

**Sixty-ninth session**

Agenda item 68 (c)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives**Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea¹****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/183. It provides an overview of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of the new developments in the country's engagement with the United Nations regarding the human rights situation during the period from September 2013 to November 2014. Particular attention is drawn to the participation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the second cycle of the universal periodic review and to the findings of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the related follow-up.

The report contains updated information on human rights and humanitarian issues in the country, in particular on the right to food, the right to health, the rights of the child, including to education, the rights of persons with disability and the rights of women, and on the impact of economic sanctions on United Nations assistance.

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

¹ Late submission in order to take into account the outcome of the second universal periodic review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which was adopted by the Human Rights Council in September 2014 at its twenty-seventh session.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/183 on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Since the Secretary-General's previous report ([A/68/392](#)), there have been a number of important developments in relation to the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

2. In recent months, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has engaged more actively with the international human rights system, including the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council; ratified an additional treaty on the rights of the child; expressed interest in receiving technical assistance with respect to human rights from the United Nations system; released three foreign prisoners; and engaged in new bilateral initiatives, including in relation to the issue of international abductions. Significantly, on 27 October 2014 in New York, officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea met for the first time with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Secretary-General welcomes these steps as new starting points for engagement and dialogue by the United Nations and Member States towards tangible improvements in the human rights situation.

3. These developments follow the issuance of the report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([A/HRC/25/63](#)), which was submitted to the Human Rights Council in March 2014.²

II. Overview of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

4. The United Nations system is constrained by a significant lack of information and transparency with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Government releases only limited information to the United Nations for planning and supporting country programmes, which is not independently verified. Information on national plans, policies and budget, which could help the United Nations and other development partners to understand the country context, is lacking. This information deficit must be seen in the context of the broader existing restrictions on freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

5. Nevertheless, the Government has taken some positive steps to improve access to data for the international community, including the United Nations, through ad hoc and periodic surveys and assessments, such as the annual Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission and the 2012 national nutrition survey. Providing the United Nations with the ability to independently verify data would increase data credibility and information.

6. At its second universal periodic review, in September 2014, the Government accepted four recommendations concerning its cooperation with international

² Also circulated under the symbol [S/2014/276](#). As requested by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 25/25, the present report also includes information on the follow-up to the report of the commission of inquiry.

organizations. It committed to working closely with humanitarian agencies to ensure their free and unimpeded access to all populations in need and to providing satisfactory monitoring conditions to those agencies. This represents an important opportunity to increase collaboration and transparency with the United Nations system.

A. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

7. On 18 December 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions issued a joint press statement expressing concern at multiple executions reported in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since August 2013, including that of Jang Song Thaek, the uncle of the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, and a senior official in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

8. At its second universal periodic review, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea rejected all recommendations to adopt a moratorium on executions and to disclose detailed data on the use of the death penalty and the modalities of execution.

9. In a positive development, on 8 November 2014, the Secretary-General welcomed the release of two nationals of the United States of America, Kenneth Bae and Matthew Todd Miller, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He appreciated the decision to release them following the release of a third prisoner, Jeffrey Fowle, the previous month.

10. In another encouraging development, bilateral dialogue has reopened between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan in recent months on the issue of international abductions and enforced disappearances. As a result, the Government of Japan has agreed to lift some of the sanctions it has bilaterally imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on the condition that the Government establish a special investigation committee and that an investigation process be initiated.

11. In May 2014, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea committed to conducting a comprehensive, full-scale survey of the remains and graves of the Japanese who died in its territory before and after 1945. It also committed to allowing the Japanese authorities access to information and relevant places to enable them to confirm the findings of the survey. On 19 September 2014, the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan announced that the investigation was at an early stage and could take approximately one year to complete. An official team from Japan visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in late October 2014 for further discussions.

12. Meanwhile, on 17 March 2014, the Yokota family from Japan, having spent years in anguish since the abduction in 1977 of their then 13-year-old daughter, Megumi, was able to meet and spend some time in Mongolia with their granddaughter and great-granddaughter, who were born in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Secretary-General encourages Japan and the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea to remain committed to this investigation process, which will hopefully produce substantive and positive results.

B. Freedom of movement

13. In its resolution 68/183, the General Assembly urged Member States to ensure protection for persons fleeing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and to respect the principle of non-refoulement. In 2013, according to Government sources of the Republic of Korea, 1,516 refugees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reached the Republic of Korea.³ Evidence gathered by the commission of inquiry clearly demonstrates the risk of persecution or severe punishment, including torture and the death penalty, faced by those who have left the country illegally, in cases of return.

14. At its second universal periodic review, the Government accepted a recommendation to take steps to facilitate the travel of its citizens abroad. However, it failed to support two other recommendations aimed at ensuring free movement of all citizens and the removal of sanctions against citizens who decide to leave the country and return voluntarily or involuntarily.

15. In another encouraging development, family reunions on the Korean peninsula resumed in February 2014, following years of suspension. Two rounds of reunions took place at Mount Geumgang resort, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, during which 439 individuals from the Republic of Korea met with 266 family members from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.⁴ The Secretary-General urges both States to continue to facilitate such reunions, since further delays may result in members of the older generation never being reunited with their family members.

C. Right to food

16. The Secretary-General has long been deeply concerned about the persistent and alarming situation in respect of the right to food in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with serious consequences for the right to life, in particular for women, children and the elderly.

17. The vulnerability of the agriculture sector to natural hazards, combined with poor marketing and technology, has contributed to persistent food deficits in recent years. According to the report of the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission undertaken by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), which was released in November 2013, approximately 16 million of the country's 24.6 million people are chronically food insecure and highly vulnerable to production gaps. Data provided in the report indicated that only 16 per cent of households had adequate food consumption, with serious gaps between the recommended and actual nutrient intake. Approximately

³ See Republic of Korea, Ministry of Unification, Major statistics in inter-Korean relations: Number of North Korean refugees who entered the South. Available from <http://eng.unikorea.go.kr/content.do?cmsid=1822>.

⁴ Republic of Korea, Ministry of Unification, Major events in inter-Korean relations: February 2014. Available from <http://eng.unikorea.go.kr/content.do?cmsid=3042>.

2.4 million people, including children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly in the most food-insecure provinces, needed regular food assistance.

18. More than 60 per cent of the total population depends on the Government public distribution system for food distribution (see [A/68/392](#), para. 38). The United Nations, however, is not engaged in this process or its procedures and criteria for distribution, nor has it received adequate information about its efficiency and effectiveness, repeated requests notwithstanding. According to the authorities, the average rations provided over the past 12 months were 400 grams per person per day, against a target of 573 grams. The United Nations is not in a position to validate those figures.

19. The underlying causes of malnutrition, such as poor access to essential medicines, quality water and sanitation and food diversity, continue to challenge the health and growth of children. This is illustrated by the continuing high levels of severe acute malnutrition, which have not decreased since 2009. According to the last national nutrition survey, in 2012, 28 per cent of children under five experienced high levels of stunting and 23.2 per cent of women were undernourished and at high risk of giving birth to premature and small babies. Anaemia affects about one third of children under five and women between the ages of 15 and 49, placing them at high risk. Diarrheal and respiratory illnesses remain the principal killer diseases and the primary reason for countrywide hospitalization, affecting more than 80 per cent of all the children under five consulting health-care services.

20. Reforms in agricultural marketing would increase production and improve food security, dietary diversity and feeding practices for young children and women. More efforts on disaster preparedness and response are needed to reduce the country's vulnerability to sudden natural disasters, which have critical negative impacts on the agricultural sector.

21. The acceptance by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of nine universal periodic review recommendations regarding the right to food is a positive sign. In particular, the Government accepted the need to ensure the right to food in a non-discriminatory manner and to prioritize food in its public spending, including by increasing the budgetary allocation to the agricultural sector.

D. Right to health

22. Under the National Law on Health Protection, all people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have equal rights to free health-care services. According to the Government, domestic health financing has increased from 6.1 to 7.1 per cent.⁵ The Government is exploring options for increased international financing for priority health interventions. The Ministry of Public Health has started publishing annual health reports and various national assessments and surveys, which highlight progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations has observed some improvements in health-care facilities, such as the introduction of telemedicine facilities for remote diagnostics and consultation.

⁵ See the Medium-term Strategic Plan for the Development of the Health Sector in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 2010-2015, prepared by the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO).

However, the health-care system still faces shortages of essential drugs, immunization, basic laboratory tests and life-saving equipment. It also has poor-quality antenatal care and limited emergency assistance.

23. The quality of care for women and children is of particular concern. The maternal mortality rate has increased (from 81/100,000 live births in 2012 to 87/100,000 in 2013) and is substantially above the country's Millennium Development Goal target of 50/100,000 live births. Neonatal mortality accounts for 52 per cent of deaths among children under five. According to a needs assessment of emergency obstetric and neonatal care conducted in 2013, 71.4 per cent of county hospitals and 52.8 per cent of *ri* (rural administrative division) hospitals had functioning heating systems. Less than half of the doctors and hospital staff have been trained to international standards. While the Ministry of Public Health is committed to increasing the number of nurses and midwives by 2015, actual progress will depend on additional budget allocation and funding support from development partners.

24. Further upgrading of national capacity in the health sector is desperately needed and will progressively reduce the current dependence on international support. Additional training is essential for health-care providers and medical curriculums for basic and continued education need to be revised to be brought up to international standards. Comprehensive, regular processing of health data is also needed. Additional budget allocations for the health sector and the continuation of partnership programmes with bilateral and multilateral agencies will be critical.

25. In that regard, the acceptance by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of 14 universal periodic review recommendations relating to the right to health is welcome, in particular its stated commitment to increasing State health expenditures, strengthening health-care services through better training of medical personnel and taking measures to effectively implement a medium-term health strategy (2010-2015).⁵ Also encouraging is the Government's commitment to improving health care for women and implementing a reproductive health strategy to reduce maternal mortality in line with the Millennium Development Goals.

E. Rights of the child, including to education

26. In September 2011, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea decreed a policy granting its citizens 12 years of free and compulsory education, including one year of preschool education. The United Nations has recorded near universal participation and gender parity in education up to the secondary level. The completion rate at the primary and secondary levels is reportedly over 95 per cent. Despite that encouraging development, the education system is not fully inclusive, with certain groups of children, for example orphans, not being mainstreamed into the education system. Such children are educated in boarding and special schools with a different curriculum.

27. In December 2010, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea promulgated a law on the protection and promotion of the rights of the child. Despite improved legal provisions to protect the rights of the child, the absence of regular reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child means that the situation of such rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea remains unclear.

28. The Government is encouraged to review its policy of institutionalized care for certain categories of children and to bring it in line with international practices and norms of inclusive education. Additional budgetary resources are also needed to improve school infrastructure.

29. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea accepted 13 universal periodic review recommendations relating to the rights of children and access to education, including a commitment to allocate additional resources to improve the quality of education and to implement its national action plan for education by 2015. The Government also made more general commitments to provide means and resources for children with disabilities to enjoy the right to education.

30. The Secretary-General also welcomes the ratification by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 9 September 2014 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as a positive move.

F. Rights of persons with disabilities

31. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 3 July 2013. The Secretary-General welcomes this important step towards improving the rights of people with disabilities and encourages the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to proceed with the ratification of the treaty at the earliest opportunity.

32. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea also accepted two universal periodic review recommendations regarding efforts to enhance the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by children with disabilities. The increased recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities provides an opportunity to partner with United Nations bodies and other international partners to better target the most vulnerable people in need of assistance. A starting point would be to develop a national strategy aimed at bringing laws and policies in line with the Convention and to establish structures to facilitate its effective implementation.

G. Rights of women

33. The national statistics provided by the Government at the second universal periodic review reflect efforts made towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. However, it is not always possible to obtain qualitative evidence against which the status of women can be evaluated. As noted above, nutrition for pregnant women and maternal mortality rates remain of great concern. The enrolment of women in tertiary education also remains low (17 per cent of total enrolment in general and technical universities) and women tend to be clustered in what are considered traditionally appropriate fields of study for women, such as education, health and welfare, and services.

34. While women comprise 47.8 per cent of the labour force, occupations tend to be stereotyped by sex, with women underrepresented in technical professions and occupying more administrative roles. Although labour laws provide for maternity leave and support to re-enter the workforce, they do not promote the role of fathers as caregivers, nor do they allow for flexible working and childcare arrangements.

35. Although the legal framework of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides for gender equality and the empowerment of women, this needs to be reflected at the policy and programme levels. The establishment of a national gender organization to promote gender equality would reinforce this commitment.

36. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea accepted 11 universal periodic review recommendations relating to the rights of women. In particular, the Government committed to taking immediate measures to ensure gender equality, encouraging increased participation by women in public life, combating violence against women and strengthening efforts to combat trafficking of humans, especially women and children.

H. Impact of economic sanctions on United Nations assistance

37. Although United Nations and bilateral economic sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exempt humanitarian assistance, the United Nations has noted unintended and/or indirect negative impacts on humanitarian assistance intended for the country's most vulnerable groups, including children and pregnant women. Additional documentation required for procurement, transportation and/or importation clearance has resulted in delays in essential supplies and challenged the timely and efficient delivery of vital assistance. The international sanctions imposed on the Foreign Trade Bank of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in March 2013 also affected operations when transfers of funds for United Nations in-country operations were disrupted. Forced to rely on cash reserves for several months, the United Nations agencies prioritized lifesaving activities, reducing or suspending some critical operations, including in the areas of food production, the supply of essential medical products and vaccines and critical improvements to water and sanitation facilities.

III. Engagement of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with United Nations human rights mechanisms

A. Commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and follow-up by the United Nations

38. The commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 22/13 submitted its report ([A/HRC/25/63](#)) in March 2014.

39. The Commission of inquiry found that systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights have been and are being committed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea pursuant to policies established at the highest level of the State (see [A/HRC/25/63](#), para. 24). In many instances, these may constitute crimes against humanity. The commission of inquiry documented allegations of extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons and the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation.

40. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea did not extend its cooperation or grant access to the commission of inquiry. In a statement to the Human Rights Council at its interactive dialogue on the report of commission of inquiry on 17 March 2014, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reiterated that it categorically rejected the mandate of the commission of inquiry and described its report as "a deceptive document that cannot convince anyone at all".⁶

41. On 18 February 2014, on the release of the report of the commission of inquiry, the Secretary-General highly commended the work of the commission and stated that he was deeply disturbed by its findings. He noted the independent nature of the commission, which was established by the Human Rights Council, and expressed hopes that the report would contribute to raising international awareness about grave violations of human rights as universal values in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He encouraged the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to engage with the international community to improve human rights and the living conditions of the people and reaffirmed his strong commitment to help the Democratic People's Republic of Korea towards that end.

42. On 18 February 2014, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, welcomed the report of the commission of inquiry and stated that its findings needed to be treated with the greatest urgency, since they suggested that crimes against humanity of an unimaginable scale continue to be committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The High Commissioner called upon the international community, in line with the recommendations in the report, to use all the mechanisms at its disposal to ensure accountability, including referral to the International Criminal Court.

43. In its resolution 25/25 of 28 March 2014, the Human Rights Council welcomed the report of the commission of inquiry and reaffirmed that it should be transmitted to relevant bodies of the United Nations and to the Secretary-General for appropriate action. The Council also requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to follow up on the recommendations in the report of the commission of inquiry and to provide increased support to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through the establishment of a field-based structure to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to ensure accountability, enhance engagement and capacity-building with the Governments of all States concerned, civil society and other stakeholders, and maintain visibility of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through sustained communications. On 18 November 2014, the Third Committee of the General Assembly adopted a draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([A/C.3/69/L.28/Rev.1](#)). In the draft resolution, the General Assembly, inter alia, decides to submit the report of the commission of inquiry to the Security Council and encourages the Council to consider the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the commission and take appropriate action to ensure accountability, including through consideration of referral of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the International Criminal Court and consideration of the scope for effective targeted

⁶ See statement by the head of delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ambassador So Se Pyong, to the Human Rights Council, 17 March 2014.

sanctions against those who appear to be most responsible for acts that the commission has said may constitute crimes against humanity.

44. On 28 May 2014, the Government of the Republic of Korea officially informed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that it was willing to host the OHCHR field-based structure mandated by the Human Rights Council. Preparations are under way and it is hoped that the field-based structure will be operational in the first quarter of 2015.

45. OHCHR has sought to update the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regularly on the steps taken to implement the Human Rights Council resolution.

46. In its statement during the consideration of the outcome of its universal periodic review at the twenty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council on 19 September 2014, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea indicated that the Government was willing to receive technical assistance from OHCHR. The Office is further exploring the possible scope of such assistance with the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Geneva.

B. Universal periodic review process

47. The Secretary-General welcomes the participation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its second universal periodic review, in May 2014, the outcome of which was adopted by the Human Rights Council on 19 September 2014.

48. Following its first review, in December 2009, the Government rejected 50 out of 167 recommendations. It did not indicate the recommendations that enjoyed its support; however, a few days before its second review, it announced that it had decided to accept 81 of the 167 recommendations made during its first review. The accepted recommendations relate mainly to economic and social rights, women, children, a rights-based approach to development, the reunion of separated families in the Korean peninsula and the enhancement of collaboration with United Nations treaty bodies. The Government stated that the accepted recommendations had either been implemented or were under implementation.

49. Following its second universal periodic review, the Government rejected outright 83 of the 268 recommendations, including many relating to the commission of inquiry. At the review, the Government denied the existence of political prison camps and argued that freedom of religion was guaranteed since the State respected religious life and ceremonies and ensured the freedom to set up churches and other religious buildings (see [A/HRC/27/10](#), para. 60). The Government also asserted that the Constitution and legislation fully guaranteed the freedom to travel and that people were free to travel within the country and abroad after complying with the necessary formalities (*ibid.*, para. 62). It stated that freedom of expression was fully protected by law and that citizens were able to express their views through the radio, newspapers and magazines (*ibid.*, para. 63). The Government denied cases of international abduction and enforced disappearance (*ibid.*, paras. 122 and 119).

50. In September 2014, the Government submitted its position with regard to the remaining recommendations arising from the second cycle, indicating that it would accept 113 out of 268 recommendations. The Democratic People's Republic of

Korea committed to working closely with humanitarian agencies to ensure their free and unimpeded access to all populations in need, including by allowing for satisfactory monitoring conditions, and ensuring that humanitarian aid is distributed transparently and reaches the most vulnerable citizens. The Government further committed to increasing access to food, health care, education and adequate housing throughout the country and to enhancing its cooperation with international humanitarian organizations to that end. In addition, it also expressed its commitment to cooperating with United Nations and international organizations to confront challenges and obstacles in the area of human rights, including by cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms and engaging with OHCHR.

51. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea accepted recommendations relating to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women, including by ensuring equal treatment for women with regard to the rights to food, education and work. It also undertook to enhance efforts to address the issues of violence against women and trafficking of women and children.

52. The Government expressed commitment to strengthening the independence of the judiciary, fully enshrining the right to a fair trial and due process guarantees and creating a national mechanism for the review of individual complaints concerning human rights violations. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea also accepted recommendations regarding the enhancement of the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the right to freedom of expression.

IV. Conclusions

53. The Secretary-General welcomes the commitments undertaken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September 2014 in the context of its second universal periodic review. The Secretary-General reaffirms that the United Nations system is ready to assist the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the implementation of the recommendations of the universal periodic review.

54. The findings of the commission of inquiry, however, highlight that profound institutional reforms and a restructuring of the economic system are needed to promote and protect the fundamental rights of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on a non-discriminatory basis.

55. The current situation also entails the responsibility of the international community, which should make all possible and reasonable efforts to ensure that the systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations described in the present report and in previous reports of the Secretary-General are ended and that those who may be responsible for crimes against humanity are held to account. To that end, the initiative of Member States to pursue the commission's recommendations on accountability is welcome. Discussion of these concerns in the Security Council would allow for a more comprehensive assessment and action when addressing security and stability concerns in the Korean peninsula.

V. Recommendations

56. **The Secretary-General makes the following recommendations:**

- (a) To the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:**
 - (i) Translate the commitments made during the universal periodic review process into concrete follow-up measures in order to effectively improve the human rights situation in the country;**
 - (ii) Consider closely the findings and recommendations of the commission of inquiry and accept more of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review process and by international human rights mechanisms;**
 - (iii) Invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other independent human rights mechanisms to visit the country;**
 - (iv) Seek technical assistance from OHCHR and engage constructively with its field-based structure;**
 - (v) Engage meaningfully with all Member States concerned on human rights issues, in particular with respect to the resolution of international abductions and enforced disappearances;**
 - (vi) Provide humanitarian agencies with the unimpeded access required to bring humanitarian assistance to the population of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in accordance with needs;**
- (b) To the international community:**
 - (i) Member States may continue their consideration of appropriate follow-up action to the report of the commission of inquiry, to be recommended by the General Assembly, as called for by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 25/25;**
 - (ii) Step up the provision of adequate and sustainable funding for humanitarian assistance efforts in accordance with good humanitarian donor principles, especially food and medicine, with a view to improving the humanitarian conditions and human rights situation in the country;**
 - (iii) Work to minimize the adverse humanitarian consequences of sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the population by extending full cooperation with United Nations agencies working on the ground;**
 - (iv) Engage in activities that support the implementation of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review process and by international human rights mechanisms;**
 - (v) Respect the international human rights law principle of non-refoulement and refrain from forcibly returning to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea persons seeking asylum, given the grave risks they face upon return.**