



**Statement of Ranking Member Ted Yoho (R-FL)  
Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

*“Making Sanctions Effective: The Case of North Korea”*  
March 27, 2019

Remarks as Prepared

I would like to welcome Mr. Hugh Griffiths, Coordinator of the United Nations Panel of Experts on North Korea.

Mr. Griffiths has had first hand experience monitoring the implementation of North Korea sanctions resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council. As a body that plays a leading role in crafting the U.S. sanctions regime, his insight is invaluable to the Committee.

The United Nations has imposed 10 sanctions resolutions that require its member states to restrict trade and engagement with North Korea, in response to North Korea’s relentless development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

However, the Panel of Experts’ latest report – released earlier this month - shows that North Korea continues to defy these sanctions. Possibly the most egregious violation revealed in the report is a massive increase in ship-to-ship transfers of petroleum and coal. This type of industrial scale activity can significantly undercut international sanctions programs.

But the report also reaffirms that North Korea is up to its old tricks as well. North Korea sanctions evasions are made possible through weak enforcement by individual states and insufficient oversight measures. But there’s also the usual rogue’s gallery of pariah states that blatantly ignore UN sanctions are glad to pursue trade and defense relations with North Korea.



As the United States continues to navigate our diplomacy with North Korea and address the growing threat North Korea poses globally, it is imperative that the multilateral sanctions program overseen by the Panel of Experts remains strong.

So, I'm especially interested today to hear an update on the status of UN sanctions enforcement, how we can improve implementation, and where the international community may be falling short – especially regarding longstanding sanctions violators including China and Russia, who have long provided life support to North Korea's WMD programs.

###