



## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Adoption of UPR Outcomes

#HRC58 • 25 March 2025

#### Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)



#### STATE UNDER REVIEW

The delegation of the **DPRK** considers UPR mechanism as an important instrument to review human rights situations of all countries on an equal footing and facilitate the global efforts for promotion and protection of human rights through dialogue and cooperation. Proceeding from its respect for the UPR mechanism and willingness to strengthen international cooperation in the field of human rights, the DPRK participated in the UPR of the DPRK in November 2024.

The DPRK had an open and meaningful interactive dialogue with many countries and gave comprehensive answers and clear explanations as much as possible to the questions and comments raised. The DPRK takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to the delegates of various countries who had objectively and impartially assessed the human rights situation of the DPRK and made constructive recommendations. As regards the **294 recommendations** made during the review, the **DPRK rejected outright 88 recommendations** which pursued ulterior political purposes and severely distorted the human rights situation of the DPRK based on false information and materials fabricated by the hostile forces.

As for the remaining 206 recommendations, the DPRK decided to examine them in due course and clarify its position later on. After the review, the DPRK distributed the reports on its proceedings to the domestic legislative, judicial and administrative institutions and public organisations that took part in the preparation of the four-cycle national report of the UPR, carefully examined the recommendations through wide-ranging consultations with them, and presented the position of the Government in writing to the UNHRC in accordance with the due procedure. As can be seen in document submitted by the DPRK to the UNHRC, out of 294 recommendations made during the review, the DPRK has decided to **support 143, partially support 7 and reject the remaining 144.**

First of all, with regard to many of the 143 recommendations that have been supported are in conformity with the policy of the DPRK, giving utmost priority to the rights and interests of the people as they inspire and encourage the Government in its efforts to protect and promote



human rights. For example, several countries recommended the DPRK to strive steadily to provide rural and countryside population with civilised living conditions. Such recommendations represent support and encouragement to the practical changes and endeavours of the State, which recently put forward a **new policy of regional development** and vigorously pushes ahead with its implementation, face-by-face, to close the gap between urban and rural areas and ensure all residents in the capital, provinces and countryside equally enjoy wealthy and civilised life.

In addition, many recommendations were made concerning **enhancement of quality education and public health**, adoption of more concrete measures to protect children, women and other vulnerable people and promote their rights, as well as the issue of fully accommodating the right to food by increasing agricultural production. Those recommendations were either implemented already in legal and practical terms or in the process of implementation. They can also be implemented through specific measures under the current plan.

The DPRK also takes into serious consideration the recommendations on **continuously honouring its obligations** under the international human rights conventions it has already ratified, acceding to other human rights conventions to which the DPRK is not party yet, and further strengthening cooperation with major human rights bodies.

The DPRK will actively seek for their possible implementation. Next, the DPRK decided to **partially accept seven recommendations**, even though some of the contents were not fully acceptable to us. The DPRK decided to do so with the hope that prejudiced misunderstandings of recommending countries can be removed if they deepen the understanding of our country in the years to come. Out of the recommendations, the DPRK promised to clarify its position later on. It **rejected 56**. These recommendations are solely politically motivated and based on unjust and biased views, as they are related to the issue of sovereignty that the DPRK is entitled to deal with in accordance with its independent judgement and determination, and they do not confirm to the domestic laws and practical conditions.

For instance, **accession to the international conventions and revisions of the domestic laws** exclusively belong to the internal affairs of a sovereign state and, as such, should be determined by the governments concerned, not by a force of external forces. The allegations that the DPRK's domestic laws contain such contents as restriction on freedom of expression and movement are a manifestation of the ignorance of realities on the ground and repetition of the false information fabricated by the hostile forces. Therefore, they are totally unacceptable. Such mechanisms and procedures as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of the human rights in the DPRK, created in accordance with illegal and unlawful UNHRC resolutions, are the typical product of politicisation, selectivity and double standards of human rights. the DPRK reaffirms its consistent stance to reject them categorically.

As stated in the national report submitted by the DPRK, the efforts of the DPRK Government to continuously promote and protect human rights are faced with many obstacles and challenges as ever, due to the military threat and isolation and stifling manoeuvres of the hostile forces against the DPRK persisting over a century. Even in the face of unprecedentedly difficult conditions and circumstances, the DPRK Government is thoroughly embodying the **people-first principle in its policy-making** and implementation and vigorously carrying out enormous projects for peace and welfare of the people. The DPRK will never tolerate any attempt of hostile



forces to plunder the happy and independent life of the people and will safeguard genuine human rights of the people more firmly by dint of the most responsible and active endeavours by braving through all the difficulties of the act. The DPRK will further fulfil its duty and responsibility undertaken before the international community by enhancing dialogue and cooperation for promotion and protection of genuine human rights.

### UNHRC MEMBER AND OBSERVERS STATES

**Ethiopia** warmly welcomes the distinguished delegations of the DPRK to the outcome review of its UPR. It commends the constructive engagement demonstrated by the DPRK throughout the UPR process. It commends DPRK's acceptance of numerous recommendations from member states, including three key recommendations from Ethiopia. Ethiopia encourages DPRK to take all necessary measures to fully implement the accepted recommendations. In conclusion, Ethiopia fully supports the adoption of the UPR outcome of DPRK by the UNHRC and wishes the government of DPRK continued success in the implementation of these important recommendations.

**India** welcomes the delegation of the DPRK for the adoption of the report of the UPR working group on its fourth cycle of the UPR held on 7th November 2024. The review saw substantive participation with 129 delegations taking the floor and making a total of 294 recommendations. India appreciates the constructive engagement of the delegation of DPRK during the entire review, which reflects their commitment to the UPR process. India appreciates that as many as 143 recommendations have been accepted by DPRK, including the three recommendations made by India. By recommending the adoption of the UPR report, it wishes the delegation of the DPRK success in their efforts towards implementing the accepted recommendations.

**Indonesia** commends the participation and constructive engagement of the delegation of the DPRK during the UPR process and appreciates that its recommendation to expand human rights awareness raising activities, particularly on children with disabilities, rights to education, healthcare and social inclusion, is supported by the DPRK. Indonesia further encourages DPRK to start the process of acceding to the remaining core international human rights conventions that it has not ratified, including the UNCTAD. It also emphasises the importance for DPRK to fully protect women's rights against all forms of discrimination and violence, including sexual violence and trafficking in women. It is Indonesia's firm belief that implementing the supported UPR recommendations will reinforce DPRK's efforts to ensure the enjoyment of human rights for its people. Finally, Indonesia recommends the adoption of the UPR outcome of DPRK and wishes DPRK every success for its implementation.

**Iran** welcomes the constructive engagement of the DPRK in the UPR process and expresses its concern over the measures imposed on the DPRK, which severely restrict the Government's resources to improve the quality of life for its people and limit the provision of essential public services, ultimately leading to human rights violations. Iran takes positive notes of the DPRK's recent measures to upholding rights of persons with disabilities and improve their living conditions. Iran commends the implementation of mid-term and long-term action plans, including plans for improvement of protection of persons with disabilities. It appreciates the DPRK's acceptance of its recommendation during its review at the 47th session of the UPR Working Group in November 2024. In conclusion, Iran reaffirms that cooperation and



constructive engagement are more effective than confrontation in promoting human rights standards, ensuring that the UPR process remains a platform for dialogue rather than a tool for political pressure.

**Japan** acknowledges the participation of the DPRK, including the representatives from Pyongyang, in the UPR in November 2024. Japan takes note of the DPRK's acceptance of some recommendations, and we emphasise that it is imperative that these recommendations be surely and steadily implemented. At the same time, it is highly regrettable that the DPRK has rejected a significant number of recommendations concerning civil and political rights. The DPRK stated during the review of the Working Group that the issue of abductions of Japanese citizens had been completely resolved, but such claims are entirely unacceptable. On top of that, the abductees and their families are growing older and older. In February, Mr. Akihiro Arimoto passed away without being able to reunite with his abducted daughter. There is no time to lose. Japan strongly urges Pyongyang to ensure the immediate return of all abductees. It also calls upon the DPRK to sincerely heed the concerns of the international community, including those related to the abduction issue, and to respond with genuine and constructive action.

**Kuwait** highly values the DPRK's acceptance of its recommendations requesting to continue the work with regard to education programmes which aim to raise awareness with regard to human rights and continue taking measures in order to improve child nutrition and healthcare. In conclusion, it wishes the DPRK all the success in implementing the accepted conclusions and recommendations, and recommends the adoption of the report.

The **Lao PDR** congratulates the DPRK on the successful UPR and commends it for its strong commitment and progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, including strengthening its national institutional and legal frameworks and improving rights to education, rights to health, and rights to rights of vulnerable groups, including women and children. The Lao PDR appreciates that the DPRK has accepted the majority of recommendations received during the constructive dialogue, including two recommendations made by the Lao PDR. It wishes the DPRK every success in the implementation of the supported recommendations and encourages the Council to adopt the UPR outcome by consensus.

**Lesotho** appreciates the DPRK's openness to dialogue throughout the UPR process and commends the DPRK for supporting a considerable amount of the recommendations made to them during this cycle. Lesotho welcomes the DPRK's adoption of a variety of legislative measures to foster human rights since the last UPR cycle, including legislation to promote the rights of children, persons with disabilities, and persons living in rural areas. Lesotho recognises the DPRK's efforts to align their legislative measures with commitments under international conventions and acknowledges the DPRK's engagement with international human rights mechanisms and instruments. To conclude, Lesotho wishes the DPRK every success with the advancement of a people-centred approach and with the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

**Nepal** welcomes the delegation of the DPRK to the adoption of the UPR outcome and thanks them for their constructive engagement with human rights mechanisms. We thank the DPRK for accepting three out of four recommendations that we offered. It takes positive note of the DPRK's initiatives towards providing people with quality education and healthcare services. Nepal wishes



the DPRK all success in implementing the accepted recommendations and supports the adoption of the UPR outcome report. Thank you.

The **Philippines** thanks the DPRK for accepting the Philippine recommendations on strengthening measures to improve maternal health and reduce infant mortality, fostering an enabling environment that would allow for greater participation of women in the country's political, economic, social, and cultural affairs, and on instituting mechanisms to effectively address gender-based violence, including domestic violence. The Philippines is pleased to endorse the adoption of the UPR outcome report on the DPRK and extends its best wishes for the successful implementation of all accepted recommendations.

The **Republic of Korea** greatly appreciates the process of the full-cycle UPR with the DPRK as it provides a meaningful opportunity to shed light on persistent human rights violations in the DPRK 10 years after the landmark COI report. It express regret that the DPRK declined to accept nearly half of the recommendations presented by the member states, including all those made by the Republic of Korea. The latter urges the DPRK to be mindful of the recommendations of the international community and to make earnest efforts toward their implementation. As duly highlighted in some recommendations, the Republic of Korea expresses its serious concern over the negative effects of the DPRK's extreme militarisation on its human rights situation. It firmly urge the DPRK to immediately release Korean detainees, including three Korean missionaries, and to promptly resolve the issues of abductees, unrepatriated prisoners of war, as well as the issue of separated families. The Republic of Korea further urge the DPRK to cease inhumane treatment, including torture, inflicted upon those who have been forcibly repatriated, and call upon the international community to respect the principles of non-refoulement. It further encourages the DPRK to actively engage with the UN human rights mechanisms and participate consultatively in its CRPD review in August 2025.

**Russia** notes with satisfaction the DPRK's participation in the fourth cycle of the UPR and thanks the North Korean delegation for its written submission of information on recommendations provided on the country. This demonstrates that Pyongyang continues to work to promote and protect human rights, and that it stands ready to continue cooperating with international monitoring mechanisms. Russia notes the positive impact of efforts by the North Korean Government to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable groups, including children, women, persons with disabilities, and older persons. Russia commends progress in enhancing legislation in the sphere of protecting the rights of these categories. It is equally noteworthy that the government works in a way to eliminate poverty, to increase social grants available, and to increase women's participation in decision-making bodies. This is important work. Russia recommends adopting the report of the DPRK under this fourth UPR cycle.

**Singapore** notes the DPRK's engagement with the UPR process, and its consideration of the various recommendations put forward by delegations. It thanks the DPRK for accepting both of Singapore's recommendations requesting to continue to work to strengthen its healthcare system, and to persist in its efforts to improve child nutrition and manage childhood diseases. Singapore supports the adoption of the outcome report.

**South Sudan** welcomes the distinguished delegation of the DPRK on the adoption of its UPR outcome report, and expresses its gratitude for its consistent, active engagement in the UPR



process. It commends the DPRK for its steadfast willingness to achieve genuine dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights, adopting a series of legislative measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, and by making every possible effort to promote the economic and social life of its people through enhancing children's education, women's social welfare, and provision of housing free of charge to its people. South Sudan thanks and appreciates the DPRK for fully accepting four recommendations submitted to it by South Sudan during its first UPR review in November 2024. In conclusion, South Sudan extends its best wishes to the DPRK for successful implementation of the UPR recommendation, and offers its unwavering support for adoption of its UPR outcome report.

The **United Kingdom (UK)** welcomes the DPRK's continued engagement with the UPR process, including its report on the recommendations received. The UK hopes that the DPRK will collaborate with the international community to take tangible steps towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the UK remains concerned by the lack of guarantees to ensure the implementation of the DPRK's human rights obligations, and regret that it did not accept any of the UK's recommendations, which were the following. First, ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and reform the judicial system to ensure respect for the right to a fair trial and end sentences that constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Secondly, grant access to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK and accept technical cooperation from UN human rights mechanisms. Thirdly, improve regulations to prevent gender-based discrimination and violence, particularly towards women and girls, including in penal facilities and the military. There are still unacceptable reports of ongoing, widespread and systematic human rights violations in the DPRK. The UK remains open to discussing any of these recommendations further.

**Venezuela** extends fraternal greetings to the distinguished delegation of the DPRK, and thanks them for their valuable presentation. Venezuela takes note of the DPRK's cooperation with the UPR. Venezuela believes it is voluntary mechanisms, not imposed ones, that yield the best results for human rights. Venezuela welcomes the acceptance of the five recommendations made by Venezuela during the interactive dialogue. It highlights that when recommendations are constructive, respectful and human rights-orientated, they are properly considered by the state under examination. Venezuela positively stresses the legislative efforts and implementation of public policy taken by the state for the benefit of promoting, protecting and enjoying human rights in the country. Venezuela rejects the UCMs against their people. It wishes the country success in implementing the recommendations accepted during the fourth cycle of the UPR and recommends adoption of the outcome report.

**Viet Nam** warmly welcomes the delegation of the DPRK and its engagement with the Universal Periodic Review. It also welcomes the steps that the DPRK has taken to make progress on its human rights since its last review. Viet Nam is pleased that the DPRK fully supports its three recommendations in terms of ensuring effective implementation of human rights-related legislation and enhancing access to water, food, sanitation, healthcare and education, especially for people living in rural and remote areas. Viet Nam reiterates its commitment to working constructively with the DPRK as the country seeks to strengthen its protection of human rights. Finally, Viet Nam supports the Council's adoption by consensus of the UPR outcome of the DPRK,



and wishes the country every success in its endeavours to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Albania** regrets the DPRK's rejection of its recommendations on granting unrestricted access by international mechanisms to their territory, ratifying the UNCAT and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, establishing a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty, combating all forms of violence against women, gender-based violence and criminalising all forms of sexual violence, and finally dismantling political prisoner camps and releasing all the persons detained there. Albania remains extremely concerned at violations of the rights of women and girls and children in the country and urges the DPRK authorities to put an end to human rights violations and attacks on these rights, as well as violations of international humanitarian law. Finally, Albania urges the DPRK to commit itself fully to implementing recommendations made during its UPR.

### OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

The **World Jewish Congress** and the Jewish people, recalling the lessons of the Holocaust, championed human rights and dignity for all people. History has taught us the grave consequences of silence in the face of systematic oppression. The international community must confront one of the most egregious human rights crises of our time, the ongoing abuses perpetrated by the DPRK. For decades, the North Korean government has subjected its own people to unimaginable suffering. Arbitrary detentions, forced labour, starvation and extrajudicial killings are not anomalies. They are state policy. Over 120,000 men, women and children languish in political prison camps, enduring torture and forced indoctrination. Religious minorities face brutal persecution for simply seeking to live in accordance with their beliefs. The UNHRC's Commission of Inquiry has described these crimes as crimes against humanity. Yet, the violations continue unabated. The international community cannot allow a Government that denies fundamental freedoms and human dignity to operate with impunity. The World Jewish Congress calls on the UNHRC to reaffirm its commitment to holding the DPRK accountable, to ensuring that those responsible face justice and to amplifying the voices of defectors who risk everything to expose the truth. The Jewish people understand the consequences of unchecked tyranny. They know the price of a world that turns away from suffering. The World Jewish Congress urges the international community to stand firm, to demand an end to these atrocities and to dismantle all camps. The people of the DPRK deserve the same freedoms and rights that the UNHRC was created to protect.

The **Centre for Global Non-Killing (CGNK)** stresses that it starts from within the heart when we recognise the life and peace of others, but also when we separate ourselves from the violence of others, doing our best not to imitate such violence. Self-defence needs to be proportionate, moreover non-violent, non-maiming and non-killing. To reduce violence within and without any country, to reduce violence in the people as in institutions, there is a need to implement violence prevention programmes and to teach the use of peaceful settlement of disputes. We are not aware through the UPR of the DPRK that such programmes are in place in the DPRK. Such peacemaking programmes will ease international tensions, but nationally they will also reduce reasons agreeable or not to the use of the death penalty. Similarly, in a human rights and a peace perspective, the CGNK recalls that the DPRK has a duty since the armistice in 1955 to hold or to be ready to participate in a peace conference for Korea. The CGNK is waiting for this to happen.



Such a conference will also be conducive for a better situation of human rights in Korea as worldwide. The CGNK wishes success in implementing UPR recommendations.

**Ingénieurs du Monde** is alarmed by the grave human rights violations in North Korea, which not only target people domestically, but also now across borders. The DPRK's actions violate international law and fuel war crimes and atrocities against the Ukrainian people. It recalls that under UN Security Council sanctions in place since 2006, countries are banned from hosting North Korean trainers, advisors or other officials for the purpose. As several countries have recommended during the UPR, North Korea must immediately end its complicity in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. When North Korean troops fall on the battlefield in Ukraine, do they even know what they are dying for? The UNHRC cannot remain silent as the DPRK's brutality now extends beyond its borders. It calls on the UNHRC to launch an enquiry into the DPRK's role in the commission of war crimes in Ukraine. This inquiry should also be mandated to report all Member States that aid and abet this gross abuser of human rights.

The **Advocates for Human Rights**, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and Transitional Justice Working Group warmly commend the DPRK for accepting for the first time in UPR history two death penalty recommendations - Chile's recommendation to reduce the number of death-eligible crimes and Belgium's recommendation to restrict the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of most serious under international law. They look forward to the DPRK's swift implementation of these recommendations. They are concerned, however, that North Korea noted 88 recommendations, including all the remaining recommendations related to the death penalty. During the interactive dialogue, North Korea asserted that it imposes the death penalty only for extremely serious crimes that were unpardonable in the socialist system. A person is under the age of 18, yet the criminal law authorises the death penalty for offences that do not meet the most serious crime threshold, such as importing and distributing movies and books from hostile countries. Reports indicate that authorities have executed people for these offences, and in one case, authorities publicly executed three teenagers estimated to be 16 or 17 years old, two for allegedly watching and distributing South Korean movies. Further, they are disappointed by North Korea's decision to note recommendations to discontinue the use of torture and cease arbitrary arrests and imprisonment based on political opinion. They echo recommendations to resolve the issues of abductees, detainees, and unrepatriated prisoners of war, and of North Korean refugees forcibly repatriated from China, and to end politically motivated imprisonment, including of the three missionaries, and to end the use of torture in places of detention. Finally, they call on North Korea to abolish the death penalty by ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and to ensure strict compliance with the prohibition against the death penalty for individuals who are under 18 at the time of the alleged crime, to implement an official moratorium on executions, and to annually publish disaggregated data on death sentences and executions.

**Human Rights Watch (HRW)** welcomes the DPRK's acceptance of recommendations to allow international aid into the country and strengthen measures to ensure access to food and healthcare services. HRW remains deeply concerned about the DPRK's increasing isolation, repression, and worsening humanitarian crisis following its last UPR cycle. Since then, DPRK authorities have reinforced a system of food by fear, with heightened control over its population by restricting freedom of expression and movement, access to information and work. Because of the Government restrictions since the COVID-19 pandemic, many people in the country have also





struggled to earn a living and access food and medicine. HRW regrets the DPRK's rejection of all recommendations related to the landmark 2014 UN Commission of Inquiry report, which found widespread and systematic violations constituting crimes against humanity, as well as related to the Special Rapporteur on the DPRK, the UN Convention Against Torture, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The DPRK also rejected recommendations related to the request for information about people forcibly disappearing in its territory, as well as those in political prison camps, and those forcibly repatriated, abducted, detained, or separated from their families. HRW regrets that the DPRK did not support recommendations calling for an end to executions, and instead passed new laws in 2020 punishing emergency health quarantine violations or distribution of unsanctioned foreign media content with a death penalty. HRW urges the DPRK to fulfil its international human rights obligations, including by immediately allowing access to all international aid into the country. The Council should continue to hold the DPRK accountable and support civil society groups abroad assisting victims of its abuses.

The **Database Centre for North Korean Human Rights (NKDB)** stresses that all 43 recommendations concerning torture, politically motivated imprisonment, and labour exploitation, which includes child labour and forced labour in prisons were not supported. These issues directly pertain to the crimes against humanity that were highlighted in the 2014 COI report and continue today. Separately, the Government did not support any of the 13 recommendations to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture and ILO Conventions to safeguards against these abuses. The Government also failed to accept 21 recommendations on gender-based discrimination and violence, accepting only those that reaffirm existing measures instead of introducing new actions. This undermines substantial reforms needed to combat the normalised domestic violence, sexual coercion, and the culture of silence deterring victims from seeking redress. We are further dismayed by the Government's unwillingness to align with international standards on the freedom of movement, expression, and information. While accepting general recommendations on these freedoms, the DPRK rejected those requiring measures critical to their realisation, such as lowering surveillance, lifting travel restrictions, ending the punishment of forcibly repatriated individuals, and repealing laws criminalising the consumption of South Korean and other foreign medium. The Government continues to rely on arbitrary interpretations of rights and freedoms. Thus, while commending its state-funded decision to accept recommendations on access to internet and international communications, NKDB remains concerned that their implementation may be compromised by the censorship of information displayed on these platforms. NKDB calls on the DPRK to engage with the UPR under the principle that human rights are universal, inalienable, and indivisible.

The **International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)** is highly concerned that over 10 years after the report of the Commission of Enquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, chaired by Justice Kirby, many of the recommendations have not been implemented. The human rights situation of Korea is one of the worst in the world, although it rarely receives adequate attention from the international community. The 2014 report of the Commission classified the atrocities as crimes against humanity. The report further considered the genocide, however, did not make a clear determination and call for the evidence and consideration. The 2014 report made several recommendations, including for states to refer the situation of Korea to the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, 10 years later, this has not been attempted yet. Furthermore, recent years have seen reports on abuses of North Koreans



abroad. Among others, thousands of North Koreans have been sent to certain deaths in Russia to be used on the front lines and in areas of hostilities. Reports also suggest the use of North Koreans in conditions of modern-day slavery globally, including on Chinese tuna vessels. North Koreans must be ensured their human rights in North Korea and beyond. The IBAHRI calls upon members of this Council to intensify efforts to ensure the cessation of ongoing crimes against humanity and possible genocide, take all possible steps to support the implementation of all recommendations contained in the 2014 report, including a referral of the situation to the ICC. The IBAHRI urges the Government of North Korea to immediately halt ongoing gross human rights violations and other crimes under international law, ensure justice and remedy to victims and survivors, and ensure compliance with the obligations contained in human rights treaties to which the DPRK is party.

**Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Organization** advocates loving one's own country but not at the expense of other countries. It notes that under the leadership of the Workers' Party, the DPRK has made positive efforts and significant changes improving the rights of its people over the past five years, particularly in areas such as pandemic response, extensive legislation, social welfare, and education. It acknowledges those efforts and calls on the international community and the UNHRC to give due attention to them. Meanwhile, it commends the UNHRC's efforts and achievements in promoting and protecting all human rights. However, it firmly opposes the politicisation and instrumentalization of human rights issues and the use of human rights to interfere in other countries' internal affairs. Every country has its own unique circumstances and development path, and all the people hope for prosperity, strength in the country, and a peaceful and stable society and a happy and healthy life. Therefore, the Organization calls on the international community and the UNHRC to respect the sovereignty of all countries and the choices of their people and to promote the global human rights cause in an equal, fair, and co-operative manner. The Organization supports all countries, including the DPRK, in continuing to follow the development path that suits their national conditions and in making continuous efforts to improve the living conditions of their people, achieve comprehensive development, and realise the common prosperity of their people. Additionally, it hopes that the international community will provide developing countries, including the DPRK, with greater understanding and support. Finally, we call on the international community and the UNHRC to pay attention to the International Patriotic Pact. Let us work together to encourage countries to sign the pact and jointly strive to build a more harmonious, stable, and prosperous world.

**Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)** acknowledges the DPRK's participation in the UPR process, and notes that it accepted a recommendation from Gambia to guarantee the right to freedom of religion or belief in accordance with Article 68 of its constitution. However, this article does not afford sufficient protection for the right to freedom of religion or belief, as articulated in Articles 18 of the UDHR and 18 of the ICCPR. The article of the constitution in question claims that religion must not be used as a pretext for drawing in foreign forces or for harming the state or social order, which thereby renders the right to freedom of religion or belief conditional and therefore open to restriction, violation, and abuse. It is telling that the DPRK did not accept other recommendations relating to freedom of religion or belief, including three recommendations to end the state-sanctioned discrimination underpinned by the *songbun* system. This system places religious communities in the so-called hostile class, meaning that they are subject to intense persecution and discrimination and are prejudged as being disloyal to the state and the



socialist revolution. Not only does this system contradict international standards on fundamental human rights, but it also clearly violates Article 65 of the DPRK constitution, which states that citizens enjoy equal rights in all spheres of state and public activities. We urge the DPRK to reconsider its rejection of the recommendation to end discrimination based on the *songbun* system and to ultimately abolish the system altogether. CSW is also disappointed, if not surprised, that the DPRK did not accept a recommendation from Italy to take measures to put an end to the systematic repression of human rights, including violations of freedoms of conscience and religion, and release missionaries subject to unjust or arbitrary detention. Among these are three missionaries, all of whom have now been detained in undisclosed locations in the DPRK for over a decade. CSW is deeply concerned for the missionaries health and safety in detention. CSW demands that the DPRK immediately clarify their fate and whereabouts, provide access to their families and legal counsel, and ultimately release them so that they can return home to the Republic of Korea.

#### FACTS & FIGURES ON UPR OUTCOMES

**294** Recommendations Received

**143** Recommendations Supported

**7** Recommendations Partially Supported

**144** Recommendations Noted

#### FACTS & FIGURES ON PARTICIPATION

**18** State Delegations

**9** Non-Governmental Organizations