

On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2017

## The Role of UN Human Rights Mechanisms in the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Date: Monday 11 December 2017  
Venue: 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Seoul Global Center  
(38 Jongro, Jongno-gu, Seoul)

*\* Simultaneous translation in English/Korean will be provided*

### Programme

1:30 ~ 2:00 Registration and welcoming coffee

2:00 ~ 2:45 Opening

- Opening statement by Signe Poulsen, Representative, UN OHCHR (Seoul)
- Keynote speech by and exchange of views with Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK

2:45 ~ 4:00 Session on stocktaking of the implementation of the recommendations  
by the UN human rights mechanisms to the DPRK

Moderator: Younkyo Ahn, Human Rights Officer, UN OHCHR (Seoul)

Presentation by CSOs:

- Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- Human Rights Treaty Bodies
- Special Procedures
- Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the DPRK (COI)

4:00 ~ 4:30 Q and A

Moderator: Seong-Phil Hong, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

4:30 ~ 4:40 Closing

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day 2017, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Seoul) is organising a seminar in Seoul on the role of UN Human Rights mechanisms in protecting and promoting human rights in the DPRK. The seminar will analyse progress made to implement international human rights norms through the UN human rights mechanisms, and how stakeholders can engage constructively with these processes.

Representatives from civil society organizations will share their experiences in utilising UN mechanisms, lessons learnt, and identify future opportunities.

### Background

The engagement of the DPRK with international human rights mechanisms has been limited. However, since 2014, the DPRK has taken steps to engage with international human rights instruments on some human rights issues. In December 2016, the country ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in May 2017, the Government facilitated a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. The DPRK has accepted more than 180 recommendations as part of its first and second cycles of the Universal Periodic Review. In 2016, the Government submitted periodic reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of Child (CRC) and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The country participated in reviews by these Committees in September and November 2017. However, other treaty reports remain overdue, and the DPRK has not agreed to a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

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### 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Web: [www.standup4humanrights.org](http://www.standup4humanrights.org)