

2 May 2023

Dear Mr. Chelminski,

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 25 April 2023, conveying to the Committee a request for an exemption pursuant to paragraph 25 of resolution 2397 (2017) to engage in humanitarian activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), in particular to allow the importation of oxygen concentrators into the DPRK as respiratory care equipment for critically ill patients suffering from COVID-19 / influenza and respiratory illness who need oxygen support.

I have the further honour to inform you that, following due consideration, the Committee has decided to approve the requested exemption in the abovementioned letter, in accordance with paragraph 25 of Security Council resolution 2397 (2017), to transfer the items outlined in your letter within the next nine months, which is enclosed in this letter as an attachment. The items are requested to be shipped once together or in a consolidated manner, with a view to increasing efficiency of shipping and custom clearance.

The Committee reiterates that the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council through its resolutions with respect to the DPRK are not intended to bear a negative impact on the people of the DPRK, and the note verbale it issued to all Member States, as well as its press release SC/13113 of 8 December 2017, offer clarifications as regards humanitarian aid to the DPRK. The note verbale further recalls that each Member State must fully implement relevant Security Council measures, while keeping in mind the need to clarify to public and private sector entities in their jurisdiction that, while properly implementing United Nations sanctions, humanitarian activities should not be unduly restricted.

The Committee further supports and approves WHO engaging in necessary business and financial transactions only for the purchase of goods and services exempted by the Committee and found in the attachment without prejudice to the relevant commercial decisions.

Mr. Robert Chelminski
Director, Administration and Finance
for Regional Director
World Health Organization
Regional Office for South-East Asia
New Delhi, India

At the same time, the Committee requests relevant organizations delivering humanitarian assistance to the DPRK to adhere to the exemption time limit approved by the Committee and fully respect and abide by relevant national laws, regulations, and licensing requirements governing financial and commercial transactions, and shipping and custom clearance conducted in the jurisdictions of affected Member States.

I wish to inform you that this letter and its annex will be published on the 1718 Committee website for the public, including relevant national authorities involved in reviewing the exempted transfers to the DPRK, for a period of nine months.

The Committee would like to thank WHO for its diligence.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Pascale Baeriswyl
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

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