



# AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**UNGA Third Committee**  
**Item 74: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on**  
**Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**Statement delivered on 23 October 2018**

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Australia continues to be deeply concerned about the ongoing systematic and gross human rights abuses in the DPRK. Respect for human rights is a critical condition to ensure peace and stability in all states.

While Australia welcomes reduced tensions on the Korean Peninsula, we wish to see accelerated and urgent action by the DPRK to relieve the suffering of the North Korean people. The international community needs to maintain pressure on the DPRK to improve the human rights situation for all of its citizens.

We are saddened that the Secretary-General's August report reaffirms yet again the grim human rights situation faced by the North Korean people. We note with concern the report's description of the harsh conditions experienced by those in pre-trial detention, and the lack of guarantees of fair and independent trials. We continue to be deeply concerned by restrictions on all forms of expression, movement, and access to food.

We also urge the DPRK to engage constructively with UN processes and representatives, including to facilitate a visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the DPRK.