

New Zealand welcomes this opportunity to engage with the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea on its human rights situation, building on our bilateral discussions.

New Zealand has repeatedly voiced deep concern at the human rights situation in DPRK. We do so again today, particularly in light of the findings of the Commission of Inquiry, which demonstrates the need for urgent action. We **recommend** the government of the DPRK acknowledge the existence of human rights violations taking place in DPRK and to act immediately on the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry.

We join others in condemning the continued use of political prison camps. We **recommend** DPRK acknowledge the existence of such camps, and take immediate steps to close them. In the interim we **recommend** DPRK ensure that all prisoners are provided with the minimum standards of humane treatment in particular that they are not subject to torture or inhumane or degrading treatment such as forced hard labour or food quota.

New Zealand is deeply concerned about the severe lack of access to basic human needs facing many citizens of the country. We **recommend** the DPRK work closely with humanitarian agencies to ensure their free and unimpeded access to all populations in need and that humanitarian aid is distributed transparently and reaches the most vulnerable citizens.

We hope that through meaningful cooperation with the UPR, and other UN human rights mechanisms, the DPRK will engage in much-needed reforms to better protect and promote the rights of its people.

Thank you Mr. President.