



**Statement by Sweden in the
interactive dialogue on
Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

*Delivered by Counsellor Anna Jakenberg Brinck
Geneva, May 1, 2014*

Mr President,

Sweden welcomes the DPRK delegation to the UPR.

Last year the Human Rights Council established a Commission of inquiry mandated to investigate allegations of systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the DPRK. The findings of the commission are alarming and distressing.

The CoI-report portrays a country where even the most fundamental human rights are systematically infringed by the state and also described unspeakable atrocities committed against prisoners in political prison camps. It is said that the gravity, scale and nature of the human rights violations in the DPRK reveals a totalitarian state without parallel in the modern world. The CoI concluded that the body of evidence establishes that crimes against humanity have been committed.

Regarding abductions, the CoI recommended that transparent information be provided on the fate and whereabouts of all abductees and that they are allowed to return to their countries of origin.

Sweden has the following recommendations to make:

- Grant access for the Special Rapporteur to the DPRK;
- Take immediate and transparent action to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment of all detainees, including forced hard labour and denial of food quotas;
- Immediately close down all political prison camps and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives being held on the basis of "guilt-by-association";

DPRK should accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC, including by incorporating provisions to