

# Trump-Kim Singapore summit: *what's next?*

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## □ UNITED STATES

After the Summit, **Trump** asserted that he trusts Kim. Even though complete denuclearization is “a 15-year process,” the sanctions will only come off once the nukes are “no longer a factor.” However, he also admitted he might be wrong.

Secretary of State **Pompeo**, during a speech to the Detroit Economic Club (June 18), added that what made the agreement possible was the US strong economic diplomacy. He emphasized the importance of burden-sharing, as Trump rallied other nations to join him in pressuring North Korea. In particular, after a phone call earlier that day, Russia seemed “excited that there’s this opportunity.” Pompeo added, “to eliminate the proliferation threat, the nuclear threat in North Korea, is something that they have long stated they were desirous for”.

Furthermore, according to the **State Department**, both the US and South Korea remain committed to the goal of complete denuclearization, to maintaining close coordination, and agree that pressure must continue until North Korea denuclearizes.

## □ NORTH KOREA

**Kim Jong-un** has stated that thanks to this “historic meeting”, the US and North Korea could “leave the past behind.” “The world will see a major change,” he added.

Furthermore, the **Korean Central News Agency** claimed that Trump agreed to lift the sanctions against North Korea and provide it with security guarantees, as well as ending military exercises with South Korea. The White House did not comment.

In the meantime, North Korean gift shops have reportedly stopped selling anti-American souvenirs.

American critics have raised several issues regarding the agreement and its implications:

1. The phrase “complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearization” does not appear in the document, despite Trump insisting on it.
2. Kim might be considered as the ‘winner’ of the summit as he convinced Trump to freeze US-South Korean military exercises as long as the dialogue continues.
3. Nevertheless, all the sanctions remain in place, and could be tightened, and the halt to joint exercises could be lifted.

*What would “complete denuclearization” look like?*

Regular and comprehensive information releases on North Korea’s nuclear program, and the ability to conduct inspections (even no-notice ones). A first, crucial step would be for Kim to limit the growth of his nuclear capabilities. In exchange, he might demand the U.S. withdrawal of its troops from the Peninsula, as well as a reduction of South Korea’s missile defences.

*Will the two countries keep their promises? For now:*

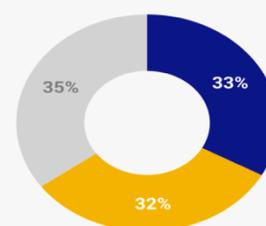
**North Korea** refrained from ballistic missile tests, and blew up tunnels at Punggye-ri nuclear test site. Even though this does not make nuclear testing impossible, the act probably aimed to show Kim’s commitment to the agreement.

Meanwhile, the **US** has cancelled Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, a major military exercise scheduled for August. The move, in compliance with Trump’s claim that the US would stop the ‘war games’ with South Korea, has raised several criticisms. American military officials, as well as US allies in the region, argued that these exercises are essential to maintain both combat readiness and strong alliance relations.

### Voters Unsure Whether Kim Committed To Denuclearization

Did North Korean leader Kim Jong Un commit to getting rid of North Korea’s nuclear program completely during the Singapore summit?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/No opinion



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The poll surveyed 1,993 registered voters June 12-14 and has a margin of error of +/-2%.