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19th Session of the Working Group of the UPR
Review of the DPRK, 1 May 2014
Statement by AUSTRIA

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Austria welcomes H.E. and the delegation of the DPRK to the UPR and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

Austria is deeply concerned about the harrowing human rights situation in the DPRK. The recently presented report by the Col on HR in the country substantiates that systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations have been and are being committed by the DPRK, its institutions and officials and that in many instances, the violations of human rights found by the commission constitute crimes against humanity.

We also remain deeply worried about the non-cooperation of the DPRK with the UN and its mechanisms, including special procedures mandate-holders or the Col.

Austria therefore recommends to the DPRK:

- to immediately halt the systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations and to address the human rights concerns raised in the reports of the Col, Special Procedures mandate holders and the treaty bodies as well as in resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council;
- to recognize the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the DPRK, issue an invitation to him to visit the country, and permit him to work unhindered;
- to immediately close down all (*kwanliso facilities*) political prison camps, and to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives being held on the basis of 'guilt-by-association';
- to provide international humanitarian organizations and human rights monitors with immediate access to (*kwanliso facilities*) the prison camps and their surviving victims;
- to ensure that government policy on access to food, healthcare and health services, including the Public Distribution System, is free of discrimination and political considerations;

I thank you