**52th session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPR of Korea, Ms. Elizabeth Salmón**

20th March 2023

**Statement by the Czech Republic**

Mr. President,

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

We wish to thank the Special Rapporteur for her first report to the Human Rights Council. We remain worried about the constantly deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in the DPRK and further evidence of the ongoing systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations. *At the same time, we are alarmed with the current increased security tension and lack of functioning communication channels with the DPRK. We agree that sustainable peace on the Korean Peninsula can only be achieved if human rights are central to any diplomatic processes.*

We welcome the fact that the Special Rapporteur has accentuated women and girls as a priority of her work. Women and girls in the DPRK continue to face widespread gender stereotypes, discrimination and violence, including sexual and domestic violence, denial of sexual and reproductive rights, and other forms of human rights violations. *We are particularly worried about the inhumane conditions in detention facilities, where women are subjected to torture and ill-treatment, forced labour and sexual and gender-based violence.* We urge the DPRK to put an end to these violations and introduce measures to comply with its international obligations *relating to women´s rights*.

We support the Special Rapporteur in her call to the High Commissioner *for Human Rights* to prioritize the human rights situation in DPRK and build momentum to engage with the DPRK with creative approaches.

We further call upon 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 for a mutual dialogue and opening of a process leading to promotion and protection of human rights in the territory.*

Ms. Special Rapporteur,

What steps can the international community take in order to prevent and address the ongoing violations of the rights of women and girls in the DPRK? *How can civil society contribute to these efforts?*

Thank you.