**UN Human Rights Council**

**49th Session**

**Item 4 - Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the DPRK**

*21 March 2022*

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

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

We wish to thank the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana, for his insightful report *as well as for his high quality and admirable work delivered during his six-year mandate.* We call upon the Government of the DPRK to recognize the Special Rapporteur’s mandate and we echo his call to receive an invitation to visit the country before his term expires *in July 2022*.

We are concerned about his conclusions on further deterioration of the human rights situation due to the ongoing isolation of the country during the continuing COVID-19 quarantine measures.

DPRK´s deepening control over the population, continued arbitrary arrests and detentions, cases of torture and ill treatment and persistent restrictions on freedom of expression, freedom of movement or access to information are deeply concerning *as are the grossly disproportionate punishments including the death penalty for accessing information*.

We wish to accentuate the Special Rapporteur´s remark on referring the ongoing crimes against humanity in DPRK to the ICC or to an *ad hoc* tribunal to determine the criminal responsibility of all responsible Government officials.

*We support the Special Rapporteur’s suggestions related to possible technical collaboration between the United Nations and the Government of the DPRK.*

Mr. Ojea Quintana, as we grapple with the current Russian aggression in Ukraine resulting in millions of refugees and thousands of casualties, could you share your views on the chances of a desired denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula?

I thank you.