

## **31st Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, Mr. Marzuki Darusman**

#### **Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the EU.

We would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his important work and report that highlights the need for accountability measures for human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed, according to numerous credible sources, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

While we continue to believe that a further referral of the situation in the DPRK to the ICC by the Security Council would be the most effective approach that would ensure accountability, we welcome the recommendation to explore various options and determine an appropriate approach for the international community to ensure State accountability for crimes against humanity committed in the DPRK and secure truth and justice for the victims.

We urge the Government of the DPRK to immediately halt and allow for investigation of the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations and immediately and unconditionally release and rehabilitate all political prisoners. We welcome the extension by the Government of the DPRK of the invitation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to pay a visit to the country. At the same time, we urge the Government of the DPRK to engage in cooperation with the OHCHR field-based structure in Seoul, the Special Rapporteur and other UN special procedures and human rights mechanisms.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, in your latest report you mention access to justice as one of the features of any meaningful improvement of the human rights situation in the DPRK. *What, in your opinion, is the role of countries with transitional justice experiences in the concerted international efforts to bring about tangible improvement of the human rights situation in the DPRK? How could such countries help in establishing an open dialogue on human rights and accountability with the DPRK government?*

I thank you.