

Universal Periodic Review working group – 19th session

Statement by Ireland on the review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

1 May 2014

Ireland is extremely concerned at the grave situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which, as the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council has underscored, is without parallel in the contemporary world. The array of violations documented by the Commission is staggering.

Ireland is extremely concerned by reports of widespread rape and sexual abuse of women in detention. Ireland **recommends** that the DPRK immediately establish a system to prevent sexual violence against female prisoners.

Ireland is also gravely concerned by the situation of chronic food insecurity and widespread malnutrition in the DPRK and **recommends** that the DPRK provide international humanitarian organisations with immediate, free and unimpeded access to all populations in need, including those held in labour camps or political prison camps.