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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Initial reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant, in
accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX), concerning rights
covered by articles 10 to 12

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

[8 July 1986]

1. Today the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been turned into a people's paradise, where all the people are leading a happy life while working and studying to their heart's content without any worries about food, clothing and medical treatment.
2. This initial report submitted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea covers major aspects of its popular policy for providing the people with much happier living conditions in observance of the rights recognized in articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant.
3. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea presents the following report, in respect of the Covenant, on the measures adopted and the progress made in the observance of the rights recognized in articles 10 to 12.

Article 10 - Protection of the Family, Mothers and Children

Protection of the family

4. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has specified provisions concerning the protection and consolidation of the family in the Socialist Constitution, the Public Health Law, the Labour Law and the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children, under which the working people are legally guaranteed a lasting, stable and happy life.

5. Article 63 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides as follows:

"Marriage and the family are protected by the State.

The State pays great attention to consolidating the family, the cell of society."

6. Any citizens over the age of 17 are, as stipulated in article 63 of the Constitution, free to marry without being bound by any laws. Marriage is entered into with the full and free consent of the intending spouses and choice of a spouse also depends on their free will.

7. The State provides full conditions under which the growing new generations may always form a harmonious and happy family and thereafter work devotedly for the State and people. The measures adopted and progress made by the State in respect of the above-mentioned conditions are reflected below.

Maternity protection

8. The following are the provisions of the relevant laws concerning the establishment of adequate conditions for all pregnant women and mothers with children.

9. Article 62 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides that the State affords special protection to mothers through maternity leave, shortened working hours for mothers with large families, expanded maternity hospitals, and other measures and that it frees women from the heavy burdens of household chores and provides every condition for them to participate in public life.

10. Article 9, paragraph 4, of the Public Health Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides that assistance in delivery is free.

11. Article 10 of the Public Health Law provides that the State gives special benefits to a woman who bears more than one child at once and her children and assumes entire responsibility for rearing children who have no one to take care of them.

12. Article 13 of the Public Health Law provides that women on maternity leave and their dependants are given provisions, subsidies and shares, which are borne by the State and social and co-operative organizations.

13. Article 20 of the Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children provides that the State grants women maternity leave, has all pregnant women registered in good time through maternity hospitals or other medical establishments, provides systematic medical service and midwifery to them free of charge and protects their health after childbirth. It also provides that mothers with many children have their working hours reduced on full pay.

14. Article 21 of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children provides that the State grants a longer period of paid leave to mothers who have two or more babies at a birth, supplies triplets with free clothes and blankets, and with milk goods for a year, grants subsidies for their upbringing until they

reach school age and responsibly looks after the health of the babies and mother by specifically designating medical workers for the purpose.

15. Article 76 of the Socialist Labour Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides that the State and social co-operative organizations pay temporary subsidies or give average working points during maternity leave.

16. The State operates specialized maternity hospitals, maternity departments of provincial, city (district) and county hospitals and maternity sanatoria. In order to provide medical aid to expectant mothers and women in childbirth, maternity hospitals have been built in large cities, beds in all gynaecological units have been increased and midwives have been trained and posted even to villages as well as ri (the lowest administrative unit) in the countryside, with the result that 100 per cent delivery assistance is provided.

17. In accordance with article 59 of the Socialist Labour Law, article 13 of the Public Health Law and article 20 of the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children, women are prohibited from arduous and harmful labour and mothers with a baby are ensured time during working hours for breastfeeding.

18. The State enforces a maternity-leave system to give sufficient rest to all working women till the full recovery of their health after childbirth, in addition to the regular and additional paid leave irrespective of their service length. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expanded the period of maternity leave from 77 to 150 days in pursuance of resolution No. 20/1986 of the Administration Council, an epochal measure for protecting women's health in more stable conditions and bringing children up in good health. The State gives provisions, subsidies and shares to women on maternity leave and their dependants.

19. When working people die as a result of labour accidents, disease or injury the State grants pensions to their dependants, thereby freeing the women from any worries about the upbringing of their children.

Protection of children and young persons

20. The provisions prescribed by laws which reflect specific measures for special protection of children and young persons are listed below.

21. Article 41 of the Socialist Constitution stipulates that the State provides universal compulsory 10-year senior middle school education for all the rising generation under working age and gives all pupils and students free education.

22. Article 43 of the Socialist Constitution points out that the State gives all children a compulsory one-year pre-school education and brings up all the pre-school children in nurseries and kindergartens at State and public expense. In particular, the protection of children is intensively described in the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children.

23. Article 29 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides as follows:

"In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the minimum working age is 16.

Labour by children under the working age is prohibited by the State."

24. The Socialist Constitution and the Socialist Labour Law set the working age at 16 and clarify the enforcement of full and universal 11-year compulsory education, thus giving a legal guarantee to children to display to their heart's content their wisdom and talents.

25. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a socialist system has been established, under which people are masters of the country, all State activities are in accordance with the will and requirements of the people and the solid foundation of the self-supporting national economy is laid, eradicating exploitation. In our country children are called "Kings of the country" and all the best things are given to them before any one else. Therefore it is inconceivable to exploit, neglect and discriminate against children.

Article 11 - Right to Sufficient Living Conditions

26. It is an overriding concern of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea steadily to improve the living standards of the people. The relevant provisions of laws with respect to this are listed below.

27. Article 23 of the Socialist Constitution:

"The State regards it as the supreme principle of its activities steadily to improve the material and cultural standards of the people.

The material wealth of society which constantly increases in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is used entirely for the promotion of the well-being of the working people."

28. Article 26 of the Socialist Constitution provides that the State strengthens its guidance and assistance to the countryside in order to eliminate the difference between town and country and undertakes the building of production facilities on co-operative farms and modern houses in the countryside at its expense.

29. Article 33 of the Socialist Constitution provides that the State abolishes taxation, a relic of the old society.

30. Article 11 of the Socialist Labour Law provides that the State applies the socialist principle of distribution correctly, according to the quantity and quality of work done and constantly improves the working people's material and cultural standards.

Right to adequate food

31. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted the Land Law, the principal law aimed at making rational use of cultivated farmland in order to supply all people with sufficient food by increasing grain production. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the cultivated land is very limited because 80 per cent of the country's territory is mountainous. Of 2 million hectares of arable land, the paddy- and dry fields account for only 1.6 million hectares, excluding orchards and mulberry land.

32. The State ensured that idle and abandoned lands as well as lands affected by the war were rehabilitated in the post-war period and dry fields reclaimed for paddy-fields to expand the area for cultivation of rice, a high-yield crop, and maize in parallel with large-scale agricultural engineering projects for irrigation.

33. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea large-scale projects are vigorously carried out actively to exploit land resources including the reclamation of 300,000 hectares of tide-land and the exploitation of 200,000 hectares of new land by the end of the 1980s.

34. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea produced 7.2 tonnes of rice and 6.3 tonnes of maize per hectare in 1980; 8 to 9 tonnes or more were produced on many co-operative farms in the plain areas.

35. Agricultural scientists are developing high-yield species by directing their efforts to growing seeds suitable for the climate and soil of the country and are actively promoting the mechanization of the rural economy by manufacturing various types of farm machines, including rice-transplanting machines and rice seedling pullers. The number of tractors per 100 hectares of cultivated land is seven in the plain fields as of 1979, and six in the intermediary and mountainous areas; in the near future this figure will reach at least 10 to 12, for which efforts are being made.

36. The State is training a large number of agricultural engineers and assistant engineers in agricultural universities and senior specialized agricultural colleges in every part of the country and training agricultural workers equipped with agricultural science and technical knowledge in the farm colleges.

37. Each co-operative farm has a unit for the dissemination of scientific knowledge, where agricultural workers acquire scientific and technical knowledge adaptable to the regional and climatic conditions of the area.

38. Farmers share crops as well as the work, in accordance with the socialist principle of distribution. The State buys crops from farmers at about 60 chon per kilogram and supplies workers and civil servants with the produce at 8 chon, the balance being borne by the State.

39. Today the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reaps a good harvest every year, never affected by drought or whimsical weather phenomena, since farming is done in a scientific and technical way on the basis of the great Juche-oriented farming methods laid down by Comrade Kim II Sung, the great leader of the Korean people, and the country has been turned into a socialist paradise good to live in with self-sufficiency in food.

40. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is making an active contribution to world-wide efforts towards self-sufficiency in food through multi-faceted collaboration and exchanges with many other countries of the world in the agricultural field.

Right to sufficient clothing

41. The State paid deep attention to the development of the textile industry to solve the problem of people's clothing and built or expanded a lot of large-scale textile mills equipped with up-to-date technology thereby establishing a solid base for textile industry.

42. The State also fully meets the people's requirements for clothing by expanding and developing extensively large-scale textile mills along with medium and small-scale local industries.

43. At present the textile industry has perfected its inner structures by setting up all sectors, including cotton, silk spinning and weaving, woollen textile weaving, flax textiles as well as chemical fibre textiles.

44. The State has built a lot of clothing factories throughout the country and is fully meeting people's requirements for clothing by producing various types of clothes made of several kinds of clothing materials relying on domestic raw materials.

Right to housing

45. Article 26 of the Socialist Constitution and article 69 of the Socialist Labour Law clearly make provision for improving the housing conditions of the working people.

46. Article 69 of the Socialist Labour Law prescribes as follows:

"The State provides functional modern houses and hostels for the working people.

The State build modern rural houses at its expense and offers them free for the use of co-operative farmers."

47. Every year the State builds a large number of flats in multi-storey buildings with sufficient modern furniture and kitchen utensils to ensure better living conditions to the working people, so that they may not feel any inconvenience in their living.

48. House rents and charges for water and electricity used by the working people are as little as only 7 per cent of their living costs on an average. The State has built modern houses for peasants at State expense as it did for workers and civil servants. With the completion of the water supply system in rural areas every household is freed from worries about water problems and farmers are leading a happy life in cosy modern dwelling houses built by the State.

Statistics on increased crop production and the proportion of mechanization in major farming work

Year	Grain yield (tonnes)	Growth rate (%)
1944	2 167 163	100
1949	2 790 000	129
1960	3 803 000	176
1974	7 000 000	323
1980	9 000 000	415

Yield per hectare of paddy rice and maize (kg)

Year	Paddy rice	Maize
1944	2 516	723
1949	3 031	1 331
1960	3 072	1 211
1974	5 900	5 000
1980	7 200	6 300

Proportion of mechanization in major farming work (%)

Farming process	1970	1980
Ploughing of paddy- and dry fields	61	100
Rice transplanting	-	95
Harvesting	8	70
Threshing	87	100
Transport	59	100

Article 12 - Right to physical and mental health

49. The State adopted the Public Health Law, the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children and the Law on Environmental Protection in accordance with the Juche idea based on the principle that man is the most precious being in the world and should be the central point of all thinking and that everything should serve man. These laws provide the people with maximum physical and mental health service to enable them to lead a happy life in good health.

50. Article 48 of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides as follows:

"The State consolidates and develops the system of universal free medical service and carries through the policy of preventive medical care so as to protect the people's lives and promote the health of the working people."

51. The State adopted the Law on the Nursing and Upbringing of Children in April 1976 and pays great attention to children so that they can grow up happily at State and public expense under the best conditions where all modern facilities are arranged for their nursing and upbringing.

52. The State has built maternity hospitals in large cities, set up specialized maternity departments in hospitals and clinics in each provincial city (district), county, ri (dong) to eliminate still births and infant mortality and promote the health of children and has attached a paediatric ward to each hospital.

53. There are nurseries and kindergartens, weekly and monthly nurseries in cities and rural areas, wherever people are living and working, even in remote mountain villages.

54. The State provides for every child from birth. In nurseries and kindergartens children are given a sufficient amount of varied staple foods and snacks suited to their ages and features in accordance with the nutrition list. Medical workers are assigned to all nurseries and kindergartens and medical appliances and medicine are supplied to them to treat the diseases of children in good time.

55. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted a new Law on Environmental Protection in April 1986 with a view to legalizing the achievements in environmental protection and is vigorously pushing forward with environmental protection work to meet the requirements of developing realities.

56. The new law provides legal guarantees for the people to promote health in more cultured and hygienic conditions and enjoy an independent and creative life.

57. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has made good progress in the field of environmental protection. It is the principle to direct primary attention to the prevention of environmental pollution in the building of industry and, on this principle, industrial sectors and residential quarters are distributed rationally so that the life of the population can be protected from environmental damage or destruction and a number of measures are taken to

prevent environmental pollution in advance, for example the introduction of anti-pollution facilities in production and their constant improvement.

58. And at the same time mass national movements work vigorously to preserve and build up natural environments.

59. Today in Pyongyang the proportion of sulphur dioxide, one of the factors in air pollution, is less than 1/15 of the accepted international level and even carbon monoxide is much lower than the accepted level.

60. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the various epidemics and diseases which seriously affected the population before liberation have disappeared for good and the average life expectancy is 74, 36 years more than before liberation.

61. Article 26 of the Public Health Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reads as follows:

"The State takes thoroughgoing preventive measures against epidemics.

Health and other agencies, enterprises and organizations concerned should eliminate causes for the outbreak of epidemics, intensify sterilization and take thoroughgoing measures of inoculation for the population. Health and other agencies concerned should strengthen quarantine to prevent the infiltration of epidemics from foreign countries".

62. The State thoroughly protects the life and health of people from epidemics and other sorts of diseases through active routine hygienic and anti-epidemic work based on the fundamental principle of giving priority to prophylactics.

63. The State correctly registers those who should have preventive inoculation and, where necessary, regular or temporary inoculation is given to everybody in an organized manner.

64. Every year more than 10 kinds of vaccines are given to adults and more than 15 to children. All vaccines are provided free of charge and it is compulsory for everyone to be inoculated with preventive vaccination.

65. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, epidemic diseases such as cholera, smallpox, recurrent fever, typhoid fever and Japanese encephalitis have been completely wiped out. Measles, which was regarded as an inevitable disease, was eradicated long ago and polio, scarlet fever, pertussis and diphtheria have also been wiped out. Malaria is no longer heard of and local diseases like distomiasis have completely disappeared.

66. Article 9 of the Public Health Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea provides as follows:

"The State provides every citizen with the benefits of complete free medical service.

Workers, farmers, soldiers, working intellectuals and all other citizens have the right to free medical treatment ..."

67. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea all the working people enjoy free medical service benefits irrespective of sex, age, residence, occupation and quantity and quality of work done according to the universal and complete compulsory free medical system.

68. With the investment of considerable funds in the construction of hospitals and clinics, large-scale modern central hospitals and various specialized hospitals have been built in the capital, medical college hospitals and various specialized hospitals in provinces, city and county people's hospitals in cities and counties and hospitals and clinics in ri or dong.

69. Every factory and enterprise has its own hospital or clinic, mines and collieries have hospitals or clinics outside the pits and even clinics or first-aid stations inside them. Ocean-going vessels also have clinics.

70. In order to protect and improve the working people's health, medical service facilities should be at hand so that diseases can be prevented and treated in good time.

71. The State introduces the "section doctor system", under which every doctor is in charge of a section and always goes there to look after the health of residents and carry out preventive medical care. This most advantageous system falls into two parts: at the workplace and at home, so that all working people benefit from double health protection. When the people are in their workplace they can be treated by the doctors who are in charge of the relevant organs or enterprises, and, when at home, by doctors in charge of the residential quarters.

72. Thanks to the correct popular health policy of our Republic the public health service has been developed rapidly and people's health constantly promoted. The following statistics indicate in detail the brilliant achievements made in the field of the public health service.

1. Rate of birth, death and natural growth
per 1,000 inhabitants

	1944	1949	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982
Birth	31.3	41.2	40.5	38.5	43.5	44.7	25.9	21.8	21.9
Death	20.8	18.7	20.9	10.5	9.8	7.0	4.7	4.5	4.3
Natural growth	10.5	22.5	19.6	28.0	33.7	37.7	21.2	17.3	17.6
Death of infants below one year (per 1,000 births)	204.0	...	56.4	37.0	35.3	22.7	18.1	14.2	11.4

2. Mortality resulting from diseases per 10,000 inhabitants

	1960	1970	1980	1982
<u>Total</u>	104.9	70.4	44.9	42.7
<u>of which:</u>				
Infective and parasitic diseases	29.7	13.2	0.6	0.4
Neoplasms	2.7	4.0	5.4	6.0
Endocrine, nutrition and metabolic disorders	4.9	1.5	0.3	0.3
Blood and nematogenous troubles	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Circulatory diseases	12.7	16.1	19.0	19.2
Respiratory diseases	14.9	6.9	4.6	3.9
Digestive diseases	15.1	7.6	2.4	2.5
Urinary and genital diseases	2.2	1.0	0.6	0.5
Congenital deformities	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.4
Poisoning and traumas	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.9
Others	18.8	16.2	8.5	6.3

3. Average life span

Year	Mean age for both sexes	Increase compared with preliberation period
1936-1940	38.0	-
1960	58.3	20.3
1965	61.0	23.0
1970	65.2	27.2
1976	73.0	35.0
1982	74.0	36.0

4. Number of health establishments

	1946	1949	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982
Hospitals	87	179	285	449	755	1 655	2 341	2 558	2 510
Clinics	93	854	1 020	4 364	5 092	5 577	4 928	5 358	5 414
Sanitary and anti-epidemic stations	6	72	205	533	236	254	220	223	223
Sanatoria				2	29	68	86	119	125
Medicine supply agencies	4	18	124	257	354	446	512	851	965

5. Number of hospitals and clinics

	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1982
General hospitals, including:	400	483	523	1 556	1 527	1 531
Central and provincial people's hospitals	15	16	16	16	21	21
City (district) people's hospitals	18	40	49	60	65	69
County people's hospitals	166	165	164	170	173	171
Industrial hospitals	201	212	270	280	290	289
Ri people's hospitals				1 019	953	952
Others		50	24	11	25	29
Specialized hospitals, including:	49	272	1 132	785	1 031	979
Tuberculosis hospitals	27	224	1 075	585	468	430
Hepatitis hospitals			12	12	290	285
Dental hospitals		1	1	4	11	14
Korean medicine hospitals	10	14	12	13	23	26
Others	12	33	32	171	239	224
Clinics, including:	4 364	5 092	5 577	4 928	5 358	5 414
Polyclinics	5	146	192	357	418	454
Clinics	4 300	4 804	5 188	4 337	4 705	4 708
First-aid stations	58	142	197	234	235	252
Others	1					

6. Number of hospital beds per 1,000 inhabitants

Year	Number of hospital beds
1944	0.1
1949	0.7
1955	1.9
1960	3.5
1965	5.8
1970	10.4
1975	11.8
1980	13.0
1982	13.0

7. Number of doctors and secondary health workers per 10,000 inhabitants

Year	Doctors	Secondary health workers
1944	0.5	...
1949	1.1	3.0
1955	1.5	8.7
1960	3.3	19.5
1965	9.3	29.7
1970	11.7	34.3
1975	17.5	44.4
1980	23.6	43.4
1982	24.0	42.1

8. Growth of health service budget

Year	Growth rates (times)
1947	1.0
1949	1.9
1955	4.9
1960	26.6
1965	38.2
1970	63.5
1975	94.4
1980	108.1
1982	112.0