

**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE DEMOCRATIC
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA-Add.3**

IRELAND

Freedom of religion

- The National Report by the DPRK states that citizens are guaranteed freedom of religious beliefs under the constitution and the report lists examples of the freedoms guaranteed. We would be grateful if a detailed account of the extent of the individual's freedom of religious worship, religious association (including access to the media) and religious formation (viz. schools, temples, seminaries, churches) within the DPRK, could be given. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted in his latest report that while some religious ceremonies seem to be allowed, there are indications that practising religion gives rise to persecution (A/HRC/10/18). Ireland is concerned about the Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee that religious practice is repressed or strongly discouraged in DPRK and that the practice in DPRK in this respect does not meet the requirements of article 18 of the Covenant (CCPR/CO/72/PRK).

Right to Life, Liberty and Security of the Person

- The Compilation document prepared by OHCHR notes the continuing reports of violence committed by State authorities, such as torture and persecution of political dissidents. It speaks of abhorrent prison conditions which result in myriad abuses and deprivations; collective punishments; persecution of whole families etc. We would be grateful if a detailed account of the extent of the individual's rights while in custody in the DPRK could be given. This should include also the rights of convicted prisoners (as opposed to those on remand). We would also be grateful to know what steps, if any, the DPRK authorities have taken to make a list of addresses of prisons in DPRK available, together with copies of reports from the DPRK prisons inspection unit.
