

2 December 2024

Excellency,

On behalf of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006), I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 28 October 2024, conveying to the Committee a request from First Steps Health Society (First Steps), a Canadian non-governmental organization that regularly provides aid and relief in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), for an exemption, pursuant to paragraph 25 of resolution 2397 (2017) and in accordance with Implementation Assistance Notice No. 7, to engage in humanitarian activities in the DPRK, in particular allow for the export of soymilk production systems and food processing systems for the benefit of the civilian population of the DPRK. I further note that the request is for a longer exemption period due to the need to obtain certification from the Canadian Government.

I have the further honour to inform you that, following due consideration, the Committee has decided to approve the requested exemption in the abovementioned letter, in accordance with paragraph 25 of Security Council resolution 2397 (2017), as well as an extended timeframe for the exemption on an exceptional basis, to transfer the items outlined in your letter within the next 12 months, in accordance with the table enclosed in this letter as an attachment. The items are requested to be shipped once together or in a consolidated matter, with a view to increasing efficiency and custom clearance.

The Committee reiterates that the sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council through its resolutions with respect to the DPRK are not intended to bear a negative impact on the people of the DPRK, and the note verbale it issued to all Member States, as well as its press release SC/13113 of 8 December 2017, offer clarifications as regards humanitarian aid to the DPRK. The note verbale further recalls that each Member State must fully implement relevant Security Council measures, while keeping in mind the need to clarify to public and private sector entities in their jurisdiction that, while properly implementing United Nations sanctions, humanitarian activities should not be unduly restricted.

His Excellency  
Mr. Robert Rae  
Permanent Representative of Canada  
to the United Nations  
New York

The Committee further supports and approves First Steps engaging in necessary business and financial transactions only for the purchase of goods and services exempted by the Committee and found in the attachment without prejudice to the relevant commercial decisions.

At the same time, the Committee requests relevant organizations delivering humanitarian assistance to the DPRK to adhere to the exemption time limit approved by the Committee and fully respect and abide by relevant national laws, regulations, and licensing requirements governing financial and commercial transactions, and shipping and custom clearance conducted in the jurisdictions of affected Member States.

I wish to inform you that this letter and its annex will be published on the 1718 Committee website for the public, including relevant national authorities involved in reviewing the exempted transfers to the DPRK, for a period of 12 months.

The Committee would like to thank Canada for its diligence.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Pascale Baeriswyl  
Chair

Security Council Committee established  
pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

Attachment:

- List of items for transfer to the DPRK

**First Steps Health Society**

**1718 Committee Exemption Request for proposed humanitarian assistance:**

**Stainless Steel Soymilk Cans, Soymilk Production Systems, and Food Processing Equipment**

**Annex II: Detailed list of items and specifications for proposed humanitarian assistance**

**July 3 2024**

Item No.	Material Description	HS code	Make	Model	Manufacturer	Specifications	Origin	Quantity	Value	Purpose of item for project	Planned date(s) of transfer	Port of Departure	Port of Entry	Parties involved in transaction	Measure to ensure assistance is used for intended purpose / Monitoring Plan
1	Stainless steel		N/A	Stainless steel soymilk cans	Wenzhou Longwan Wanyuan Food Machinery Factory, Liuzhai Village, Yongzhong, Longwan District, Wenzhou, PRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size: 20 litres</li> <li>Handle on both sides</li> <li>First Steps logo</li> <li>Locking and high-seal lid</li> </ul>	PRC	1000 units	Approximately \$120 USD per unit	Freshly made soymilk is filtered into stainless steel soymilk cans before being delivered to North Korean kindergartens, daycares, and orphanages. Stainless steel milk cans are used for their exceptional durability and hygienic properties.	TBC - will be determined by how soon the Canadian government will approve our exemption.	Wenzhou, PRC	Via Dandong, PRC, to Sopo, DPRK	Final consignee is Korea Canada Cooperation Agency (KCCA); intermediary consignee is DMC Rep Office Pyongyang, Central District, Pyongyang, DPRK; county officials also involved in transport to production sites	Regular monitoring visits to soymilk production sites (4 times per year)
2	Stainless steel		Malnutrition Matters	VitaGoat (i.e. SoyCow M)	CCC Boilers Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel source: biomass materials such as wood, coal, or dried corncobs</li> <li>Production capacity: 30-40 litres of soymilk / hour</li> <li>Average lifespan: 10 years</li> <li>For detailed list of parts, see equipment list</li> </ul>	Thailand	50 units	Approximately \$5900 USD per unit	For production of soymilk and derivatives	TBC - will be determined by how soon the Canadian government will approve our exemption.	Bangkok, Thailand	Nampo Port, or Pyongyang	Final consignee is Korea Canada Cooperation Agency (KCCA); intermediary consignee is DMC Rep Office Pyongyang, Central District, Pyongyang, DPRK; county officials also involved in transport to production sites	Regular monitoring visits to soymilk production sites (4 times per year)
3	Stainless steel		Malnutrition Matters	VitaCow (i.e. SoyCow E)	CCC Boilers Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel source: electricity</li> <li>Production capacity: 40-45 litres of soymilk / hour</li> <li>Average lifespan: 10 years</li> <li>Working pressure: 60 psi</li> <li>Power Consumption: Varies ~40 Amperes</li> <li>Operating Temperature: 110 Celsius</li> <li>For detailed list of parts, see equipment list</li> </ul>	Thailand	50 units	Approximately \$6500 USD per unit	For production of soymilk and derivatives	TBC - will be determined by how soon the Canadian government will approve our exemption.	Bangkok, Thailand	Nampo Port, or Pyongyang	Final consignee is Korea Canada Cooperation Agency (KCCA); intermediary consignee is DMC Rep Office Pyongyang, Central District, Pyongyang, DPRK; county officials also involved in transport to production sites	Regular monitoring visits to soymilk production sites (4 times per year)
4	Stainless steel		Malnutrition Matters	SuperCow (i.e. SoyCow 30)	Prestige Plants India and CCC Boilers Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fuel source: electricity</li> <li>Production capacity: 70-80 litres of soymilk / hour</li> <li>Average lifespan: 10 years</li> <li>Working pressure: 60 psi</li> <li>For detailed list of parts, see equipment list</li> </ul>	Thailand and India	50 units	Approximately \$13,000 USD per unit	For production of soymilk and derivatives	TBC - will be determined by how soon the Canadian government will approve our exemption.	Bangkok, Thailand Mumbai, India	Nampo Port, or Pyongyang	Final consignee is Korea Canada Cooperation Agency (KCCA); intermediary consignee is DMC Rep Office Pyongyang, Central District, Pyongyang, DPRK; county officials also involved in transport to production sites	Regular monitoring visits to soymilk production sites (4 times per year)
5	Stainless steel		Developed by First Steps	Modified cooking pots (i.e. VitaPorridge)	CCC Boilers Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size: 40 litres</li> <li>Each unit is fitted with steam diffusers (inside), valves, large output spigots, a flexible steam hose, and a built-in thermometer</li> </ul>	Thailand	20 units	Approximately \$1000 USD per unit	Soy porridge production	TBC - will be determined by how soon the Canadian government will approve our exemption.	Bangkok, Thailand	Nampo Port, or Pyongyang	Final consignee is Korea Canada Cooperation Agency (KCCA); intermediary consignee is DMC Rep Office Pyongyang, Central District, Pyongyang, DPRK; county officials also involved in transport to production sites	Regular monitoring visits to soymilk production sites (4 times per year)
6	Stainless steel			"Spirit" High Speed Grinding Machine (FE06)	Yung Soon Lih Food Machine Co., LTD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production capacity: 30-70 Kgs of Soybeans / hour</li> </ul>	TBC	30 units	Approximately \$600 USD per unit	For production of soymilk and derivatives	TBC - will be determined by how soon the Canadian government will approve our exemption.	TBC	Nampo Port, or Pyongyang	Final consignee is Korea Canada Cooperation Agency (KCCA); intermediary consignee is DMC Rep Office Pyongyang, Central District, Pyongyang, DPRK; county officials also involved in transport to production sites	Regular monitoring visits to soymilk production sites (4 times per year)