

Position Paper for the Security Council

The topics before the Security Council are: The Situation in North Korea, Food Insecurity and Conflict, and The Role of Children in Armed Conflict. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) realizes the severity of the violations of human rights in the DPRK and also recognizes the high security concerns regarding the prospective use of nuclear weapons. The United Kingdom emphasizes the need for commitments to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the collaboration of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other member states to combat all food insecurity and conflict issues regarding education, clean water, hospitals, and safer living environments. The United Kingdom recognizes the severity of the use of children in armed conflict and urges all countries to invest in the protection of children by providing a safe living environment, education, and food security.

I. The Situation in North Korea

The United Kingdom is deeply concerned with prospective use of nuclear weapons and violations of proper humanitarian conditions in the DPRK. As a member state of the United Nations, the United Kingdom feels that the violations in the DPRK regarding political, social, cultural and economic rights should not be overlooked. International instruments such as A/RES/63/19 and A/RES/62/176 are fully supported by the United Kingdom, as these resolutions confront the violations of human rights in the DPRK. The United Kingdom also fully supports A/HRC/RES13/14 which will permit the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to allow the Special Rapporteur unrestricted access into the country and be provided with all necessary information that will enable him to fulfill his mandate. Also, the UK supports independent agencies such as, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs) to develop regular dialogues and the ability to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in accordance with the fulfillment of these matters. The United Kingdom fully supports the Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/10, 2004/13, and 2005/11, which state that the DPRK should cooperate with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights as well as other United Nations models to ensure the elimination of child workers, sanctions of citizens, and to protect the liberty of Korea's citizens. As an active member state of the United Nations, the United Kingdom expresses deep concern regarding the prospective use of nuclear weapons by the DPRK. According to the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), North Korea considers its nuclear program as a vital element of its national security and of the continued existence of the Kim Family Regime. In October 2006, the DPRK began conducting nuclear weapon testing; this information is a high security concern for all member states of the United Nations. In accordance with the concern of conducting nuclear weapon testing, the UK is also concerned about the possibility of selling nuclear products. S/RES/1718 reiterates the emphasis of disarmament of nuclear weapons from the DPRK so there can be no nuclear weapon testing or possible selling of any nuclear products. The United Kingdom is in full support of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which attempts for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, such as, use of nuclear energy for scientific purposes, technological purposes, social and economic goals, and assisting member states in peaceful nuclear energy. The United Kingdom would fully support the DPRK's decision to return to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which would prohibit the use of nuclear weapons in any non-peaceful way. The DPRK also needs to oblige by the relevant Security Council Resolutions S/RES/1874, S/RES/1695, and S/RES/1718 in order for the DPRK to return to the six party talks, which is a collaboration of United States, North Korea, China, Japan, Russia and, South Korea. S/RES/1695, which the United Kingdom fully supports, states that the issue of nuclear weapons will be brought by restraint and reform by political and diplomatic affairs. In accordance with the situation in North Korea, the United Kingdom strongly recommends the following actions: the UK ***demand***s the DPRK to return to the six party talks and cooperate with the IAEA safeguards; the UK also ***demand***s that the DPRK abandon nuclear weapon testing and the possibility of selling of nuclear weapon products and return to the NPT; the UK ***calls upon*** fellow member states to sanction and eliminate their product trade with the DPRK as punishment for their humanitarian rights violations and prospective nuclear weapons use; the United Kingdom also ***requests*** a continuous review, follow up reports, and constant monitoring of the DPRK regarding their human rights violations and nuclear weapons; lastly, ***strict adherence to the implementations*** on S/RES1874, S/RES/1695, and S/RES/1718 will help ensure these matters are properly dealt with.

II. Food Insecurity and Conflict

The United Kingdom recognizes that the food insecurity and conflict is a continuous issue that needs to be dealt with immediately. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, one in five people suffer from food inadequacy. This statistic means that there are approximately 1.2 billion individuals in the world with some form of food deficiency. The United Kingdom supports E/ESCAP/CSD 2, which states that the food crisis may have a negative impact on human development in four ways: (1) increasing poverty and inequality, (2) worsening nutrition, (3) reducing the utilization of education and health services, and (4) depleting the productive assets of the poor. This resolution also states that food insecurities may be caused by natural phenomenon, economic insecurity, and disease. In order to combat the issues of food insecurity, the United Kingdom fully supports the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs that the United Kingdom fully supports regarding this matter are, (1) eradicate extreme hunger and poverty, (4) reduce child mortality, (5) improve maternal health, and (6) combat HIV/AIDs, malaria, and other diseases; these are very beneficial to combating food insecurity and conflict. All member states of the United Nations should be deeply concerned with these issues and should be willing to engage in proper funding in order to ensure that the MDGs are successful. The United Kingdom also supports NGOs such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Plan (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for sending financial aid to help ensure that citizens of nations dealing with poverty be provided with education, clean water, hospitals, and safer living environments. According to the WHO, there are twenty-one priority countries that have major food insecurities: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Yemen. Resolution 7/14: The Right to Food, recognizes that eighty percent of hungry people live in rural areas, and fifty percent are small-scale farm-holders, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity,

increasing cost of inputs, and decreasing farm incomes have created less access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources; support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises is a key element to food security and provision of the right to food. Also according to the WHO, inaction to eliminating food insecurities would be detrimental causing increased malnutrition, child and maternal mortality and morbidity, and communicable diseases; an inability for the poorest to afford healthy food, forcing them to buy low-quality products; negatively changing dietary patterns, and increasing the burden of non-communicable diseases; less money to spend on health services because of higher food bills; this will greatly affect people living with HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis; it will likely impair mental development, diminish learning ability, reduce work productivity, and increase prevalence of chronic disease, and a likely increase in wasting (low weight for height) among young children, plus anemia and other micronutrient deficiency conditions, especially among women and children. The United Kingdom does realize that the cost of food is rising and therefore supports the World Food Program (WFP) and their 'Global Response to High Foods' which is enhancing the availability of nutritious food products for young children, mothers, and other particularly vulnerable groups. It is also including new and improved commodities in its food rations and promoting local production and the purchase of nutritious food and food products. The United Kingdom has shown dedication to eliminating food insecurities by creating an NGO, which the United Kingdom has named the United Kingdom's Food Group (UKFG). The goals of the UKFG is to promote sustainable and equitable food security policies, to balance corporate power by providing public interest perspectives to issues that affect global food security, and to strengthen the capacity of civil society to contribute funds effectively to international consultations on food security. To ensure other member states become and remain as dedicated to the elimination of food insecurity and conflict as the United Kingdom, these recommendations are crucial: The United Kingdom *requests* that all member states should engage in proper funding to ensure that the MDGs are successful, the United Kingdom *calls upon* local governments to cooperate with United Nations NGOs, such as UNICEF, WHO, and UNDP, and lastly, the United Kingdom *requests* that local government provide proper measures for education, hospitals, irrigation systems, and agricultural advancements.

III. The Role of Children in Armed Conflict

The United Kingdom is deeply concerned with the practice of using children in armed conflict. UNICEF defines a child soldier as any person less than eighteen years of age who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to cooks, porters, messengers, and anyone accompanying such groups, other than family members. The definition includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and for forced marriage. It does not, therefore, only refer to a child who is carrying or has carried arms. The United Kingdom recognizes the six grave violations which are found in the Secretary General's report (A/59/695 S/2005/72): (1) recruitment and use of children as soldiers (2) killing and maiming of children (3) rape and other sexual violence committed against children (4) attacks on schools or hospitals (5) abduction of children and (6) denial of humanitarian access for children. The Secretary General's report (A/63/785-S/2009/158) lists ten states where the use of children in armed conflict is prevalent: Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Uganda. This report states that member states need to increase global awareness, protect war-affected children, and protect the well-being of children. Organizations such as the European Union, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of American States, African Union, Common Wealth, Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), Human Security Network, and the Group of Eight have adopted children and armed conflict concerns as part of their own agendas through important political declarations, advocacy and programmed activities. The United Kingdom strongly supports S/RES/ 1460 (2003), S/RES/1534 (2004), S/RES/1612 (2005), and S/RES/1882 (2009), which are committed to resolving issues involving children in armed conflict and the six grave violations. The United Kingdom also welcomes the Millennium Development Goals which strive for full protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights for all. MDG 4 represents the dedication to the reduction in child mortality which the United Kingdom strongly supports. UNICEF has reported that there are approximately thirty three countries that have used children in armed conflict, and out of twenty countries with the highest rates of under-five mortality, eleven have experienced major armed conflict. The following excerpt from the Child Soldiers Global Report 2004 states that many child soldiers are between fourteen and eighteen years old and enlist voluntarily. However, research shows that such adolescents see few alternatives to involvement in armed conflict. War itself, lack of education or work, and a desire to escape domestic servitude, violence, or sexual exploitation are among the factors involved. Many also join to avenge violence inflicted on family members during armed conflict. On the date of May 25, 2000, two Optional Protocols were adopted: The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (ratified by 132 states out of 192 member states of the United Nations) and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (ratified by 137 United Nations member states). The goal of these two protocols are to have universal ratification by the year 2012 to end all use of children in armed conflict and to provide moral and legal shield to any child vulnerable to prostitution and pornography. Marta Santos Pais, the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence against Children states that we are only half way to achieving these goals and that adherence to the protocols is a first important step towards their effective implementation. The United Kingdom is dedicated to assisting organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), and UNICEF, as these organizations combat the use of children in armed conflict by sending aid, such as, food, shelter, protection, and fighting for humanitarian rights. As these violations persist, the United Kingdom *urges* all countries to invest in the protection of orphanages that will provide education, a safer living environment, and care providers that will have the child's best interest. The United Kingdom also *insists* that semi-annual progress reports be submitted for review to ensure that all children are properly being taken care of, and *demand*s that all in violation of subjecting children to armed conflict be held accountable for their actions. *Strict adherence to the implementations* of S/RES/ 1460 (2003), S/RES/1534 (2004), S/RES/1612 (2005), and S/RES/1882 (2009), will ensure success of humanitarian rights and the elimination of children in armed conflict.