

## **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

### **26th session**

#### **Interactive dialogue with Mr. Marzuki Darusman, Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**

**18 June 2014**

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

Mr President, Mr. Darusman,

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

The Czech Republic wishes to thank the Special Rapporteur for his report and for his work as a member of the former Commission of Inquiry (CoI) and expresses its full support for his mandate.

We remain gravely concerned by the Commission findings of systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations in the country that in many instances entail crimes against humanity and continue to urge the Government of the DPRK to take immediate steps to halt such violations.

We urge the DPRK to identify and prosecute the perpetrators of foregoing crimes against humanity and we support the recommendation that the Security Council should refer the situation in the country to the International Criminal Court. In this regard, we welcome the CoI briefing to the Security Council on 17 April and the generally positive response by the participants. We hope that the momentum created by the CoI revelations will not be lost and that its deeply disturbing findings will soon be followed up by a further action. We agree with you, Mr. Darusman, that the human rights perspective should be mainstreamed in all engagements with the DPRK at all levels.

The Czech Republic urges the Government to immediately close all political prisoner camps and release unconditionally and without delay all political prisoners and resolve the question of abduction of foreign nationals.

We continue to encourage the Government to implement the recommendations accepted in the UPR process and provide detailed information on how the implementation has translated into tangible human rights improvements on the ground.

We also call on all States to adhere to the principle of "non-refoulement".

Finally, Mr. Darusman, let me pose a question. We welcome the creation of the field-based structure in Seoul to continue with collecting evidence on human rights violations in the DPRK. What would be your advice to the field-based structure staff to exploit fully the momentum set in motion by the evidence-collection undertaken by yourself, Mr. Kirby and Ms. Biserko?

Thank you.