**33rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea**

9 May 2019

**Statement by Austria**

Austria welcomes the delegation of the DPRK and thanks them for their report and presentation.

We note with profound concern that in spite of the DPRK’s pledges, the most serious human rights violations continue to take place with impunity. We further regret that the DPRK’s cooperation with UN mechanisms and independent monitors remains very limited. We call on the DPRK to act as a responsible member of the international community by complying with its international human rights obligations and by increasing transparency and international cooperation.

We offer the following recommendations:

* Take immediate and effective action to stop the use of torture and other ill-treatment in detention facilities and ensure fair trial guarantees;
* Immediately close down all political prison camps and release all prisoners of conscience, including relatives being held on the basis of guilt-by-association;
* Effectively address the chronic food insecurity, in particular the early childhood malnutrition, and ensure that government policy on access to food is free of discrimination and political considerations;
* Ensure that children are protected against all forms of exploitation and forced or hazardous labour, especially as part of their school curriculum;
* Act on its commitment to dialogue and cooperation by accepting outstanding requests by special procedures to visit the country and by engaging actively with the OHCHR;

I thank you.