



## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for their invitation to provide a submission to inform the Report ahead of the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council.

#### 1. What concrete measures have you (as an individual, an organisation or a State) taken to advance accountability for serious human rights violations, including crimes against humanity, in the DPRK?

Australia consistently draws attention to the DPRK's human rights violations through its inclusion in Australia's unilateral national statements, bilateral, minilateral and multilateral statements. Australia further draws attention through hosting and supporting events on the issue. For example:

*Statements*

- 23 October 2023, UNGA78 Third Committee National statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the DPRK (Attachment A).
- 21 March 2023, HRC52 National statement during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the DPRK ([National Statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea \(DPRK\), 21 March 2023 | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](#)).
- 17 March 2023, UNSC Arria-Formula Meeting: The Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([230317 - UNSC Arria-formula meeting: The Situation of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea \(mission.gov.au\)](#)).
- 22 October 2022 Australia-Japan Leaders' Meeting Joint Statement ([Australia-Japan Leaders' Meeting Joint Statement | Prime Minister of Australia \(pm.gov.au\)](#)).

*Events*

- 29 June 2023, Co-hosting of the online symposium on the abductions issue (<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k15/k156rkImfp>).
- 23 June 2023, Australian Embassy Seoul held a Roundtable with the North Korea Database Centre for Human Rights on the state of torture in the DPRK.
- 17 March 2023, HRC52 Australia co-hosted "Investigating DPRK Human Rights, Ten Years After the UN COI: Satellite Imagery, Lines of Responsibility, Accountability", putting a spotlight on the deteriorating human rights situation in DPRK detention facilities. (HOM's remarks at Attachment B, and event concept note at Attachment C).
- 21 February 2023, Australian Embassy Seoul hosted an event with the International Republican Institute on women's rights in the DPRK.



- Australian Ambassador to the ROK Catherine Raper supported the **OHCHR report on Enforced Disappearances** built on ongoing Ambassadorial-level engagement on this issue and participated in the launch.

**2. What steps are you (as an individual, an organisation or a State) intending to take to further advance the accountability measures for serious human rights violations in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea?**

- Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva will deliver a national statement at the HRC55 Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on DPRK and will continue to engage constructively on resolutions on human rights in the DPRK.
- Australian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York will deliver a national statement at the UNGA79 Third Committee Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on DPRK.
- Working level officials continue to engage civil society, the diplomatic community and the ROK Government regularly on opportunities to work together and demonstrate Australia’s commitment to accountability.