



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail [australia@un.int](mailto:australia@un.int)

150 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 [www.AustraliaUN.org](http://www.AustraliaUN.org)

**UNGA Third Committee**  
**Item 72(c): Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on**  
**the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's**  
**Republic of Korea**

**Intervention for 22 October 2019**

- Australia continues to be deeply concerned by the grave human rights situation in the DPRK
  - we call on the DPRK Government to take urgent action to halt all human rights violations
  - respect for human rights is essential to achieve lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.
- We are saddened to see in the Special Rapporteur's report that widespread human rights violations continue, unabated, in the DPRK today
  - freedom of expression, assembly, religion or belief remain non-existent
  - arbitrary detention and forced labour, among other abuses, remain wide-spread.
- The international community must maintain pressure on the DPRK Government to improve the human rights situation for its citizens and implement accountability measures
  - we continue to urge the DPRK to engage with UN processes and representatives, including the Special Rapporteur
  - we are concerned by the DPRK's recent request that UN agencies reduce their staff numbers in the country by the end of 2019, which will only impede the UN's ability to undertake its work on human rights and humanitarian issues in the DPRK.