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## **Statement at the 49th Session of the Human Rights Council**

### **Agenda item 4 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

**21 March 2022**

**H.E. Ambassador Kurt Jäger**

**Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Liechtenstein would like to thank the Special Rapporteur for his final report as well as for all his work as the mandate holder during the past six years.

We are concerned about the even greater isolation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. The complete closure of its international borders does not only complicate the already limited observation under human rights mechanisms but it exacerbates many existing human rights challenges in the country.

The widespread food insecurity continues to risk the lives of millions. With the closure of international borders for international trade and the blocking of humanitarian assistance, the situation continues to become direr every day.

The government should strongly consider reallocating parts of its national budget towards humanitarian needs to improve the social and economic situation of all individuals.

We strongly condemn the DPRK's unwillingness to respect its citizens' most fundamental rights and freedoms, among others by committing crimes that amount to crimes against humanity.

Neighboring countries, as well as all other countries hosting DPRK nationals, should refrain from the practice of forced repatriation in light of the horrific treatment that awaits them upon their return, such as torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

We emphasise the importance of the Special Rapporteur's work and we call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fully cooperate with him and the OHCHR, as well as to implement their recommendations.

I thank you, Mr. President.