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## GPPAC Statement Calling for Immediate Dialogue on the Korean Peninsula Crisis

April 15, 2013

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is deeply concerned by the heightening tensions on and around the Korean Peninsula, and calls for an immediate return to dialogue and communications as the only way to deescalate the situation and make steps to prevent violence and promote denuclearisation, peace and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula. This should be carried out by convening as soon as possible both direct dialogue between the US-DPRK and the two Koreas, as well as a meeting of representatives of countries of the Six Party Talks, the most appropriate institutional peace and security mechanism in Northeast Asia. All efforts must be made to immediately convene such dialogue, working at the same time for both denuclearisation and the conclusion of a peace treaty to replace the 60 year old Korean War armistice.

The currently escalating tensions on and around the Korean Peninsula highlight the urgency of the situation, and the potential of grave miscalculations which could lead to catastrophic results for citizens. The lack of a permanent peace treaty and lingering unresolved problems emanating from the Cold War are fundamentally contributing to these tensions. GPPAC thus calls for countries in the region and the United Nations to make all efforts possible to urgently implement the following:

- To immediately come back to the dialogue table to decrease tensions and resolve this crisis, including holding direct dialogue between the US-DPRK and the two Koreas as well as convening a meeting of representatives of the countries involved in the Six Party Talks.
- The United Nations Security Council should give full and urgent support for such a meeting and all other related efforts for diplomacy. As appropriate the UN General Assembly should assist in promoting peace and the deescalation of tensions.
- Cessation by all parties of nuclear and missile tests, military exercises, missile defense deployment and other related actions which contribute to further tensions and potential armed conflict in the region.
- An immediate end to provocative statements and actions from all sides of the conflict.
- Immediate reinstatement of cut-off communication links, including military hotlines between Seoul and Pyongyang.
- Continuation of the Kaesong Industrial Complex and other similar joint cooperation efforts between the two Koreas, which serve as vital confidence building and civil conflict prevention measures.
- For the media, particularly on the Korean Peninsula and in the United States, to be more sensitive to its impact on the conflict and to make efforts to decrease tensions.
- Full inclusion of civil society, including women, in efforts for dialogue and resolution.

Dialogue and the creation of a regional framework for peace are absolutely imperative to peacefully resolve this crisis situation and prevent further suffering by citizens on the Korean peninsula and in the region. As a global civil society peacebuilding network, GPPAC has been working on implementing a civil society-led dialogue on the Korean Peninsula. Emphasising the need for nonmilitary approaches with civil society involvement, GPPAC confirms its dedication to make every effort within our reach to facilitate dialogue amongst all stakeholders, with the aim to contribute to the deescalation of the crisis, denuclearisation and creation of a peace regime for the Korean Peninsula, as well as the Northeast Asia region.