



Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Compilation on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies^{1, 2}

2. The General Assembly strongly urged the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to consider ratifying and acceding to the remaining international human rights treaties.³

3. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea urged the Government to ratify all remaining human rights instruments, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.⁴

4. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a similar recommendation, and also encouraged the State to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.⁵

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on a communications procedure.⁶



6. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged the State to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.⁷
7. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities recommended that the Government ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international human rights instruments to which the State was not yet a party.⁸
8. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State consider acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁹
9. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that the Government ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.¹⁰
10. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the State should be strongly encouraged to ratify the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education and to seek the support of UNESCO in that process. It also encouraged the State to ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.¹¹
11. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a similar recommendation.¹²
12. The General Assembly strongly urged the Government to become a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and to consider ratifying all the relevant conventions, in particular the core labour conventions of the ILO.¹³
13. The Secretary-General recommended that the Government comply with its obligations arising from international human rights law, including the five core human rights treaties ratified by the State, and that it accept and implement all the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies.¹⁴
14. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities recommended that the Government consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders to visit the country.¹⁵
15. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government provide United Nations agencies and other international cooperation actors with unhindered access to vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, in all counties and provinces.¹⁶
16. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recommended that the Government consider seeking the technical assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including by granting access to the country.¹⁷

III. National human rights framework¹⁸

17. According to UNESCO, the State should be strongly encouraged to adopt in its legislation and apply a comprehensive definition of discrimination, including in the field of education.¹⁹
18. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State establish, within a clear time frame, an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), with a broad mandate to promote and protect the human rights of women and gender equality.²⁰

19. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State take measures to expeditiously establish an independent mechanism for monitoring children's rights that was able to receive, investigate and address complaints by children in a child-sensitive manner.²¹

20. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities recommended that the Government designate or set up an independent monitoring mechanism compliant with the Paris Principles to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with article 33 (2).²²

21. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State develop a national plan of action for human rights education, as recommended in the framework of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and incorporate human rights and children's rights into the school curriculum at all levels.²³

IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Cross-cutting issues

1. Equality and non-discrimination²⁴

22. The General Assembly expressed its very serious concern at the persistence of continuing reports of violations of human rights, including the detailed findings made by the commission of inquiry in its report, such as discrimination based on the *songbun* system, which classified people on the basis of State-assigned social class and birth and also included consideration of political opinions and religion.²⁵

23. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained seriously concerned about consistent reports of discrimination against students based on their social status and their parents' political views, which defined the schools and type of education to which children had access and the treatment they received from teachers.²⁶

24. The Committee recommended that the State substantially increase the allocations in the health, education and social sectors to adequate levels, ensuring equitable distribution among urban and rural areas.²⁷

2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights²⁸

25. According to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, data on poverty, household income or expenditure were not collected and there was no nationally defined poverty line.²⁹

26. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea recommended that the Government release statistical and other data, which would allow for an assessment of the impact of international sanctions on the population.³⁰

27. The Special Rapporteur noted that a consistent feature in all the testimonies received was the role of bribes in securing access to public services, seeking employment, travelling or avoiding punishment when one was arrested. He noted that corruption was portrayed as endemic and pervasive, with officials at the central and provincial levels frequently asking people to pay in cash or in kind in order to be allowed to access basic services.³¹

B. Civil and political rights

1. Right to life, liberty and security of person³²

28. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that the Government halt all executions and declare and implement a moratorium on the death penalty.³³

29. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea urged the Government to take progressive steps to restrict or abolish the death penalty, notably by amending national legislation to ensure compliance with international law, specifically to restrict the application of the death penalty to crimes of intentional killing only and to ensure that all trials met the highest standards of fairness.³⁴

30. The Special Rapporteur noted that torture and ill-treatment had been reported by many interviewees who had undergone interrogation by the Ministry of State Security. In addition to prolonged and severe restrictions on movement, beatings were reportedly common during interrogations, and various interviewees had confirmed having been subjected to ill-treatment, beaten, tortured or threatened with torture if they did not reveal information that Ministry officers considered to be true.³⁵

31. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that the legal provisions regarding torture in the Code of Criminal Procedure and in the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child did not adequately guarantee the right to freedom from torture and other cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, either in law or in practice, particularly for children who were forced to return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, children living in street situations, and children in detention facilities, including political prison camps.³⁶

32. The Secretary-General found that reports of the continued existence of large political prison camps where people served lengthy or life sentences were grounds for grave concern. Conditions in those camps were reported to be extremely poor, with insufficient food provided and prisoners forced to carry out hard manual labour.³⁷

33. According to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, families were not informed of the whereabouts or fate of relatives who were sent to political prison camps.³⁸

34. The General Assembly strongly urged the Government to immediately close political prison camps and to release all political prisoners, unconditionally and without any delay.³⁹

35. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received numerous accounts of what appeared to be the deliberate denial of economic and social rights of persons in detention, in particular the right to food, the right to health and the rights to clean water and sanitation, amounting to cruel and inhuman treatment.⁴⁰

36. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to promptly review its legislation to unequivocally prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, including the home, child-related institutions and all types of penal institutions, including political prison camps; and to ensure that the ban on corporal punishment in all educational facilities was strictly implemented and monitored.⁴¹

37. The General Assembly condemned the systematic abduction, denial of repatriation and subsequent enforced disappearance of persons, including those from other countries, on a large scale and as a matter of State policy, and in that regard strongly called upon the Government urgently to resolve those issues of international concern, in a transparent manner, including by ensuring the immediate return of abductees.⁴²

2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law⁴³

38. According to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the human rights situation in the country had been

most comprehensively addressed by the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He noted that, in its report, the commission had concluded that "systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights have been, and are being, committed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its institutions and officials", and that many of them might "constitute crimes against humanity". The Special Rapporteur noted that the commission of inquiry had highlighted six categories of human rights violations: violations of the freedoms of thought, expression and religion; discrimination on the basis of State-assigned social class, gender and disability; violations of the freedom of movement and residence, including the freedom to leave one's own country; violations of the right to food and related aspects of the right to life; arbitrary detention, torture, executions, enforced disappearance and political prison camps; and enforced disappearance of persons from other countries, including through abduction.⁴⁴

39. The group of independent experts on accountability had no information indicating that viable options for accountability existed or had been used in the country. It recommended that the Government reform its criminal justice legislation and rule of law institutions, including its judiciary and law enforcement and corrections systems, in line with international human rights norms and standards and in furtherance of its commitments made during the second cycle of the universal periodic review to fight impunity for human rights violations.⁴⁵

40. The Secretary-General recommended that the Government take the measures necessary to address the findings and recommendations of the commission of inquiry and the group of independent experts on accountability, and engage with the international community towards their implementation.⁴⁶

41. The General Assembly strongly urged the Government to protect its inhabitants, to address the issue of impunity and to ensure that those responsible for crimes involving violations of human rights were brought to justice before an independent judiciary.⁴⁷

42. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommended that the Government ensure that victims of crimes against humanity and their families were provided with adequate, prompt and effective reparation and remedies, including telling them the truth about the violations concerned.⁴⁸

43. According to the Secretary-General, the right to a fair and independent trial was not guaranteed, and, in some cases, former detainees described having had only a brief meeting with a lawyer prior to their trial. Corruption was reportedly rampant in the criminal justice system, with former detainees reporting having paid bribes to secure a less severe sentence.⁴⁹

44. The Secretary-General found that cases were reportedly also submitted to the People's Safety Committee under the local branch of the Workers' Party of Korea. The Committee would reportedly make a decision on a suspect's guilt or innocence, and on the type of punishment that should be imposed, taking into consideration different factors, including a suspect's family background, and that cases were then sent for indictment and trial.⁵⁰

45. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expressed his concern about the practice of guilt by association, under which associates and relatives of a person punished for a political or ideological crime were also at risk of retaliation, either by being sent to prison camps or by being executed.⁵¹

3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life⁵²

46. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion by taking effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of persecution on the grounds of religion or belief and by promoting religious tolerance and dialogue in society.⁵³

47. According to the Secretary-General, the right to freedom of expression, access to information and freedom of association and peaceful assembly remained severely restricted. Those who criticized the authorities remained at risk of imprisonment in ordinary or political prisons or expulsion from cities to remote areas of the country. A pervasive

surveillance system and the prospect of detention or imprisonment in case of criticism of the Government or the leadership inhibited meaningful freedom of expression. Access to information remained restricted, with punishment imposed on those found to have received or to possess material not authorized by the authorities.⁵⁴

48. The Secretary-General found that all mass media remained under the Government's full control, and access to foreign media and international newspapers was prohibited for citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Stringent controls, including house searches and seizures of personal property, continued to affect residents of border regions, who were able to receive radio and television signals from abroad. Those found to have had access to materials considered to be illegal risked being arrested.⁵⁵

49. UNESCO encouraged the State to implement reforms to bring its laws and practices into line with international standards of freedom of the press and freedom of expression. It also encouraged the State to introduce a law on freedom of information in accordance with international standards. It recommended that the State decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code in accordance with international standards.⁵⁶

50. According to the Secretary-General, the Government continued to impose severe restrictions on freedom of movement for both internal and external travel, with citizens required to obtain permission to travel within the country. Given that crossing the border was considered a criminal offence, individuals who had been returned to the country reportedly faced human rights violations, including torture, sexual harassment and other forms of ill-treatment in detention.⁵⁷

4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery⁵⁸

51. According to the Secretary-General, forced labour appeared to be routine for people kept in pretrial holding cells (*jipkyulso*) and for prisoners in short-term labour camps (*rodongdanryundae*), ordinary prisons (*kyohwaso*) and political prisons (*kwalliso*). In most cases, that consisted of hard manual labour, either as mobilized labour in the community, in the case of short-term labour camps, or on the prison grounds. Such forced labour often included construction of roads and buildings and agricultural work. The physical demands of labour imposed on prisoners were exacerbated by inadequate food rations.⁵⁹

52. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State adopt legislation to criminalize trafficking in persons in accordance with international standards, and decriminalize and provide adequate protection and support for women who were victims of trafficking.⁶⁰

5. Right to privacy and family life⁶¹

53. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea found that the Government maintained a strict system of surveillance on all forms of communication, both within the country and with the outside world. He noted that, according to non-governmental sources, a network of neighbourhood watches called *iminban* was tasked by the Government to monitor people's radio and television watching habits and report them to the Ministry of State Security. He recommended that the Government abolish restrictions on access to information and communication, both inside the country and with the outside world.⁶²

54. The Special Rapporteur also recommended that the Government ensure that family reunion events were conducted with the interests of the families first and foremost in mind, including by ensuring the possibility for them to maintain longer-term communication with their relatives in the Republic of Korea in a sustainable manner.⁶³

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work⁶⁴

55. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that domestic employment practices fell far short of international

labour standards. Workers were vulnerable to various forms of abuse, including forced mobilization, unsafe working conditions and the absence of adequate pay.⁶⁵

56. The Human Rights Council recalled General Assembly resolution 72/188, in which the Assembly expressed its very serious concern at the violations of workers' rights, including the right to freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the right to strike and the prohibition of the economic exploitation of children and of any harmful or hazardous work of children, as well as the exploitation of workers sent abroad from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to work under conditions that reportedly amounted to forced labour.⁶⁶

2. Right to social security

57. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that the information that he had received repeatedly underscored the lack of a social safety net provided by the State.⁶⁷

58. According to the Special Rapporteur, chronic food shortages could only be overcome by supplementary incomes in the informal economy. He stated that those who could not engage in such business activities, for example due to illnesses, accident, old age, disability or pregnancy, could only make ends meet with the assistance of family members.⁶⁸

59. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government consider reforming the public distribution system with a view to ensuring the right to social security for all, in particular those who could not meet their basic needs owing to illnesses, accidents, old age, disability or maternity.⁶⁹

60. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State review its labour laws to harmonize the retirement age, and thus give women greater employment opportunities and equal pension benefits.⁷⁰

61. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities recommended that the Government extend the effective coverage of social protection benefits and services to all persons with disabilities, including little persons and those with intellectual, developmental, psychosocial, multiple and severe impairments.⁷¹

3. Right to an adequate standard of living⁷²

62. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the growing gap in living standards between the capital and the provinces.⁷³

63. The Special Rapporteur also noted that the United Nations had reported that chronic food insecurity, early childhood malnutrition and nutrition insecurity were widespread, and that more than 10 million people, or 40 per cent of the population, were said to require humanitarian assistance. He further noted that more than a quarter of children under 5 were stunted owing to chronic malnutrition.⁷⁴

64. According to the Secretary-General, the most vulnerable groups, including children, pregnant and nursing women and older persons, remained the most affected by malnutrition.⁷⁵ Diarrhoea, related to poor sanitation and acute malnutrition, remained a leading cause of death among young children.⁷⁶

65. The Secretary-General found that, since the breakdown of the public distribution system in the 1990s, most people did not rely on State-provided food rations to fill their basic needs. Public distribution was mainly limited to people in professions considered by the Government to be of particular importance, including in the mining sector or security personnel, and to people living in Pyongyang. Some factories reportedly distributed basic supplies to workers, depending on profits they made. The majority of the population did not benefit from public distribution, and instead engaged in informal trade or small-scale farming to meet food needs.⁷⁷

66. According to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the dilemma that the population faced was to find

ways to satisfy daily basic needs while circumventing the formal prohibition and punishment of private initiative by a State that failed to provide for those needs.⁷⁸

67. The Special Rapporteur urged the Government to refrain from forcibly evicting populations and to enforce firm safeguards against the involuntary removal of communities, particularly in rural areas.⁷⁹

68. The Special Rapporteur noted that access to safe drinking water and sanitation remained a challenge for provincial communities.⁸⁰

4. Right to health⁸¹

69. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that inequalities persisted in access to health care, and that information received highlighted the particular challenges faced by people living in the provinces in gaining access to an adequate and affordable standard of health care provided by qualified professionals. Medical care, with the notable exception of vaccinations for children, was provided only upon payment, and those who could not afford the expenses relating to illnesses or accidents would simply not receive the medical care they needed.⁸²

70. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities noted general shortages in quality medical equipment and medicines, including essential medicines and basic laboratory tests. She also noted other major shortcomings in the public health system, including old infrastructure, a lack of heating, irregular electricity, an unsanitary and irregular water supply and a limited operational budget.⁸³

71. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State strengthen its efforts to address the root causes of infant and child mortality, including social and economic deprivation and inequality, child malnutrition leading to stunting and wasting, and instances of child labour involving strenuous physical and mental efforts, which affected the healthy development of children.⁸⁴

72. The Committee recommended that the State adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents, which should include sexual and reproductive health as part of the mandatory school curriculum and target both girls and boys.⁸⁵

5. Right to education⁸⁶

73. According to the Secretary-General, information received by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated that children in remote areas did not always have access to education, including as a result of having to work to support their families and owing to the lack of functioning schools.⁸⁷

74. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained seriously concerned about consistent reports of the burden faced by children being required to pay informal school fees either by contributing materials or money, which was especially difficult for children from economically deprived families who missed school when they were unable to comply with such demands.⁸⁸

75. According to UNESCO, the State should be encouraged to improve the quality of its educational system, including by allocating more resources for school infrastructure and teaching, and to ensure that resources were equally allocated within the country.⁸⁹

76. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the extensive politicization of teaching materials and the curriculum, with a strong focus on ideological indoctrination. It recommended that the State ensure that the school curriculum and teaching materials gave priority to standard academic subjects and that education supported the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance and friendship among all peoples.⁹⁰

77. The Committee recommended that the State set up comprehensive measures to develop inclusive education and ensure that inclusive education was progressively prioritized over the placement of children in specialized institutions and classes, including for children with hearing and visual impairments. The Committee also recommended that

the State review the 9-year curriculum for children with disabilities to align it with the 12-year mandatory system.⁹¹

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women⁹²

78. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State review its legislation to identify and amend provisions that were discriminatory towards women, including with regard to access to education and employment, social and labour rights.⁹³

79. The Committee was concerned about the contradicting definitions of rape in the Criminal Code, the fact that marital rape was not criminalized and that penalties for rape were not commensurate with the severity of the crime.⁹⁴

80. The Committee recommended that the State increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years.⁹⁵

81. The Committee was concerned about the prevalence of domestic violence against women, the very limited awareness and information about the issue and the lack of protective measures, including legal services, psychosocial support and shelters, available to women who were victims/survivors, including when applying for divorce on the grounds of violence.⁹⁶

82. The Committee was concerned also about the situation of women in detention, who were particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, including rape, by State officials, and about the absence of adequate, independent and confidential complaint mechanisms. It was particularly concerned about reports that repatriated women had been detained on the criminal charge of “illegal border crossing” and, in addition to suffering sexual violence, were at risk of death in detention, subject to forced abortions and deprived of their right to a fair trial.⁹⁷

83. The Committee recommended that the State put in place, without delay, a comprehensive strategy, with proactive and sustained measures targeting women and men at all levels of society, to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society.⁹⁸

2. Children⁹⁹

84. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to promptly revise the Act on the Protection of the Rights of the Child to ensure the immediate protection of all children below the age of 18 years.¹⁰⁰

85. The Committee recommended that the State formulate a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, including by addressing its root causes.¹⁰¹

86. The Committee also recommended that the State amend its legislation in order to criminalize the sexual abuse of all children, including boys, by any person.¹⁰²

87. The Committee remained seriously concerned about consistent reports of children continuing to spend a considerable amount of the time allocated to education on performing different types of labour, including agriculture and construction projects that sometimes involved massive mobilization for periods of one month at a time, and cases of students spending their afternoons performing tasks for teachers, such as working in fields and transporting firewood.¹⁰³

88. According to UNESCO, the State should be encouraged to revise its legislation to prohibit harmful or hazardous work for children under the age of 18, and to ensure that child labour was effectively prohibited, in order to allow children to fully enjoy their right to education.¹⁰⁴

89. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to promptly strengthen monitoring systems in schools to ensure that teachers did not ill-treat or punish students, implement in practice the ban on corporal punishment, and investigate and discipline school staff who failed to respect the child's right to physical and mental integrity.¹⁰⁵

90. The Committee remained concerned about the significant number of children who continued to be placed in institutions, from birth to the age of 16 years, and the construction of new baby homes and orphanages, indicating an increasing trend of institutionalization, with no clear guidelines on the criteria for their placement. It also remained concerned about the policy of placing children with disabilities in residential institutional care.¹⁰⁶

91. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, while acknowledging the attention paid to the situation of orphans with and without disabilities, highlighted the need to transition from residential care institutions to family and community-based forms of childcare, such as foster care, adoptive families and other family-like settings.¹⁰⁷

92. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State assess the number of children living and/or working on the streets, and conduct a study on the root causes of their situations.¹⁰⁸

93. The Committee urged the State to establish a specialized juvenile justice system and procedures, to designate specialized judges and prosecutors and to ensure that the specialized judges received appropriate education and training.¹⁰⁹

94. The Committee also urged the State to take measures to prevent the early militarization of children, particularly boys, and to prevent the recruitment of children under 18 years of age.¹¹⁰

3. Persons with disabilities¹¹¹

95. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the State adopt a human rights-based approach to disability and set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities. It also recommended that the State provide support to parents and families of children with disabilities to enable them to adequately care for those children.¹¹²

96. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities noted that persons with disabilities continued to be excluded and segregated, and that they received specialized services in separate settings, depriving them of access to facilities and services on an equal basis with others. She recommended that the Government develop and carry out awareness-raising programmes to dispel attitudinal barriers and stigma relating to persons with disabilities.¹¹³

97. The Special Rapporteur also noted the stark disparity in the availability of services to and the enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities between the capital and rural areas. The lack of accessibility and essential services outside Pyongyang disproportionately affected persons with disabilities in a situation of poverty.¹¹⁴

98. The Special Rapporteur further noted that housing facilities were not accessible to persons with disabilities, and that environmental barriers and limited access to public transportation were major challenges that had an impact on the rights of such persons to live autonomously and to participate fully in all aspects of life.¹¹⁵

99. The Special Rapporteur recommended that the Government adopt regulations to guarantee the provision of information in accessible formats, including information and communications technology.¹¹⁶

Notes

¹ Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/KPIIndex.aspx

- ² For the relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.1–124.18, 124.20, 124.29, 124.32–124.33, 124.37–124.38, 124.45–124.68, 124.184–124.185, 125.1–125.7, 125.12–125.13, 125.26–125.39 and 125.71–125.75.
- ³ General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 15 (o).
- ⁴ A/HRC/37/69, para. 47 (a).
- ⁵ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 61; CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 56.
- ⁶ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 60.
- ⁷ CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 51.
- ⁸ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 90 (a).
- ⁹ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 52.
- ¹⁰ A/HRC/31/38, para. 60 (k).
- ¹¹ UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, paras. 13 and 26.
- ¹² CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 57; CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 28 (d).
- ¹³ General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 15 (k). See also CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 55 (e), A/70/362, para. 81 (h) and A/73/386, para. 61 (i).
- ¹⁴ A/73/308, para. 84 (a) and (b).
- ¹⁵ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 90 (c). See also A/HRC/37/69, para. 47 (j) and Human Rights Council resolution 37/28, para. 22.
- ¹⁶ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 99 (c).
- ¹⁷ A/73/386, para. 61 (o).
- ¹⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.19, 124.21–124.28, 124.30–124.31, 124.34–124.36, 124.39–124.44, 124.147 and 124.172.
- ¹⁹ UNESCO submission, para. 15.
- ²⁰ CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 18.
- ²¹ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 11 (a).
- ²² A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 90 (h).
- ²³ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 50.
- ²⁴ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.139–124.141, 124.171 and 125.40–125.43.
- ²⁵ General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 2 (xi).
- ²⁶ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 45 (b).
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 8 (b).
- ²⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.180–124.183.
- ²⁹ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 8.
- ³⁰ A/73/386, para. 61 (h).
- ³¹ A/72/394, para. 39.
- ³² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.77–124.98, 124.101–124.104, 125.44–125.70 and 125.76.
- ³³ A/HRC/31/38, para. 60 (e).
- ³⁴ A/70/362, para. 81 (c).
- ³⁵ A/73/386, para. 25.
- ³⁶ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 25.
- ³⁷ A/73/308, para. 18. See also General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 2 (ii).
- ³⁸ A/HRC/34/66, para. 21.
- ³⁹ General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 15 (b).
- ⁴⁰ A/73/386, para. 26.
- ⁴¹ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 27 (a) and (b).
- ⁴² General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 3.
- ⁴³ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.99, 124.113–124.120, 125.8–125.11, 125.14–125.25 and 125.77–125.79.
- ⁴⁴ A/71/402, para. 11.
- ⁴⁵ A/HRC/34/66/Add.1, paras. 72 and 82 (c). See also A/69/548, para. 8.
- ⁴⁶ A/73/308, para. 84 (g).
- ⁴⁷ General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 15 (c). See also A/73/308, para. 84 (g).
- ⁴⁸ A/HRC/31/38, para. 60 (k).
- ⁴⁹ A/73/308, paras. 16–17. See also A/HRC/37/69, para. 18.
- ⁵⁰ A/71/439, para. 9.
- ⁵¹ A/69/548, para. 37.

- ⁵² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.123–124.137 and 125.80–125.81.
- ⁵³ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 21.
- ⁵⁴ A/73/308, paras. 26–28. See also General Assembly resolution 72/188, para. 2 (a) (v).
- ⁵⁵ A/71/439, para. 17.
- ⁵⁶ UNESCO submission, paras. 22–24.
- ⁵⁷ A/73/308, para. 23. See A/72/279, para. 17, General Assembly resolution 72/188, paras. 2 (a) (iii) and (iv) and 15 (e) and (f), and A/73/386, para. 61 (c).
- ⁵⁸ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.109–124.111.
- ⁵⁹ A/73/308, para. 15.
- ⁶⁰ CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 28 (a).
- ⁶¹ For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/27/10, para. 124.121.
- ⁶² A/72/394, paras. 42 and 47 (d).
- ⁶³ A/73/386, para. 61 (d).
- ⁶⁴ For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/27/10, para. 124.138.
- ⁶⁵ A/73/386, para. 22.
- ⁶⁶ Human Rights Council resolution 37/28, para. 3.
- ⁶⁷ A/73/386, para. 43. See also A/HRC/37/69, para. 27.
- ⁶⁸ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23352&LangID=E.
- ⁶⁹ A/73/386, para. 61 (f).
- ⁷⁰ CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 36 (c).
- ⁷¹ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 96 (a).
- ⁷² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.140, 124.146, 124.148–124.163 and 125.82–125.83.
- ⁷³ See www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21898&LangID=E.
- ⁷⁴ A/73/386, para. 19. See also CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 41 (a).
- ⁷⁵ A/72/279, para. 33.
- ⁷⁶ A/73/308, para. 46.
- ⁷⁷ A/73/308, paras. 42–43.
- ⁷⁸ A/HRC/37/69, para. 30.
- ⁷⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 47 (d).
- ⁸⁰ A/73/386, para. 45.
- ⁸¹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.164–124.170.
- ⁸² A/73/386, para. 40.
- ⁸³ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 69.
- ⁸⁴ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 17.
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 39 (b). See also CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 40 (c).
- ⁸⁶ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.173–124.177.
- ⁸⁷ A/72/279, para. 40.
- ⁸⁸ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 45 (c).
- ⁸⁹ UNESCO submission, para. 17. See also CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 46 (g).
- ⁹⁰ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, paras. 47–48.
- ⁹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 36 (c) and (e). See also A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, paras. 56 and 95 (a) and (d).
- ⁹² For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.69–124.76, 124.100 and 124.105–124.108.
- ⁹³ CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4, para. 12 (d).
- ⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 25 (c).
- ⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 12 (b).
- ⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 25 (d).
- ⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, para. 45.
- ⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, para. 24 (a).
- ⁹⁹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.112 and 124.122.
- ¹⁰⁰ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 14.
- ¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, para. 28 (d).
- ¹⁰² CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 28 (a).
- ¹⁰³ *Ibid.*, para. 45 (a). See also CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 55 (a) and (b); A/73/386, para. 61 (g).
- ¹⁰⁴ UNESCO submission, para. 18.
- ¹⁰⁵ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 46 (d).
- ¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 32 (a) and (e).
- ¹⁰⁷ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, para. 68.

¹⁰⁸ CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 56 (a).

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 58 (a).

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*, para. 53 (b).

¹¹¹ For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/10, paras. 124.178–124.179.

¹¹² CRC/C/PRK/CO/5, para. 36 (a) and (f).

¹¹³ A/HRC/37/56/Add.1, paras. 42 and 92 (a).

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 13.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 45.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*, para. 93 (b).
