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| Description: Description: Description: C:\Users\amessent\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\MN1HAVZZ\Brand NZ-no agency High Res.jpg | **Human Rights Council**  **33rd Session of the Universal Periodic Review**  **Democratic People’s Republic of Korea**  **Delivered by Permanent Representative Jillian Dempster**  **9 May 2019** |

Mr. President,

New Zealand welcomes the participation by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea today. We are gravely concerned by the ongoing severe and systematic human rights violations in the DPRK. The 2014 Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK found that, in many cases, these violations constitute crimes against humanity.

We **recommend** the DPRK acknowledges the existence of human rights violations and end all state-sanctioned practices that breach fundamental human rights, including arbitrary detention, torture, forced abortion and other sexual violence.

We **recommend** the DPRK abolish the death penalty in all cases and put an immediate halt to public executions.

We join others in condemning the continued use of political prison camps and **recommend** the DPRK take immediate steps to close them.

We acknowledge positive steps the DPRK has taken, such as the visit to the DPRK by the Special Rapporteur for the rights of people with disabilities. New Zealand **recommends** the DPRK allow the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, and other thematic rapporteurs, unfettered access to the country and its people.

New Zealand encourages the DPRK to implement the recommendations it accepted during its second Universal Periodic Review in 2014, including the recommendation to become a member of the International Labour Organisation and introduce and implement core labour standards.

It is our hope that through meaningful cooperation with the Universal Periodic Review and other UN human rights mechanisms, the DPRK will undertake much-needed reforms to meet its international human rights obligations and guarantee the future security and prosperity of its people.

Thank you, Mr. President.