

Draft resolution on the “Situation of human rights in the DPRK”

A/HRC/25/L.17

Introduction by Japan

Mr. President,

Japan remains deeply concerned with long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea which were documented in detail in the report of the Commission of Inquiry.

The report of the Commission of Inquiry submitted to this Council prior to this session underlines that these violations in many instances constitute crime against humanity, and at the impunity of perpetrators.

Based on such a view, the Commission calls on the international community to take action. As Justice Michael Kirby, Chairman of the Commission states, “Now is the time for action. We can’t say we didn’t know. Now we know.”

Japan strongly believes that it is a duty of the international community, including the UN, to respond to the report in order to urgently address the situation.

It is for these reasons that this year Japan tables, together with the EU, this joint draft resolution which would follow up on the report of the Commission of Inquiry. Taking this opportunity, we once again urge the DPRK to engage in constructive dialogue with the international community and to take concrete steps to improve the human rights situation on the ground.

We call on all Council members to support this draft resolution to be adopted by consensus.

I thank you, Mr President.