

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

General Comment

HRC43 Resolution on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of
Korea

19 June 2020

Australia thanks the EU for its work on Resolution L.17 and for the open and consultative approach to negotiations.

The ongoing, systematic and widespread human rights violations and abuses committed by the Government of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) against its own people are gravely disturbing and must end.

Australia is deeply saddened that, as this resolution highlights, there has been no significant improvement in the human rights situation in the DPRK since the 2014 Commission of Inquiry. We support the resolution’s call for all parties concerned to implement and take forward the Commission’s recommendations.

Ongoing reports of arbitrary detention, executions, torture, enslavement and enforced disappearances in the DPRK demonstrate the need to ensure accountability for human rights violations. Consistent with this resolution, we urge the DPRK Government to actively engage with international mechanisms and implement accountability measures, in accordance with relevant international law.

Above all else, the DPRK Government has prioritised the advancement of its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) programs. Respect for human rights is essential to achieving permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The international community must maintain pressure on the DPRK Government to respect the human rights of all of its peoples and abandon its WMD programs in compliance with various UN Security Council resolutions.

Accordingly, Australia strongly urges all members to support this Resolution.

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