



Statement of Ireland

49th session of the Human Rights Council

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

16 March 2022

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU, and thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report and for his valuable work over the past six years.

Ireland regrets that the human rights situation in DPRK continues to deteriorate, and that the Government's continued refusal to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms has perpetuated the culture of total impunity in the country.

There is continued and credible evidence of widespread human rights violations in the DPRK. We note with deep concern reports on the treatment of political prisoners, including torture, forced labour, summary executions, starvation, and sexual and gender-based violence. The severe repression of freedom of thought, conscience and religion is also alarming.

We commend the work of the Special Rapporteur and the OHCHR office in Seoul for their essential ongoing work in gathering information and testimonies to strengthen accountability efforts and to raise awareness of the needs of victims.

Ireland urges the DPRK Government to cooperate with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and to fully implement the human rights treaties to which they are party.

Special Rapporteur, what more can be done by Member States to engage DPRK on human rights concerns? Where might we engage most effectively in support of your work?

Thank you.

