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Universal Periodic Review of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Statement by the Republic of Poland

1 May 2014, Geneva

Mr. President,

Poland would like to thank the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for the presentation of its national report and its participation in the UPR process.

Poland is appalled by testimonies on the human rights situation in the DPRK. We refer, above all, to the latest report of the Commission on Inquiry which accurately describes the gravity, scale and nature of systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations committed in the country, a number of which constitute crimes against humanity.

We call on the Government of the DPRK to put an end to these violations. We **recommend** that the DPRK fulfil its commitments under ratified human rights instruments such as the ICCPR, the ICESR, the CEDAW and the CRC, including the submission of outstanding reports. We note that following the first UPR review, the DPRK failed to clarify its position on recommendations formulated by other States which focused on, inter alia, the right to food, restrictions on freedom of movement and freedom of expression and the use of torture and ill-treatment in detention. We urge the Government to provide their position on these issues and submit responses that would adequately reflect the situation on the ground.

Moreover, Poland **recommends** the DPRK to cooperate with all the United Nations human rights mechanisms and engage with the OHCHR. Transparency and an independent, unrestricted contact with the local population are indispensable for the UN system to effectively address the human rights situation on the ground. We underline that the expertise, know-how and dedication of these bodies are the means to improve the everyday life of the DPRK citizens. We would also like to **recommend** that the DPRK amend the national legislation in order to make it compatible with international human rights standards, and to establish a national human rights institution.

Thank you for your attention.