

16 April 2007

Briefing to the UN Security Council on behalf of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by Ambassador Marcello Spatafora, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

1. I have the honour to brief the Security Council on the activities of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) of 14 October 2006 concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the period of 12 January through April 11, 2007, in accordance with operative paragraph 12(g) of resolution 1718 (2006).
2. Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, the Council agreed to elect the bureau of the Committee for 2007, which consisted of the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations as Chairman, with the delegations of Ghana and Peru providing the two Vice-Chairmen. The Committee held its first informal consultation of 2007 on 31 January.
3. Since then, the Committee has been meeting with such frequency as necessary to carry out its duties effectively. During the reporting period, the Committee held 7 informal consultations at the expert level. The Committee in discharging its mandate was guided by operative paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1718 (2006).
4. In accordance with its mandate, the Committee continues the process of determining additional items, materials, equipment, goods and technology to be specified for the purpose of paragraphs 8 (a) (ii) of the resolution as the members of the Committee have submitted further amendments to the lists in documents S/2006/814, S/2006/815, and S/2006/853.
5. Paragraph 11 of resolution 1718 (2006) calls upon all Member States of the United Nations to report to the Security Council within thirty days of the adoption of the resolution on the steps they have taken with a view to implementing effectively the provisions of paragraph 8 of the resolution. As of 11 April 2007 the Committee received replies from 68 countries and one organization (European Union) to its Note Verbale of 1 November 2006, concerning the implementation of UNSCR 1718 (2006). Replies are being issued as official documents of the Committee and are also accessible electronically at the UN Official Documents System (UNODS) and on the Committee website, unless a State requests that its reply be kept confidential.
6. Based on information in the reports received, I would like to inform members of the Council that 31 States reported that they already had legislation in place that covers the relevant paragraphs of the resolution. A further 27 States reported on measures they had adopted, or will be adopting, to put the necessary legal framework into place. Finally, 10 States reported to have notified the provisions of paragraph 8 of the resolution to competent national authorities, with a view to effectively implementing them.

7. The Committee is currently continuing the consideration of draft guidelines for the conduct of its work. This document will be a tool to facilitate the implementation of the measures imposed by this resolution.

8. While affirming that the primary responsibility for implementing the provisions of resolution 1718 (2006) rests with States, the Committee when requested stands ready to facilitate implementation of these measures. The Committee continued its proactive approach by issuing, on 15 March 2007, two letters in reply to communications received from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations, which had sought guidance on specific cases of cooperation with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after the adoption of resolution 1718 (2006). The Committee will continue this cooperation with Member States and/or relevant organizations upon receiving specific requests in this regard.

9. Owing to keen interest from Member States outside the Council, but also many of those represented on the Council, the Committee has addressed the issue of implementing operative paragraph 8 (a) (iii) of resolution 1718 concerning the ban on the export of luxury goods to DPRK. In this connection, on 21 February 2007 the Committee issued a letter to Member States clarifying that any definition of luxury goods as may be necessary for Member States to implement this provision of the resolution would be the national responsibility of individual Member States. The Committee also reaffirmed that the measures contained in operative paragraph 8 (a) (iii) of resolution 1718 (2006) are consistent with the objectives of the resolution and are not intended to restrict the supply of ordinary goods to the wider population of the country or have a negative humanitarian impact on the DPRK. The Committee referred Member States to national reports submitted pursuant to operative paragraph 11 of resolution 1718 (2006) as cases of national definitions and implementation with respect to luxury goods.

10. In operative paragraph 12 (e) of resolution 1718, the Security Council decided to give a mandate to the Committee to designate additional individuals and entities subject to the measures imposed by paragraphs 8 (d) and 8 (e) of resolution 1718 (2006), i. e. targeted financial sanctions and travel ban respectively. I wish to inform the Council that during the reporting period the Committee has received no requests for designation on the basis of the criteria contained in the two subparagraphs referred to above.

Thank you for your attention.