**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**Generated on 07 Nov 2024 11:30

**ANGOLA**

* Could the State-under-review provide any information regarding ratification of some UN pending instruments, including the Convention against Torture and other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
* Could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on the process of the harmonization of National legislation with international treaties and provide any information on the status of this process?

**BELGIUM**

* Does the government of the DPRK consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Rome Statute of the ICC?
* Is the government of the DPRK considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures and responding positively to the outstanding requests of special rapporteurs to visit the country?
* Does the government of the DPRK consider reviewing the Criminal Code and other laws to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence and to ensure that the perpetrators of such violence are prosecuted, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK? How does the government of the DPRK ensure that existing laws protecting women from sexual and domestic violence are effectively implemented?
* What steps will the government of the DPRK take to ensure detention conditions are aligned with international human rights standards? How will the government ensure that prisoners receive adequate nutrition and unconditional access to medical services, including mental, physical, maternal and reproductive healthcare as well as sufficient personal hygiene amenities?
* Will the government of the DPRK release all political prisoners, disband all political prison camps and cease the arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of persons on the grounds of their political or other opinion, or their social background, as recommended by the UN Secretary-General? Will it also repeal the Reactionary Thought and Culture Rejection Law, the Youth Education Guarantee Law and the Pyongyang Culture Language Protection Act to avoid restricting the exercise of the right to freedom of expression in ways incompatible with international human rights law?

**CANADA**

* How does the DPRK plan to end the human trafficking of North Korean women and girls?
* What steps has the DPRK taken to implement a survivor-centric and trauma-informed response to women and children being repatriated to the DPRK who have been victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation, and/or child, early, and forced marriage to ensure they are not subject to torture, and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment upon return?
* When will the DPRK allow unhindered access in the DPRK to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK?
* How does the DPRK plan to ensure proper compliance and implementation of its obligations under international human rights law and cease the use of arbitrary detention, political prison camps, and collective punishment?
* When will the DPRK provide UN agencies and other humanitarian actors with unhindered access to the DPRK, especially to vulnerable populations, in all counties and provinces?
* How does the DPRK plan to cooperate with humanitarian agencies and other international organizations to develop disaster prevention and management systems?

**COSTA RICA**

* Joint submission on behalf of Costa Rica, the Maldives and Slovenia, as members part of the core group of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment:
What progress has your country achieved in the national, regional or international implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment?
In this regard, could you provide some examples related to clean air, a safe climate, healthy and sustainably produced food, access to safe water and adequate sanitation, non-toxic environments in which to live, work, and play, healthy ecosystems and healthy biodiversity, or any other areas?
* What provision do you have for conscientious objection to military service?

**GERMANY**

* How does the government protect women and young girls from sexual and gender-based violence, what preventive measures have been taken, and are perpetrators prosecuted?
* To what extent does the government plan to continue its cooperation with the WHO?
* Since the last UPR, in how many cases and for which crimes were defendants sentenced to death? How many of the sentences were executed?
* What steps is the Government planning towards the abolition of the death penalty?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to ratify the Optional Protocols of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to ratify the Convention against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CAT)?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to ratify the Optional Protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT)?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to implement the recommendations made in the reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, including in report A/HRC/52/64?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to implement the recommendations made in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on Forced labour by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea published in July 2024?
* What steps has the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea taken to ratify the three Protocols to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?

**PORTUGAL**

* PORTUGAL on behalf on the Group of Friends on NMIRF’s: Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs: Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

* Since the release of the Report of the commission of inquiry (COI) on human rights in the DPRK in 2014, what measures has the DPRK taken to implement the recommendations of the Report?
* The plight of separated families is a humanitarian issue needing special attention, especially considering their advanced age. How does the DPRK plan to address this pressing concern and allow permanent regular reunions and contact between separated families?
* What is the fate and whereabouts of six Korean nationals being held against their will by the DPRK, including three Korean missionaries, KIM Jung Wook, KIM Kook Kie and CHOI Chun Gil?
* During the second UPR cycle of the DPRK, the ROK government recommended that the Government disband all political prison camps where egregious human rights abuses are reported to be widespread. What is the status of the political prison camps in the DPRK? What is the number of political prison camps and detainees? What steps has the DPRK taken to dismantle these camps?
* Except for the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2017, the DPRK has not invited any special procedure mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, to undertake a country visit. Are there any measures that the DPRK has in place to expand cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms?
* Provide specific measures adopted by the DPRK to prevent excessive and disproportionate punishments for minors. The DPRK stated in the national reports submitted in the previous three UPR cycles that the sentence of death is not imposed for a crime committed by persons below the age of eighteen years nor it is carried out on pregnant women. However, this phrase was omitted in its national report for the fourth UPR cycle. Does this reflect a change in the DPRK’s law or practice regarding death penalty, especially for minors?
* The COI report of 2014 found that there is an almost complete denial of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. What are the measures that the DPRK has implemented to protect the right to freedom of thought,
conscience and religion of its people and seeks to introduce to further enhance the right?
* The COI report of 2014 takes note of the DPRK’s violations of the right to food and the Secretary General’s report on the situation of human rights in the DPRK submitted to the 79th session of the UN General Assembly recommends that the DPRK dedicate the maximum resources available to fulfil core obligations regarding each right under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the rights to adequate food and the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. However, this year’s devastating flood in the DPRK is likely to aggravate its food and health situation. How severe is the shortage of food and medicine including essential vaccines? What are the measures adopted by the DPRK to alleviate the situation? What are the plans for the DPRK to allow humanitarian access for the related international organizations?
* The DPRK is a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. What actions has the DPRK taken to protect the rights of groups in vulnerable situations, particularly persons with disabilities, children, and women and girls?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures are in place to combat ageism and eliminate age discrimination in all its forms, and to protect the human rights of older persons?

**SPAIN**

* What steps are the relevant authorities promoting to ensure effective legal assistance for victims of sexual violence and eradicate discriminatory practices in accordance with the obligations under CEDAW?
* What concrete measures is the Government implementing to incorporate the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in national law?
* Does the Government intend to accept international aid in order to guarantee food safety and prevent food smuggling?

**SWEDEN**

* What measures do the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea take to fulfil its obligations to ensure that no person is subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is a party?

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

* In 2017 the DPRK welcomed the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. As border restrictions are being relaxed, how will the DPRK re-build and grow its cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms, including allowing immediate and unhindered access to the country?
* What progress has the DPRK made towards protecting women and girls from sexual violence and abuse in penal and military systems?
* How will the DPRK address issues around food security and improved nutrition in support of realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially for vulnerable communities?
* At its Periodic Review in 2019 the United Kingdom recommended that the DPRK cease the practice of forced labour, including the use of prisoners and children. What steps has the DPRK since taken to improve working conditions and prevent child labour?
* How does the DPRK ensure that religious and non-religious individuals can share information and materials about their beliefs without interference or threat to their safety?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What is the location and status of the following non-exhaustive list of South Korean prisoners: Kim Jung-wook, Kim Kuk-gi, Choi Chun-kil, Kim Won-ho, Ko Hyun-chul, and Ham Jin-woo? These individuals are believed to remain in detention in the DPRK, some of them incarcerated for as long as 10 years. The United States has raised these cases repeatedly, including in the State Department’s 2023 Human Rights Report and in public statements.
* What steps is the DPRK taking to facilitate the urgently needed reunification of families, whose members include war-time abductees, post-war abductees (including foreign nationals), detainees, unrepatriated prisoners of war, and others separated from their loved ones?
* What are the DPRK‘s plans to repeal domestic laws that contradict international human rights treaties, including the Reactionary Thought and Denunciation law, the Youth Education Guarantee Act, and the Pyongyang Culture and Language Protection law?
* What are DPRK’s plans to cease human rights violations and abuses as called for by reports of the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, including violations and abuse involving unjust detentions, forced labor, harassment, and reprisal against human rights defenders, journalists, members of civil society, organizations, lawyers, and their family members throughout the country?
* Multiple UN human rights mechanisms have issued key findings, concerns, and recommendations on the DPRK, including regarding domestic and overseas forced labor. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report on North Korea (2024) on forced labor just this year. Will the DPRK accept the reports recommendations? If so, what is the timeline for implementation?
* The DPRAl’s transnational repression (TNR) efforts to reach outside their borders to coerce, harass, intimidate, censor, or carry out reprisal against escapees and others, are a direct affront to state sovereignty, human rights, and democracy. How does the DPRK justify these actions, which undermine the human rights of persons abroad as well as in the DPRK?
* What specific actions has the DPRK taken to implement two recommendations it accepted in the 3rd UPR cycle (2017-2022), 126.11 and 126.5, in relation to the Convention Against Torture and its submission of the CEDAW and CESCR reports, which were due in 2022?
* When is the DPRK planning to grant UN and international humanitarian agencies access to the DPRK to provide assistance to the most vulnerable groups?
* What steps is the DPRK taking to revise terminology on persons with disabilities in the law to address discrimination and align with international standards?
* What is the DPRK doing to end all forms of discrimination and gender-based violence against women and girls in a manner consistent with the DPRK’s obligations under CEDAW and the CRC, with the recommendations made to the DPRK during the 3rd cycle of the UPR, and with recommendations made by other UN human rights mechanisms and the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea?
* Under the 3rd UPR cycle, the DPRK agreed to recommendation 126.136, which states, “ Respect the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. Prevent and eliminate all forms of persecution committed on the basis of religion or belief. And promote religious tolerance Dialogue in society.” However, there are credible reports that the DPRK continues to execute, torture, arrest, and physically abuse individuals for their religious activities, Including nationwide crackdowns on so-called “superstitious practices.” How is the DPRK implementing the 2019 recommendation, and how do new laws enacted since this recommendation protect freedom of religion or belief for DPRK citizens in a manner consistent with the DPRK’s international human rights obligations and commitments?