



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.: General
25 October 2016

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention

Fifth periodic reports of States parties due in 2012

Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

[Date received: 3 May 2016]

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

GE.16-18551(E)



* 1 6 1 8 5 5 1 *

Please recycle



Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Forward	1-6	3
I. General measures of implementation (arts. 4 and 42, and art. 44, para. 6)	7-26	3
II. Definition of the child (art. 1)	27-28	6
III. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)	29-59	6
IV. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, 13-17 and 37.a)	60-90	11
V. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18. 1-2, 19-21, 25, 27.4, 39)	90-123	15
VI. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18.3, 23, 24, 26 and 27.1-3)	124-180	19
VII. Education, leisure and cultural activities	181-226	27
VII. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-36, 37.2-4, 38, 39 and 40).....	227-248	34
Annex		38

Forward

1. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the DPRK) hereby submits its fifth and sixth combined report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Convention) in accordance with article 44 of the Convention. The present Report builds on the third and fourth combined report submitted in 2007.
2. The present Report covers the period of 2008-2015 and follows general guidelines adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (the Committee) regarding periodic reports to be submitted by the parties to the Convention.
3. The present Report describes, in several clusters, the legislative and practical measures taken and progress achieved during the reporting period for the protection and promotion of rights of the child, taking into full account the concluding observations (CRC/C/PRK/CO/4) adopted in January 2009 by the Committee on the third and fourth combined report of the DPRK (the previous Report).
4. Under the sponsorship of National Committee for the Implementation of International Human Rights Treaties (NCIIHRT, see para. 22), a taskforce, comprised of officials from the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly (PSPA), child-related commissions, ministries, social organizations, NGOs, research institutes and experts, was formed to draft the report incorporating information and views received.
5. Information contained in the present Report was provided by the PSPA, Supreme Court, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, Education Commission, Ministry of Public Health, Central Bureau of Statistics, people's committees and other child-related institutions, social organizations such as **Kim Il Sung** Socialist Youth League, Korea Democratic Women's Union, DPRK Association for Human Rights Studies, academic institutions and NGOs like Korea Association for Supporting the Child, Korea Education Fund, Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, Academy of Educational Science, Research Institute for Child Health Care under Academy of Medical Science, Population Centre, etc. Inputs from many childcare institutions, educational establishments, children's union and youth league were taken into consideration, while views of parents and children were also listened to and respected.
6. With regard to paragraph 80 of the Concluding Observations, an updated core document pursuant to harmonized guidelines on reporting is submitted to the Committee separately.

I. General measures of implementation of the Convention (arts. 4 and 42, and art. 44, para. 6)

7. The reporting period was a period during which children in the DPRK fully enjoyed their rights and their welfare was promoted at a higher level under the policy of love for children of the supreme leader **Kim Jong Un** who loves children the most and spares nothing for them.
8. With regard to para. 8 of the Concluding Observations, the DPRK Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children was adopted on December 22, 2010 by the PSPA Decree No. 1307. The law, comprised of 6 chapters and 62 articles, provides for principles, issues on fully ensuring the rights and best interests of the child in their social life, education, health, family and justice, and matters related to the guidance and supervision over the work for protection of rights of the children. Adoption of this law provided a legal basis for the children to fully exercise their rights, and legalized and clarified the

obligations of institutions, enterprises, organizations and the officials for the protection of the rights set forth therein.

9. The Ordinance on the Enforcement of Universal 12-year Compulsory Education was promulgated at the 6th session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly on September 25, 2012, whereby the 12-year compulsory education system replaced the previous 11-year system, which was legalized through the amending of the Socialist Constitution and education-related laws and regulations. As a result, all children in the DPRK have access to general basic knowledge and modern basic technical knowledge free of charge throughout the 12 year-education period from 1-year preschool course at kindergartens, primary schools to junior and senior secondary schools. It also brought about a significant improvement in the quality of general secondary education. A mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Ordinance was conducted and a decision adopted at the 2nd session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly on September 26, 2014 to push forward the implementation more dynamically.

10. The Law on General Secondary Education was adopted on January 10, 2011 by the PSPA Decree No 1355. This law has put in place a better system and order for the provision of free compulsory education, establishment and operation of general educational institutions, training of educational workers and improvement of the educational work. It laid a legal foundation for bringing up younger generation as the pillar of the nation knowledgeable, morally sound and physically strong.

11. The Law on Disaster Prevention, Rescue and Recovery was adopted by the PSPA Decree No. 76 on June 27, 2014. This law provides for issues on giving priority to delivering relief goods to children, women, persons with disabilities and those critically in need of assistance in disaster-affected areas, on setting higher criteria for design, construction and supervision of buildings like schools and hospitals and ensuring proper maintenance thereof. It secured a legal guarantee for the protection of lives and property of people including children in disaster prevention, rescue and recovery.

12. On November 21, 2013, the Law on Protection of Persons with Disabilities was amended by the PSPA Decree No. 3447, thus upgrading the legal system for the protection of children with disabilities and promotion of their welfare. The amended law brought the definition on persons with disabilities into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and supplemented several issues such as setting up of a research institution for rehabilitation of the persons with disabilities (Article 11), giving ordinary scholarship to students in special classes and special schools, designation by local power organs and relevant state institutions of supporter units for each special school, obligation by the supporter units to regularly assess the situation of the school concerned to provide sufficient conditions for its operation (Article 19), maintaining the principle of prioritizing the convenience of persons with disabilities when designing or constructing dwelling houses, public buildings and facilities (Article 47), establishment and operation by the institution responsible for protection of persons with disabilities of a fund to be used for improving their living environment and conditions (Article 52).

13. The Laws on Farms and Agriculture were amended to address food problem and further increase the agricultural output, which is crucial to children's health and nutrition.

14. The Laws on Price, State Budgetary Revenue, Commerce, Finance, Fruit Farming, Animal Husbandry and other economy-related laws were amended to revitalize all sectors of the economy and provide people with more affluent life.

15. The Laws on Foodstuff Hygiene, Environmental Protection, Urban Maintenance, Prevention of Pollution of River Taedong, Protection of Scenic Spots and Natural Monuments, Public Sanitation, Management of Parks and Recreation Grounds, City Beautification, Tobacco Control and Protection of National Heritage were amended to

promote people's health and provide them with cultured and hygienic living environment and working conditions.

16. The Ministry of Education was reorganized as the Education Commission in June, 2010 by the decree of the PSPA, which now comprises the Ministries of Higher Education and General Education. This marked a turning point in further improving the quality of education and providing more effective guidance over the educational work.

17. New associations and organizations were formed during the reporting period for the protection and promotion of the rights of children. Typical of them is the Korea Association for Supporting the Children which was organized on November 21, 2013. This association works to contribute to the realization of the State's policy on bringing up all children healthy and carefree by protecting their fundamental rights and improving services in the areas of health, nutrition, intellectual development and living. It gives priority to supporting orphans and children with disabilities and in geographically disadvantaged areas.

18. In 2012, Mothers' Day was instituted (November 16) in high appreciation of women's contribution to the development of society and the wellbeing of families and with a view to further encouraging them to creditably fulfil their mission before the society and the family. On this national holiday colourful events are held in honour of mothers across the country, and mass media send out special programmes, thus enhancing their pride and sense of mission.

19. In 2013, the DPRK instituted June 6th, the founding day of the Children's Union, as its national holiday. National flags hoisted in the streets, children across the country have big celebrations together with their parents, teachers and others. It has become a domestic tradition for high-ranking officials at the central and local level to join the children in the celebration functions organized in different parts of the country. June 1st, the International Children's Day, is also celebrated in the same way.

20. With regard to paras. 66, 74 and 76 of the Concluding Observations, the DPRK signed or ratified some of the human rights conventions with a view to fulfilling its obligations as a State party to the Convention and ensuring sufficient provision of child rights.

21. In 2014, on the occasion of 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, the DPRK ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. It ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism in June 2013. It signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in July, 2013 and is now doing the groundwork for the ratification thereof including by incorporating the requirements of the Convention into domestic laws and securing necessary material conditions.

22. In April 2015, NCIHRT was formed, merging the national coordinating committees that existed separately for the implementation of the treaties to which the DPRK is a State party. NCIHRT provides unified coordination for the implementation of all the treaties that the DPRK is a State party, its functions being the same as those of the former coordinating committees.

23. NCIHRT holds it as one of its main objectives to ensure that the requirements of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and the Convention are fully integrated into the development and implementation of the State policy. NCIHRT regularly follows up the activities of State institutions, judiciary and prosecution institutions and child-related social organizations, and suggests recommendations to the PSPA, the Cabinet and other relevant organs. It disseminates the Convention and the Concluding Observations and makes recommendations to the Government to ensure that humanitarian assistance from UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP and other international organizations, IFRC, and NGOs,

individual donors are provided in such effective manner that children benefit from them and their welfare are fully ensured.

24. With regard to para. 78 of the Concluding Observations, NCIHRT organized, following the review of the third and fourth Report in January 2009, a consultative meeting of officials from relevant ministries, judiciary and prosecution institutions, social organizations, NGOs and academic institutes. At the meeting the results of the Review and the recommendations in the Concluding Observations were fully briefed, and follow-up actions to the recommendations were discussed.

25. General meetings of State institutions and social organizations, and sector-specific meetings were organized to review the implementation of the Convention and discuss concrete measures and programmes. NGOs such as Korea Association for Supporting the Children, Korea Education Fund, Korea Association for Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health were engaged in the implementation process under their own action programs.

26. An additional tens of thousands copies of Compilation of International Human Rights Instruments and Convention on the Rights of the Child (both translated into Korean) were printed and distributed to local institutions and organizations concerned for dissemination to different target groups. Every year on the occasion of the June 1, the International Children's Day and on the founding anniversary of the Children's Union, celebration activities were aired by mass media, which enhanced public interest in the protection and promotion of the rights of children. In particular, the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention was marked with grand celebration events amid great interest of the whole country.

II. Definition of the Child (art. 1)

27. The Law of the DPRK on the Protection of the Rights of Children defines a child as a person up to the age 16. Such definition is based on the present situation where the age of completion of the 11-year compulsory education is 16-17.

28. The DPRK introduced from 2014 the universal 12-year compulsory education system with a view to providing children with more and better opportunities to learn and bringing them up to be the pillar of the country as required by the era of knowledge-driven economy. Children learning under this new system will be 17-18 years old when they finish their 12-year course. Then the legal definition of children will be changed to be the same as the definition provided in the Convention.

III. General Principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

1. Non-discrimination (art. 2)

29. The Socialist Constitution provides in article 65 that citizens enjoy equal rights in all spheres of State and public activities and the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children stipulates in article 3 that all the children in the DPRK shall be ensured equal rights irrespective of their parents' or legal guardians' social origin, sex, position, property, disability or other status.

30. With regard to para. 20 of the Concluding Observations, during the reporting period new State policies and measures were adopted for orphans and public concern for their upbringing, growth and education greatly enhanced.

31. The Regulations on Baby Homes and Orphanages were adopted in 2009 by the decision of the Cabinet, which provides for matters related to the establishment and

operation of baby homes and orphanages, children's health care and education, logistic support and financing. The Implementing Regulations for the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children was extensively amended by the decision of the Cabinet, providing strict guidelines for the operations of all child-care institutions including baby homes and orphanages. Accordingly, criteria for nutritional care of children of different age groups were set higher from the hygienic and scientific point of view and a better system has been established for the provision of foodstuff of all varieties to baby homes and orphanages.

32. Baby homes and orphanages were newly built in the capital city of Pyongyang in October, 2014 and in Wonsan, Kangwon province in June 2015, equipped with excellent conditions for the upbringing, education and living of children, and other provincial baby homes and orphanages have been modelled on these. Opening ceremonies were held as big national events, where children were honoured to cut ribbons. They are now growing happily in these palace-like homes free from orphans' sorrow.

33. Measures were taken and necessary conditions and amenities were provided to ensure that all children equally enjoy rights to education and decent living without any distinctions as to their parents' occupations or social standing. The State increased investment in the improvement of educational amenities of orphans' primary and secondary schools and paid close attention to their education, with the result that many of the graduates became good scientists, writers and public officials. In 2012, when there was a grand celebration of the 66th founding anniversary of the Children' Union, 20,000 children of workers and farmers from primary and secondary schools, and branch schools across the country were invited to the capital city to attend colourful events and tour different places. Several of them had parents who were serving sentences but were selected to represent their schools for their good school achievements. In 2013, 8 100 children from branch schools on islets and mountainous areas went camping specially arranged on the occasion of the 67th founding anniversary of the Children's Union.

34. Measures were taken, in accordance with the revised Law on Protection of Persons with Disabilities, to ensure children with disabilities equal rights and interests with others in all fields of social life, increase State investment for their benefit and improve their learning and living conditions. The climate of respect for their dignity and assistance in their work and life pervades the society and tangible progress has been made in the efforts to protect them as a result, in particular, of the work of the Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities.

35. Local people's committees took measures for the fulfilment of their obligations as provided in articles 32 and 15 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and the Education Law for the ensuring of compulsory education of children in remote, mountainous areas and children with disabilities like the deaf and dumb, and blind children.

36. The DPRK adopted a series of special measures for the improvement of the living conditions of people on islets. As a result of the concentrated investment of the State and nationwide concern, nurseries, kindergartens and schools were newly built, provided with the same teaching aids and furnishings as those in cities. Arrangements were made for all the children living on islets to tour, at the State expense, the capital city and other scenic spots and enjoy themselves at Children's Union camps in various parts of the country.

2. Best interests of the child (art. 3)

37. With regard to para. 22 of the Concluding Observations, the DPRK attaches great importance to the work for the young generations and gives top priority to their upbringing and education.

38. The DPRK regards that children with sound spiritual and moral characters, high scientific and technological abilities and rich cultural attainments are the most precious

assets of the country. From this point of view, the DPRK, despite the demands for investment in the economic development and improvement of people's living, increased investment for the growth and development of children and encouraged social support for educational sector.

39. In accordance with the Cabinet directive on setting up branch schools in areas with poor traveling conditions, hundreds of branch schools have been built by the efforts of the local people's committees and social support. As of 2015, there are 500 branch schools that have an enrolment of less than 20 students and 100 for less than 10.

40. A Cabinet directive was issued in 2010 to further strengthen the economic foundations of extracurricular education centres such as schoolchildren's palaces and halls, and Children's Union camps across the country. As a result, in 2011 the Schoolchildren's Hall in Samjiyon County, Ryangang Province in the northernmost part of the country has been completely refurbished and in 2015 the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace with an accommodation capacity of 5,000 schoolchildren a day for their extracurricular activities was remodelled in a splendid fashion. Schoolchildren's palaces in other provinces are now undergoing renovation and refurbishing.

41. Sensitization seminars were organized and other practical measures were taken to ensure that officials of people's committees at all levels, institutions, enterprises and organizations were well aware of the requirements of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, child-related laws and the State policy, with the result that the best interest of the child became priority in the work of public officials. For instance, the State Planning Commission has set a special quota for the provision of materials for nurseries and kindergartens and included them in the national economic plan. Institutions responsible for the supply of materials for children and other institutions, enterprises and organizations makes it a rule to provide the best of their stock for the production of children's goods, while those responsible for production prioritized the production of children's goods.

42. Legislative measures are put in place to ensure that civil and criminal cases are settled in the best interest of children. The Family Law requires that in cases of divorce, the custody of children shall be decided by agreement between the two parties in the interest of the child and the Civil Procedures Law provides that cases for determination of the party to take custody of the child and his/her maintenance, and claims for expenses of bringing up the child shall be brought to the Court without having to pay the State charges (article 68). The Criminal Law provides that an official at a nursery or kindergarten who causes loss of life by violating the regulations related to taking care of children shall be committed to disciplining through labour of not more than one year (article 197).

43. The number of people's security officers, prosecutors and judges in charge of child-related cases increased at the institutions of people's security, prosecution and court at all levels, for whom workshops and trainings were periodically organized to enhance their knowledge of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, related laws, the Convention and international judicial instruments concerning children and to ensure that they respect children's rights and prioritize their interests in their day-to-day work and handle cases in strict compliance with the requirements of the Law and the Convention. For instance in 2014, two such workshops were organized for the child-related officers at the law enforcement and judicial institutions at all levels.

3. Right to life, survival and development (art. 6)

44. With regard to para.24 of the Concluding Observations, the Criminal Law provides in article 29 that death penalty shall not be imposed on persons who have not reached the age of 18 at the time of committing the crime. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 11 that children have rights to life and development, and

parents, guardians and the institutions concerned shall be obliged to ensure to their children the rights to full physical and mental development to the maximum extent possible. The same Law provides in article 34 that the public health guidance institution and local people's committees shall assign medical workers to nurseries and kindergartens and supply sufficient amount of medical appliances and medicine so that children's health is taken good care of. The Implementing Regulations of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children provides in article 28 that educational and public health administration institutions and child nurturing establishments shall carry out comprehensive analysis of the children's health and development and take appropriate steps and put childcare on a scientific basis.

45. The Regulations on Child Insurance was adopted in 2008 by resolution No. 6 of the Cabinet, which established elaborated system and order for the life of insured children aged 5-16.

46. The Mid-Term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Health Sector in the DPRK (2010-2015), New Malaria Control Strategic Plan (2014-2017), Tuberculosis Control Strategic Plan (2014-2017), Education Strategy for Reproductive Health (2013-2015), Action Programme for the Health of Newborns (2015-2016) and several others are under implementation.

47. Multi-cluster Survey was conducted in 2009 with a view to evaluating the attainment of the general objective of the State action programme for the children's welfare and the Millennium Development Goals and developing a strategy for the setting of long-term goals for the life, survival and improvement of living conditions of children. National Nutritional Survey was carried out in 2012 for the purpose of evaluating the nutrition and health of children and developing strategy for the improvement and determining priorities.

48. Telemedicine service started in 2011, linking the Okryu Children's Hospital in the capital with paediatric hospitals in provinces and linking the latter with paediatric departments in municipal and county hospitals. This network is playing a vital role in decreasing child mortality rate.

49. Reference books like Emergency Resuscitation of Newborns 2015 and Guidelines for Newborn Diseases 2010 were published for the purpose of early identification and management of child diseases, while Integrated Management of Child Diseases 2010, Guidelines for Household Doctors for Integrated Management of Child Diseases in Communities and Families 2010 and Guidelines for Lecturers for Integrated Management of Child Diseases in Communities and Families 2010 were published and distributed to health workers, medical students, communities and social organizations.

50. A series of measures were taken to prevent accidents involving children. The Traffic Law requires that children under school age shall not walk on roads unless they are accompanied by someone able to take care of them, and parents, teachers and others concerned shall see that such children do not walk or play on roads (article 20) and that educational institutions and the institutions concerned shall give education in traffic safety and ethics, and diversify the form and method of traffic education through traffic gardens and the likes (article 78).

51. People's security institutions did a lot of work to protect children from traffic accidents including through explaining to them the Traffic Law and the Implementing Regulations, familiarizing them with common traffic knowledge and disseminating multimedia programs and books designed to suit their age and psychology. Educational institutions allotted more class hours for traffic education in the subject Socialist Morality and Law, while public health institutions developed dissemination plans aimed at protecting children from seasonal diseases and accidents. Such efforts were made in a more concentrated manner in March and November, which are specially designated as Safety

First Months. Traffic gardens have been set up in the newly built orphanages and primary schools, where children are taught traffic rules in real-life situations, and all other child-related establishments are encouraged to follow suit.

52. The DPRK has established a well-regulated system for the registration of child deaths. Every single child death is registered through collecting life statistics both from the systems of resident registration and health care, with the cause thereof exhaustively analysed annually.

53. Child mortality rate significantly declined thanks to the public health policy of the DPRK and as a result of the hard work on the part of medical workers. (See Table 10 in the Annex).

4. Respect for the views of the child (art. 12)

54. With regard to para. 26 of the Concluding Observations, the Socialist Constitution provides in article 69 that citizens are entitled to submit complaints and petitions. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children stipulates in article 42 that due weight shall be given to children's views and they shall not be neglected or ignored. The Nationality Law provides in article 9 that the nationality of a child who is over 14 and under 16 years of age shall change only with the express intention of his/her parents and his/her consent, and in case the parents do not have any intention or differ with the child's, the child's intention shall be respected.

55. The Children's Union in the DPRK is a children's organization that works to promote their interests and ensure them full exercise of their rights, as well as being an important channel for them to express their views and thoughts. The children's departments in the youth organizations at all levels from the central level down through provinces (or municipalities directly under the central authority), municipalities (or districts) and counties perform the functions of organizing diverse extracurricular activities such as arts and sports groups, and do-good-thing movements in a manner suited to the psychological features and ages of children.

56. Children express their opinions about matters like operation of libraries, timetable arrangement and after-school activities at subbranch or general meeting of the Children's Union, which are communicated to the administrative departments of the schools concerned for serious consideration. Children's views are also communicated to the local people's assemblies and the Supreme People's Assembly by their representatives attending the periodic sessions for consideration in decision making. For instance, the PSPA, when preparing a draft law on protection of the rights of children in 2010 and on general education in 2011 solicited views of a large number of children and their organizations and reflected them in the law.

57. Special attention was directed to raising women's awareness of issues concerning respect for views of children as they have a large share in child education in families. Explanations of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, child-related laws, Implementing Regulations and the Convention were regularly conducted and a variety of books were published for reference in the upbringing and education of children.

58. With regard to para. 12 of the Concluding Observations, complaints departments have been set up at all State institutions, while officials are designated on concurrent or full-time basis to handle complaints at enterprises and organizations from the central down to the grass roots level in the DPRK. Institutions at the central, provincial, municipal and county level settle the complaints on the Day of Complaints Settlement once a month, while others at the consultative meeting of leading officials of the units concerned. (See para.29 of the previous Report). Special attention has been paid to ensuring that complaints and

petitions filed by children are not ignored, in which case the person concerned is liable to criminal sanctions in accordance with article 239 of the Criminal Law.

59. As for the legislative measures concerning respect for the child's views in criminal and civil proceedings, see para 79 of the previous Report.

IV. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8, 13-17 and 37.a)

1. Name and nationality (art.7)

60. Birth registration and nationality of the children in the DPRK are guaranteed by the Citizenship Law, Nationality Law and the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children.

61. Under article 9 of the Citizenship Law and article 14 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children parents or guardians file application for birth registration with the people's security institution in the area concerned within 15 days of a child's birth, and the people's security institution reviews the application within 15 days of receipt and issues a birth certificate.

62. In the DPRK, different departments of people's committees, in particular, the departments of public health, education, food administration, goods supply, foodstuff and daily necessities, urban maintenance, labour and several others are householders in charge of people's living. Once a child's birth is registered, he/she is entitled to a variety of State benefits such as food and housing, and healthcare by a household doctor. Therefore, no one evades birth registration.

63. Under article 12 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, children are guaranteed the rights from birth to name and to be taken care of by the State, society and parents. Under article 5 of the Citizenship Law the DPRK citizenship is granted to a child born between the DPRK citizens, a child born between a DPRK citizen residing in the DPRK and a foreign citizen or a stateless person, a child born between stateless persons residing in the DPRK and a child born in the DPRK, but whose parents are unidentified.

64. As the DPRK Nationality Law applies both *jus sanguinis* and *jus soli*, no child born in the DPRK is left to be a stateless person. Under article 25 of the Family Law a child born out of wedlock is guaranteed the full enjoyment of the right to nationality.

2. Preservation of identity (art. 8)

65. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children stipulates in article 15 that children shall have rights to preserve their identity including nationality, name and family relations, and the institution concerned shall correctly register the identity of children and protect them from unlawful interference.

66. Under articles 10 and 11 of the Nationality Law the nationality of a child does not change even when either of the parents who have the DPRK nationality change it, and the DPRK nationality does not change by marriage, divorce, adoption or its dissolution. Under article 26 of the Family Law a child adopts the surname of his/her father. In cases where this is impossible, he/she takes the surname of his/her mother. The surname of a child who does not know the identity of either of his/her parents is determined by the population administration institution.

3. Freedom of expression (art. 13)

67. With regard to para.28 of the Concluding Observations, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 16 that children have the right to freedom of expression either orally, in writing or through publications and works of art.

68. The Children's Union organized presentations and contests of diverse types for the purpose of providing children with sufficient opportunities to express their views. They were "April 15 Mangyongdae Prize" Writing Contest, "Our Classroom" Literary Prize Contest, National Presentation and Exhibition of Children's Science Fiction and Models, Writing and Painting Contests under the Theme of Patriotism, National Schoolchildren's Art Performance and Individual Schoolchildren's Art Contests, to name just a few. Such presentations, contests and exhibitions were held at least two times every year, bringing together thousands of schoolchildren from different parts of the country. Certificates and prizes were awarded to successful participants and their works were carried in publications to be widely read by children.

69. The Kumsong Youth Publishing House, the Educational Books Publishing House and other child-related publishing institutions brought out every year an average of 8.5million volumes of 900 titles of publications for children. Typical of them are the Saenal Sinmun, a periodical for children aged 14-16 with a daily circulation of 143,500, the Sonyon Sinmun, a periodical for children aged 7-13 with a daily circulation of 408,000, and Saesedae and Students' Science, monthly magazines with circulation of 100,000 respectively. These publications carry articles about students who have good grades or good manners, or are exemplary in do-good-thing movement, as well as their own accounts of study and life at school, sci-tech information and essays and literary works written by schoolchildren themselves.

70. The Korean Central Broadcasting Committee arranged Presentations of Schoolchildren's Study Experiences, Exhibition of Children's Creative Works and Presentation for Talented Children and televised them through programmes for nursery and kindergarten children, and Children's Union. These events provided children opportunities to fully express their views, as well as having a good effect on other children's study and life.

4. Freedom of thought, conscience and religion (art. 14)

71. With regard to para.30 of the Concluding Observations, the Socialist Constitution stipulates that citizens have freedom of religious beliefs, this right is granted by approving the construction of religious buildings and the holding of religious ceremonies, and religion must not be used as a pretext for drawing in foreign forces or for harming the State and social order (article 68).

72. See para. 90 of the previous Report for details of the freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

5. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly (art. 15)

73. The Socialist Constitution provides in article 67 that citizens are guaranteed freedom of speech, the press, assembly, demonstration and association.

74. The Children's Union holds national meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations on the occasion of its founding anniversary and other regular meetings. Participating in the national meeting are schoolchildren representing different Children's Union organizations in the capital, provinces and counties. Local Children's Union meetings are also held at the provincial level. These meetings review the work conducted by Children's Union organizations to guide children to be well prepared in terms of knowledge, morality and physical training and discuss future tasks. The decisions adopted at these meetings are reported to the SPA or local people's assemblies for consideration in their policy making. The celebrations of the 66th founding anniversary of the Korean Children's Union and the 7th Children's Union Congress held respectively in 2012 and 2013 amid great interest of the whole country was a landmark in its history.

75. Schoolchildren organized and operated groups for extracurricular activities at school or regional levels such as hobby groups in the areas of science, arts and sports.

6. Protection of privacy (art. 16)

76. A series of legislative measures were adopted to prevent and punish acts of invasion or violation of citizens' privacy committed by law enforcement officials while investigating or dealing with criminal or civil cases.

77. The Socialist Constitution provides in article 79 that citizens are guaranteed inviolability of the person and the home and privacy of correspondence, and no citizen can be placed under control or be arrested nor can their homes be searched without a legal warrant. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children stipulates in article 17 that children's privacy, family, correspondence, honour and reputation shall be protected by law. The Criminal Procedures Law and Civil Procedures Law provide in articles 270 and 10 that where there is a danger that a national or personal secret could be revealed or there is a fear of exerting a bad effect on society, a trial may be closed to the public in whole or in part.

78. Law enforcement officials are under obligation to keep in strict confidence any personal details of children that come to their knowledge in the course of dealing with cases involving children.

79. The Supreme Court issued in 2001 a directive ordering courts at all levels not to open to the public the criminal and civil cases concerning minors and ensured that higher courts regularly monitor compliance therewith by lower courts. The Supreme Public Prosecutors Office and the Ministry of People's Security also issued directives requiring their lower units to ensure, while investigating and examining juvenile delinquents, that witnesses and others concerned strictly keep the facts about the case confidential.

80. Medical workers are bound by law and code of conduct not to disclose the personal information of adolescents that they learn in the course of counselling, their clinical files and results of treatment.

7. Access to appropriate information (art. 17)

81. Publishing institutions and other institutions concerned fulfilled their obligations under article 29 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children by publishing and supplying, in full consideration of children's psychological features and needs, textbooks, reference books and collections of literary works conducive to their development and education. Under article 41 of the Education Law the Education Commission ensured that textbooks, reference books, extracurricular reading materials and video teaching materials were provided before the start of the new school year and the institutions, enterprises and organizations responsible for producing materials needed for publishing educational books carried out their functions in a timely manner. The Literature and Art Publishing House and others concerned also fulfilled their missions under article 53 of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children by bringing out a great number of children's poems, songs and stories.

82. With the adoption in 2011-2012 of the Telecommunications Law, Electronic Authentication Law and the Law on Computer Network Administration, the level of information service was raised and coverage thereof expanded, with the result that children access a high level of information service as required by the IT age. As of 2015, most of the schools in the capital city of Pyongyang and seats of provinces have intra-network that provides all kinds of information necessary for students' study and life.

83. A new TV channel was launched in 2012 for children and youth, which broadcasts diverse programmes of sci-tech achievements at home and abroad, news about contests held

at different schools and universities, as well as their new achievements, art performances and films.

84. Radios broadcast programmes for nursery and kindergarten children at a designated time in the morning and afternoon everyday, while TV televise programmes for nursery and kindergarten children, and schoolchildren at a time designated to be most convenient for them to enjoy after school. During these hours cartoons and films, arts programmes, quiz programmes and presentation of literary works are sent out to cater to the needs and tastes of children, to serve educational purposes and to help develop their intellectual faculties.

85. With the amending of the Library Law in December, 2012, the material and technical foundations of libraries were further strengthened in conformity with the requirements of the IT age, and the operations thereof further came up to standard.

86. Libraries have been set up in every administrative unit of the DPRK in consideration of the level of cultural development, number of users and telecommunication conditions in the unit concerned. And all institutions, enterprises and organizations have libraries. During the reporting period a lot of e-libraries and sci-tech rooms were set up to provide information service through computer network, schoolchildren's libraries built in every cities (or districts) and counties, and thousands of mobile libraries opened not only in cities but even in villages, creating conditions for children to acquire sufficient knowledge.

8. Right not to be subject to torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment including corporal punishment (art. 37.a)

87. With regard to para. 32 of the Concluding Observations, the Criminal Procedures Law stipulates in article 6 that human rights shall be fully guaranteed in dealing with and disposing of criminal cases and in article 42 that witnesses shall be protected from threats or coercion during questioning. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 43 that such acts as abusing, neglecting, swearing at, scolding or assaulting children shall be prohibited in the family and in article 51 that law enforcement and judicial institutions shall respect children's dignity while dealing with juvenile offences, and forcing children to admit their crimes or leading their statement shall be prohibited.

88. Child nurturing and educational institutions sensitized nurses, teachers at kindergartens and primary and secondary schools and parents on the negative consequences of corporal punishment in the context of the relevant provisions of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and the Criminal Law and conducted regular awareness-raising seminars so that they can adopt good methods of upbringing and nursing. In particular, workers at baby homes, orphanages and schools were encouraged to take care of children with motherly love and educate them in good morals and manners mainly through influence of positive examples, explanation and persuasion.

89. Special attention was directed to complaints and petitions lodged by children after the specifying of these matters in article 20 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and the amending of the Law on Complaints and Petitions in 2011. Complaints departments of people's committees, law enforcement institutions and educational institutions were required to designate one of their staff to be responsible for the handling of children's complaints and petitions, who received and registered their complaints and petitions in a timely manner and settled them in a responsible manner. See para.58 of the present Report and para. 29 of the previous Report on the complaints mechanism in the DPRK.

V. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18.1-2, 19-21, 25, 27.4, 39)

1. Parental guidance (art. 5)

90. With regard to para.35 of the Concluding Observations, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides that local power organs, as well as institutions, enterprises and organizations concerned shall provide sufficient conditions for families to bring up and educate their children to be physically and mentally healthy (article 41), that increased role of families constitutes an important guarantee for the growth and development of children, and the State shall pay close attention to ensure that the rights and interests of children are fully provided in families (article 6) and that parents shall create favourable conditions for the growth and development of children, with special attention paid to their education and development (article 38).

91. The DPRK defined school education, family education and social education as the main elements of children's upbringing and education and took a series of measures to respect the rights and duties of parents in respect of their health and education and create good family environment.

92. A system has been put in place, whereby schools send monthly reports on honour students to the institutions, enterprises and organizations to which their parents belong, which are read out before the employees. This system proved effective in stimulating parents to be more concerned about their child education.

93. The 4th National Mothers' Meeting was held on November 16, 2012, the newly-instituted Mothers' Day, where hero mothers, nurses at baby homes, teachers at orphanages and model mothers shared their experiences in bringing up orphans or educating their children. This meeting had a great influence on mothers across the country and served as an important occasion in encouraging them to further increase their role in the protection and promotion of the rights of children.

2. Parental responsibility (art. 18.1-2)

94. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 39 that parents shall be good examples for their children, and bring up and educate them in such a way that they can be pillars of the country with ample knowledge, sound morals and strong body. Article 27 of the Family Law provides for the obligation of parents to bring up their children to be intellectually, morally and physically healthy. The Criminal Law stipulates in article 258 that a person in duty bound to protect children that causes harm to his/her health by deliberately neglecting his/her duties shall be liable to disciplining through labour of not more than one year.

95. Measures were taken to remove bad practices of burdening women with more of child upbringing than men and hold both parents responsible for their nursing, development and education.

96. Fathers, instead of mothers, and in some cases, both parents were asked to attend parents' meetings held at the end of school terms or on important occasions so that fathers may pay due attention to their children's education. Whereas lectures, workshops, film shows and experience swapping seminars concerning responsibilities of parents for child education and parenting skills were organized mostly by women's unions in the past, in recent years other social organizations attach great importance to this issue and conduct such awareness raising sessions in a planned manner, with the result that fathers' role in child education is increasing.

97. Working people's organizations conducted intensive education and dissemination among their members so that they can be role models for their children, who will be very proud of their parents and follow in their footsteps.

3. Separation from parents (art. 9)

98. It is stipulated in article 182 of the Criminal Procedures Law that in case where a decision is made on the arrest or detention of an examinee, he/she shall be informed thereof immediately, and his/her family or the institution to which he/she belongs shall be informed of the reason for the arrest or detention, and of the place of detention within 48 hours of the arrest or detention. It is provided in article 53 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children that in case where a judicial institution has arrested or detained a child's parent on criminal charges, the reason for and place of arrest or detention shall be informed to the child unless it is contrary to his/her best interests.

99. Judicial institutions strictly observed the requirements of the above-mentioned provisions in case the person they arrested or detained had a child. With due consideration paid to the age and maturity of the child concerned, they let the child know what offences their parent committed and the penalty they were subjected to, as well as informing him/her of the relevant laws to increase his/her obedience to law. For instance, a young man in the south Phyongan Province saw, when he was a small boy, his father serve a sentence for committing violations of law. He took it hard, and with the help and care, in particular, of judicial workers he continued to be a good student to grow up to be a Labour Hero for his devoted contribution to the society and the collective. Such examples are not hard to find.

100. In the DPRK children whose parents are serving sentence for violations of law are also enjoying their rights without being subjected to any discrimination. They, like other children, receive free education and free medical care and go to hobby groups of their choice at their schools, schoolchildren's palaces or culture halls after school.

101. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 54 that parents shall refrain from getting divorced for the sake of the growth and development of the child and institutions, enterprises and organizations concerned shall, in case they learn of domestic problems that may lead to divorce, use their best efforts including education to persuade them not to do so.

102. Several measures were taken to prevent family life disruptions. For instance, persons responsible for law explanations at every institution, enterprise and organization informed the employees of the requirements of the Family Law, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Women and the Criminal Law, as well as the negative impact that divorce had on the growth and development of the children. They also took examples of model employees who built harmonious families or invited them to give an account of their happy family life. Feature films and stories about love of family and children were produced and disseminated with good effects. People's security officers, in close cooperation with the heads of people's neighbourhood units, collected reports about family problems in the areas under their control and conducted education and provided assistance conducive to solving problems. Those who seek unjustified divorce or abet others to do so, and judicial workers who granted divorce in violation of the relevant laws were subjected to sanctions in accordance with the Criminal Law and other relevant laws.

4. Family reunification (art. 10)

103. All the DPRK citizens and foreigners are entitled to enter or depart from the DPRK upon presentation of duly issued travel documents. Minors accompanying adults do not need to carry separate travel documents. Entry or exit procedures of minors may be

performed by adults. No restrictions are placed on the entry into or exit from the DPRK unless the requirements of the immigration-related laws and regulations are violated.

104. In the case of divorced couples, they can reunite at any time subject to mutual agreement. During the reporting period 188 families reunited, making it possible for 341 children to live with both parents.

5. Recovery of maintenance (art. 27.4)

105. It is stipulated in article 22 of the Family Law that in cases of divorce, the custody of children shall be decided by agreement between the parties in the best interests of the children, and in case of failure in agreement, custody shall be determined by the court. It also provides that unless there is a compelling reason, a child under 3 years of age shall be brought up by the mother.

106. Under article 56 of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children a party who does not take custody of the children is obliged to pay to the other party the monthly maintenance until they reach working age. The amount of maintenance is decided by the court within the range of 10-30 % of the monthly income of the party concerned and in consideration of the numbers of children.

6. Children deprived of family environment (art. 20)

107. With regard to para.37 of the Concluding Observations, measures taken for the improved living conditions of orphans at baby homes, kindergartens and schools and their present situation are detailed in paras. 31 and 32 of the present Report.

108. Under article 40 of the Family Law a guardian is appointed for a minor who has no parent to care for him/her. The guardian of a minor may be his/her grandparents, brothers and sisters. In cases where there are several persons who are entitled to act as a guardian, the one who is deemed to be most competent to carry out the duties is appointed as such. In case where there is no person to be appointed as a guardian for a minor, the population administration institution appoints one. The guardian so appointed is duty bound to bring up the orphans to be mentally and physically healthy. Supervision over the performance of guardianship is undertaken by the population administration institution.

109. During the reporting period population administration institutions identified and took into care the children who were deprived of family environment due to natural disasters, death or divorce of parents and provided them with good living and learning conditions. On the other hand they did their best to trace, if any, the children's parent(s) or relatives to care for them so that they could live in a family environment.

110. Many individuals displayed such fine traits as voluntarily assuming the care of orphans in the neighbourhood or institutions and looking after them with motherly love. For instance, a factory manageress sacrificed her right to marriage to look after 20-odd orphans, a girl in her twenties chose to take care of 7 orphans and many others performed laudable deeds to give family comforts to children without parents.

111. People's committees, social organizations and neighbours concerned took it upon themselves to support the adoptive parents of orphans, building or providing new homes for them, regularly supplying necessities and showing concern about their life as parents would do.

7. Adoption (art. 21)

112. In the DPRK adoption is conducted in strict accordance with the law. Under article 30 of the Family Law individuals can adopt another's child. However, a person who has been deprived of the right to elect, has a disease that may be injurious to a child's health or

has no ability to rear a child is not permitted to adopt a child. A person who wishes to adopt a child should obtain consent from the parents or guardian, nurse or teacher of a child to be adopted. In case a child to be adopted is over 6 years of age, his/her consent should also be sought. Adoption is finally effected when, upon the application of the would-be adoptive parent, registration is made with the identity registration institution subject to approval of the population administration institution. The relations between the adoptive parents and the adopted child are the same as those between blood parents and their children. Upon establishment of relations between adoptive parents and an adopted child, the relations between the child and his/her ex-parents are terminated. In some cases adoption may be dissolved after registration thereof with the identity registration institution subject to agreement between the adoptive parents and the adopted child or between the adoptive parents and the ex-parents or guardian of the adopted child, as well as the approval of the population administration institution. In case of failure in agreement concerning dissolution of adoption, the court intervenes.

113. Matters arising in connection with adoptive parents and adopted child are handled by the ri or dong office in cooperation with the heads of neighbourhood unit.

8. Illicit transfer and non-return (art. 11)

114. In the DPRK sale of children is defined as a very serious crime deserving heavy punishment.

115. The Criminal Law provides that a person who instigates another person under the age of 17 to commit an offence, to be a party to an offence, or to be a delinquent shall be subjected to reform through labour of not more than 3 years and in serious cases to not less than 3 years and not more than 5 years (art.248), that a person who kidnaps or conceals a child for selfish purposes shall be subjected to reform through labour of not more than 1 year (art.277) and that a person who kidnaps another for selfish purposes shall be subjected to reform through labour of not more than 5 years and in serious cases to reform through labour of not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years.

116. Sale of children is inconceivable in the DPRK. During the reporting period, however, kidnapping and sale of our residents including children were persistently committed by the South Korean authorities as part of their moves to tarnish the image of the DPRK. A case in point is the attempted abduction in June, 2013 of 9 boys and girls through a third country to South Korea, which caused considerable consternation at home and abroad as being flagrant violation of human rights and crime against humanity.

9. Abuse and neglect (art. 19), physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration (art. 39)

117. With regard to para.41 of the Concluding Observations, a series of legislative measures have been put in place.

118. It is provided in the Criminal Law that a person who does harm to another person's health, who is his or her subordinate, or under his or her protection, through maltreatment shall be liable to punishment (article 260), a person who, in duty bound to protect children, does harm to their health by deliberately neglecting his or her duties shall also be punished (article 258), a person who commits violence on another shall be subject to punishment (article 275) and a man who has sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 15 shall be liable to severe punishment (article 281).

119. The adoption during the reporting period of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children served as an important occasion in further raising the State and public concern about the promotion of the children's rights and enhancing the responsibilities of institutions, enterprises and organizations for their education and protection. In particular,

awareness level of children's rights and obligation to ensure them further enhanced on the part of child nurturing institutions, schools and families.

120. For measures taken to generalize good practices in child education, as well as to prevent abuse and neglect of children, see the paras in the above sections of present Report.

10. Periodic review of placement (art. 25)

121. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 57 that guidance of the work relating to the protection of children's rights shall be undertaken by the educational and public health guidance institutions and the local people's committees under the unified direction of the Cabinet. Article 45 of the Family Law stipulates that supervision over guardianship shall be undertaken by population administration institution.

122. Inspection departments of the Education Commission, the Ministry of Public Health and the Provincial People's Committees conducted periodic inspections of child nurturing institutions and schools at all levels under detailed indices and took necessary measures to satisfy their needs.

123. The local people's committees periodically checked compliance by schools, kindergartens, nurseries, baby homes and orphanages with the State-set standards for provision of foodstuff and living conditions, health and sanitation, qualifications and educational methods of kindergarten teachers and maintenance of buildings and facilities. They also conducted regular inspections of clinics, welfare facilities and school materials supply offices attached to schools and took required measures. The ri or dong level institutions conducted monthly inspections, municipal or county level institutions quarterly inspections, provincial (or municipality directly under the central authority) half-yearly, and the Cabinet and the Central Bureau of Statistics yearly.

VI. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18.3, 23, 24, 26 and 27 1-3)

1. Right to survival and development (art. 6.2)

124. For measures taken to protect the right to life, survival and development, see paras. 44-53 of the present Report.

2. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

125. With regard to para. 43 of the Concluding Observations, during the reporting period the DPRK safeguarded the rights of children with disabilities in accordance with several related laws.

126. The Law on the Protection of the Persons with Disabilities provides in article 2 that the State respects the personality of the persons with disabilities and shall ensure them the same socio-political rights, freedom and interest as healthy persons. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides in article 30 that children with disabilities shall have the same rights to education and health care with others, and the education and public health guidance institutions shall properly operate schools for the blind, deaf and dumb children and provide sufficient conditions for the education, health care and living of the children with disabilities.

127. Handbook on the Laws and Regulations of the DPRK Impacting Persons with Disabilities was published in 2012, contributing to raised public awareness thereof so that the general public is in better position to protect the persons with disabilities and provide them with favourable environment and living conditions.

128. National Day of Persons with Disabilities and International Day of Persons with Disabilities were celebrated every year to create the environment for protecting and helping them.

129. The Korean Federation for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (the KFPD) reorganized its structure in 2009 to provide direction for the implementation of the policy on the protection of persons with disabilities in a broad and diversified way and to give unified guidance as required by the developing situation. During the reporting period, affiliated organizations of the KFPD such as Korean Foundation for the Disabled and Orphans (2010), Korean Company for Supporting the Disabled (2010), Korean Sports Association of the Disabled (2010), Korean Art Association of the Disabled (2010), Korean Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Disabilities (2012) and Korean Economic and Cultural Centre for Deaf and Blind (2013) were established. The Korean Foundation for the Disabled and Orphans and Korean Sports Association of the Disabled opened their representative offices abroad. The Korean Cooperation Office for the Disabled and Orphans was founded in accordance with the spirit of By Our Nation Itself and launched Sisterly Relationship programme for helping persons with disabilities.

130. The KFPD developed mid-term plan for 2012-2015 aimed at more developed programme for the protection of persons with disabilities and conducted vocational education program, provision of rational working and living conditions and comprehensive education program for the children with disabilities.

131. The Korean Sports Association of the Disabled built its data base for developing the sports policy and programmes for persons with disabilities, and submitted the measures related to development of their sports, focusing on expansion of associations by types of disabilities and sports items, making sports mass-based among them, conducting IEC activities and strengthening exchanges and cooperation among international organizations, national associations and individuals concerned. During the reporting period four table-tennis tournaments of persons with disabilities and amateurs were organized nationwide to raise public awareness of disability and to create favourable environment and condition for mainstreaming persons with disabilities into social life. The Korean Sports Association of the Disabled organized the non-standing National Olympic Committee of the Disabled and activated the expansion and development of sports of persons with disabilities. Finally, in December 2011 it became an associate member of the International Olympic Committee of Persons with Disabilities and in November 2012 a full member. Athletes with disabilities took part in the 14th International Paralympics in August-September, 2012 and the 3rd Asian Youth Para Games in October, 2013.

132. During the reporting period the work for specializing art of persons with disabilities was promoted. Children with disabilities took an active part in many art performances on various occasions such as National Day of Persons with Disabilities and International Day of Persons with Disabilities in every June and December from 2013, in which they fully displayed their potentials and abilities.

133. In 2009, the disability-related publications and DVD IEC materials such as Intellectual Impairments, Assisting the Deaf Children and Assisting the Blind Children were translated into Korean and printed to be distributed, while technical reference books such as Design Principle of the Orthopedic Devices, Glossary of the Prosthesis and Orthosis Devices and Reference Book for the Health Care of Disabled Women to be used for protection and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and on barrier-free environment were also published during 2011-2013. Homepage Huimang (Hope) has been created for disseminating information on the protective policies in the DPRK and KFPD's activities, new projects, persons with disabilities enjoying happy life, good examples of the volunteer services providers as well as individual supporters.

134. With regard to para. 43 of the Concluding Observations, the DPRK included the disability-related indicators into the Population Census 2008 and collected statistical data of persons with visual impairment, hearing difficulty, walking difficulty and intellectual disorder by degree, age, sex and regional (urban and rural) distribution.

135. Sample survey on persons with disabilities was conducted in selected provinces of the south Phyongan, south Hwanghae and Kangwon Provinces in 2011. The disability rate of children aged 0-15 was 0.9%. The findings were used for identification of real situation and the needs of the children with disabilities, as well as providing valuable data for the development of protection policy, strategy and programmes for children with disabilities in the country.

136. With regard to para. 43 of the Concluding Observations, article 15 (Basic requirements of education for persons with disabilities), article 16 (Nursing and upbringing of pre-school children with disabilities) and article 17 (Enrolment of children with disabilities of school age) were revised to remove intentional limitations in contents and methods of education of children with disabilities, enrol all of such children at pre-school age and define the duties of the institutions responsible for their nursing and upbringing.

137. In accordance with the Law on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, special classes were organized in normal schools and special schools for mental cultivation of the blind and the deaf and dumb were set up in consideration of the physical and mental characteristics and the type of disability, and allowances were granted to designated students. The curriculum of special schools was newly developed on the principle of giving precedence to general secondary education, while combining it with vocational training. The contents of vocational education at special schools were updated and conditions for diversified types of jobs created.

138. Five workshops on Korean Sign Language for officials in charge of disability issues and parents of children with disabilities were organized in Pyongyang, south Phyongan Province and Kangwon Province in 2010 to launch inclusive education for children with disabilities and to address the lack of communication, the most basic challenge in removing the social barrier against the people with hearing impairments. Technical Instruction in Sign Language Teaching Methods was conducted for officials in charge of disability issues, officials from Education Commission and teachers of deaf schools. More than 380 new terms of rehabilitation devices and 3,000 derivatives were newly defined or updated through the 2nd Seminar on Standardization of Terminology Related to Prosthesis and Orthosis. The deaf and blind children received education in the deaf and blind schools, while others received education in ordinary primary schools and secondary schools equally with normal students. The pilot initiative for the creation of barrier-free environment in selected blind schools was launched in the areas of designing, construction, and information and communication.

139. Two national and provincial workshops on inclusive education were conducted in March, 2013 for educational workers at special education institutions for the purpose of raising their awareness.

140. The education of special schools and their economic foundation improved as a result of strengthened cooperation with the educational sector. Project for the improvement of living conditions in special schools (2013-2015) was developed. As part of the efforts to strengthen the economic basis of special schools, materials for renovation project, stationeries and essential goods were provided to Songchon Deaf School. A green house was set up in the school to contribute to the improved nutrition and living condition of the students. The education project Access to Quality Education for Children with Sensory Impairments in four Provinces is under implementation from 2013.

141. With regard to para. 43 of the Concluding Observations, the DPRK took every possible measure to assist children with disabilities technically and financially. Focus was placed on providing ways and means for rehabilitation to all persons with disabilities, in particular those with intellectual, visual and hearing impairments. The services were given mainly through the rehabilitation centres under public health care system like sanatoria and provision of assistive devices to the amputees.

142. During the reporting period, modern Munsu Functional Rehabilitation Clinic was built and equipped with all facilities necessary for the rehabilitation of neural and cardinal system, orthopedic and physical therapy. Every specialized department of this clinic is equipped with facilities to ensure children quality rehabilitation services of all types. The newly-built Okryu Children's Hospital also has a modern rehabilitation centre to provide rehabilitation services to the children referred from provincial paediatric hospitals.

3. Health and medical service (art. 24)

143. Under article 15 of the Public Health Law, people's hospitals and clinics have been built and rationally distributed in towns, farm villages, factories, enterprises, fishing villages and lumbermen's settlements, specialized hospitals such as maternity hospitals and paediatric hospitals and sanatoria have been set up in different places and the level of specialized medical services continually raised. In the DPRK, children are under the care of household doctors from prenatal period and after birth they are provided dual health services and management both by health facilities of nurseries, kindergartens and schools and specialized preventive and treatment facilities including paediatric hospitals and children's doctors of hygienic and anti-epidemic institutes.

144. With regard to para. 45 of the Concluding Observations, National Coordinating Committee for Child Disease Management was established in 2006 on non-standing basis for the monitoring and providing guidance of child disease management.

145. The DPRK developed and implemented Plan for Child Health Improvement (2001-2010). According to the Strategy for Expansion of Integrated Management of Child Illness (IMCI) (2005-2020), IMCI was fully introduced to 11 provinces and 118 counties.

146. IMCI training guideline has been updated in line with the international standards, provincial-level technical workshop on introduction of updated IMCI guideline was conducted in 2014 and further similar training for paediatric doctors in 118 counties and ri-level household doctors were conducted in 2015.

147. Publications such as IMCI-Identification of Treatment (2010), IMCI-Treatment (2010) were developed to enhance the ability to early detect child illness in clinics and families, take treatment measures, ensure continuous treatment and refer to higher level in case of need. Drug Doses for Children (2010) was published and disseminated. Scientific film on child vaccination and IMCI were produced and telecasted.

148. The world-standard Okryu Children's Hospital newly built in 2013 plays the role of parent hospital in child disease prevention and treatment, training and research centre and model of administration of paediatric hospitals.

149. With regard to para. 45 of the Concluding Observations, the Strategy and Action Plan to Control Child and Maternal Malnutrition (2014-2018) was developed. Detailed objectives and activities for rational management of nutrition of mothers and children during 1,000 days of life from the pregnancy to 2 years, the most important period for intensive nutritional management, are specified in the strategy. The importance and components of rational nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life were widely informed through newspapers, radios and TV. Different types of IEC materials such as leaflets Child Vaccination and Health, poster Let's Receive the Polio-Vaccination and many others were

produced during the reporting period. The issues of nutrition management during the first 1,000 days of life were inserted in the curriculum for dry nurse training schools and the capacity of OB/GYN and paediatric health workers was strengthened through several technical workshops.

150. Child health was managed according to the standards starting from timely registration of pregnancy and antenatal care including counselling and medical check (17 antenatal visits and 5 postnatal visits). Antenatal vitamin and micronutrient were supplemented and colostrum feeding was provided within 1 hour of delivery at maternity hospitals and OB/GYN sections of county and ri-level hospitals. Exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months was encouraged and supplementary foods after 6 months were promoted while breastfeeding was continued. The importance and advantages of breastfeeding was presented through seminars and photo exhibitions on the occasion of the World Breastfeeding Week, the 3rd of August every year and different types of IEC materials such as folders, leaflets and posters promoting breastfeeding were developed and disseminated to the target groups. As of 2015, 11 maternity hospitals in different parts of the country were awarded the title of Baby Friendly Hospital.

151. Supplementation of vitamin A and micronutrient complex, vaccination and deworming were conducted according to the national plan. The Child Health Day, a more advanced one than the National Immunization Day started in 2007, was marked on the 20th of May and November every year conducting various campaigns with the theme of child health. Korea Association for Supporting the Children arranged child health-related experience-sharing sessions, photo exhibitions and art performance and sports games of children to raise the public awareness of the importance of the child health and nutrition and to enhance the enthusiasm for supporting the children.

152. Hospitals and clinics are available everywhere in the country and health workers responsible for vaccination are designated to cover all of the children without any exception. Since 2007 regular vaccination coverage has been above 90% for all kinds of vaccination, while vaccination coverage of pentavalent and measles (99% in 2012) has been reported as above 90% for all areas. No tetanus case has been reported among pregnant women as a result of successful implementation of TT2 vaccination.

153. The capacity of EPI personnel was strengthened through regular in-service training and technical workshops on vaccination such as technical workshop for relevant health workers at central, provincial and city/county level at the time of introduction of new type of vaccination, and the on-site visits and supervision were conducted on a regular basis.

154. The DPRK makes it the main principle in health planning to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas and between flat and mountainous areas in the distribution of health service network and health personnel and implements it consistently. There are more than 200 training institutions for health personnel including 15 central and provincial medical universities, 66 nurse training schools, as well as midwifery schools, prosthetist schools, massage schools, radiographer schools in the country and the systems of full-time education, tele-education and refresher training were strengthened. Overseas and domestic training of health workers were further conducted in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, GAVI and GF.

155. With regard to para. 45 of the Concluding Observations, the Korea Association for Supporting the Children is developing a project for strengthening the capacity of community health facilities aimed at providing better access by children in geographically disadvantaged areas to quality health care services through strengthening the capacity of the existing ri-clinics. It is also preparing a new project of mobile clinics to be operated by volunteers in the women-concentrated and mountainous areas to enhance the effectiveness of supporting system for child health.

156. The DPRK has established a preventive and treatment system of diseases and medicine supply system from the capital city down to rural and mountainous communities including solitary lighthouse islets. Special system for disease surveillance is established at baby homes and orphanages, while quarterly drug supply system by provincial medical warehouses is functioning all the time ensuring uninterrupted supply of emergency drugs.

157. During the reporting period, Nampo Child Pharmaceutical Factory was renovated and hundreds kinds of essential medicines and vaccines were produced in more than 10 central pharmaceutical plants, while Koryo medicines suitable to the diathesis of local people were produced in the local Koryo medicine factories, thus basically meeting the demands for essential drugs.

158. Overseas and local trainings on Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health Service during emergency situation were conducted with the assistance of international organizations in 2008 and non-permanent coordinating agency for service provision of maternal and child health during emergency and disaster situations was organized. Preparedness plan for emergency response was implemented to prepare and update medical supplies to be ready for emergency situation.

159. With regard to para. 45 of the Concluding Observations, the environment hygiene system has been established from central to county level in the country. On the occasions of the Months of Hygiene: March and April and Months of Hygiene: September and October every year, hygiene and safety surveillance was conducted strictly. Departments of environment hygiene and child hygiene were newly organized at hygiene and anti-epidemic institutes or stations at all levels.

160. Child diseases including acute diarrhoea are being prevented through active IEC and campaigns aimed at enhancing public awareness of safe drinking water and hand washing. Posters and stickers on six steps of hand washing were developed in great numbers and disseminated to promote habituation to clean and hygienic environment by children in nurseries and kindergartens from the early time of their life. Seminars, experience sharings, video shows, photo exhibitions and art performances of the children were organized on the occasion of the World Hand Washing Day, the World Water Day and the World Toilet Day.

161. Child hygiene sections of hygiene and anti-epidemic institutes/stations at all levels inspected building hygiene, classroom hygiene, private hygiene, toilets and internal and external environment of nurseries, kindergartens, schools, baby homes, orphanages and primary and secondary schools for orphans using the child hygiene questionnaires. They also conducted assessment of nutritional management, medical check-up and growth measurement for the children of nurseries, kindergartens, baby homes and orphanages.

162. The non-permanent National Infection Control Committee was established in 2009 to be followed by the formation of such committees at all hospitals at or above county level. Central level technical workshops for committee members and hospital managers and the workshops for infection control personnel and lab workers of national and provincial level hospitals were conducted during 2009-2014. The poster Primary Requirement for Iatrogenic Infection Control: Clean Hands was developed and printed to be disseminated to all hospitals including those at community level.

163. Iodine salt production was increased to ensure sufficient provision of iodine necessary for growth and development of the children to all families and the assistance programme for supply of iodine tablets to all children in the country is under preparation in cooperation with UNICEF.

164. Health care for women and children during pregnancy, delivery and after delivery was provided according to the Reproductive Health Strategy (2011-2015), which is item 4

of the Mid-Term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Health Sector in the DPRK (2010-2015) and based on the well-established health system.

165. Strengthening women's health care system based on household doctor system, vaccination and maternal and child health care were identified as priorities for development of the health sector. State allowances are given to women with several children and a paid maternity leave of 2 months before childbirth and 6 months after childbirth has been introduced since 2015.

166. The Population Census 2008, Survey on Maternal Mortality 2009, National Reproductive Health Survey 2010, Quality Assessment of Reproductive Health Service 2010 and KAP Survey on Reproductive Health 2011 were conducted with the support of the UNFPA. Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey 2009 and National Nutrition Survey 2012 were conducted with the assistance of UNICEF to assess the maternal and child health status, service coverage and types including health information dissemination, and mortality and the main causes. The Annual Report on the Changes in Key Indicators for Health including MCH in 2013 was prepared to assess maternal health and nutrition status.

167. With regard to para. 47 of the Concluding Observations the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Population Centre jointly conducted KAP survey on reproductive health in four selected provinces in 2011. The survey covered youth respondents aged 17-24 to assess their awareness of family planning method and the source of information and coverage of service.

168. Adolescent health was included in the Reproductive Health Strategies of the DPRK (2011-2015) to be one of the 8 components, in which provision of reproductive health service and information to adolescents (aged 10-19) and the youth (aged 20-24) was set as the main objective. Development of comprehensive health strategy for adolescents, dissemination of information necessary for their health through appropriate channels and means and improvement of their nutrition through school/university health programmes were also reflected in the strategy, which are now under implementation.

169. Adolescent health issues such as mental and physical changes, psychological and behaviour changes, importance of nutrition and private hygiene for adolescents, key reproductive health issues to be addressed for boys and girls at puberty and IEC for their parents, teachers and community people were integrated into the curriculum of refresher training for household doctors newly developed in 2010.

170. The Korean Family Planning and Maternal and Child Health Association (KFP&MCHA) integrated adolescent health issues into its Strategic Framework for 2011-2015 as an important component and set detailed objectives, strategies and main activities aimed at meeting the reproductive health needs of adolescents. It developed Guidelines for Adolescent Education, Service Guidelines for the Adolescents, Moral Education for the Adolescents and A Companion of the Adolescents to be used for IEC activities and to raise the awareness of the adolescent youth in 2012. Youth reproductive health information was disseminated through homepage of the Grand People's Study House, while joint meeting was organized to discuss the youth-centred services with the participation of service providers from Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, Pyongyang Medical University Hospital of **Kim Il Sung** University and KFP&MCHA Family Planning clinics. A pilot project was developed based on the recommendations made in the meeting, which is under implementation.

171. No HIV/AIDS case has been reported so far in the DPRK. National Mid-term Plan and National Strategic Plan for HIV/ AIDS Control were developed and the objectives set for 2009-2012 were achieved. New Multi-Sectoral National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS was developed and the function of the National

HIV/AIDS Committee was strengthened accordingly. HIV/AIDS preventive interventions for mothers and children were highlighted in the strategic plan.

172. New Malaria Control Strategic Plan (2014-2017) and Tuberculosis (TB) Control Strategic Plan (2014-2017) were developed in May and August 2013 respectively. According to the Tuberculosis Control Strategic Plan, the TB cases and death rate are to be reduced by half of 2008 figures in 2015. The sample survey on utility of Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net (LLIN) among children under 5 in malaria high risk area was conducted in 2010.

173. National Guideline for TB Control (4th edition) was updated. The number of laboratories for TB diagnosis at all levels increased to 359 and recording and reporting system strengthened. DOTS programme was implemented for TB treatment since 2007, resulting in high success rate of treatment and declined death rate. The assistance programme of Global Fund for Fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) contributed to successful implementation of the national TB control programme.

4. Social security and child care services and facilities (arts. 26 and 18.3)

174. For details on the measures taken for the promotion of the rights of children to benefit from social security including social insurance and the status of implementation thereof, see paras.165-168 of the previous Report and sections in “*I. General measures of implementation*” of the present Report.

175. The 8-month paid maternity leave system in operation from June, 2015 ensured 6-month breastfeeding for children and full recovery and health care of mothers. During 2014-2015 specialized departments for orphans were created in the Cabinet, the Ministry of Public Health, the Education Commission and people’s committees at all levels. They are responsible for the work concerning orphans such as health care, hygiene, nutrition and intellectual development, as well as conducting supervision and regulation. Children enjoyed the full benefits of health, nutrition, intellectual development and education under the legal guarantee of the State and received additional benefits depending on the special circumstances they faced. For instance, when a child in a remote village was in a critical condition, necessary drugs and medical equipment were carried thereto by helicopter to provide professional treatment. She was restored to life and all the expenses were covered by the State.

176. Newly built Okryu Children’s Hospital and the Ryugyong Dental Hospital are equipped with modern medical, hygiene facilities and child-friendly playing areas so that iatrogenic anxiety and fears may be removed, while hospitalized children are ensured continued studies by part-time teachers at the classroom attached to the hospital. In addition, significant improvement have been achieved in dental treatment of children through setting up of the separate endodontic department in the Ryugyong Dental Hospital with child-friendly indoor and outdoor playing areas and provision of various IEC materials on tooth management during childhood.

177. All the service facilities such as the Children’s Department Store, shops for children’s daily necessities and the barbershops were newly built or renovated in a modern style so that child care services could be fully specialized. Nurseries and kindergartens were provided with modern playing facilities and playing areas, while children’s toy factories, toy producing workshops and teams were organized to produce a variety of toys tailored to suit the age and psychology of children. Wood processing factories gave priority to the production of furniture to be used in nurseries and kindergartens such as desks and chairs, tables and beds, while literary works such as cartoons, children’s songs and poems, dances and picture-card shows, and videos were created to contribute to the intellectual development of children.

5. Living standard (art. 27 1-3)

178. With regard to para.51 of the Concluding Observations, all the children at nurseries and kindergartens are provided with food in accordance with article 15 of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of the Children, which provides that all children shall be supplied with food from birth. Despite food shortage, pregnant, delivered women, as well as children under 4 were supplied with food on a monthly rate and families with several children were provided with 2 or 3 room-flat on the first priority. According to the Cabinet Decision No. 42 in 2014 children's daily necessities such as clothes and foot wears were planned and produced according to the age and seasonal demands by light industry sectors and supplied through commercial distribution channels.

179. Fisheries with large capacity have been newly built to be exclusively responsible for fish supply to baby homes, orphanages and old people's homes, thus ensuring the supply of 300 g of fish per capita daily. In addition, the production capacity of Taedongang and Kosan fruit farms were strengthened and the fruit varieties expanded to supply various fruits to the children. Every year the very first-picked fruit of the season were supplied to children at nurseries and kindergartens. In 2014, the foodstuff production plants and factories were modernized to produce and provide children with 12 varieties of flour foodstuffs and the supplementary food for infants. All the children are provided with safe drinking water on high priority. The transports of soyabean milk delivery were provided at the State expenses to ensure all the children are supplied with milk without interruption.

180. The DPRK allowed the field monitoring visits by international organizations like WHO, UNICEF, WFP, FAO and EU, NGOs and individual humanitarian agencies to ensure the transparency and objectiveness of their assistance programme implementation. Each organization has conducted field visits to programme areas, according to its regular monitoring plan without restriction and constraints. The WFP reported in its bulletin issued in December 2013 that approx. 250 visits were conducted monthly.

VII. Education, leisure and cultural activities

1. Education, including vocational training and guidance (art. 28)

181. With regard to para. 54 of the Concluding Observations, the DPRK adopted during the reporting period the Law on General Education and the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children.

182. A series of administrative and practical measures were taken after the promulgation in 2012 of the decree on the enforcement of the universal 12-year compulsory education system, with the result that during the past 3 years significant achievements have been made: reorganization of the former 6-year secondary schools into 3-year junior and 3-year senior secondary schools were completed in a short period of time, the first education programme for the 12-year compulsory education was formulated in a matter of 7 months, taking into full consideration the prevailing educational trends and situation at home and abroad and students' textbooks with different contents and formats from the existing ones were compiled. The educational guidance institution, through meticulous arrangement of editing and production of textbooks, provided all the first year students at different levels of schools with new textbooks before the new school year of 2014, and supplied experimental apparatus and reagents to schools so that they could conduct sufficient laboratory experiments as required by the new curricular.

183. New school uniforms and materials were provided at nominal price to all students at primary schools, junior and senior secondary schools and universities in 2015, the year marking the start of a new school year under the new 12-year system. The provincial,

municipal (or district) and county people's committees included the provision of educational conditions in their yearly plan, thus newly setting up school buildings or adding new classrooms to the existing ones, or supplying sufficient number of desks, chairs and other fixtures. For instance, in the north Phyongan Province alone, they newly built or renovated 1 000 classrooms and laboratories, and refurbished them with modern experimental apparatus and teaching aids, thus strengthening economic foundations of schools. Each province, municipality and county set up one kindergarten patterned after the Kyongsang Kindergarten, the model kindergarten in the country, and encouraged other units to learn from them.

184. The DPRK Education Strategy (2015-2032) was formulated in 2014. The general target of this strategy is to bring about a radical improvement in the educational work and the quality of education under the slogan of making all members of society scientific and technological talents and building a strong country of talents, thereby turning the country into an education power of world level. The target by the year 2022 is to significantly raise the cultural and technological level of all members of society and enable everyone to attain the level of university graduates, thus securing good prospects for the realization of the goal of making all members of society scientific and technological talents, while the target by the year 2032 is to make sure that the DPRK ranks among the world leading countries in major educational indicators. There is specified in the strategy tasks and ways of implementing the target.

185. During the reporting period the DPRK pushed ahead with the work for the successful implementation of the National Program of Action for the Welfare of Children and the National Plan of Action for Education for All (2005-2015). A meeting was convened in March, 2007 for the mid-term review of the implementation of the National Plan of Action. Given that quantitative requirements were basically met, efforts were channelled into attaining the qualitative goals. Educational contents and methods underwent considerable changes, teachers' qualities improved and educational work became more information-oriented and modernized, with the result that the major goals of the National Plan of Action for Education for All were attained.

186. Efforts were made during the reporting period to systematically increase budgetary expenditure on education so that demands arising in connection with the introduction of the universal 12-year compulsory education system could be met.

187. Educational expenses for the nurseries and kindergartens attached to factories, enterprises and co-op farms, factory colleges, farm colleges and fishermen's colleges were, in addition to the State budgetary allocations, covered by the unit concerned. Additional investment were also made in the educational work by supporter units of schools, which conducted support campaigns for strengthening economic foundations of schools during March and October, the Months of School Support, and by organizing exhibitions for assisting educational work and promoting Model Education County Movement.

188. Children in remote, mountainous areas and islets, as well as those without parents or guardians had equal access to education with others without any discrimination, and in some cases they enjoyed more benefits than others thanks to the policy of the State and social concern. Branch schools with an enrolment of 3-4 children were set up in counties and mountain areas or school trains and buses were provided for travel to schools. For instance, after the new education system has been introduced, Yontan county, a mountainous area of the country, built 3 branch schools in Sinhung-ri and others for a total of 50 students, with the result that they have been freed from the trouble of having to travel far or go to school by boat. Children without parents receive equal education with others at kindergartens and primary and secondary schools set up exclusively for them. (See Table.3-6 in Annex for the attendance and enrolment rates).

189. The DPRK paid close attention to ensuring that teachers were well qualified and their levels and roles were enhanced on an on-going basis. In order to meet the demands for teachers and ensure that they were possessed of good qualities as required by the new education system, enrolment of education universities and teacher training colleges were raised, admitting secondary school graduates with good school records, ex-teachers and those with teachers' qualifications were identified and encouraged to work in the educational sector and graduates of education universities were encouraged to volunteer to be teachers at schools in remote, mountainous areas or islets.

190. Efforts were made to train good primary school teachers as primary school education was the first stage that laid the groundwork for the quality education in the following stages of education. As a result, the rates of primary and secondary school teachers that received appropriate training are 93.9% and 98.2% respectively, and of all the teachers in active service at urban or rural schools of different levels, the rate of teachers with the degree in education considerably increased.

191. In-service training of teachers was further intensified. Teachers training centres were set up in every province, municipality and county, where incumbent teachers received training every 3 years, while teachers' workshops were organized twice a year during students' summer and winter vacation.

192. Evaluation of teachers' teaching abilities was conducted on the occasion of October 8 every year for registration as model teachers at county, municipality (or district), province (or municipality under the direct central authority) or central level. Certificates of Model Teachers were awarded on important national occasions to those who applied effective teaching methods and were exemplary in educational activities. Teachers at secondary schools vied with university teachers to win academic degrees and titles, with the result that the number of winners of BA, MA and Ph.D. increased.

193. Significant efforts were made to make educational equipment and facilities available to all students. To address the shortage of classrooms at primary schools with one more school year under the new education system, new school buildings were constructed or are under construction or the existing ones extended in accordance with the national economic plan, with special attention being paid to providing sufficient school fixtures. To ensure that modern educational equipment were made available to all students in conformity with the requirements of the IT age, efforts were made to turn all classrooms multi-functional, with the result that not only schools in the cities but those in local areas have made education information-oriented and modernized by using computers and other IT devices.

194. The educational multi-media programme centres developed programmes containing contents compiled in accordance with the new 12-year compulsory education programme for all subjects taught at kindergartens, primary, junior and secondary schools. National exhibition of experimental equipment and teaching aids were organized every 2 years for the purpose of providing teachers with an opportunity to present the experimental apparatus and tools invented by their own hands on the basis of their practical experience, the best of which were given wide publicity for introduction and generalization and certificates and prizes were awarded to successful participants.

195. With a view to attaining the target of quality education as specified in the National Plan of Action for Education for All, education programmes were developed and new textbooks compiled on a stage-by-stage basis in a manner suited to the new trends of educational development and the age and psychology of children.

196. Execution of the extensively modified education programme for kindergartens was started in 2008, which was developed in such a way that children in low-level classes were given classes in the form of story-telling, games, singing, rhythmic dancing and sports, while those in higher classes were taught such subjects as literacy and numeracy skills,

morality, drawing, basic handicraft and sports so that they can be well-equipped for primary school education. As a result, the preschool education level was raised, which was demonstrated in the fast mental development of children. With the introduction of the 12-year education system the kindergarten education programme was innovated. It was set as the aim of kindergarten education to promote children's independent thinking, intellectual faculties, emotions and kinetic sense through harmonious combination of nurturing, edification and education in a manner suited to their age and psychology. To this end, boundaries among different subjects were removed in favour of integrated education, and method and style of teaching changed so that children could learn things while playing and teachers guided their playing and learning to conform to the aim of education. Focus was placed on helping children develop the ability to express their knowledge and feelings in terms of language, drawing, act, song and dance. Publications and multi-media conducive to promoting children's intellectual faculties were produced in large numbers. They were, for instance, *Stories Told by the Great Personages of Mt. Paektu*, an illustrated story book with a total of 60 volumes, *Collection of World-famous Children's Stories* with a total of 60 volumes, *We Learn Korean Language* (vocabulary, practical use), *Let's Think Over*, *How to Promote Children's Intellectual Development* with a total of 20 volumes, *Answers to Everything, I Can Do It Alone* with a total of 32 volumes and illustrated children's stories written by foreign writers with a total of 60 volumes. All these and many other publications and CD/DVD programmes were distributed to the nurseries, kindergartens, baby homes and orphanages across the country.

197. Preparation of primary school education programmes was conducted and textbooks were revised on a stage-by-stage basis in accordance with the plan. As part of the efforts to attain the goals of the National Action Plan for Education for All, pilot education in computer skills and foreign languages was conducted at primary schools in the years 2003-2005, and in 2008 all primary schools started giving computer and foreign language classes. Under the new 12-year education system the aim of the primary school education is to help students to be equipped with the basic essentials of the world outlook, learn Korean language and know how to use them, learn basic knowledge and ability to deal with things and phenomena mathematically, acquire basic knowledge about nature and society and practical ability to use them and be possessed of beautiful traits and healthy body, thus being well-prepared for junior secondary education.

198. The education programme of the junior secondary school set it as the aim of education to teach students the essentials of the world outlook, to help them acquire general basic knowledge, basic information technology, basic technical knowledge, ability to enjoy emotional life and train strong body so as to prepare them for the senior secondary education. The senior secondary education is aimed at equipping students with correct world outlook and comprehensive general knowledge, promoting their creative ability, lofty emotions with sound body so as to make them fully ready for military service, social life and campus life, thus preparing them to become talents with solid foundations for their life-long study.

199. Following completion of the universal 12-year education programme, a team of hundreds of competent educational scientists and teachers was formed to revise the textbooks for kindergartens, primary, junior and senior secondary schools under the guidance of the central educational guidance institution. As a result, textbooks of 163 kinds and reference books of 162 kinds were newly compiled and provided to all kindergartens and schools across the country from 2013 to 2015.

200. Progress was made in the efforts to provide all pre-school children with all the amenities that satisfy pedagogical and hygiene standards. Kindergartens were newly built or enlarged in areas that fell short of demands in number or accommodation capacity, while the buildings of the existing kindergartens and educational facilities were renovated and

expanded in cultural and hygienic manner. One model kindergarten was built in every province to encourage others to follow their examples, with the result that 450 kindergartens across the country underwent complete changes.

201. The DPRK has set it as the general goal to ensure 100% school attendance of pupils at different levels of schooling in the 12-year free compulsory education period, and a lot of efforts were made to this end. In recent years the attendance rate is rising steadily to over 98%. However, low attendance rates were sometimes reported in areas affected by natural disasters or in families with sick parents. But such problems were timely dealt with through social support amid the attention of the state.

202. School supporter units were encouraged to do their shares in improving educational conditions. Several units were placed in charge of one school, each of them regarding it as their obligations to support the schools concerned. They regularly familiarized themselves with the situation of the schools under their charge and rendered required assistance including setting up laboratories and practice work-shops, providing facilities, fuel and other materials for heating classrooms in winter and supplying experimental apparatus, school fixtures, tools and equipment in accordance with plans for production and supply. Leading officials of the school support guidance institutions made it a rule to visit schools in March and October, the months of school support, to acquaint themselves with their status of support and held the units concerned accountable for failure, if any, to fulfil their assignments. National or local education aid exhibitions proved to be important occasions in stimulating support units, improving educational conditions of schools and reinforcing their economic foundations. For instance, in the north Hwanghae Province 135 supporter units provided to the schools under their charge 32 kinds of educational equipment and building materials including computers, TVs, solar panels, sports and musical instruments, etc.

203. With a view to helping students combine education with productive labour and theory with practice, 20 class hours of secondary school curriculum are allotted for field practice, during which students visit farms and factories to practice or experience themselves what they learned in classrooms.

204. No student at the compulsory schooling stage in the DPRK is to be expelled or allowed to drop out, which means there is no student expelled or dropped out at the primary or secondary schools.

205. Local area networks established at many schools, and national-network provided necessary information to students, while IT exchange centres and e-libraries were set up in many different places for children to collect information and receive guidance with regard to education and vocational training. Social education establishments like schoolchildren's palaces and culture halls, and children's libraries in different parts of the country organized after-school activities in various forms and ways like workshops, seminars and hobby groups, thus making various kinds of information available and accessible to children.

206. The kinds and circulation of children's publication increased significantly, and hundreds of mobile libraries started service, growing in popularity among children and enabling them to access information without time and space limits. Dozens of different kinds of publications for pre-school children such as Foreign Fairy Tales (60-volume) and Developing Children's Intellectual Faculties (30-volume), as well as General Knowledge about World, English Conversation through Pictures and Doctors' Friends were translated and published for children. As computers and other IT devices are widely used by children, literary works including domestic and foreign feature films and a lot of electronic programs such as the World of Dinosaur, Interesting Inventions, World Sports Events and Culinary Arts of Foreign Countries were widely disseminated. New TV channels were launched and more hours were allotted than before for televising political, economic and cultural news of

foreign countries, and world events and incidents. In particular, the newly launched Ryongnamsan Channel provides updated information about the scientific and technological developments at home and abroad.

207. Measures taken for the prevention of corporal punishment at schools were detailed in para.208 of the previous Report. Persons working for and with children and parents were regularly briefed on the General Comment of the Committee on corporal punishment and the relevant provisions of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and the Convention. Some secondary school teachers were reported to have gone beyond limits by scolding students for misbehaviour and violations of public order. Due measures were taken to enhance education and tighten control to prevent even the slightest case of corporal punishment.

208. International cooperation and exchange expanded in the field of education during the reporting period. Korea Education Fund, established in 2005, worked closely with many foreign non-governmental organizations and bodies for the improved educational conditions of schools. UNICEF, UNESCO and other international and non-governmental organizations rendered necessary assistance of various kinds for modernizing and putting educational work on IT basis, renovating school buildings and capacity building of teachers.

2. Aim of Education (art. 29)

209. Under the universal 12-year compulsory education system, the children's schooling period was increased by one year, and accordingly, the educational programme was revised in line with the requirements of article 29 of the Convention. The new education programme defined it as the general purpose of the 12-year compulsory education is to promote independent ideological consciousness and creative thinking of students, thus training them to be comprehensively developed. To this end, preparing children mentally, morally and physically was set as an important task of the educational work and the contents of the kindergarten, primary, junior and senior secondary education were revised to suit the age, psychology and cognitive functions of children.

210. A lot of measures were taken to provide conditions for children to fully develop their individual characters, aptitudes and mental and physical abilities. Aptitudes of children at pre-school level were identified and appropriate education was given, thus making it possible for them to lay the groundwork for further development. Contests of Gifted Kindergarten Children and Art Festival of Kindergarten Children and other forms of forums for talent presentation were organized once a year. Primary, junior and senior secondary schools and extracurricular centres such as schoolchildren's palaces and culture halls and sports schools arranged various activities to promote the characters and talents of children. Excellent brains eager to learn science were enrolled in genius schools or classes so that they could give full rein to their talents. As a result, during the reporting period the DPRK students proved successful in many of the international contests, winning several gold medals at the 50th and 56th International Maths Olympiad and International Youth Piano Contest.

211. Under the new education programmes of educational institutions at all levels child-related laws and the Convention were taught in close conjunction with the contents of the subjects concerned, with more class hours allotted to them and special attention paid to education in law. Subjects like the Socialist Morality, and the Socialist Morality and Law gives children education in national, as well as international laws like the Convention.

212. Classroom education, extracurricular education and after-school activities promoted children's awareness and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations. Child-Friendly Schools Movement conducted in cooperation with international organizations proved effective in this regard.

213. Education in patriotism was included in education programmes of all schools, aimed at implanting in children love and respect for their parents and everything of the country including the history and culture and encouraging them to cherish and add luster to them.

214. Understanding of foreign cultures was promoted and love for peace, tolerance, equality and friendship was reinforced among children through teaching subjects like history, geography and law.

215. Efforts were made to enable children to become knowledgeable about nature and environment, as well as protection and effective use of them. Subjects like Socialist Morality and Mother Tongue encouraged children to take good care of trees, flowers and everything in the country, while Nature, Geography, Biology and others helped them to have, through field trips, observations and experiments, a good understanding of the surrounding world including the biology, materials, environment, heavenly body and solar system and learn how to protect the nature and environment from pollution and destruction of eco-system.

216. Peer teaching and discussion were further encouraged. In classes children were divided into groups to exchange their views, conduct experiments and analysis and do practice. After school they went to various kinds of clubs, study groups or sports or arts activities to fully develop their talents.

3. Leisure, recreation and cultural activities (art. 31)

217. The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides that children have the rights to leisure, recreation and cultural activities (article 28) and local power organs at all levels and institutions, enterprises and organizations shall establish theatres, cinemas, parks, recreation grounds, zoos and botanical gardens and operate them properly so that children can be provided with good conditions and environment for leisure and cultural activities.

218. The DPRK set, during the reporting period, the goal of building a sports power and took a series of state-level measures to this end. The State Sports Committee was formed in 2012, followed by the establishment of a well-defined guidance system. National sports events and competitions were organized annually and Model Sports County Movement was dynamically staged, fanning the flames of sport.

219. The National Inter-Provincial Sports Meet started in 2013 as part of the efforts to make sports mass-based is open to all children and working people. In 2014 a 6-year-old pre-school boy and a 10-year-old primary school boy respectively won first prize in Korean wrestling matches, which further stimulated children's interest in sports and competitive spirit. The day of sports, a specially designated day in every month, also provides children with an opportunity to compete in different kinds of sports events, training their bodies and enjoying themselves.

220. State investment and social support for the development of sports further increased, with the result that modern sports and cultural facilities like the Masikryong Ski Resort, Munsu Water Park and the Mirim Riding Club were built, while the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and Chongchun Street Sports Village and other sports facilities were renovated. During the past four years 90 stadiums, 130 indoor stadiums, 1 800 football pitches, 340 roller skating grounds and 280 parks with sports facilities were newly built or renovated during the past 4 years.

221. Recreation grounds and welfare establishments equipped with modern facilities were set up in different parts of the country so that children could conduct cultural, sports and other leisure activities. Theatres and the movies like the State Playhouse, Thaedongmun Movie House, parks and recreation grounds like Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Thaesongsan Fun Fair, Kaeson Youth Park, People's Outdoor Ice Rink, Ryugyong Health

Complex and Tongil Street Health Centre were newly built or refurbished on modern lines. Parks of different types and areas like children's parks, sports parks and flower parks were set up in every village. Indoor and outdoor swimming pools and stadiums were newly built in many schools and children's camps were refurbished and expanded in scenic spots.

222. Playrooms and recreation halls were set up in nurseries and kindergartens to suit children's tastes and in compliance with the nursing and educational standards so that children could learn while playing. Every year nurseries and kindergartens organized children's games and art performance on the occasion of June 1, the International Children's Day, when all the children at a nursery or kindergarten, or in a certain area got together and had a great time amid the attention of their parents, brothers/sisters and relatives.

223. The playgrounds, indoor stadiums and swimming pools at primary and secondary schools, as well as recreation grounds, roller skating grounds, parks and fun fairs in the villages are open to all children for their sports and physical training activities. The Rungna People's Recreation Ground and other funfairs with a variety of amusement facilities such as the game arcade, 3D rhythmic cinema and mirror house, where children have great fun during their leisure, were newly built up in recent years.

224. Schoolchildren's palaces and culture halls and after-school sports schools were operated on a regular basis, providing children opportunities to fully develop their talents at places of their choice. Currently, there are 20 schoolchildren's palaces, 178 schoolchildren's culture halls and 19 Children's Union camps.

225. National sports competitions, and literary and arts contests were held annually with a view to further promoting children's sports and artistic activities. All children that wish to compete were involved at the county, municipality and provincial level, with preliminaries starting at the county level and finals at the national level. The types of competitions held during the reporting period were National Competitions of Extracurricular Sports Schools and Football Classes, Competition of Different Kinds of Sports Events, Children's Paduk Competition, Kindergarten Children's Arts Festival, National Schoolchildren's Arts Festival, Singing Contest, Calligraphy Contest and Composition Contests, to name just a few.

226. Life at Children's Union camps constitutes an important part of children's cultural life. Such camps are open from April to October every year for a period of 7-15 days. All the expenses for the operation of the camps and children's trips, to say nothing of accommodation and all the cultural activities are covered by the State. The Songdowon International Children's Camp which was renovated in 2013 is the biggest camp in the country, with an accommodation capacity of 1 250. It has 2 accommodation buildings, culture hall, swimming pool, boating pool, game room, music room, marine knowledge room and bathing resort. In 2015 this camp started providing service even in winter so that children could go skiing to the nearby Masikryong Ski Resort.

VIII. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32-36, 37.2-4, 38, 39 and 40)

1. Children in emergency situations

1.1 Refugee children (art. 22)

227. The Socialist Constitution provides that the DPRK shall guarantee the legal rights and interests of foreigners in its region (article 16). The Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children provides that the DPRK shall protect by law the children who have taken refuge

in it with their parents or guardians or unaccompanied (article 21). The Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children provides that the DPRK shall raise in nurseries and kindergartens at State expense, if the parents so desire, the children of the foreigners who seek refuge in it (article 9).

228. There has been no child in the DPRK since the mid-1950 that applied for refugee status or could be treated as such.

1.2 Children in armed conflicts (art. 38)

229. The Korean peninsula is still at the stage of armistice, with the north and south standing in acute military confrontation for over 60 years. There were military conflicts in some localities, which were not so serious as to affect the residents and children.

230. DPRK citizens take great pride in having served in the army and regard national defence as their great honour. However, military service is voluntary as defined in the law. Recruiting children is strictly forbidden.

2. Children in conflict with law

2.1 Juvenile justice (art. 40)

231. With regard to para. 72 of the Concluding Observations which requires the juvenile justice system to comport with the sections thereon in the Children's Right Convention, there is a well-established system for handling children in conflict with law in the DPRK. Very few criminal and civil cases are related to children but the Ministry of the People's Security has placed some of its officers in charge of nurseries, kindergartens and schools in the area under its jurisdiction. It's the same story in public prosecution institutions. Criminal and civil departments in courts also have judges in charge of juvenile cases. Therefore, in juvenile cases the whole procedure, from the investigation, preliminary examination, prosecution to trial, is handled by officers in charge thereof.

232. In the DPRK, in accordance with the Criminal Law, the Criminal Procedures Law and the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, criminal punishment is imposed only on the offender who is over 14 years of age at the time he/she commits an offence, and no criminal proceedings are instituted in the case of crime committed by a person under 14 years of age. When a person who is over 14 and under 17 commits violations of law, he/she is committed to public education in most cases. However, this does not mean that all children in that age range should be committed to public education. The law requires that whoever, including a minor, commits offence as covered by the Criminal Law should be subjected to punishment in accordance with the Law. However, courts in the DPRK has no record of sentencing children to the penalty of reform through labour, let alone capital punishment. This shows that children in the DPRK in general have high moral principles, and in the case of those in conflict with law, the offence they commit were so minor that educational measures were enough to correct them. The underlying reason is that in the socialist system of DPRK is devoid of any social conflicts nor social evils that give rise to violations of law. The very few juvenile delinquents are dealt with in strict accordance with the Criminal Law, with due respect for their human rights.

233. During the reporting period the number of officers at the law enforcement and judicial institutions in charge of children's matters increased, for whom workshops and seminars were organized to enhance their understanding of and help them exchange their views on the implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, the Convention and General Comment No.10 of the Committee. This resulted in the upgraded capacity of law enforcement officers and judges, who treated children in conflict with law

in compliance with the Convention and child-related Laws with due respect for their dignity and psychology of their age group.

234. With regard to para. 71 of the Concluding Observations the purpose of combat against crimes in the DPRK is to correct, not punish. Disposition of public education of children is, in essence, consideration shown by the State in the best interest of the child. Public education of children in conflict with law are conducted in the following procedures: where a person over 14 and under 17 commits an offence, a people's security officer or a supervisory/regulatory officer submits the facts about the case to the prosecutor in charge of juvenile cases. Where the prosecutor believes that the case is not so serious as to require prosecution, he/she will decide on reformation of the examinee through public education subject to the approval of a higher public prosecutors office. Otherwise the case in question will be submitted to trial. Where a case is brought before a court, a judge will conduct fact-finding trial and pass a ruling or a verdict on reformation through public education in accordance with the Criminal Procedures Law. The written decision of the prosecutor or verdict or ruling of a judge or court of law contains a copy of decision on public education and the person(s) to be responsible for the education of the minor and the duration. Upon receipt of the written decision of the prosecutor or a copy of judgment or ruling of the court of law, the person(s) in charge, in conjunction with the parents, direct special attention the education of the minor, conducting education in law observance and counselling. They are also under obligation to report twice a year to the prosecution institution or court concerned about their work with the minor concerned. The period of public education is 1-3 years.

2.2 Children deprived of liberty

235. The requirements of the Convention on not arbitrarily depriving a child's liberty are guaranteed by the Criminal Law and the Criminal Procedures Law. Dispositions of limitation of liberty in the DPRK are detention, house arrest and area confinement, which are provided for by article 183 of the Criminal Procedures Law. Children in conflict with law may, depending on the nature of the offence, be subjected to the above-mentioned dispositions. Examination of a minor in connection with the investigation of a case is conducted either at his/her home or at the judicial institution concerned in the presence of his/her parents. Not a case of child detention or confinement was reported during the reporting period.

2.3 The sentencing of children, with particular reference to the prohibition of capital punishment and life imprisonment (art. 37 a)

236. The Criminal Law provides in article 29 death penalty shall not be imposed on those who were under 18 years of age at the time he/she committed a crime.

237. No child in conflict with law in the DPRK was sentenced to life imprisonment.

2.4 Physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of the child (art. 39)

238. It was stated in the previous paragraphs of the present Report that no juvenile offender is committed to reform through labour. The issue of social reintegration of the child in conflict with law does not arise, as the public education measures do not involve any form of separation of the child from the community.

239. Returnees who illegally crossed the border were subject to educational measures. The people's security institution made it a rule to first inquire into the motive and purpose of their illegal border crossing and then increased their obedience to legal requirements by creating their awareness of the provisions of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children, the Immigration Law, the Criminal Law and other related laws. The schools concerned paid special attention to such children so that they might get attached to school

life, while the people's committees concerned maintained contacts with their parents to settle the problems they faced with regard to raising such children.

3. Children in situations of exploitation (art. 39)

3.1 Economic exploitation of children, including child labour (art. 32)

240. In the DPRK child labour was abolished by law 70 years ago.

241. For legislative and other measures to prohibit child labour see para. 241 of the previous Report.

3.2 Drug abuse (art. 33)

242. The Criminal Law prescribed heavy penalties for manufacture, use and illicit trafficking in drugs (articles 206, 207 and 208).

243. There is no child in the DPRK involved in drug abuse.

3.3 Sexual exploitation and abuse (art. 34)

244. In accordance with the Criminal Law, a man who rapes a woman is committed to reform through labour of up to 10 years (article 279), a man who forces a woman, being his subordinate, to have sexual intercourse is committed to reform through labour of up to 3 years (article 280) and a man who has sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 15 is committed to reform through labour of up to 5 years (article 281).

245. There is no person in the DPRK that was subject to punishment for abetting or forcing a child to participate in or commit sexual acts, exploiting a child for sexual or pornographic purposes. Such acts are inconceivable for the people in the DPRK who regard such acts as the most disgraceful.

246. Prostitution and pornography are strictly prohibited by law. Prostitution and licentious acts are punishable by reform through labour of up to 5 years in accordance with article 249 of the Criminal Law, and introduction and dissemination of degenerate culture and commission of degenerate acts are liable to punishment of up to 5 years in accordance with article 183 of the same law.

3.4 Sale and abduction (art. 35)

247. Under article 289 of the Criminal Law a person who kidnaps or conceals a child for a selfish purpose or out of a vindictive motive is committed to disciplining through labour of not more than 1 year and a person who kidnaps another for selfish purpose is committed to reform through labour of up to 10 years.

4. Children belonging to minorities or indigenous groups (art. 30)

248. The DPRK is a homogenous nation. Therefore, no problem arises in this connection.

Annex

Basic Data on Children

Table 1
Child Population

Child population aged 0-16	5 953 000
Rate of children in total population	23.9%
Boys	3 037 000
Girls	2 916 000
Child population aged 0-4	1 701 000
Rate in total population	6.8%
Boys	867 000
Girls	834 000

Source: The Central Bureau of Statistics, DPRK, 2014.

Table 2
Proportion of Budgetary expenditure on public health and education against GDP (%)

Year	Public health	Education
2011	6.1	8.3
2013	6.4	8.4

Source: The Central Bureau of Statistics, DPRK.

Table 3
GIR at primary schools

Year	GIR				ANIR			
	Total	Boys	Girls	GPI	Total	Boys	Girls	GPI
2008	101.4	101.5	101.4	1.00	95.1	95.1	95.0	1.00
2012	100.4	100.3	100.4	1.00	95.1	95.0	95.1	1.00

Source: Education Commission, DPRK.

Table 4
GER at primary schools

Year	Total	Boys	Girls	GPI
2008	101.7	101.7	101.6	1.00
2012	100.6	100.6	100.6	1.00

Source: Education Commission, DPRK.

Table 5
GIR at secondary schools

Year	GIR				ANIR			
	Total	Boys	Girls	GPI	Total	Boys	Girls	GPI
2008	100.3	99.8	100.9	1.01	89.7	89.5	89.9	1.00
2012	100.3	100.3	100.3	1.00	91.6	91.6	91.6	1.00

Source: Education Commission, DPRK.

Table 6
GER at secondary schools

Year	GER			
	Total	Boys	Girls	GPI
2008	100.2	100.0	100.5	1.00
2012	101.0	101.0	101.0	1.00

Source: Education Commission, DPRK.

Table 7
Proportion of teachers who took correspondence course (%)

Area	Primary schools	Secondary schools
Total	0.9	4.8
Urban area	0.6	2.8
Rural area	1.1	6.7

Source: Education Commission, DPRK.

Table 8
Teacher-student rate (person)

Area	Primary school	Secondary school
Total	21	18
Urban areas	21.9	19.5
Rural areas	20.1	16.5

Source: Education Commission, DPRK.

Table 9
Results of nutritional and health survey (%)

Category	Year	Chronic malnutrition	Acute malnutrition	Underweight
MICS 4	2009	32.4%	5.2%	18.8%
Nutritional survey	2012	27.9%	4.0%	15.2%

Source: Final report of the national nutritional survey, DPRK 2012.

Table 10
Child mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio

<i>Year</i>	<i>Under-1 (per 1 thousand live births)</i>	<i>Under-5 (per 1 thousand live births)</i>	<i>Maternal (per 100 000 live births)</i>
2008	19.3	26.7	85.1
2010	18.8	25.7	76.0
2012	16.7	22.7	68.1
2014	14.2	20.0	62.7

Source: Ministry of Public Health, Central Bureau of Statistics, DPRK.