

UN Human Rights Council, 25th session

Interactive Dialogue with the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 17 March 2014

Intervention by the Czech Republic

Mr. President, Mr. Kirby, distinguished members of the Commission of Inquiry,

The Czech Republic supports the statement made earlier by the European Union.

The Czech Republic commends the Commission of Inquiry for its detailed report on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The Commission has succeeded in collecting highly disturbing evidence confirming the systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations in the DPRK that in many instances entail crimes against humanity. The gravity of the violations is strengthened by the fact that they apparently stem from the policies established at the highest level of State as well as by the impunity of perpetrators.

We deeply regret that the DPRK continuously denies human rights violations, including the existence of political prison camps in the country, and continuously rejects any cooperation with the international community.

We are in agreement with the conclusions of the report that the international community must accept its responsibility to protect the people of the DPRK. We fully support the recommendation that the Security Council should refer the situation in the DPRK to the International Criminal Court so that it is ensured that those responsible for the reported crimes against humanity are held accountable. We also support further monitoring, investigating into and collecting of evidence on human rights violations in the DPRK with the focus on accountability.

We call on the DPRK to acknowledge the existence of systematic human rights violations on its territory and take immediate steps to end all human rights violations. We encourage the DPRK government to use its upcoming UPR as an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the international community. We urge the DPRK to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of alleged foregoing crimes against humanity and to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners. Finally, we encourage the DPRK to allow for an immediate field-based presence of and assistance by relevant United Nations entities.

Thank you, Mr. President.