

## NEWS

House Foreign Affairs Committee

U.S. House of Representatives

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# Ros-Lehtinen Calls on UN Development Program to Stop Subsidizing North Korean Regime

(WASHINGTON) – U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Ranking Republican member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today called on the United Nations Development Program to end its funding of projects in North Korea following reports that millions of dollars have been invested with little or no oversight. The UNDP's Executive Board is scheduled to meet starting today in New York. Statement of Ros-Lehtinen:

"Despite sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on the regime following its nuclear test in October 2006, for several years the United Nations has been handing over to the North Korean regime millions of dollars that cannot be accounted for and proposes to pour an additional \$18 million into that country during the next two years without credible monitoring. This is yet another example of the abuses made possible by the lack of accountability within the UN system.

"The UNDP's so-called 'nationally executed programs' in North Korea do not meet even minimal standards of transparency. The UN has recklessly trusted the North Korean government with the money to carry out development programs but with no outside monitoring. North Korea reportedly has not allowed independent audits or site visits to those programs in the ten years they have been operating.

"Kim Jong-il has been very clear about his 'military first' policy of national development. As far as anyone knows he is using this money to pay for his nuclear weapons program instead of feeding his people. There is no credible reason to think he will do otherwise when he is receiving grants from the UN Development Program with virtually no oversight.

"The United Nations should immediately suspend these programs, which constitute an indefensible subsidy of one of the world's worst regimes."

"Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon must hold accountable those UN officials who brazenly violated the UN's own rules. Despite many assurances from his predecessor and other senior officials that the UN will undertake far-reaching reforms to correct widespread abuses, it is clear that the measures that have been taken to date are woefully inadequate. Only through outside pressure can meaningful change be ensured. I and other members are determined to apply that pressure in this Congress."

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