

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

A/HRC/22/L.19

Introduction by Japan

Mr President,

Like the EU, Japan remains deeply concerned with the grave, widespread and systematic human rights violations that persist in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, including the abductions issue.

The report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to this Council prior to this session outlines nine patterns of human rights violations in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea: namely, violation of the right to food, prison camps, torture and inhuman treatment, arbitrary detention, discrimination, violations of freedom of expression, violations of the right to life, violations of freedom of movement, and enforced disappearances, including abduction of nationals of other states.

Based on this analysis, the Special Rapporteur points out “the need for the establishment of an inquiry mechanism with adequate resources to investigate and more fully document the grave, widespread and systematic violations of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.” Japan strongly believes that a Commission of

Inquiry to investigate such human rights violations from an independent and impartial standpoint will provide the Council with concrete outcomes which will guide the international community in addressing this situation.

It is for these reasons that this year Japan tables, together with the EU, this joint draft resolution whose adoption will establish 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.