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UPR19/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Statement by Slovakia

1 May 2014

Mr President,

Slovakia thanks the delegation of the DPRK for the presentation of their national report. The situation of human rights in the DPRK is a matter of serious concern. We regret continued non-cooperation of the DPRK with UN human rights mechanisms.

Slovakia is particularly concerned with the extensive and non-transparent use of death penalty. We **recommend the DPRK to introduce an immediate moratorium on the use of death penalty with a view to its abolition.**

Reported cases of torture and ill-treatment of detainees in all places of detention is a matter of serious concern. Slovakia **recommends the DPRK to take immediate steps to stop the use of torture and ill-treatment in all instances of deprivation of freedom.**

We note restrictions on basic freedoms, including free access to information and in this regard we **recommend the DPRK to ensure free access of all its citizens to information in line with its international obligations under the ICCPR.**

Slovakia **recommends that the DPRK allows all persons of foreign origin who have been abducted as well as their descendants to return freely to their countries of origin.**

We remain concerned by reports on situation of political prisoners and conditions of their detentions in political prison camps. We call upon the DPRK to give all persons in detention a fair trial, and to release without delay political prisoners.

Thank you.