



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

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Third Committee – ID with Ms Elizabeth Salmón

Statement by

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First Secretary

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Mr. Chair,

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

We welcome Ms. Elisabeth Salmón to her new role as a Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the DPRK and thank her for her first report providing an update on the current human rights situation in the country and approaches and focus areas to implement the mandate.

The situation of human rights in the DPRK has been constantly deteriorating over the past years and the isolation of the country has further grown during the self-imposed draconic COVID-19 restrictions at the cost of harsh repressions and threats of execution, imprisonment, enforced disappearances or forced labour in detention and prison camps.

We condemn, as we did multiple times in the past, the ongoing systematic, gross human rights violations taking place in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The government fails to protect the basic rights of the population, especially of women, children and other vulnerable groups.

We echo the Special Rapporteur's call for gradual opening of the borders and allowing a standard life and movement for Korean people and their usual economic activities.

We also have to repeat our previous call on the North Korean authorities to ensure a full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to the entire territory and to allow the resumption of regular diplomatic rotation in the country.

As a party to the International Covenant on civil and political rights, the DPRK shall *inter alia* respect the rights to freedom of thought, opinion, expression and information. We urge the DPRK government to abrogate the "DPRK Law on rejecting reactionary ideology and culture" of December 2020 and allow civil society organizations, trade unions and independent media to freely function and exercise their rights.

We call on the DPRK to initiate a process of dialogue with the Special Rapporteur and special procedure thematic mandate holders and invite them to carry out official

country visits. We hope in a mutual dialogue and opening a process leading to promotion and protection of human rights in the territory.

Ms. Special Rapporteur,

What concrete steps would you suggest to the new High Commissioner for Human Rights that would lead to a new and creative approach?

I thank you.