

The Situation in the Korean Peninsula: Burkina Faso supports the sanctions enacted against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in S/RES/1718 and condemns the nuclear weapon test conducted by the DPRK in October of 2006. We call for the DPRK to immediately rescind its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). As a party to both the NPT and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, Burkina Faso denounces both the testing and proliferation of nuclear weapons and urges all States party to these treaties to comply with their commitments. We support the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards Agreement and call for the DPRK to comply with this agreement and provide greater transparency into its nuclear technology program in accordance with the IAEA. Burkina Faso also endorses S/RES/1695 and calls for the immediate cessation of the DPRK's ballistic missile program as well as any demonstrations of ballistic missiles capabilities. We encourage the DPRK to implement the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and to work toward eliminating the use of nuclear technology for anything other than peaceful purposes. Burkina Faso urges the Republic of Korea (ROK), as a party to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to fulfill the responsibility claimed in its State constitution and provide asylum to all refugees from the DPRK. We recommend the ROK look to the example set by the Burkinabe National Commission for Refugees (CONAREF) in accepting hundreds of refugees fleeing the conflict in Mali despite the fact that Burkina Faso has a limited budget for emergency situations. We support A/RES/61/174 in imploring the DPRK to ameliorate the treatment of refugees and comply to all human rights agreements to which it is a party. We draw attention to Articles 7 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and urge the DPRK to discontinue its practices of disproportionately punishing dissenting citizens and encourage the usage of due process when trying criminal suspects. We recommend the DPRK adopt the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane, or Degrading Treatment to further efforts in this regard. We condemn any religious persecution carried out by the DPRK, as freedom of thought and religion are inherent rights protected under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Burkina Faso further encourages the DPRK, as a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), to sign the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, and subsequently raise the age of military enlistment in the DPRK to 18 and immediately cease the practice of selling female children as brides to neighboring States. Burkina Faso calls upon Member States, especially the DPRK, to reaffirm their commitments to protecting the inalienable rights outlined in the UDHR, and in the belief that nuclear disarmament is the key to stability in the Korean Peninsula, we urge the DPRK to recommit to the NPT.

Sovereignty vs. The Right to Self-Determination: Burkina Faso acknowledges self-determination as an inalienable right guaranteed to all people under Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and we believe that a balance must be attained in the international community between self-determination and State sovereignty, protected by Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations (UN). We believe that, in the case of semi-autonomous regions such as Tibet, whose self-determination is hindered by the sovereignty of another Member State, it is necessary to acknowledge the principles set forth in the Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States and we encourage cooperation between States to achieve consensus on such issues. Burkina Faso believes in independence for the people of South Ossetia and we call for Member States to acknowledge that the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action illustrates the right of all people to take legitimate action to realize their self-determination. In accordance with A/RES/56/141, we believe that the formation of a Palestinian State while maintaining respect for the sovereignty of Israel is a necessity for achieving peace in the Middle East. We believe that the first step toward resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict is the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestinian territories as called for in S/RES/242. We support the principles of the Camp David Accords and believe that regional cooperation while considering the needs of the Palestinian people is necessary to finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian situation and that the bilateral agreements called for in the Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and reaffirmed by S/RES/1515 are a necessity. We condemn all violations to the UDHR conducted in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and call for their immediate cessation as outlined in A/RES/62/109 as a prerequisite for achieving peace in the Middle East and establishing a Palestinian State. Burkina Faso urges Israel not to establish or maintain settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories in accordance with A/RES/62/108, as we agree with the Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories has resulted in numerous human rights violations and has further stifled Palestine's ability to express its right to self-determination. Burkina Faso remains a strong supporter of the realization of self-determination for all people as called for in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and we believe that stable relations between all Members of the international community can be achieved through respecting State sovereignty and self-determination in accordance with Article 55 of the Charter of the UN.