

UPR 19 – DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

*The Czech Republic welcomes the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).*

We are gravely concerned about the human rights situation in the DPRK as depicted by numerous reliable sources, most recently by the ground-breaking report of the Commission of Inquiry.

We **recommend** that the Government:

- allow independent human rights monitors to visit the country, cooperate with special procedures and start an open debate, both domestically and at the international level, on the findings of the Commission of Inquiry;
- close down all camps where prisoners of conscience are held and release unconditionally all political prisoners;
- abolish all unconstitutional discriminatory practices connected with the *songbun* system and terminate the punishment based on collective guilt;
- guarantee the right to food for its citizens on an equal basis and put an end to discriminatory food rationing as a tool to control and exert pressure on its people;
- ensure free movement of all citizens and refrain from punishing those who return or are involuntarily returned to the DPRK from abroad;
- open the information space in the DPRK so that all its people have access to information of their choice and the possibility to impart it freely without fear of reprisals.