

Abstract

The Evaluation of the Effect of Universal Periodic Review(UPR) for Improving North Korean Human Rights and Its Implications

This report seeks to draw implications and challenges for the improvement of North Korean human rights based on the contents, progress analysis, and evaluation of the three Universal Periodic Review(UPR) conducted on North Korea. In 2009, 2014 and 2019, the UPR of human rights situation in North Korea was conducted. In the UPR in 2014, after the publication of COI report, the criticism of the recommendations to North Korea was raised to the highest level. During the UPR process, North Korea accepted recommendations on dialogue and cooperation with the international community to improve human rights, measures to improve human rights for minorities and vulnerable groups, and measures to improve social rights such as education and health. Accordingly, North Korea responded constructively by improving domestic legislation related to human rights, establishing human rights-related organizations and joining some international human rights conventions. However, North Korea refused to acknowledge the facts on sensitive matters that threaten the North Korean system and refused to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea or COI. In order to improve human rights in North Korea, it seems that a two-track approach corresponding to the North Korean dual response is necessary. On the one hand, we need to secure a channel for real human rights improvement in North Korea by expanding the contacts between the two Koreas through supporting and cooperating

Abstract

with North Korea to improve human rights for vulnerable groups and minorities. It is also necessary to continue monitoring and accumulating information on the violations of North Korean human rights and to cooperate with the international community based on those activities.

Keywords: UPR, North Korean human rights, vulnerable groups, two-track approach
