

Country/entity	North Korea South Korea
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	South-North Joint Declaration
Date	15 Jun 2000
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Interstate/interstate conflict

Korean Conflict (1950 -)

Before WWII, the Korean peninsula was part of the Japanese empire. It was when the USSR declared war on Japan in August 1945, following an agreement between Stalin and Churchill at the Tehran Conference in 1943, that the Korean peninsula was liberated down to the 38th parallel as per the agreement. However, following the post-WWII breakdown in the Allied relations and the start of the Cold War, the peninsula was not unified as agreed. Instead rival regimes were set up by the USSR and the Americans, both of which claimed power over all of the peninsula. North Korea invaded the South with the backing of China and the USSR, causing the United Nations - spearheaded by the Americans - to come to the aid of the South. Eventually, Northern troops were pushed back to the 38th parallel and in July 1953 an armistice was signed creating a demilitarised zone between the North and South. In lieu of a peace treaty, the two countries are still technically at war. In 2013 the North Korean regime stated that the 1953 armistice was no longer in effect. After serious stand-offs due to the unwillingness of the North to undergo nuclear disarmament the first inter-Korean summit took place in April 2018 and a joint Declaration for Peace regarding cooperation and peace was issued. This was then followed by the 2018 Summit between the US-North Korea where they committed to work for complete nuclear disarmament of the Korean Peninsula. The second summit ended without a deal in early January 2019.

Close

Korean Conflict (1950 -)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Territory
Peace process	North Korea - South Korea interstate process
Parties	Kim Dae-jung, President, The Republic of Korea; Kim Jong-il, Chairman, National Defense Commission, The Democratic People s Republic of Korea;

Third parties

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Description

Rhetorical commitments to resolve the question of reunification independently and through the joint efforts of the Korean people; parties agreeing to promote reunification with some sort of federalism; agreement to resolve set of humanitarian issues; stimulating cooperation and exchanges in civic, cultural, sports, health, environmental and other fields; agree to hold dialogue on these issues soon; Chairman Kim Jong-il to visit Seoul soon.

Agreement document

[KP KR_000615_South-North Joint Declaration.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups**Children/youth**

No specific mention.

Disabled persons

No specific mention.

Elderly/age

No specific mention.

Migrant workers

No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group**

No specific mention.

Religious groups

No specific mention.

Indigenous people

No specific mention.

Other groups

No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons**

No specific mention.

Social class

No specific mention.

Gender**Women, girls and
gender**

No specific mention.

Men and boys

No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family Page 1,
3. The South and the North have agreed to promptly resolve humanitarian issues such as exchange visits by separated family members and relatives on the occasion of the August 15 National Liberation Day and the question of former long-term prisoners who had refused to renounce Communism.

State definition

Nature of state (general)

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

In accordance with the noble will of the entire people who yearn for the peaceful reunification of the nation, President Kim Dae-jung of the Republic of Korea and National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-il of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea held a historic meeting and summit talks in Pyongyang from June 13 to June 15, 2000. The leaders of the South and the North, recognizing that the meeting and the summit talks, the first since the division of the country, were of great significance in promoting mutual understanding, developing South-North relations and realizing peaceful reunification, declared as follows:

Page 1,

1. The South and the North have agreed to resolve the question of reunification on their own Initiative and through the joint efforts of the Korean people, who are the masters of the country.

Page 1,

2. Acknowledging that there are common elements in the Souths proposal for a confederation and the North s proposal for a federation of lower stage as the formulae for achieving reunification, the South and the North agreed to promote reunification in that direction.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

**Independence/
secession** No specific mention.

**Accession/
unification** No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

**Cross-border
provision** No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing Power sharing→Territorial power sharing→Federal or similar sub-divided government
Page 1,
2. Acknowledging that there are common elements in the South's proposal for a confederation and the North's proposal for a federation of lower stage as the formulae for achieving reunification, the South and the North agreed to promote reunification in that direction.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 1,
4. The South and the North have agreed to consolidate mutual trust by promoting balanced development of the national economy through economic cooperation and by stimulating cooperation and exchanges in civic, cultural, sports, public health, environmental and all other fields.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment Page 1,
4. The South and the North have agreed to consolidate mutual trust by promoting balanced development of the national economy through economic cooperation and by stimulating cooperation and exchanges in civic, cultural, sports, public health, environmental and all other fields.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 1,
5. The South and the North have agreed to hold a dialogue between relevant authorities in the near future to implement the above agreement expeditiously.