



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

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Statement by Mr. Nuno Gabriel Cabral
Permanent Mission of Portugal
19th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group
(28 April – 9 May)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Mr. President,

Portugal welcomes the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and thanks it for the presentation of the national UPR report.

Portugal is deeply worried about the long-standing, systematic and widespread gross violations and abuses of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which amount to crimes against humanity. Violations of the right to life, including arbitrary and extra-judicial executions, enforcement of death penalty, abduction, extermination and torture, sexual violence, denial of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of movement, as well as of the right to education and food are of the utmost concern. Those responsible for such violations and crimes must be brought to justice and must not go unpunished.

Portugal recommends that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea take immediate steps to put an end to such gross and heinous violations of human rights, namely by implementing the recommendations of the report of the Commission of Inquiry, established by this Council. We also recommend that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully cooperates with the Commission of Inquiry as well as with the United Nations Special Procedures and with the Humanitarian international organizations.

Finally, we recommend that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on the abolition of death penalty; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment and its Optional Protocol; the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Thank you Mr President.