

N. KOREA IS CONTINUING ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMMES: UN

Relevant for: International Relations | Topic: UNO and its various Agencies

North Korea pressed ahead with the development of its nuclear and missile programmes last year despite international sanctions, according to a confidential United Nations report.

Pyongyang is under major sanctions over its weapons programmes, including a ban on exports of coal, iron, lead, textiles, seafood and other products.

While no nuclear tests or launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles were reported last year, North Korea kept developing “its capability for production of nuclear fissile materials,” according to the report, which was compiled by sanctions monitors and shared with the 15 UN Security Council members.

“Maintenance and development of DPRK’s nuclear and ballistic missile infrastructure continued, and DPRK continued to seek material, technology and know-how for these programmes overseas, including through cyber-means and joint scientific research,” said the report, using the initials of North Korea’s official name.

Cyberattacks

The document also said North Korea resorted to cyberattacks, especially on cryptocurrency assets, as an important source of government revenue.

The UN experts noted a sharp increase in the quality of illicit refined petroleum imports last year, “but at a level much lower than that of previous years.”

While Western countries have steadily pushed for more pressure on Pyongyang, Beijing and Moscow have called for easing sanctions on humanitarian grounds.

Pyongyang conducted an unprecedented seven weapons tests in January, including launching its most powerful missile since 2017 as it hinted it could restart nuclear missile tests.

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