

The US Must Act Now

The closing days of February this year saw the second DPRK-US summit meeting and talks in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The world community has a growing interest in how the US side will act to meet its obligations with regard to the Singapore joint statement adopted last year. They expect that a new age of reconciliation, cooperation, durable peace and prosperity will be ushered in on the Korean peninsula.

As is widely known, in May 2018 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea declared that it would not make, test, use or proliferate nuclear weapons, before taking such practical steps as demolishing a nuclear test site in the northern part of the country.

UPI quoted the declaration of the Nuclear Weapon Institute of the DPRK, noting that the dismantling of the nuclear test site in high transparency proved once again the proactive and peace-loving efforts of the DPRK government working for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond.

In order to implement the Singapore joint statement, the DPRK side has already returned the identified remains of American POWs and missing soldiers, and is continuing the search for other remains. It also demolished the nuclear test site in its northern part and reaffirmed its main stand that it will not manufacture, use or proliferate nuclear weapons and will strive to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The world media described the first DPRK-US summit as a historic milestone, as it led to a dramatic turn in the situation on the peninsula.

However, the US persisted in the harsh sanctions and pressure against its dialogue partner.

By the close of last year the US State Department worked out a report on the joint strategy in the East Asia-Pacific region, which implied the guidelines for its diplomacy towards the DPRK in the year 2019.

According to the report, the State Department will put the focus of its diplomacy towards the DPRK on the freezing of the latter's nuclear development, suspension of its production of nuclear weapons, ballistic missiles and nuclear-fission materials, and adoption of primary steps towards denuclearization. It set final and fully verified denuclearization (FFVD) as the immediate goal of the bilateral negotiations.

Having insisted that the justification for international sanctions against the DPRK was its nuclear test and ballistic missile launch, the US now argues about the possibility of nuclear proliferation. It claims that the sanctions and pressure imposed on the DPRK in 2018 played an important role and they will remain as a major lever. It has defined “Denuclearization first, lessening of sanctions later” as the keynote of its strategy for bilateral negotiation.

This was the background against which the second DPRK-US summit meeting and talks took place in Hanoi.

The bilateral negotiation has reached deadlock.

The DPRK has already made active and sincere efforts to make the Korean peninsula nuke-free. It is high time for the US to respond by adopting corresponding measures.