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**URGENT**

To: DSG

18/09/13

Attached please find for approval the draft SG report on the situation of human rights in the DPRK for the GA, covering the period September 2012 through August 2013.

Contrary to last year, this year the report does not contain any assessment or substantive analysis on the human rights situation but rather gives a chronological description of UN statements and actions related to human rights in the DPRK. This includes the establishment of the COI on the DPRK as well as activities by the Special Rapporteur. Reason for the change in approach can be related to the wish to better distinguish the SG's reports from those of the Special Rapporteur. Hitherto the two reports have been close to identical.

Similar to previous years, the report provides an update on the humanitarian situation and activities by OCHA, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and UNDP in the country. The SG expresses serious concern at the funding shortfalls facing UN agencies in the DPRK and appeals to the international community to step up and continue its efforts to provide humanitarian aid in the country. The report also urges the DPRK to cooperate with the COI and the Special Rapporteur and encourages Member States to do so too with a view to advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. The SG also reiterates the availability of his good offices to promote dialogue with the DPRK on ways to strengthen the protection of human rights.

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The report is not controversial as it relays  
information and observations already in the public  
domain.

*AS*

Political Unit  
18 September 2013

cc: CDC

**Received in ODSC**

18 September 2013

**Seen by:**

*ER*

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ACTION COPY  
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DSG

MEMORANDUM INTERIEUR • INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



A: Mr. Jan Eliasson  
TO: Deputy Secretary-General, EOSG

DATE: 13 September 2013

DE: Navi Pillay  
FROM: High Commissioner for Human Rights

OBJET: For clearance – Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in  
SUBJECT: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly

1. Please find attached, for clearance, the Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 67/181.
2. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/67/362), there have been no substantial changes in the obstacles faced by the United Nations in systematically promoting and protecting human rights in the DPRK. This report provides a chronological update of the United Nations engagement with the DPRK concerning the situation of human rights in the country from September 2012 to August 2013, including the events that led to the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry (COI). More information about the COI is expected to be reflected in the oral update the COI is scheduled to present to the General Assembly on 29 October 2013. On the same date, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK will present his report to the General Assembly (A/68/319). The Secretary-General's report also includes the case of nine North Korean defectors returned from Laos via China to DPRK in late May 2013.
3. The report also provides a broad update on the assistance for the improvement of humanitarian conditions in the DPRK extended by United Nations entities present in the country, namely UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO, UNFPA, and UNDP. OHCHR shared an initial draft report with all six resident agencies, the United Nations Country Team, UNHCR, OCHA and DPA. The present report takes into account additional comments and the most recent developments regarding the humanitarian situation, as provided by the UN Resident Coordinator and other entities.
4. The report contains recommendations, addressed to the Government of the DPRK and the international community, aimed at improving the situation of human rights in the country. As in previous years, the Government of the DPRK was given the opportunity to provide comments on the report but is not expected to react to OHCHR's communication.

EOSG/CENTRAL



Jan Eliasson

Date:

18/12/13

A/68/Slot No. 30545

**Sixty-eighth session**

Item 69 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights  
situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives****Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea****Report of the Secretary-General\*\****Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/181 on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It provides a chronological update on the United Nations engagement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding the human rights situation in the country from September 2012 to August 2013, taking into account continued lack of access to the country by the United Nations human rights mechanisms. This includes the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The report also touches upon the developments concerning family reunions and asylum issues in relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, during the reporting period.

The report also provides a broad update on the humanitarian conditions and refers to humanitarian assistance programmes of United Nations entities present in the country, namely the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Finally, the report contains conclusions and recommendations, addressed to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the international community, aimed at improving the situation of human rights in the country.

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\* A/68/150.

\*\* The present document was submitted late owing to operational issues involving staff turnover.



United Nations

A/68/Slot No. 30545



**General Assembly**

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## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/181 on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in which the Assembly, while noting with appreciation the collaboration established between the Government and some United Nations entities, expressed its very serious concern at the persistence of continuing reports of systematic, widespread and grave violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and its very deep concern at the precarious humanitarian situation, including a serious deterioration in the availability of and access to food, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The General Assembly also underscored its very serious concern at unresolved questions relating to abductions in the form of enforced disappearances, which violate the human rights of nationals of other sovereign countries. The Assembly also strongly urged the Government to extend its full cooperation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including by granting him full, free and unimpeded access to the country, and to other United Nations human rights mechanisms so that a full needs assessment of the human rights situation may be made; to engage in technical cooperation activities in the field of human rights with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

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2. The Assembly strongly urged the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *inter alia*, to tackle the root causes leading to refugee outflows and prosecute those who exploit refugees by human smuggling, trafficking and extortion, while not criminalizing victims, and to ensure that citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expelled or returned to the country are able to return in safety and dignity, are humanely treated and are not subjected to any kind of punishment.

3. The Assembly also strongly urged the Government to improve cooperation with the United Nations Country Team and development and humanitarian agencies so that they can directly contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian population, including accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in accordance with international monitoring and evaluation procedures.

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## II. Update on the United Nations engagement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the situation of human rights

4. Since the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/67/362), there have been no substantial changes in the obstacles faced by the United Nations in systematically promoting and protecting human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The present section of this report provides a chronological update of the United Nations engagement with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the situation of human rights in the country from September 2012 to August 2013.

5. In paragraph 29 of his report to the March 2013 session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/22/57), the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the Special Rapporteur), Marzuki Darusman, noted that the International Coalition to Stop



Crimes Against Humanity in North Korea (ICNK)<sup>1</sup>, a coalition of some 40 international non-governmental organizations, had submitted a petition<sup>2</sup> dated 3 April 2012 to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council on the use of labour camps for political prisoners and the pattern of human rights violations committed in these prison camps. The petition extensively detailed "the situation of detainees in Gulag System (*Kwan-li-so*) of DPRK". ICNK recommended, *inter alia*, that the international community take effective measures to ameliorate the suffering of the 150,000 to 200,000 people imprisoned in those camps and that the United Nations, acting through the General Assembly or the Human Rights Council, initiate a commission of inquiry into possible crimes against humanity being committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the purpose of holding the State and individual perpetrators to account. Based on that petition, on 3 October 2012, five mandate holders, namely the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; and the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, sent a joint allegation letter to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the alleged use of labour camps for political prisoners.<sup>3</sup> At the time of writing of this report, the mandate holders have not received any response from the Government.

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6. At a press conference on 18 October 2012, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, referred to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a neglected situation, on which she would try to shine more of a spotlight. She expressed her concern about reports of the use of political prison camps, frequent public executions and severe food shortages.<sup>4</sup> She noted that the Government had neither accepted a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since the post was created in 2004 nor her offer to provide technical assistance, including specific proposals to help review the country's Criminal Code and Criminal Procedures Code to bring them in line with the international obligations of the State.

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7. On 5 November 2012, during a meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva, the High Commissioner for Human Rights explained the background to her concerns and offered technical assistance to the Government of the DPRK to proactively address human rights inside the country.

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8. On 2 November 2012, in his statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea called on Member States to set up a more detailed mechanism of inquiry, based on the assessment of the underlying patterns and trends following a comprehensive review of United Nations documentation and resolutions on the situation of human rights in the

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.stopnkrimes.org/about\\_01.php](http://www.stopnkrimes.org/about_01.php).

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.fidh.org/The-International-Coalition-to>

<sup>3</sup> See Communications report of the Special Procedures (A/HRC/22/67), page 114

<sup>4</sup> See

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/%28httpNewsByYear\\_en%29/65275FD15C582F99C1257A9B00476EFB?](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/65275FD15C582F99C1257A9B00476EFB?OpenDocument)  
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Democratic People's Republic of Korea since 2004.<sup>5</sup> In that statement, he also highlighted his continuing concern over the abduction of foreign nationals, which remains unresolved (some 500 reported cases of abduction of citizens of the Republic of Korea and 12 reported cases of abduction of Japanese nationals).

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9. On 20 December 2012, at the General Assembly, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said, *inter alia*, that the Government categorically rejected the resolution on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and denied the violations mentioned in the text. He said the text was propaganda to create pressure on the country's socialist system, which constituted interference in its internal affairs. It showed double standards, and that any consideration of human rights must be carried out with the principles of objectivity under the Universal Periodic Review. While it had been adopted without a vote, it could not be interpreted as by consensus.<sup>6</sup>

10. On 14 January 2013, the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a press statement, highlighting a broad overview of the human rights concerns in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, describing it as "one of the worst – but least understood and reported – human rights situations in the world."<sup>7</sup>

She referred to a meeting she had held with survivors of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea prison camps and their "harrowing" personal stories, noting that the camp system involves "rampant violations, including torture and other forms of cruel and inhumane treatment, summary executions, rape, slave labour, and forms of collective punishment that may amount to crimes against humanity." She called for the international community to put much more effort into tackling the human rights situation of people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and said the time had come for a full-fledged international inquiry into serious crimes that had been taking place in the country for decades.

11. On 23 January 2013, the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss her statement. The High Commissioner reiterated the importance of having access to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and suggested that the Government invite relevant thematic special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. The High Commissioner reiterated her offer of assistance to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

12. In a letter dated 28 January 2013 to the President of the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva conveyed his country's "categorical" rejection of the "special rapporteur" and the "resolution" on the establishment of mandate of the "special rapporteur".<sup>8</sup>

It further noted that "as in the past, the DPRK will continue to consistently

<sup>5</sup> See Summary record of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Third Committee held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 2 November 2012, at 3 p.m. (A/C.3/67/SR.27, paragraphs 1-10); Also see <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/gashe4049.doc.htm>

<sup>6</sup> See official records of the General Assembly 60th plenary meeting, Thursday, 20 December 2012, 10 a.m. New York (A/67/PV.60, page 19-20); Also see news release at <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/ga11331.doc.htm>.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12923&LangID=E>

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/22/G-4



maintain its principled position of opposing and rejecting this politically motivated special rapporteur."

13. On 28 February 2013, five special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, namely the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, released a joint press statement, voicing their support for the establishment of an international inquiry into human rights abuses in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>9</sup> The mandate holders referred to the 18 October 2012 joint allegation letter that they sent to the Government, expressing concern and seeking answers to the apparent use of labour camps for political prisoners.<sup>10</sup> The mandate holders urged the Government to cooperate fully with the international human rights mechanisms, including any inquiry mechanism appointed by the Human Rights Council.

14. On 11 March 2013, at the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea presented his report (A/HRC/22/57), covering a comprehensive review of no fewer than 60 United Nations documents on the situation of human rights in the country, including 22 reports by the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur, and 16 resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and its predecessor the Commission on Human Rights since the establishment of the Special Rapporteur's mandate in 2004. The report called on Member States to set up an inquiry mechanism with adequate resources to investigate and document grave, systematic and widespread violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The report identified nine key inter-linked patterns of violations that the United Nations had focused on in the reports and resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: (1) violations of the right to food; (2) torture; (3) arbitrary detention; (4) violations of human rights associated with prison camps; (5) discrimination; (6) extensive violations of freedom of expression and other related freedoms; (7) violations of the right to life; (8) restrictions on freedom of movement and abusive treatment of citizens forcibly returned; and (9) enforced disappearances in the form of abductions of foreign nationals. In paragraph 31 of the same report, the Special Rapporteur detailed his recommendations and stressed that the inquiry should examine the issues of institutional and personal accountability for such violations, in particular where they amount to crimes against humanity, and make appropriate recommendations to the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and international community for further action. In a press statement issued on the same day, the Special Rapporteur expressed his belief that many, if not all, of these nine patterns, may amount to crimes against humanity, committed as part of systematic and/or widespread attacks against the civilian population.<sup>11</sup>

15. On 11 March 2013, during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur at the Human Rights Council, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed, *inter alia*, his delegation's total

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<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13058&LangID=E>

<sup>10</sup> See Communications report of the Special Procedures (A/HRC/22/67), page 114

<sup>11</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13116&LangID=E>



rejection of the report of the Special Rapporteur. He added, "Let there be no illusion that such pressure as 'inquiry mechanism' will bring about any change in our principle."<sup>12</sup> In conclusion, he reiterated the Government's commitment to continue to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms of its people.

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16. On 21 March 2013, the Human Rights Council adopted,<sup>13</sup> without a vote, resolution 22/13, extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a period of one year; and establishing, for a period of one year, a Commission of Inquiry comprising three members, one of whom should be the Special Rapporteur, with the other two members appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council. In paragraph 5 of the resolution, the Council decided that the Commission of Inquiry will investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as outlined in paragraph 31 of the report of the Special Rapporteur. The Council also requested the Commission to present an oral update at its twenty-fourth session, and to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and a written report to the Council at its twenty-fifth session. The Council, in paragraph 12 of the resolution, stated its decision to transmit all reports of the commission of inquiry to all relevant bodies of the United Nations and to the Secretary-General for appropriate action.

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17. On 7 May 2013, the President of the Human Rights Council announced the appointment of Michael Kirby (Australia) and Sonja Biserko (Serbia) to join the Special Rapporteur, Marzuki Darusman (Indonesia), to serve as members of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate the human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 22/13.<sup>14</sup> The President designated Michael Kirby as Chair of the Commission.

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18. On 10 May 2013, the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva sent a letter to the President of the Human Rights Council in reference to the appointment of the members of the Commission of Inquiry. The Permanent Representative reiterated that his country had neither recognized nor accepted the "resolutions" adopted by the Human Rights Council and the "special rapporteur" and "totally and categorically rejects the commission of inquiry."<sup>15</sup>

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19. On 5 July 2013, the Commission of Inquiry released a press statement, announcing that it had begun its operations with an initial week-long meeting in Geneva, welcoming the large amount of information already being provided by witnesses and experts.<sup>16</sup> The Commissioners stated that they had been holding key meetings including with a number of diplomatic missions, United Nations agencies, scholars and non-governmental organizations, and that they

<sup>12</sup> See <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/human-rights-council/regular-sessions/22nd-session/watch/id-dprk-special-rapporteur-27th-meeting-22nd-regular-session-human-rights-council/2219511677001>; Also see [http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/0D299F1DC33D7825C1257B2B0060588B?OpenDocument#](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/0D299F1DC33D7825C1257B2B0060588B?OpenDocument#)

<sup>13</sup> See [http://webtv.un.org/search/ahrc221.19-vote-item4-48th-meeting-22nd-regular-session-human-rights-council/2242986184001?term=human rights council&sort=date](http://webtv.un.org/search/ahrc221.19-vote-item4-48th-meeting-22nd-regular-session-human-rights-council/2242986184001?term=human%20rights%20council&sort=date)

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13301&LangID=E>

<sup>15</sup> See <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/PresidencyBureau/BureauRegionalGroupsCorrespondence/Corresp2013DL/Letter%20to%20the%20President%20from%20the%20DPRK%20on%20the%20CoI.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13508&LangID=E>

had been discussing the strategy, methodology and investigative approach they would employ during their mandate. The Commissioners also stated that they had written to the representatives of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to "seek engagement in a spirit of cooperation and transparency" and that the response had so far been negative. The Commissioners expressed their intention to continue to reach out to the Government and seek its cooperation.

20. The Commission of Inquiry held public hearings in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 20-24 August 2013, and in Tokyo, Japan, on 29-30 August.<sup>17</sup>

Those testifying before the Commission in Seoul included more than 40 witnesses, who had left the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and were able to provide first-hand accounts of violations of their human rights.<sup>18</sup> The Tokyo hearings included testimonies on the abductions of Japanese nationals to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>19</sup> More information about the work of the Commission, including its mandate and methods of work, and video footage of the public hearings, is available on its website.<sup>20</sup> The Commission presented an oral update to the Human Rights Council on 17 September 2013. It is scheduled to provide an oral update to the General Assembly on 29 October 2013 and a written report to the Human Rights Council in March 2014. The Commission has also invited individuals, groups and organizations to submit information and documentation on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea before 3 November 2013 in order to meaningfully address all the issues shared with the Commission, and to prepare a full written report with its findings and recommendations for submission to the Human Rights Council well ahead of the March 2014 session.<sup>21</sup>

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### III. Update on asylum issues and family reunions

#### A. Asylum seekers

21. On 30 May 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a press statement<sup>22</sup>, expressing his extreme concern for the protection of nine DPR Korean defectors, mostly teenagers and reportedly all orphans, who were reportedly sent back to the People's Republic of China on 27 May from the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The nine defectors were reportedly arrested by the Lao police while crossing the Lao-China border. He noted that, at the time of the press statement, the status and whereabouts of the group were not known. If the group had already been returned to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Special Rapporteur appealed to the authorities to show transparency and give the group access to an independent actor who could determine their status and wellbeing.

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22. Also on 30 May 2013, in a press release, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, expressed grave concern over the safety and security of the nine North Koreans and strongly called on all

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<sup>17</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13634&LangID=E>

<sup>18</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13656&LangID=E>

<sup>19</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13653&LangID=E>

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIDPRK/Pages/CommissionInquiryonHRinDPRK.aspx>

<sup>21</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoIDPRK/Pages/Callfor submissions.aspx>

<sup>22</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13381&LangID=E>



states to adhere to the principle of non-refoulement as a core tenet of customary international law, and refrain from any future measure that could directly or indirectly lead to the return of a person to a country where his or her life or freedom would be threatened.<sup>23</sup> The statement also noted that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was concerned that the deported individuals did not have a chance to have their asylum claims assessed, and that UNHCR was in contact with the Lao authorities to establish the initial facts behind that incident and to prevent any future deportation of people of concern.

23. On 31 May 2013, at a press briefing<sup>24</sup>, the Spokesperson for OHCHR expressed extreme concern for the protection of the group and urged the Chinese and Lao authorities to publicly clarify their fate, as well as the conditions under which they were returned. OHCHR also requested the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to provide immediate access to the group by independent actors to verify their status and treatment.

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24. On 6 June 2013, the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva sent a note verbale to OHCHR, explaining that the Government of Lao PDR dealt with the return of the nine young North Koreans in the context of its efforts to combat human trafficking and illegal immigration.

25. In a note verbale dated 10 June 2013 to OHCHR, the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva attached a 5 June 2013 statement by the Central Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross Society regarding "the recent attempted abduction of nine youngsters of the DPRK by a south Korean group in the Lao People's Democratic Republic."<sup>25</sup>

26. On 10 June 2013, the High Commissioner for Human Rights wrote to the Permanent Representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the People's Republic of China, expressing her grave concern for the protection of the nine young North Koreans. She appealed to the DPRK to show transparency in its handling of the case, to urgently clarify the fate of the group, and to immediately grant access to the group by independent actors in order to verify their status and treatment.

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27. On 25 June 2013, the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea responded in a letter to the High Commissioner, enclosing an article of the Korean Central News Agency on the round-table talks held on 20 June 2013 with "the teenagers who came back to the DPRK while being taken away to the south Korea after being kidnapped by south Koreans, which was broadcasted by the Korean Central TV on 21 June 2013."<sup>26</sup> The letter also advised the High Commissioner "to investigate and

<sup>23</sup> See <http://www.unhcr.org/51a7510b9.html>

<sup>24</sup> See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13390&LangID=E>; Also see [http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/6CAC869F1EB571AAC1257B7C0047900C](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpNewsByYear_en)/6CAC869F1EB571AAC1257B7C0047900C)

<sup>25</sup> The 5 June 2013 statement by the Central Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Red Cross Society was also reported by Korea News Service (KNS) in Tokyo. See <http://www.kcna.co.jp/item/2013/201306/news05/20130605-21ee.html>

<sup>26</sup> The round-table talks were also reported by Korea News Service (KNS) in Tokyo. See <http://www.kcna.co.jp/item/2013/201306/news20/20130620-20ee.html>; Also see <http://news.yahoo.com/photos/kcna->



punish the human-traffickers who kidnapped and attempted to take away not only the nine youngsters but also other DPRK citizens to south Korea and elsewhere.”

28. On 2 July 2013, the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China responded in a letter to the High Commissioner, stating that the nine citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea entered China on 27 May and left for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 28 May with lawful and valid traveling documents and visas; that the Chinese border control authorities approved their entry and exit after examining their travel documents in accordance with Chinese Law; and that China did not receive any request from either the Lao People's Democratic Republic or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to facilitate their return. The letter also added that the Chinese Government strictly abides by its international obligations.

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## B. Family reunions

29. On 23 August 2013, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea held working-level talks and agreed to resume, after a three-year hiatus, reunions of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War. The agreement is reported to include measures to confirm the living status of the separated families, allowing them to exchange letters, and regularizing family reunions. It is expected that 100 people from each side will be allowed to meet their family members from the other side at Mount Geumgang in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 25-30 September 2013. The two countries also agreed to hold reunions via video conference between 40 families on each side on 22-23 October 2013. Another round of reunions is expected in November 2013.<sup>27</sup>

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## IV. Update on the assistance for the improvement of humanitarian conditions in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea extended by the United Nations resident agencies

30. The United Nations has identified food and nutritional assistance, agricultural support, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health interventions as key humanitarian priorities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The United Nations agencies in the country remain seriously underfunded, and external assistance is needed and continues to play a vital role in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of millions of people whose food security, nutritional status and general health would otherwise be seriously compromised.<sup>28</sup>

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picture-shows-north-korean-teenagers-returned-north-photo-090423497.html

<sup>27</sup> See press release dated 26 August 2013 by the Ministry of Unification, Republic of Korea (<http://eng.unikorea.go.kr/CmsWeb/viewPage.req?idx=PG0000000513>). Also see Central News Agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (KCNA) 23 August 2013 article on Inter-Korean Red Cross Working Talks Held (<http://www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm>).

<sup>28</sup> See <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Key-Humanitarian-Messages-for-DPRK-15-March-2013.pdf>; Also see <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2013/03/Key-Humanitarian-Messages-for-DPRK-15-March-2013.pdf>

31. Five United Nations agencies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), issued a press release on 29 April 2013, appealing for urgent funding of US\$29.4 million to be able to meet the most critical and life-saving needs in the areas of health and nutrition up to the end of 2013.<sup>29</sup> The agencies explained that they needed a total of US\$147 million for the year 2013 to respond to key humanitarian priorities, but had received only 26.8 per cent of the requirement. Thus they were unable to respond effectively to the humanitarian needs, out of which, the most critical and life-saving ones required US\$29.4 million. They further noted that, "Even though the imposed sanctions clearly exclude humanitarian assistance, a negative impact on the levels of humanitarian funding has been experienced. The dire funding situation leaves the UN agencies and other humanitarian actors concerned about the continuation of their programmes in DPRK."

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32. On 16 July 2013, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator announced the allocation of US\$172 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for humanitarian work in neglected crises in 12 countries in 2013, including US\$6 million for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>30</sup> While CERF continues to play a central role in ensuring that the most vulnerable people continue to be reached, it has limited resources and is not designed to support significant scaling-up of humanitarian response required to meet the total needs in the country.<sup>31</sup>

33. On 15 August 2013, the United Nations Country Team reported that the humanitarian programmes of five United Nations agencies in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remained drastically underfunded. Of the overall requirement of US\$150 million for 2013, US\$98 million was still urgently needed for food and agricultural support, health and nutrition, water and sanitation interventions. The United Nations Resident Coordinator stressed, "We hope that donors will respond quickly and generously to allow UN agencies to address the humanitarian situation. Separating humanitarian needs from political issues is a prerequisite for a sustainable improvement in the condition of people."<sup>32</sup>

34. The United Nations Country Team, in its report on "Humanitarian needs and Priorities: Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2013," released on 15 August 2013, mentioned persistent struggle with funding deficits for its humanitarian activities, and noted that the latest political developments which resulted in further sanctions on the country have created additional constraints for providing vital assistance. The recent inability of the United Nations agencies to use their regular banking routes has also adversely affected important functions, such as in-country procurement, monitoring visits,

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<sup>29</sup> See [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_68984.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_68984.html)

<sup>30</sup> See

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Press%20release%20CERF%20Underfunded%20round%202%202013%2016July%20FINAL.pdf>. Also see

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45421&Cr=emergency+response&Cr1>

<sup>31</sup> <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>, page 7

<sup>32</sup> See <http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-peoples-republic-korea/un-calls-us98-million-respond-urgent-humanitarian>



effective programme delivery, capacity-building programmes, and general operating expenditures.<sup>33</sup>

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35. The report identified food security, treatment and prevention of life-threatening diseases and malnutrition as immediate needs, and noted that over the last couple of years, the Government has more openly recognized humanitarian needs and increasingly shown an interest in working more closely with the international community to address those needs, including by granting more favourable operating conditions.<sup>34</sup>

36. In Pyongyang, on 24-27 June 2013, a workshop on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction was organized for government officials and their partners by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR).<sup>35</sup>

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37. Torrential rain between 12 and 22 July 2013 caused severe flooding across the country, particularly in the two provinces of North and South Pyongan. The Government reported extensive damage, including about 11,000 hectares of farmland and over 11,600 buildings, affecting 13,000 families and displacing more than 47,000 people. On 23 July 2013, the Government requested the United Nations agencies to undertake an assessment in two counties in North Pyongan province.<sup>36</sup>

38. The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator,<sup>37</sup> in its situation report<sup>38</sup> on flooding caused by heavy seasonal rain of 25 July 2013 stated that according to the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) conducted by FAO and WFP in October 2012, timely imports of food and provision of agricultural inputs had contributed to averting a food crisis in 2013, with a cereal deficit of 207,000 metric tons compared to 414,000 metric tons in 2012. The National Nutrition Survey, conducted in October 2012, showed a slight improvement in overall malnutrition rates despite great variances between provinces. The average chronic malnutrition (stunting) rate among children under five was 27.9 per cent, while 4 per cent were acutely malnourished (wasting). Anaemia prevalence was very high in children (29 per cent) and women (31 per cent). Around 16 million people (66 per cent of the total population) depended on the Public Distribution System (PDS) and were therefore considered chronically food insecure at various degrees. All children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women were dependent on external supply of essential drugs and vaccines.

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<sup>33</sup> See DPR Korea 2013: Humanitarian needs and Priorities, pages 7-8 (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>)

<sup>34</sup> See DPR Korea 2013: Humanitarian needs and Priorities, pages 8-10 (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>)

<sup>35</sup> See DPR Korea 2013: Humanitarian needs and Priorities, page 10 (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>)

<sup>36</sup> See <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DPRK%20Situation%20Report%20%23%203%20%2823%20Aug%202013%29.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> See <http://kp.one.un.org/>

<sup>38</sup> See [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DPRKorea%20RC%20SituationReport%231\\_25%20July%202013.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DPRKorea%20RC%20SituationReport%231_25%20July%202013.pdf) Reported also in DPR Korea 2013: Humanitarian needs and Priorities, page 6 (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>)

<sup>40</sup> Reported also in DPR Korea 2013: Humanitarian needs and Priorities, page 6 (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>)



39. The situation report stated that under-nutrition was one of the major underlying causes of maternal and child mortality. The Maternal Mortality Ratio remained high – estimated at 81 per 100,000 live births. The Infant Mortality Rate was 26.3 per 1,000 live births and Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births. Health service delivery was in dire need of repair and maintenance in order to meet adequate and very basic health care needs of the people. Diarrhoea and pneumonia due to untreated infection were still the two main killers among children under-five.<sup>40</sup>

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40. It further reported that deterioration of the water infrastructure, lack of resources to replace dilapidated facilities and constant power supply shortages continued to be crucial problems. Malnutrition, inadequate access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation services, coupled with poor food hygiene, were the key factors contributing to high incidence of water borne diseases.

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41. The following part of this report contains a summary of the activities of the United Nations entities present in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during the period from September 2012 to August 2013. Through an integrated approach, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WHO and UNFPA respond to humanitarian needs, while also addressing, with the involvement of UNDP, some of the root causes of vulnerability in order to help build resilience and sustainable livelihoods.<sup>41</sup>

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#### A. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

42. The current UNICEF country programme (2011-2015) seeks to assist the realization of all children's rights in the country relating to survival, development, protection and participation. It aims at strengthening the development of a national policy environment conducive for children through advocacy, increased technical support to key ministries, building strategic alliances with organizations such as GAVI (formerly Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), as well as the adoption of innovative communication for development strategies. The programme in particular supports strengthening access to health and nutrition services, clean water and improved sanitation, and early learning with a focus on achieving equitable coverage of key intervention services for children.

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43. During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to work closely with the WHO and UNFPA on key interventions for improving child and maternal health, including immunization, the provision of essential medicines, and training in the integrated management of childhood illness, essential newborn care, and safe delivery. An important collaborative partnership between UNICEF, WHO, GAVI and the Government resulted in the nation-wide introduction of pentavalent vaccine in 2012 with government co-financing. The vaccination programme achieved and sustained high national immunization coverage rate of over 98 per cent, except for DTP-Hepatitis B vaccine (95.7 per cent). During the bi-annual Child Health Day(s), one million children aged 24-59 months were de-wormed, and 1.5 million children aged 6-59 months received vitamin A in 2012. The Government endorsed "A Promise Renewed" in September 2012, reaffirming its commitment to child survival and development.

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<sup>41</sup> Reported in DPR Korea 2013: Humanitarian needs and Priorities, page 6 (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OFD-DPR%20Korea15Aug.v2.pdf>)

44. During 2012, Phase 1 of the programme to combat malaria and tuberculosis, funded by the Global Fund, was successfully completed. UNICEF worked closely with WHO and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to deliver results, and considerable progress for this programme was achieved: 24.2 per cent reduction in overall malaria incidence against the target of 20 per cent; 100 per cent treatment of malaria cases as per the national treatment protocol; and 81 per cent case detection rate for New Smear Positive cases of tuberculosis and over 90 per cent success rate for treatment. The programme also resulted in the strengthening of the health system in areas of monitoring and evaluation, overall supply chain management, and monitoring of drug quality. Implementation of Phase 2 for this programme is currently well underway.

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45. In late 2012, a National Nutritional Survey was conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, in partnership with the Child Nutrition Institute and the Ministry of Public Health, with technical assistance from UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. The Survey found that one in four children (27.9 per cent) is stunted (too short for their age) with disparities across provinces. The prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in under-5 children is 4.0 per cent while 0.6 per cent suffers from severe acute malnutrition. Almost a quarter of women aged 15-49 (23.2 per cent) are under-nourished with a Mild-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of less than 225 mm. It also showed that continued progress is required for children to have access to more varied foods and sufficient vitamins, minerals and proteins to ensure their healthy growth. Diversified food is essential for a child's growth and development. Lack of diversified food means that children are not getting the right nutrients they need to survive and thrive. In light of this, intensified commitment and sustained cooperation among various sectors, such as health, agriculture and water and sanitation, along with continued international assistance, will continue to be essential.

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46. In order to address malnutrition, UNICEF continued to support the treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in selected hospitals, health clinics, and baby homes at national, provincial and community level. Multi-micronutrient supplements are provided to pregnant and lactating mothers in these hospitals and clinics, while iron and folic acid is provided to pre-pregnant women. Meanwhile, UNICEF also supported the re-dynamization of the iodized salt production to contribute to ensuring sustainable access to iodized salt for all the population.

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47. In the area of water and sanitation, UNICEF continued to support the improvement of water supply systems and promote sanitation and safe hygiene practices in institutions and communities. The pilot water supply situation assessment survey conducted in two counties in 2012 showed that the effective coverage for safe drinking water may be less than reported in available data. Based on the experience of this pilot assessment, UNICEF and the Ministry of City Management are initiating a further roll out of the water supply situation assessment in 2013 and beyond.

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48. In ensuring equitable access to quality education, UNICEF provided its support to selected educational institutions attended by underprivileged children, for example, orphans, children with disabilities, and children living in remote and inaccessible areas. Meanwhile, UNICEF also supported the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to expand new approaches in teacher training and instructional methodologies, and helped prepare a nation-wide learning assessment, which will take place in 2013.

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**B. World Food Programme (WFP)**

49. The modalities of WFP operations are set out in a Letter of Understanding (LoU) agreed upon with the Government for each operation.<sup>42</sup> WFP continues to strictly enforce its policy of "no access, no food" in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

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50. The situation analysis of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by WFP indicates that "droughts, torrential rain, typhoons and flooding threaten lives and livelihoods every year and cause soil erosion, landslides and damage to infrastructure. The country does not produce enough food to feed its population, its emergency food stocks are limited, and it has scant foreign currency reserves to buy food on the international market. Hence, even minor shocks have a major impact on agricultural production and food availability. Even a partial disruption of the normal food supply can have serious consequences."<sup>43</sup> Of an estimated 3.5 million vulnerable people, 2.8 million people in northern and eastern provinces – children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly, disabled and chronically ill – are very vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, as are urban PDS dependants without kitchen gardens or relatives at cooperative farms.

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51. In June 2012, the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) "Nutrition Support to Women and Children in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea – PRRO 200114" was revised in geographical coverage and extended for 12 months until June 2013.<sup>44</sup> The extension enabled WFP to continue to enhance the food security of vulnerable people in food-insecure areas and safeguard the nutritional status of women and children. The project was designed to target almost 2.4 million women and children in the 85 most food insecure counties, mainly in the north-eastern part of the country. In partnership with the Government, WFP supports 14 factories which produce fortified biscuits and super cereals (cereal-milk blend) for children and women.<sup>45</sup>

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52. In its PRRO 200114 Quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation Bulletin for the period April to June 2013, WFP reported that it was facing serious shortfall of commodities disrupting local production of fortified food, and that in mid-May, the agency had to temporarily suspend production of fortified biscuits for the children as the available food was prioritized for super cereal production. WFP also added that it would run out of maize, rice, DSM (dried skim milk), pulses (beans and peas) and oil in December provided that biscuit production remained suspended.<sup>46</sup>

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53. During its annual session on 3-6 June 2013, the WFP Executive Board approved almost US\$200 million of food assistance, proposed for a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO 200532): "Nutrition Support for Children

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<sup>42</sup> See <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2013/03/WFP-Factsheet-2013.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> WFP project document submitted for the approval of the Executive Board (WFP/EB.A/2013/9-B/1), paragraph 3

<sup>44</sup> See <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2013/03/WFP-Factsheet-2013.pdf>

<sup>45</sup> See

<http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/PRRO%20200114%20bulletin%202013%201st%20quarter%20version%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> See

[http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/PRRO%20200114%20bulletin%202013%202nd%20quarter%20version%202013%2020\(2\).pdf](http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/PRRO%20200114%20bulletin%202013%202nd%20quarter%20version%202013%2020(2).pdf)



and Women" in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>47</sup> This two-year operation, starting on 1 July 2013, is designed to target almost 2.4 million beneficiaries and to enhance food and nutrition security in towns and mountainous regions, with emphasis on children and women, especially by providing locally produced fortified food.

### C. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

54. FAO continues to support the Government's efforts to increase agricultural productivity and improve food security through implementation of development and emergency/rehabilitation projects.<sup>48</sup> It is currently implementing nine projects, which include two Technical Cooperation Programme projects: (1) sweet sorghum and (2) pest control with a total budget of US\$ 715,000 from FAO internal funding; three agricultural project: (1) seed production, (2) reduction of post-harvest losses, and (3) strengthening of food and agriculture information system with a total budget of approximately US\$ 5.2 million funded by UNDP; three emergency and rehabilitation projects: (1) seed potato multiplication and construction of storage facilities, (2) provision of plastic sheets, and (3) enhancing food security through conservation agriculture and double cropping with the total budget of US 3.53 million funded by the Government of Sweden, the European Union, and the United Nations' CERF; and one special food security project with a budget of US\$ 800,000 funded by the Government of Italy.

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55. The FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF 2012-2015) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, synergised with the development priorities set in the United Nations Strategic Framework (2011-2015) for the country, defines five FAO priorities for technical cooperation with the Government: (1) strengthening national food and nutritional security, (2) improving natural resource management, (3) improving rural livelihood, (4) coping with climate change, and (5) strengthening institutional capacity for agricultural research, extension and administration. CPF 2012-2015 also provides a framework for how FAO can best assist the Government in meeting its development priorities.

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### D. World Health Organization (WHO)

57. WHO operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea annually cover all 208 counties in all 10 provinces, including more than 7,000 Ri-hospitals/clinics<sup>49</sup> in county subdivisions and all hospitals at the county, provincial and central levels, including general, maternity, specialized such as TB preventive and emergency hospitals, medical universities, the Academy of the Traditional Medicine and blood centres and laboratories.<sup>50</sup>

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58. The WHO Country Cooperative Strategy in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from 2009 to 2013 prioritizes five main strategic areas,

<sup>47</sup> WFP/EB.A/2013/9-B/1; Also see <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc062559.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> See <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2013/03/FAO-Factsheet-2013.pdf>. Also see <https://extranet.fao.org/fpmis/FPMISReportServlet.jsp?div=&type=countryprofileopen&language=EN&countryId=KP>

<sup>49</sup> Ri-hospitals/clinics are rural country level hospitals/clinics.

<sup>50</sup> See <http://kp.one.un.org/country-team/who/>. Also see <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2012/03/WHO-Factsheet-2013.pdf>

including (a) strengthening the public health system to further develop capacity for policy, planning and improvement in service delivery; (b) addressing women's and children's health; (c) sustaining achievements made in addressing communicable diseases; (d) addressing risk factors in order to decrease the prevalence of non-communicable diseases; and (e) addressing the environmental determinants of health preparedness and response.

59. WHO works with the Government through regular technical contacts with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). Key activities through joint collaboration include, *inter alia*, successful facilitation of the global health initiatives such as the Global Fund and GAVI; support to MoPH in addressing newly emerging communicable diseases like Pandemic Influenza (H1N1) and vaccine preventable diseases; support to build up core-capacities to implement International Health Regulations; facilitating a safe blood transfusion policy, and technical support for capacity building through fellowships and study tours.

#### E. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

60. UNFPA current programme (2011-2015), aligned with United Nations Strategic Framework (2011-2015) and the Health Sector Mid-Term Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Public Health (2010-2015), is based on the reproductive health priorities.<sup>51</sup> They include the development of national reproductive health strategies and clinical guidelines; capacity building of services providers working at primary and secondary level of health care; expansion of family planning services in 11 counties; provision of essential reproductive health supplies and equipment for 273 Ri clinics<sup>52</sup> and 11 county hospitals; and strengthening the logistics-management information system for reproductive health commodities at central and provincial levels.

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61. Working with Kim Il Sung University, UNFPA also helps prepare national experts in the field of population studies with the aim to strengthen academic capacity in demography, focusing on linkages between population and development. UNFPA also supports capacity building of national institutions such as State Planning Commission and the Central Bureau of Statistics, to analyse and utilize population data for planning and programming.

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#### F. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

62. UNDP is currently implementing several projects in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.<sup>53</sup> Among them, three involve cooperation with FAO and are related to food security and rural development. Specifically, they aim: (1) to design and implement intervention in support of quality seed multiplication, capacity enhancement at the farm level, and providing appropriate skills to increase productivity and food availability in an ecologically sustainable manner for improved rural livelihoods; and (2) to enhance capacity at the farm level in post-harvest management through training of farmers, introduction and promotion of improved post-harvest

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<sup>51</sup> See <http://kp.one.un.org/country-team/unfpa/>. Also see <http://kp.one.un.org/content/uploads/2013/03/UNFPA-Factsheet-2013.pdf>.

<sup>52</sup> Ri-hospitals/clinics are rural country level hospitals/clinics.

<sup>53</sup> See <http://web.undp.org/dprk/projects.shtml>. Also see <http://kp.one.un.org/country-team/undp/>



methods and interventions, and awareness raising activities for farmers; (3) to develop and establish a comprehensive agriculture information system with a bid to increase and facilitate rehabilitation of the agriculture sector. UNDP also recently signed two projects, namely one pilot project to support socio-economic development of rural areas, and one project to strengthen ecosystem resilience and community adaptive capacity in climate affected river basins. Other UNDP projects in the country are related to energy.

## V. Conclusions and recommendations

63. I urge the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take immediate steps to address the human rights concerns raised in the present report and successive resolutions of the General Assembly and Human Rights Council.

64. I continue to fully support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and his tireless efforts in the implementation of the mandate, despite the limited access to information. I also reiterate my full support for the Commission of Inquiry by the Human Rights Council on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Its establishment is an important opportunity to obtain a more comprehensive assessment of the human rights situation in the country.

65. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is urged to fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and the Commission of Inquiry, and to grant them unrestricted access to the country and to provide them with assistance and information necessary to fulfil their mandates.

66. I encourage all Member States of the United Nations and all parts of the United Nations System to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and the Commission of Inquiry with a view to advancing the promotion and protection of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

67. Technical assistance offered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights provides an important vehicle to enhance human rights protection and promotion in the country. I therefore regret that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not yet accepted the technical assistance offered by the High Commissioner. I strongly encourage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate with all United Nations human rights mechanisms and to engage with OHCHR and to avail of the Office's expertise to improve the situation of human rights and amend national legislation to ensure compatibility with international human rights standards.

68. I also encourage the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to invite relevant thematic Special Procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council to visit the country.

69. I am seriously concerned at the funding shortfalls facing the United Nations agencies in carrying out their programmes in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which provide critical assistance to the Government in safeguarding and promoting food security, nutritional status and general health of its citizens.

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70. ~~I therefore appeal to the international community to step up and continue providing adequate and sustainable funding for humanitarian assistance efforts in accordance with good humanitarian donor principles, especially food and medicine, with a view to improving the humanitarian conditions and human rights situation in the country.~~

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71. ~~I also urge the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to take immediate steps to secure respect for the rights to food and health, including the right to water and sanitation, and to allocate greater budgetary resources for such purposes.~~

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72. ~~The 23 August 2013 agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea to resume the reunions of the separated families is much welcome. I note the urgency to realize such reunions as the elderly members of each family continue to pass away, losing their right and chance to be reunited with their loved ones.~~

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73. ~~I appeal to the countries neighbouring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect the principle of non-refoulement under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to refrain from forcibly returning persons fleeing persecution from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to provide international protection to such people. This includes indirect refoulement. The duty not to refoul encompasses any measure which could have the effect of returning a person to the frontiers of territories where his or her life or freedom would be threatened, or where he or she would risk persecution.~~

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74. ~~I appeal to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to show transparency and to share information with the international community on the status and treatment of persons who were forcibly returned to the country.~~

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75. ~~I reiterate the availability of my good offices to promote dialogue with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on ways to strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in the country.~~

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