

**Country:**North Korea

**Committee:**UNDP

**Agenda Item:** Achieving Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 9

North Korea,officially the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is a country in East Asia.It constitutes the northern half of the Korean Peninsula and shares borders with China and Russia to the north,at the Yalu and Tumen rivers,and South Korea to the south.North Korea,whose capital is Pyongyang,is a member of UN,Non-Alligned Movement,G77 and the ASEAN Regional Forum.Country’s population is 25,89 million people.North Korea functions as a highly centralised,one-party totalitarian dictatorship.Kim Jong-un of the Kim family is the current Supreme Leader or Suryeong of North Korea.

On July 13,2021,North Korea participated in the Voluntary National Reviews(VNRs)at the High-Level Political Forum(HLPF)of the Economic and Social Council(ECOSOC) and reported on the implementation status of the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.North Korea initially tried to join in July 2020 but postponed its participation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In the VNR Report,North Korea reflected its priorities by choosing 17 goals and 95 targets and suggesting 132 indicators.It emphasized the importance of SDGs regarding energy,agriculture,water,sanitation and hygiene(WASH),and the environment,and disclosed that its SDGs reflect 53% of the global SDGs targets.

North Korea strives to implement the strategic line of concentrating all efforts on the economic construction. The economic sector failed to hit the expected strategic goals between 2016 and 2020, but the foundation for making sustained economic development by own efforts was established. A breakthrough was made in putting the metallurgical industry and chemical industry on a Juche and self-supporting basis and a series of achievements were made in the technical preparations and laying of foundations for shoring up the sectors of electric power, coal and machine industries and rail transport and for developing IT.

North Korea sets the goal of building a modern and self-reliant socialist and knowledge-based economy. It set the target to sustain above 5% GDP growth per capita per annum by accelerating the effective use of national resources, providing raw materials and fuels from local resources, building a self-supporting economy that satisfies energy, power and food demands on its own and putting the national economy on a modern and IT footing. The GDP per capita in 2015 was US\$27,412 million and US\$33,504 million in 2019. Annual average growth rate of GDP in 2015-2019 is 5.1% and annual average growth rate of GDP per capita 4.6%. Continued sanctions and blockade, severe natural disasters that hit the country every year and the protracted world health crisis that broke out last year are serious obstacles to the economic development, resulting adverse impacts on achieving SDGs.

The Government provides all the working aged people with jobs after education. It legalized that the formal working age of citizen is from 16, child labour prohibited, and all citizens should be provided with decent jobs and secure working conditions according to their wish and abilities. After graduation from school, all can get their jobs according to their knowledge, qualifications and wishes. Every person with a job will be paid according to the “DPRK Law on Work Norms” (adopted on 10 December, 2009, amended) and the “DPRK Law on Labour Protection” (adopted on 8 July 2010)

The environmental protection work is being improved, the natural resources protected, the infrastructure modernized and the management and operation of the industry enhanced. Despite these efforts, the emission of carbon dioxide has been increased as compared to 2015, while the consumption of Ozone depleting substances reduced by 10.3% annually. The industrial sector is being developed towards balancing demand and production, minimizing pollutants, and protecting resources.

Science and technology level of the country was analyzed comprehensively and the goals, ways and means in developing science and technology set up, and advancement of science and technology propelled. The Government systematically increases expenditure on science and technology development and the number of researchers in the sci-tech sector, meanwhile, the state administrative guidance and management system is correctly established and scientific research results shared so as to enhance the leading role of science and technology in socio-economic development.

North Korea considers it very important that all workers receive the salary they deserve, and considers that this significantly improves the well-being of the economy and the people. Inadequate salary prevents children from going to school or restricts the money spent on school which affects the future economy. This problem persists worldwide. We believe this problem could be discussed by the committee.

#### **REFERENCES:**

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