

Joint Press Release of the 11th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks

Seoul, July 12, 2003

The 11th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks were held in Seoul from July 9 to 12, 2003.

The South and the North discussed earnestly the issues of mutual concern related to the promotion of peace on the Korean Peninsula and of the inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation based on the spirit of June 15 Inter-Korean Joint Declaration. They agreed as follows:

- 1 Expressing concerns over the recent situation on the Korean Peninsula and recognizing the need to work together to maintain peace and security on the Peninsula, South and North Korea agreed to cooperate to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through an appropriate dialogue format.
- 2 South and North Korea agreed to hold the 8th reunion of separated families at Mt. Geumgang on the occasion of Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving Day). Both sides agreed to cooperate in holding a ground-breaking ceremony for the Families Reunion Center at Mt. Geumgang.
- 3 South and North Korea agreed to cooperate for an early completion of the ongoing inter-Korean economic cooperation projects, and to hold the 6th meeting of the Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee in Seoul from August 26 to 29, 2003.
- 4 South and North Korea agreed to consider establishing under the Ministerial Talks a committee for the Inter-Korean Social and Cultural Cooperation. At this committee, both sides will discuss various issues of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation in the social, cultural, and athletic areas, and examine problems raised by both sides, including the termination of slandering broadcasts against each other.
- 5 South and North Korea agreed to cooperate positively so that civic organizations can hold commemorative events and activities to mark the August 15 National Liberation Day amid the atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation.
- 6 South and North Korea agreed to hold the 12th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks in Pyongyang from October 14 to 17, 2003.

Source: *Peace and Prosperity: White Paper on Korean Unification 2005* (Ministry of Unification: Seoul, 2005)