

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA-Add.2**

NORWAY

- What steps will the Democratic People's Republic of Korea take to initiate domestic legislative reforms in order to fulfil obligations in human rights treaties to which the DPRK is a party and to comply with international human rights standards?
- Does the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have any plans to increase the participation of women in political life, by for instance, raising the number of women deputies to the Supreme National Assembly or influential posts in government?
- Is the DPRK taking any active steps to adequately deal with all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and a lack of prevention and protection measures for victims?
- Does the Democratic People's Republic of Korea consider a change in its practice of punishing civilians who leave the country without prior permission and who is then repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?
- Norway takes note of the national report where the DPRK states its determination to supply food to all population. What steps will be taken to ensure there is no disparity between access to food by the elite and vulnerable groups?
- There are reports about a variety of detention facilities (*Gwaliliso*) in the DPRK. The conditions in these camps are reported to be unable to meet minimum international standards. Will the DPRK agree to permit UN representatives to visit these facilities in the near future?

THE NETHERLANDS

- Despite reiterated appeals from the UN General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and later the Human Rights Council, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has not cooperated with UN Special Procedures. Will the Government of DPRK recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and cooperate fully with him?
- The Netherlands is gravely concerned about serious reports of which the stakeholders report is but one example on the possible use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, including inhuman conditions of detention, public executions, extrajudicial and arbitrary detention, the absence of due process and the imposition of the death penalty for political and religious reasons. Can the Government agree on the free and unlimited access of key internationally renowned actors, such as the ICRC and the High Commissioner of Human Rights, to detention centres? Would the Government consider working towards the abolition of the death penalty in line with the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly?

- The Netherlands has received serious reports on the food situation in the DPRK. Will the Government of DPRK ensure full and unhindered access to humanitarian aid on the basis of need in accordance with humanitarian principles?
- The Netherlands is very concerned about the safety and well being of DPRK nationals who are returned to the DPRK by third countries. Despite article 75 of the DPRK Constitution ("the citizens shall have freedom to reside in and travel to any place") there are serious reports of harsh treatment of and even death penalty for some of these returnees. Can the Government agree on the free and unlimited access of key internationally renowned actors, such as the ICRC and the High Commissioner of Human Rights, to these returnees in order to be able to confirm that no punishment is applied to these citizens?

HUNGARY

- We recommend the DPRK to ratify the fundamental human rights conventions (the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the optional protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, etc).
- We deem the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the treaty bodies essential for the improvement of the human rights situation in the country. Would the delegation of the DPRK provide more information about the steps they are planning to take for facilitating the cooperation with the UN mechanisms?
- Hungary has deep concerns about the fact that citizens of the DPRK do not enjoy fully the freedom of movement, including the right to leave the country. We recommend paying special attention to the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee in that field.
- Hungary is concerned about the restrictions on the freedom of religion and freedom of expression, and to the right to free access to information, justified by the Government of the DPRK on grounds of "threat to the State security". How does the DPRK intend to ensure the enjoyment of these rights?
- Regrettably the family unification process has been stopped between the DPRK and the Republic of Korea. We recommend the parties to take concrete steps to continue this process, keeping in mind that for the elder generation even a delay of 1-2 years can constitute a huge disadvantage.
- Based upon the experiences of the last few years we deem it regrettable that the government failed to take the necessary domestic measures to implement the recommendations of UN treaty bodies. We believe that the international community could assist the DPRK in fulfilling its obligations assumed under several conventions in a spirit of mutual trust and readiness for cooperation.
