

Trump Kim summit: US wants 'major N Korea disarmament' by 2020

1 hour ago



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REUTERS

image caption
Mike Pompeo (right) is in Seoul, South Korea, to discuss the outcome of Mr Trump's summit

The US hopes to see "major disarmament" by North Korea by the end of 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says.

His comments come a day after an unprecedented meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Singapore.

In a statement North Korea agreed to work towards "complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula".

But the document has been criticised for lacking details on when or how Pyongyang would give up its weapons.

Speaking in South Korea, where he discussed the outcome of the summit, Secretary Pompeo said there was still "a great deal of work to do" with North Korea.

But he added: "Major disarmament... We're hopeful that we can achieve that in the two and half years."

He said he was confident Pyongyang understood the need for verification that it was dismantling its nuclear programme.

When asked by reporters why this was not specified in the document signed in Singapore, he condemned their questions as "insulting" and "ridiculous".



Media caption

Trump Kim summit: What happens now?

His comments come after President Trump declared that North Korea was no longer a nuclear threat, insisting "everybody can now feel much safer".

The credibility of that claim is in doubt. That is because under the deal, the North retains its nuclear warheads, the missiles to launch them and has not agreed to any specific process to get rid of them.

Pyongyang has celebrated the summit as a great win for the country.

Skip Twitter post by @realDonaldTrump



Donald J. Trump



@realDonaldTrump

Just landed - a long trip, but everybody can now feel much safer than the day I took office. There is no longer a Nuclear Threat from North Korea. Meeting with Kim Jong Un was an interesting and very positive experience. North Korea has great potential for the future!

9:56 PM - Jun 13, 2018

82K

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End of Twitter post by @realDonaldTrump

What was agreed at the summit?

The declaration signed at the end of the summit said the two countries would co-operate towards "new relations", while the US would provide "security guarantees" to North Korea.

Pyongyang in return "commits to work toward complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula".

Did the summit rhetoric match reality?

Full text of the signed statement

The oddest moments of the day

At a news conference after the meeting, Mr Trump said he would lift sanctions against North Korea once "nukes are no longer a factor".

He also announced an unexpected end to US-South Korea military drills.

The move - long demanded by Pyongyang - has been seen as a major concession to North Korea and appeared to take US allies in the region by surprise.

After the summit, North Korea's state media said the two leaders had agreed that "step-by-step and simultaneous action" was needed to achieve denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

American hardliners such as Mr Trump's national security adviser John Bolton have previously opposed such a phased approach, whereby the US takes reciprocal action.

What does the deal lack?

Most Western observers have said the deal includes no new commitments from North Korea nor details on how denuclearisation could be achieved or verified.



Media caption

Trump Kim summit: Win-win, or a Kim win?

At his news conference, President Trump said it was difficult to ensure anything but that he trusted his instinct that Mr Kim would abide by his word. Critics also expressed disappointment that Pyongyang's long record of human rights abuses was not addressed.

How has the deal been received?

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spoke to Donald Trump after the summit, saying there was "great meaning in Chairman Kim's clearly confirming to President Trump the complete denuclearisation".

력사상 첫 조미수뇌상봉과 회담 진행

우리 당과 국가, 군대의 최고령도자

김정은동지께서 미합중국 대통령과

공동성명 채택

조선로동당 위원장이시며 조선민주주의인민공화국 국무위원의 위원장이시며 조선인민군 최고사령관이신 우리 당과 국가, 군대의 최고령도자 김정은동지께서 미합중국 대통령 도널드 트럼프 씨와, 트럼프가 2018년 6월 12일 싱가포르의 베트남에서 조미 수뇌상봉을 처음으로 치는 수뇌상봉과 회담을 진행하시었다. 지구상에서 가장 장구한 세월 함께하게 되었고 서로 지속하여온 조미수뇌의 국한적인 적대행위를 중단하고 두 나라 인민의 이익과 세계의 평화와 안정을 위한 새로운 지평을 열어 나가려는 수뇌공동의 확고한 결단과 의지에 의하여 글썽이 최초의 조선민주주의인민공화국과 미합중국 수뇌회담이 진행되게 된다.

Why North Koreans were last to learn of the Trump-Kim summit



Media caption

Why North Koreans were last to learn of the Trump-Kim summit

Tokyo also, however, cautioned that despite Pyongyang's pledge for denuclearisation no concrete steps had been taken and that Japan would not let down its guard. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said Japan saw "US-South Korean joint exercises and the US military presence in South Korea as vital to security in East Asia".

What are the US-South Korea war games?
Kim is a 'funny guy' - analysing Trump's quotes
North Korea crisis in 300 words
A diplomatic menu: What Trump and Kim ate

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the Singapore summit as an "equal dialogue" between the two sides, adding that "no-one will doubt the unique and important role played by China: a role which will continue". Chinese state media described the summit as a "starting point" but said "no-one would expect the half-day summit to be able to iron out all differences and remove deep-seated mistrust between the two long-time foes".

History of US-North Korea deals shows hard part is making them stick

Singapore summit follows series of agreements torpedoed by mistrust and unkept promises

Julian Borger in Singapore

Mon 11 Jun 2018 10.45 BST

Last modified on Mon 11 Jun 2018 11.44 BST



Pyongyang 1994: The former US president Jimmy Carter shares a boat ride with the North Korean leader Kim Il-sung weeks before Kim's death. Photograph: KCNA

It is Donald Trump's recurring boast that with the Singapore summit with **Kim Jong-un**, he has succeeded in negotiations with North Korea where his predecessors failed. But the claim obscures a long history of agreements made and broken by both countries.

The lesson of two major deals, in 1994 and 2005, is that it is much easier to reach agreements than to implement them. In fact, the complex, fraught process of implementation has usually brought with it new flashpoints and new crises.

Trump's looming **Singapore summit** with Kim will be the first meeting between US and North Korean leaders, but that is largely because previous US presidents have balked at giving the Pyongyang regime such recognition and prestige without substantive progress towards disarmament.

Each time a deal has been close, the same basic bargain has been on the table: that North Korea relinquish its nuclear arsenal in return for a mix of security and economic incentives.

In 1992 – the first time the US and North Korea engaged diplomatically since the 1953 armistice – the Pyongyang regime faced similar isolation and intense economic pressure as it does today. The collapse of the Soviet Union robbed the regime of a steadfast ally and patron. Meanwhile, Beijing was telling North Korea to undergo the same transformative economic reforms as China. Kim's grandfather, Kim Il-sung, was facing an existential threat.

Then, like now, rapprochement between North and South Korea created a diplomatic opening for the US. In January 1992, the two Koreas **signed an agreement** on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. That led to meetings between American and North Korean diplomats at the US mission to the United Nations in New York, where the two delegations eyed each other warily after three decades of silence.

The first thing that struck Robert Gallucci, who became chief US negotiator in 1993, was his counterparts' identical lapel badges portraying the Great Leader. "I tried to imagine us sitting there with lapel pictures of Bill Clinton and I just couldn't," he recalled.



Washington DC, 1994: President Bill Clinton and assistant secretary of state Robert Gallucci brief reporters following the negotiation of a landmark nuclear disarmament deal with North Korea. Photograph: Marcy Nighswander/AP
The first two years of US engagement with North Korea were highly volatile, in which diplomatic breakthroughs were interspersed by dangerous crises.

North Korea made an agreement in January 1992 with the [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#) to allow its nuclear complex at Yongbyon to be inspected, and at the same time the US called off its joint military exercises with South Korea.

The consequent mood of optimism was short-lived. The arrival of the IAEA inspectors led rapidly to a conflict on how much of the Yongbyon nuclear plant they could see. The escalation culminated in the North Koreans unloading spent fuel rods from the Yongbyon reactor, a necessary precursor to extracting plutonium. The Clinton administration started reviewing plans for air strikes to stop them and the two sides came close to war.

Just before Washington got to the point of ordering the evacuation of US nationals from the peninsula, the former president [Jimmy Carter](#) stepped in. He flew to Pyongyang for a personal meeting with Kim Il-sung, putting the diplomacy back on track and providing the impetus for the first major accord between the two countries, the 1994 Agreed Framework.



Trump-Kim summit: meet the negotiators

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According to the deal, North Korea would dismantle its reactor at Yongbyon, the source of its plutonium, in return for two civilian light water nuclear power stations, generally seen as less of a proliferation risk. Until those reactors were built, North Korea would receive shipments of US-financed fuel oil.

The deal was sealed in Geneva and the North Koreans invited the US negotiators to their mission to toast its success. One of the US diplomats, Joel Wit, was on the point of downing his shot when he spotted snakes at the bottom of the bottle. It was snake liquor, popular across east Asia for special occasions.

“Snake liquor really does smell like there has been a dead animal in the bottle, because there is,” Wit said. “I didn’t drink it, and as I turned around to put the glass down on the table I noticed that all the other Americans put theirs away. I’m not sure if the North Koreans noticed.”

From such tentative beginnings, the Agreed Framework would last nearly nine years, but its implementation would be a constant struggle. A Republican-dominated Congress did its best to slow down fuel deliveries, and the construction timetable for the reactors was continually postponed.

It later emerged that North Korea had been cheating by pursuing a secret uranium route to making a bomb. That was enough for the hawks in the Bush administration, John Bolton among them, to kill off the Agreed Framework.

The accord’s defenders suggest that the uranium enrichment programme was the regime’s hedge against the US reneging on the deal, and it could have been closed down through negotiations. They also argue that the Agreed Framework held back the weapons programme for most of the 1990s.

Christopher Hill, who became the Bush administration’s chief negotiator with North Korea, disagreed with the decision to end the Agreed Framework. “My own view is we lost control of the plutonium process, we lost inspectors on the ground. We lost the capacity to understand what was going on there,” Hill said.



Pyongyang, 2000: A limousine carrying the then US secretary of state Madeleine Albright passes a portrait of Kim Il-sung during her historic trip to North Korea. Photograph: Andrew Wong/Reuters

After a break in contact of more than two years, Hill was given the task of re-establishing contacts with the North Koreans under the format of multilateral, six-party talks. Those negotiations eventually led to a 2005 joint statement of principles to guide future negotiations, which included some of the elements of the Agreed Framework, such as the eventual provision of light water reactors, and a lot of language that will be on the table in Tuesday's talks between Trump and Kim.

The statement called for "the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula ... in a phased manner in line with the principle of 'commitment for commitment, action for action.'"

The joint statement once more raised hopes that the US and North Korea had turned a corner in their relationship, but it began to fall apart almost immediately. Within weeks, the US Treasury imposed new sanctions, freezing \$23m (£17m) in North Korean assets in a bank in the Chinese territory of Macau, using counter-terror legislation. It was a relatively small amount of money, but it infuriated the North Koreans and the Chinese, who saw it as a violation of the spirit of the joint statement. US diplomats who had negotiated the 2005 statement were also taken by surprise.

"I think it's fair to say that one part of the US government was not particularly in touch with another part of US government, not for the first or last time," said Hill, who saw it as an act of sabotage by hawks such as Bolton in the Bush administration. "I think the real purpose of it was to screw up the negotiations."

As relations spiralled downwards, North Korea tested seven ballistic missiles in July 2006, and conducted its first nuclear test in October the same year.

The US ended up refunding North Korea the money it had frozen in Macau, and provided shipments of fuel oil, and in return the regime closed down its Yongbyon reactor and provided a partial inventory of its nuclear programme. But the six-party talks became bogged down in the question of verification. As before, North Korea was prepared to allow inspectors in but sought to limit what they could see.

Kim Jong-un has struck one deal with the US, in February 2012. Under the **Leap Year agreement**, the regime undertook once more to suspend enrichment in Yongbyon under IAEA verification and to suspend nuclear and missile testing, in exchange, the Obama administration pledged to send food aid.

Once more, the deal fell apart within weeks when North Korea conducted missile launches, which it insisted were for satellite deployment. The US deemed them a breach of the Leap Year agreement and halted plans to send food aid.

Through three generations of the Kim dynasty, and successive US administrations, the biggest obstacle has not been reaching an agreement but making it stick. This has not only been a result of North Korea seeking to circumvent deals it has made, but a recurrent problem of US administrations sending conflicting signals, as different factions vie for control of policymaking.

US and North Korea preparing Trump-Kim summit

5 hours ago



Media caption

Korean leaders' surprise "Hollywood" meeting

A US team is holding talks with North Korean officials to prepare a possible meeting between President Donald Trump and the North's leader Kim Jong-un. The talks in the village of Panmunjom, in the demilitarised zone between the two Koreas, are the latest sign that the summit could take place after all.

On Thursday Mr Trump called off the meeting - due in Singapore next month - citing the North's "hostility". But both sides have since been working to get it back on track. On Saturday Mr Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in held an unannounced meeting. Mr Moon said the North's leader had "again made clear his commitment to a complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula". Mr Kim later spoke of his "fixed will" that the summit should go ahead. On Sunday Mr Trump tweeted that it would help the North achieve its "brilliant potential". Skip Twitter post by @realDonaldTrump



Donald J. Trump



@realDonaldTrump

Our United States team has arrived in North Korea to make arrangements for the Summit between Kim Jong Un and myself. I truly believe North Korea has brilliant potential and will be a great economic and financial Nation one day. Kim Jong Un agrees with me on this. It will happen!

8:09 AM - May 28, 2018

What is the aim of the latest talks?

The team is reportedly led by Sung Kim, a former ambassador to South Korea, and was to hold talks with North Korean Vice-Foreign Minister Choe Son-hui.

The aim of the talks is to set an agenda for the summit between the leaders.

While officials appear more optimistic about that meeting going ahead, recent weeks have shown that the relationship can change very quickly, says the BBC's Chris Butler in Washington.

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What needs to be sorted ahead of the summit?

There is still a lot of ground to be covered and Mr Trump has clearly shown that if he does not think a deal can be done, he will not go.

It is unclear whether Mr Kim will agree to fully abandon his nuclear arsenal. Similar pledges in the past have not been upheld.

Analysts say the US had wanted denuclearisation first - followed by rewards in the form of lifted sanctions and economic aid.



Media caption

The nuclear word Trump and Kim can't agree on

Mr Kim has indicated he wants a phased approach, with his steps met by reciprocal ones from the US and the South - mainly on sanctions but also easing of the US military presence in South Korea.

Mr Trump has not ruled out such an approach.

North Korea has been subjected to numerous rounds of international sanctions since 2006, which has cut off most of its exports and capped its imports of oil.

The North also wants assurances that its survival as a state would never be in question.

How did we get here?

Getting this far has been a surprise given that North Korea had maintained its strident rhetoric - and continued its nuclear and missile tests - through 2016 and 2017.

This brought a bitter war of words between Mr Trump and the North Korean leadership.

But a rapprochement began in January when **Mr Kim suggested he was "open to dialogue" with South Korea.**



Image copyright

EPA

Image caption

Koreans played under a unified flag at the Winter Olympics

The following month the two countries marched under one flag at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, held in the South. Mr Kim announced he was suspending nuclear tests and held his landmark summit with Mr Moon last month.

This week **North Korea said it had dismantled its Punggye-ri nuclear test site**, although scientists believe it partially collapsed after the last test in September 2017.

North Korea pledges to dismantle nuclear site in May ceremony

52 minutes ago



Image copyright
DIGITALGLOBE

Image caption

A satellite image of the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in North Korea

North Korea says it will begin dismantling its nuclear test site in less than two weeks in a ceremony attended by foreign journalists.

Pyongyang said it was taking "technical measures" to carry out the process between 23-25 May, North Korean state news agency KCNA reported on Saturday. Scientists previously said the site may have partially collapsed in September.

The move is due to take place three weeks before US President Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

In April, South Korean officials said Mr Kim had stated he "would carry out the closing of the nuclear test site in May", adding that nuclear experts from South Korea and the US would be invited to watch.

Their comments came after talks between Mr Kim and South Korea's President Moon Jae-in.

However there was no mention of allowing foreign experts access to the site in Saturday's statement from North Korea.

North Korea's Punggye-ri nuclear test site

UN gains 'unprecedented access' during visit

North Korea crisis in 300 words

What will the pledged ceremony include?

The dismantling of the Punggye-ri site, the exact date of which will depend on weather conditions, will involve the collapsing of all tunnels using explosives and the removal of all observation facilities, research buildings and security posts.

Journalists from South Korea, China, the US, the UK and Russia will be asked to attend to witness the event.

North Korea said the intention was to allow "not only the local press but also journalists of other countries to conduct on-the-spot coverage in order to show in a transparent manner the dismantlement of the northern nuclear test ground".

The reason officials gave for limiting the number of countries invited to send journalists was due to the "small space of the test ground... located in the uninhabited deep mountain area".

What do we know about the test site?

Situated in mountainous terrain in the north-east, the Punggye-ri site is thought to be the North's main nuclear facility.

Nuclear tests have taken place in a system of tunnels dug below Mount Mantap, near the Punggye-ri site.

Six nuclear tests have been carried out there since 2006.

After the most recent test, which took place in September 2017, **a series of aftershocks hit the site, which seismologists believe collapsed part of the mountain's interior.**



Source: USGS

BBC

Will North Korea really denuclearise?

Pyongyang's professed commitment to "denuclearisation" is likely to differ from Washington's demand for "comprehensive, verifiable and irreversible" nuclear disarmament.

On a recent visit to North Korea, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stressed that any such claim would require a "robust verification" programme by the US and other nations.

US offers to help rebuild N Korea if it denuclearises

Timeline: North Korea nuclear stand-off

North Korea has also reneged on a number of promises made in previous years.

In 1994, then-US President Bill Clinton made plans to attack sites in North Korea based on intelligence that the state had begun shipping fuel rods that could be used to produce plutonium to its main nuclear facility, the Yongbyon complex.

The threat of US strikes at the time, along with an offer from the Clinton administration to help boost the state's struggling economy, led to an agreement with the North Koreans. The US provided fuel to an energy-starved economy, and North Korea agreed to freeze its programme. But Pyongyang later breached the agreement and the deal fell apart in 2002.

In 2007, Pyongyang announced that it had shut its Yongbyon reactor as part of a disarmament-for-aid deal. The following year it demolished the facility's cooling tower in a symbol of its commitment to ending its nuclear programme.

Then, in 2013, North Korea said it would restart operations at the Yongbyon site - a move that was later confirmed by experts.

How important is the Trump-Kim meeting?

Mr Trump and Mr Kim are due to meet in Singapore on 12 June. It will be the first time a sitting US president has ever met a North Korean leader.

The key issue expected to be discussed is North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, over which the two leaders furiously sparred in 2017.

The US wants Pyongyang to give up its weapons programme completely and irreversibly.

Will historic summit lead to peace?

The Koreas - the basics explained

Confirmation of the meeting between the two men came after landmark talks between North and South Korea.

Mr Trump announced the date and place of the summit earlier this week, hours after he welcomed home three US detainees released from North Korea.

"We will both try to make it a very special moment for World Peace!" he tweeted.

Is North Korea opening up?

There is a "sense of optimism" among North Korea's leaders, the head of the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said on Saturday after enjoying what he said was unprecedented access to the country.

David Beasley spent two days in the capital, Pyongyang, and two outside it, accompanied by government minders.

He said the country was working hard to meet nutritional standards, and hunger was not as high as in the 1990s.

Mr Beasley's visit, from 8-11 May, included trips to WFP-funded projects - a children's nursery in South Hwanghae province and a fortified biscuit factory in North North Pyongyan province.

"I didn't see starvation like you had in the famine back in the 1990s, that's the good news. But is there a hunger issue, is there under-nutrition? There's no question about it," he told the BBC.

"There is a sense of turning a new page in history," he said.