

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 19th Session**Universal Periodic Review of the DPRK****Statement by Australia**

Australia remains disappointed by the DPRK's refusal to grant access to the Commission of Inquiry. Australia strongly supports the Commission's call for accountability for those responsible for crimes against humanity in the DPRK.

Australia recommends the DPRK implement the Commission's recommendations, including those on denial of due process, reform of the prison system, abolition of the death penalty and return of abductees to their homelands.

Australia recommends the DPRK align its criminal justice system with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international human rights instruments.

Australia recommends the DPRK allow the establishment of independent newspapers and other media; allow its citizens to access the Internet and the international media; and abolish compulsory indoctrination sessions.

Australia recommends the DPRK take immediate measures to end discrimination against its citizens for the alleged sins of their grandparents under the songbun system; ensure gender equality in practice; and address violence against women and girls.

Speaker: Ms Ruth Stone, Charge d'Affaires.