

Chair's statement
1718 Committee Open Briefing
New York, 19 October 2021

INTRODUCTION

Excellencies, colleagues,

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), its Panel of Experts, and the Secretariat, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this open briefing on Security Council sanctions regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Earlier this year, in April, thanks to the technological means that enabled our alternate working modalities, we were able to host an open briefing for the Member States via VTC. And it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you today to another open briefing of the 1718 Committee, this time in an in-person format, and my sincere appreciation goes to colleagues who have assisted in the organization of today's meeting.

The DPRK sanctions regime is the most comprehensive sanctions regime to date, with over 26 different sanctions measures. We are well aware of the challenges Member States face as they strive to implement these complicated measures. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to stress that the Committee and its members stand ready to assist Member States in carrying out their numerous obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and to offer guidance to Member States when requested. In this regard, I hope that in today's meeting Member States can raise questions concerning the implementation of the sanctions measures and any specific needs they might have in further enhancing their efforts.

In this connection, I would also like to draw your attention to the [1718 Committee website](#), in particular the webpage concerning [Implementation Assistance Notices](#), where various provisions have been clarified in the form of guidelines to Member States.

Today's briefing is intended to inform Member States about the scope of the sanctions regime, the mandate and activities of the Committee, and the main findings of the Panel of Experts' most recent Midterm Report which has recently been released as the document of the Security Council as S/2021/777. The Panel's midterm report is available on the Committee's website under the [Panel of Experts' reports](#) page.

Like many of you, I have noted the media reports of a missile launch by the DPRK yesterday evening. We welcome the submission of any relevant information to the 1718 Committee.

I wish to touch upon three points:

1. Member States' obligations to submit national implementation reports,
2. The need for effective implementation of the sanctions measures, and
3. The Committee's efforts in facilitating the work of humanitarian organizations in the DPRK, in particular through its humanitarian exemption mechanism.

The Coordinator of the Panel of Experts will subsequently elaborate on the main features of the DPRK sanctions regime, as he presents the Panel's latest findings and recommendations based on its recently published midterm report. Let me take this opportunity to underline how important the Panel of Experts' work has been to the success of the Committee and express our appreciation for all the hard work. We would also like to thank those Member States, entities, and individuals who responded to requests for information by the Panel and highlight the importance of these responses to the basis of the Panel's work. The Panel's reports continue to offer invaluable insights and I strongly advise all Member States to read them and to positively consider all the recommendations addressed to Member States.

I would like to thank the Coordinator and all the experts who are also present here today. While the Coordinator will be presenting on behalf of the Panel, all experts are here to respond to questions at the end of today's session.

I will open the floor for questions and answers following the Coordinator's presentation, and encourage Member States to make full use of this opportunity to engage in an interactive discussion with the Panel of Experts, as well as myself as Chair and other members of the 1718 Committee.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS
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Colleagues,

You may recall that the resolutions state that Member States shall report within 90 days of their adoption on the concrete measures undertaken to effectively implement the sanctions measures. The reporting requirements cover a wide range of sanctions measures. In addition, resolution 2397 (2017) requires two types of implementation reports from Member States, on the implementation of the resolution as a whole, as well as on the obligation to repatriate DPRK nationals that are gaining income in another Member State.

A full list of these reporting requirements can be found on the website of the 1718 Sanctions Committee. On the webpage named '[implementation reports](#)', you will find a table with all submission deadlines, as well as the email address where to send these reports. Should there be any doubt as to whether your Government has fulfilled all reporting obligations, you can consult the table which reflects all the reports received by Member States so far. Please also have a look at [Implementation Assistance Notice No. 2](#), which you also find on the website. There you will find an optional checklist template, which can be helpful in providing the required information.

While the Committee continues to receive national implementation reports, even after the deadlines, there is a large number of Member States who have yet to submit their reports. Some Member States have not submitted any reports to date. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to remind Member States that reporting on the incorporation of sanctions into domestic legislation is an obligation under the Security Council resolutions, and call on Member States who have not yet done so, to do so promptly. Implementation reports play an important role in helping the Committee and its Panel of Experts assist Member States to fully implement the resolutions.

22 March 2020 was the deadline of submission of the final report by Member States on steps taken to repatriate to the DPRK nationals earning income in their jurisdictions and subject to repatriation under paragraph 8 of resolution 2397 (2017). To date, we have received 66 reports only, which are published on the Committee website. I thank Member States who have already submitted their final reports. I strongly encourage those who have not yet done so to fulfill their obligations and submit any outstanding national implementation report as soon as possible.

As noted earlier, all relevant information on the preparation and submission of implementation reports can be found on the 1718 Committee website, which also contains the relevant resolutions, an overview of all sanctions measures and press releases. Should there be any doubt as to whether your Government has fulfilled all reporting obligations, you can consult the table with all the reports received so far.

Finally, my team, as well as the Panel of Experts, stand ready to assist Member States with the preparation and submission of such reports.

EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Dear colleagues,

On effective implementation, I would like to stress that it is of crucial importance that the resolutions are fully implemented for the measures to be effective. To ensure full compliance, all Member States are urged to cooperate fully with the Committee or the Panel, and to supply, on a confidential basis if necessary, any information at their disposal on the implementation of the sanctions, including on any sanctions violation.

In order to foster a better understanding of the DPRK sanctions regime, the 1718 Committee also continues to provide guidance to Member States, international organizations and NGOs on how to proceed when implementing sanctions. Requests for guidance can be submitted to the Committee Chair and the Secretariat, after which it will be brought to the attention of the Committee.

Let me emphasize that the ultimate goal of the sanctions is to facilitate the achievement of a peaceful and comprehensive solution through dialogue. It is in this vein that the resolutions reaffirm the Council's support to the Six Party Talks and calling for their resumption. They also reiterate the goal of the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner and the return of the DPRK to the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION MECHANISM

Colleagues,

I would like to stress that sanctions measures imposed by the relevant Security Council resolutions are not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK. As stipulated in [resolution 2397 \(2017\)](#), paragraph 25, the Security Council decided that the 1718 Committee may, on a case-by-case basis, grant exemptions on the basis of humanitarian grounds. Over the years, this has become and continues to be one of the key areas of the work of the Committee.

The Committee has worked hard in the past years to streamline the process to obtain humanitarian exemptions to facilitate the work of humanitarian actors and the delivery of aid to the DPRK. The Committee has furthermore made adjustments to its internal procedures to allow for the expeditious delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to benefit the vulnerable population of the DPRK, depending on the urgency of the exemption request.

In this context, I would like to draw the Member States' attention to [Implementation Assistance Notice No. 7 \(IAN No. 7\)](#), which provides guidance on the mechanism to obtain humanitarian exemptions. It also contains information on the recommended format of exemption requests, information on routing to the 1718 Committee, and the approval process. Through the updates made to IAN No. 7 in November 2020, the Committee has further simplified several areas of the application process for humanitarian exemptions requests. These updates include, inter alia, extending the standard duration for exemptions from six to nine months, allowing for greater flexibility in the shipment consolidation process, providing additional guidance on the requirements and format through which humanitarian exemption requests can be submitted to the Committee for approval, including two optional application templates published on the website. In addition, the Committee extended its practice of expedited approval procedures to include extension and amendment requests, as well as urgent requests for onset emergencies such as pandemic outbreaks and natural disasters.

In this regard, I wish to note that through the humanitarian exemption mechanism the Committee has approved the vast majority of requests for humanitarian exemptions it has received, a total of 80 exemptions, and approved numerous extensions and adjustments to existing exemptions since 2018, in accordance with paragraph 25 of Security Council resolution 2397 (2017).

Also, as some of you will know, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the Committee has continued to apply an accelerated exemption process for COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance. The Committee continues to use an expedited decision-making procedure of two working days to approve exemptions from organizations that are aimed at mitigating the risk of the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak in the DPRK and to enable effective prevention and response measures to the virus. Since the outbreak, the Committee approved 11 COVID-related exemption requests under the expedited procedure.

Moreover, given the continued worldwide challenges related to the manufacturing, procurement, and shipment of goods as a result of the ongoing pandemic, the Committee has

approved, on an exceptional basis, a number of requests for longer exemption timeframes of up 18 months to allow for the import of such items.

Finally, all of this information concerning the Committee's work concerning humanitarian exemptions can be found on the webpage named "[humanitarian exemption requests](#)" of the Committee's website.

CONCLUSION

Dear colleagues,

In closing, on behalf of the 1718 Committee, I thank you for your kind attention. I now give the floor to the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts. Following his presentation, you will be given the opportunity to pose any questions regarding the DPRK sanctions regime and the implementation of the sanctions measures, as well as the work of the Committee and the Panel of Experts.

Mr. Coordinator, the floor is yours.



The UN DPRK sanctions regime and the Panel's 2021 Midterm Report (S/2021/777)

Coordinator
UN DPRK Panel of Experts
New York, 19 October 2021





Panel of Experts

Who are we?

- **8 experts** on DPRK and sanctions implementation, each employed by the UN as an independent authority with a specific portfolio.
- Those portfolios are: finance/economics; missiles and other technologies; conventional arms and other WMD; non-proliferation, procurement and trade; non-proliferation and regional security; nuclear issues; customs and export controls; maritime issues.
- **One expert is appointed as a coordinator.**
- We are **appointed on an annual basis**, but our contracts can be renewed for up to five years.



Panel of Experts

What do we do?

https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1718/panel_experts/work_mandate

- **To provide assistance to the 1718 Committee** in carrying out its mandate and functions;
- **To investigate:** we gather, examine and analyze information from States, relevant UN bodies and other interested parties, in particular on incidents of non-compliance with the UN sanctions regime;
- **To report:** to write mid-term and final reports, based on our investigations, in August and February each year; and
- **To make recommendations:** our reports include recommendations on actions the Council, Committee or Member States may consider to improve implementation of the sanctions regime. This includes recommendations to designate individuals or entities.



The DPRK sanctions regime 1

- There are ten DPRK sanctions resolutions, all of them unanimously agreed by the Security Council. All of them on the Committee's website.
- This adds up to a complex and comprehensive series of sanctions measures.
- Detail best understood through the resolutions themselves, and the Committee's Implementation Assistance notices at:

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1718/implementation-notices>



The DPRK sanctions regime 2

The DPRK sanctions regime comprises:

- an arms and related materiel embargo;
- a nuclear, ballistic missiles and other WMD programmes-related embargo;
- Sectoral sanctions, banning the export/import of coal, minerals, fuel, food and agricultural products, earth, stone, wood, industrial machinery, transportation vehicles, seafood, fishing licenses in DPRK waters, textiles and luxury goods;
- bans, limits and places restrictions on the DPRK's access to energy sources such as crude oil and refined petroleum products;
- financial sanctions, including a ban on the provision of financial services that could contribute to prohibited programmes or the evasion of sanctions, and the opening of DPRK banking subsidiaries;



The DPRK sanctions regime 3

- interdiction, inspection and transportation-related measures;
- a travel ban and/or assets freeze on designated individuals and entities;
- a ban on specialized teaching and training and the suspension of scientific and technical cooperation;
- a ban on providing work authorizations for DPRK nationals and a requirement to repatriate DPRK nationals earning income overseas;
- a ban on the supply, sale or transfer of new helicopters and new and used vessels;
- a ban on procuring statues from the DPRK;
- sanctions provisions targeted at proliferation networks, including restrictions on the activities of DPRK diplomats overseas.



Panel of Experts

Investigations

- The Panel investigates breaches of all of these sanctions measures.
- Investigations are the primary focus of the Panel; if we learn there may have been a breach of the sanctions regime, an individual expert will investigate with the help of information gathered from a wide range of sources.
- We are grateful to MSs for the information they provide as lead material.
- Requests for Information.
- Evidentiary standards.
- Confidential process. But Panel reports are public, here:
- https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1718/panel_experts/reports



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Nuclear programme

- DPRK continued its nuclear programme, with the external construction of the light water reactor apparently complete.
- Regular signs of chimney smoke observed at the thermal plant serving the radiochemical laboratory, and continuous activity at the centrifuge plant.
- New construction and excavation observed at Yongdoktong, a suspected nuclear weapons storage facility.



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Ballistic missile and other WMD programmes

- 25 March: modified and enlarged KN23 SRBM
- Solid propellant, launched from 5-axle TEL.
- Combines ballistic and guidance technologies
- Claimed warhead size of 2.5 tonnes. Range 600km





2021 Midterm Report Overview

Intangible transfer of technology

- Panel identified 11 papers in composite structures and vibration analysis jointly published by DPRK scientists and academics at a number of Chinese universities in 2019.
- These fields of study have other industrial applications, but are essential in nuclear and BM programmes. Many more such papers have been identified.



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Sectoral and maritime sanctions

- DPRK imported substantially less oil and oil products to date in 2021 than in previous years.
- Direct deliveries by foreign tankers to DPRK not reported. Transfers of oil products between ships continued in a number of areas, particularly at night, but at a reduced level.
- Elaborate deception practices by shipping companies and their vessels continued.
- DPRK continued to enlarge its fleet through acquisition of former foreign-flagged vessels.
- DPRK continued to sell fishing rights in its waters to foreign fishing fleets.



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Finance and cyber

- DPRK's links to global financial institutions are undiminished, and remain essential to maritime sanctions evasion, trade, and illicit labour.
- Panel's investigation identified Winson as a key node in DPRK's illicit procurement of fuel. Significant and complex network of shell companies and concealed beneficial ownership.
- DPRK's continuing cyber programme, targeting defence industries and pharma companies around the globe.



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Embargoes, designated entities and individuals and overseas workers

- DPRK's recorded foreign trade plummeted, and the import of luxury goods fell dramatically.
- IT workers, banking representatives and other workers continue to work overseas. The COVID-19 blockade means that repatriation of such workers, long after the December 2019 deadline, is not possible.



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Unintended impact of sanctions

- Humanitarian situation in DPRK declining, and the “food crisis” has become the DPRK government’s principal focus.
- COVID-19 border closure and the almost complete cessation of consumer imports are major contributors to humanitarian situation.
- UN sanctions are likely to continue to have unintended effects on the humanitarian situation, although COVID-19 blockade means that their relative impact has probably decreased.



2021 Midterm Report Overview

Recommendations

- This report contains no recommendations for new designations of individuals, entities or vessels.
- 21 recommendations to the Security Council, 1718 Committee, Member States and maritime flag registries on maritime, import/export trade control lists, luxury goods, finance and unintended impact of sanctions.



UN sanctions and the DPRK

Contacts

For more information:

Visit the webpage of the 1718 Committee

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1718>

Contact the Panel of Experts

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