



Statement of Ireland

40th session of the Human Rights Council

*Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights
in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

11 March 2019

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and adds the following remarks.

Mr. President,

Ireland thanks the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of his final report, and for highlighting the ongoing concerns in the DPRK to the Human Rights Council. Ireland recognizes that over the past year, we have seen some positive developments on the Korean Peninsula. We welcome the increased and improved engagement and high-level talks between the Republic of Korea and the DPRK, and between the DPRK and the US.

However, notwithstanding the positive atmosphere that these dialogues have created, little progress has been made in addressing the systemic human rights abuses in the DPRK. Ireland once again expresses our serious concern about the human rights situation there. We urge the DPRK Government to take immediate steps to halt all human rights violations, including closing all political prison camps. We are equally concerned about other violations, including – but not limited to – limitations on freedom of movement and to the right to information, restrictions on freedom of thought and freedom of religion, food insecurity and malnutrition, reports of torture against political and other prisoners, as well as harsh treatment of persons attempting to flee the country. We reiterate that there can be no impunity for such violations, and continue to support calls for the creation and development of mechanisms for accountability of perpetrators and the protection of victims.

We regret the DPRK Government's continuous rejection of the SR's mandate and we call on the DPRK to cooperate fully with all international human rights mechanisms.

Mr. Quintana, do you feel that the ongoing dialogue between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea, and between the DPRK and the US has led to any change in the human rights situation in the DPRK? Could you please elaborate on any shifts in thinking or approach that you are aware of?

Thank you.