

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF  
KOREA (FIRST BATCH)**

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

- What steps is the Government planning to take in order to build its cooperation with relevant UN human rights mandate holders, including allowing immediate and unhindered access to directly assess the human rights situation in the country?
- What steps is the Government taking to build on the freedoms enshrined in its constitution, such as education and freedom of religion or belief, to ensure that all of its citizens can receive 12 years of quality and uninterrupted education and are free to practice their religion or belief?
- What action is the Government taking to end the economic exploitation of children that interferes with their education, physical and mental development and rest, including ad hoc requests for voluntary labour, mass agricultural mobilisations, and acceptance of 16- and 17-year olds into military-style construction youth brigades that engage in long and heavy labour for up to 10 years?
- In line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the World Food Programme, what actions is the Government taking to improve operating conditions, access and monitoring arrangements to ensure equal access to food for all parts of its population, particularly the most vulnerable groups, such as the poor, people with disabilities, people in detention and children?
- What steps will the Government take to reform the penal system and military to ensure women are protected from sexual violence and abuse in line with its obligations under the Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women?

**PORTUGAL on behalf of 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?
- 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?

## **SWEDEN**

- During the last review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sweden recommended the DPRK to take immediate and transparent action to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment of all detainees, including forced hard labour and denial of food. Could the DPRK provide an update on progress in this regard?
- Several recent reports have highlighted the prevalence of violence against women in the military, in places of detention, on public transport and in commercial centres such as markets. What measures has the Democratic People's Republic of Korea taken to address sexual and gender based violence?
- Children and young persons often work in various public projects, for example in the construction works in Samjiyon. Could the Democratic People's Republic of Korea clarify how these children and young persons are recruited and under what conditions they work, in order to ensure that child labour does not occur?

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

- The North Korean penal code prohibits torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, yet the international community continues to document reports that such practices are common in North Korea's political prison camps and other detention centers, including reports of severe beatings, electric shock, prolonged periods of exposure to the elements, and other forms of mistreatment. Will North Korea ratify the Convention against Torture and ensure that domestic legal provisions prohibiting torture are enforced?
- How many individuals are there in North Korea's detention centers? How many die in detention each year? How has the prison population changed in recent years?
- Will the DPRK take steps to ensure that family members of detained individuals are informed where their family member is held and provided with a means to contact them?
- Political prisoners in North Korea are often subject to forced labor, including in logging, mining, tending crops, and manufacturing.. There have also been numerous reports that farms and factories did not pay wages or provide food to their workers. Forced labor reportedly continues to occur in brick making, cement manufacturing, coal mining, gold mining, logging, iron production, agriculture, and textile industries. What steps will the DPRK take to eliminate forced labor and the worst forms of child labor and will the DPRK consider joining and seeking the assistance of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in addressing those and other relevant issues?

- While the DPRK Criminal Code bans various forms of violence against women, there continue to be widespread reports of impunity for violence against women both by security forces and by private actors. Will the DPRK take steps to enforce these provisions, such as requiring the police to rigorously investigate and prosecute such cases, or increase public awareness campaigns to educate the public on the problem?
- The DPRK allowed the UN special rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to visit the DPRK in 2017, although the rapporteur's access was tightly restricted. What steps has the DPRK taken on disability rights following that trip?
- What steps is North Korea taking to bring trial and sentencing procedures in accordance with the ICCPR? Is time served for convicted criminals generally consistent with the terms of their sentences?
- What religious organizations, including churches, operate within the DPRK?
- In North Korea, are there any civil society organizations that operate independently from the government or the Korean Workers Party?

#### **CANADA**

- During the Second Cycle of the UPR, the DPRK accepted Canada's recommendation to "Guarantee freedom of thought, conscience and religion to all individuals by ensuring the basic rights to freedom of assembly and association". What steps has the DPRK taken to implement this recommendation?