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Statement of Ireland

52nd session of the Human Rights Council

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on DPRK

20 March 2023

Ireland aligns with the statement of the EU and thanks the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Human Rights Council. We welcome the strong focus of the report on the situation of women and girls.

Ireland continues to be concerned by the breadth and depth of human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Korea. We are particularly concerned about the discrimination and gender-based violence women and girls face, and the culture of impunity which persists in the country.

Once again, Ireland urges the DPRK Government to take immediate action to cease all human rights violations, to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur's mandate and to fully implement the human rights treaties to which they are party.

We are deeply concerned that the prolonged COVID-19 border restrictions are exacerbating the already challenging humanitarian situation. We call on the DPRK to respond to offers of humanitarian assistance from the international community and we urge the DPRK to allow access for United Nations and other humanitarian actors.

We commend the work of the Special Rapporteur and the OHCHR office in Seoul for their ongoing work in gathering information to explore all avenues to pursue accountability and to guarantee the rights of victims.

Special Rapporteur, what more can be done by Member States to increase international pressure and reenergise efforts to re-establish diplomatic and humanitarian access to DPRK?

Thank you.