

Human Rights Council – 43<sup>rd</sup> session

Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in  
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Friday 6 March 2020

**Australian Statement**

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for his important update.

Australia remains gravely concerned by the ongoing, systematic and widespread human rights violations committed by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) against its own people.

Australia is deeply saddened that there has been no significant improvement in the human rights situation in the DPRK since the 2014 Commission of Inquiry identified human rights violations amounting to crimes against humanity.

Ongoing reports of executions, torture, arbitrary detention, enslavement and enforced disappearances highlight the need to ensure accountability for human rights violations in the DPRK. We urge the DPRK Government to make a sustained effort to engage with international human rights mechanisms and implement accountability measures.

The DPRK Government has prioritised the advancement of its WMD programs over all else. Respect for human rights is essential to achieving permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The international community must maintain pressure on the DPRK Government to respect the human rights of all of its peoples and abandon its WMD programs.

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