**UPR 33rd Session**

**(Geneva, 6-17 May 2019)**

**Review of the DPRK**

**Statement by Greece**

Thank you Mr President,

Greece takes note of the DPRK’s ratification of the CRPD, of the first ever visit of a UN Human Rights mandate-holder [*in 2017*], as well as of the diplomatic efforts for the pacification and stabilization of the Korean Peninsula, which should include a human rights dimension.

As the Human Rights situation in the country remains a matter of grave concern, with numerous HR violations and abuses being reported [some of which, according to the CoI’s report, amount to Crimes against Humanity], **Greece would like to submit the following recommendations:**

1. Ratify all remaining main human rights instruments, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its optional protocol;
2. Take progressive steps to restrict and/or abolish the death penalty
3. Implement reforms to bring laws and practices in line with international standards of freedom of the press and freedom of expression;
4. Introduce a law on freedom of information in accordance with international standards;
5. Allow the establishment of independent newspapers and other media and end all censorship of domestic and foreign media, as well as introduce access to the internet in schools, libraries and other public facilities;
6. *Respect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion by taking effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of persecution on the grounds of religion or belief and by promoting religious tolerance and dialogue in society*.

Thank you