

**Item 4: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of
human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Statement of Japan

Geneva, 11 March 2013

Thank you, Mr. President,

Japan attaches great importance to the role of the Special Rapporteur and appreciates his dedicated efforts toward the improvement of the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in spite of DPRK's failure to recognize his mandate or to allow him to visit.

Last year, resolutions on the DPRK were adopted by consensus, for the first time, by both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Japan recognizes this as the collective result of the work of the Special Rapporteur as well as that of the entire international community, which is distressed by the human rights situation in the DPRK. However, as

with many times in the past, we have seen no progress in the human rights situation in the DPRK, including on the abduction issue, as the DPRK continues to provoke the international community by expending their resources on the development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

Given this situation, the Special Rapporteur has submitted a report for the 22nd Council Session in which he provides a comprehensive analysis of past UN reports and resolutions on the situation of human rights in the DPRK. The report identifies nine underlying patterns of human rights violations by the DPRK and recommends the establishment of an inquiry mechanism with adequate resources to investigate and more fully document grave, systematic and widespread violations of human rights in the DPRK. This call for a new mechanism is also strongly supported by the High Commissioner.

In support of the idea of the Special Rapporteur, Japan is currently coordinating with relevant States during this Council Session, jointly

with the EU, in order to submit a draft resolution on the human rights situation in the DPRK which would include the establishment of such a new inquiry mechanism. Japan hopes that the resolution will continue to gain broad support among the international community and be adopted, sending a strong message to the DPRK, and lead to the improvement of the DPRK human rights situation through a more effective investigation.

In the event that the resolution is adopted, a new inquiry mechanism will be set up. Japan strongly hopes that a comprehensive analysis of the human rights situation in the DPRK which focuses not only on a description of events but also on their background would be produced, in order to guide and support the international efforts to stop the deterioration of the human rights situation in the country.

Thank you.