

Check against delivery

19th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group (28 April-9 May 2014)

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Rytis Paulauskas,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Lithuania
at the review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
1 May 2014**

Mr. President,

Lithuania welcomes the esteemed delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and thanks for the informative National Report.

Lithuania remains deeply concerned about systemic, widespread and gross human rights violations in the DPRK, which, as stated by the UN Commission of Inquiry, may amount to crimes against humanity, and urges the government of the DPRK to take immediate steps to halt all such violations. Regrettably, the perpetrators of these violations enjoy impunity, because they act in accordance with State policy. Lithuania considers that the issue of accountability should be addressed by referring the situation in the DPRK to the International Criminal Court.

Lithuania would like make the following recommendations to the DPRK: 1) to immediately close all political prison camps and to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners detained, 2) to take immediate steps to end the use of torture and other ill-treatment of detainees in political prison camps, including forced labour and denial of food quotas; 3) to abolish the *de facto* prohibition on foreign travel imposed on ordinary citizens and in this regard to amend national legislation by removing the requirement for permission to travel internally or abroad, in compliance with international obligations; 4) to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolition and in the meantime to immediately end public and extra-judicial executions; 5) to cooperate fully with the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK and other UN human rights mechanisms and to grant them unrestricted access to the country.

I thank you.