
- ***Urges*** all members of the international community to encourage, support and enable North and South Korea in the full implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration, as the accepted framework for securing a sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula and for the region.
- ***Commends*** the KCF and the NCKK for maintaining their relationship and mutual commitment to dialogue, exchange, peace and reunification, and encourages KCF and NCKK to re-double their efforts in the context of the new opportunities created by the Panmunjom Summit and Joint Declaration.
- ***Calls*** for intensified ecumenical engagement between and with North and South Korean Christians in their pilgrimage of justice and peace.
- ***Encourages*** the WCC general secretary to continue and accelerate the WCC-supported programme of ecumenical cooperation, exchanges, visits and contacts between North and South Korean Christians, accompanied and supported by members of the worldwide ecumenical fellowship.
- Particularly ***encourages*** a renewed focus on the engagement of women and youth from both North and South Korea in ecumenical initiatives for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula.
- ***Urges*** WCC member churches and partners especially those in North and South Korea, USA, China, Russia and Japan to actively support and advocate for a peace treaty for the Korean Peninsula to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement.
- Strongly ***affirms*** the commitment to nuclear disarmament and the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula expressed in the Panmunjom Joint Declaration and reaffirmed in the Singapore Summit Joint Statement, in the context of the ecumenical movement's support for nuclear disarmament globally, in particular through the ratification and implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- ***Calls*** for ecumenical cooperation rather than competition in responding to new opportunities for mission and diakonia arising from the recent political developments, and highlights the importance of the Ecumenical Forum for Peace, Reunification and Development Cooperation on the Korean Peninsula (EFK) as an instrument for this purpose.
- ***Invites*** deepened mutual solidarity between KCF and NCKK in order to develop increased exchange and cooperation of civil society in the spirit of the Panmunjom Declaration.
- ***Requests*** all WCC member churches to pray for the realization of the hopes created by the Singapore Summit and the Panmunjom Summit, for an end to confrontation and threats of armed force, for peaceful coexistence on the Korean Peninsula, and for the reunification of the divided Korean people.