

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
KOREA**

BELGIUM

- Is the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures?
- Is the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering replying to the multiple requests for a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea?
- Is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering ratifying the Additional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?
- Is the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering ratifying the Palermo Protocol and the ILO fundamental conventions?
- Is the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering lifting the reservations it has to CEDAW?
- The reports of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the CRC, the CEDAW, the Human Rights Committee and the CESCR are overdue. What measures have been taken by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to remedy this?
- Is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court?
- The Secretary General of the United Nations observed that there were limited provisions in the Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addressing the specific needs of women and children, as provided for under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and CEDAW. Has anything been undertaken to address this concern?
- How many individuals are currently on death row? Of those, how many are foreign nationals?
- How many of those on death row have children, and how many children are affected in this way? What support is provided to these children?

- How many individuals have been sentenced to death and/or executed in the last four and half years? How many of those have/had children? How many are/were foreign nationals?
- Do family members, including children, of persons on death row have the right to visit (or if unable to visit to communicate in other ways)? If so, is the visiting/communication regime the same as that for other prisoners?
- Do family members have the right under national law to be informed of an execution before it takes place? If so, how are they informed and what is the notice period?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has persistently refused the cooperation with Special Rapporteurs and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as with the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK. Have you reconsidered cooperating with UN human rights mechanisms in order to improve the human rights situation in the country?
- With regard to the extensive use of the death penalty, including high-profile executions, public executions, unpunished extrajudicial and summary killings by state security forces, and death sentences for minor offences, do you envisage the adoption of measures limiting the use of the death penalty? Could you please share detailed statistics on the number of executions carried out, including the information on the crimes committed by those executed?
- Notwithstanding previous recommendations, the DPRK has not yet acceded to the Convention against Torture. Do you intend to become a State Party to this Convention and its Optional Protocol? What measures have been adopted to ensure protection against and prevention of torture? What steps does the Government of the DPRK propose to eradicate torture and to ensure independent monitoring of places of detention?
- What concrete steps have been taken to ensure sufficient food for the entire population of the DPRK and to de-politicize the food distribution?
- We remain concerned about disadvantaging women and children in the DPRK and, in general, about the restrictions under the *songbun* system. Do you intend to abolish the discriminatory practices based on the *songbun* system, which are in breach of the Constitution, namely Article 65?
- There are numerous testimonies of political prison camps in the country where reportedly human rights violations amount to crimes against humanity. How do you envisage addressing the issue? Do you intend to invite independent monitors to verify the findings of the Commission of Inquiry concerning the political prison camps?

- Has the Government of the DPRK considered full engagement in the UPR process and a response to the recommendations made in 2009, i.e. accepting or taking note of them as per UPR rules?

GERMANY

- The respect for and protection of human rights is not only a duty of all states and an objective in itself. In the case of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, guaranteeing its citizens the enjoyment of basic human rights would also lead to an improvement of the situation of the country at all levels: It would trigger the recognition of the International Community, would contribute to a lift of embargoes and freedom to travel for state servants, among many other improvements the country is in dire need of. Has the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea considered to improve its human rights record under this rationale and if so, what is the result of your deliberations?
- The Democratic People's Republic has signed and ratified one of the most important international human rights conventions, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Germany would be interested to learn which internal considerations have led to this important step and which expectations you had from joining the Covenant. As a state party to the Covenant, the government of the DPRK is fully bound by the obligations and commitments contained therein. When does the government intend to fulfil these obligations?
- How does the DPRK intend to heed the calls contained in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Human Rights Situation in the DPRK and Human Rights Council Resolution 25/25 to end human rights violations and bring perpetrators to justice?

NORWAY

- The DPRK only explicitly rejected 50 recommendations received during the UPR of 2009. Is this indicative that the DPRK mean to have accepted all the remaining (117) recommendations?
- Does the DPRK maintain that no obligation exists, to clearly state either reject or acceptance of received recommendations?
- In its national report (document A/HRC/WG.6/19/PRK/1), the DPRK gives several examples of improvements of people's living standard in Pyongyang, notably in part IV B. To what degree does the DPRK emphasise providing the same advances in all rural parts of the country?
- From the national report, Norway takes note that efforts were made to motivate the advance of women in political and social life, and that there are provisions of policies, laws and regulations favouring women's interests over men's. What are the concrete

results of these efforts? Has there been a rise in the percentage of women in influential posts in government and party?

SLOVENIA

- With regard to human rights education as mentioned in your national report, we would be interested to know how do you teach human rights education, which materials do you use, what programs/projects do you conduct and in which formal educational institutions did you introduce human rights education?
- How do you tackle persistent food shortage, inequality of access to food and consequently under-nutrition and other health problems of the population in the DPRK?

SWEDEN

- Neither the Commission of Inquiry nor the Special Rapporteur was ever granted access to the DPRK. Under which circumstances would your Government be willing to grant access to UN representatives to visit the DPRK in order to assess the human rights situation?
- When is the Government of the DPRK planning to close the political prison camps?

UNITED KINGDOM

- What is the DPRK's response to the findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry that systematic and widespread state sanctioned human rights violations are taking place in the DPRK? Will the DPRK respond in detail to the contents of the Commission of Inquiry's report and address the violations that it documents, including the need to immediately close all prison camps?
- The National Report refers to ongoing efforts to put into place measures to guarantee full enjoyment of civil and political rights (independence of judiciary, right to fair trial, freedom of expression, etc); economic, social and cultural rights (right to healthcare, education, etc); and rights of special groups (children, women and the disabled). Will the DPRK accept technical cooperation and assistance to ensure these measures meet international standards and norms?

- Your National Report refers to a number of specific laws adopted and activities undertaken in recent years to protect and promote human rights within the DPRK. Will the DPRK permit diplomats, UN actors, foreign media, NGOs and other interested observers free access to the DPRK to monitor and report on such activities?
- The United Kingdom notes that the DPRK is still not party to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). When will the DPRK sign, ratify and accede to CAT, taking the necessary national measures to ensure compliance with its provisions?