

**71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Third Committee**

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

**Statement by Ireland
27 October 2016**

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Ireland would like to congratulate Mr Quintana on his appointment as the new Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, and thanks him for the presentation of his first report. We are delighted to have this opportunity to intervene during this interactive dialogue.

Ireland would like to reiterate to the Special Rapporteur our full support for the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry. We share the Special Rapporteur's profound regret that the crimes against humanity documented by the Commission continue. We repeat the pressing need to ensure accountability for these crimes. In this regard, we remain of the view that the Security Council should refer the situation to the International Criminal Court.

We abhor the series of human rights violations that continue unabated, and profoundly regret that the challenges have been exacerbated by an increase in tensions in the region. We agree with the importance of opening channels of dialogue between the Special Rapporteur and the Government of the DPRK. Notwithstanding the recent deterioration in the security situation, we would continue to emphasise the role that dialogue can play on the Korean peninsula.

At today's interactive dialogue, we would be pleased to hear from the Special Rapporteur more concretely about how the international community can provide adequate support to ensure that the sanctions imposed on DPRK following January's nuclear test do not impede the work of the humanitarian agencies.

Thank you.