



AUSTRALIA



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**EVENT CO-HOSTED BY THE MISSIONS OF AUSTRALIA, JAPAN,
THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Statement by H.E. Tegan Brink
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the
Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations**

(Check against delivery)

Minister Kato, Excellencies, victims' families, ladies and gentlemen,

Australia is pleased to participate in this event today. We acknowledge the deep significance of the abductees issue to Japan and support Japan's efforts to resolve it.

The issue of human rights in North Korea is, of course, a systemic one and Australia calls on North Korea to end its systematic human rights violations and abuses and to release all foreign nationals being held.

We agree with those who have made the point today that efforts to improve human rights in North Korea must continue alongside our efforts addressing the external security threat.

We have various means at our disposal.

As Minister Kato remarked, the Commission of Inquiry report showed that the regime's human rights abuses constitute crimes against humanity. Australia would like to see further international action to implement the recommendations from the report. It is important that reporting on human

rights in North Korea continues to update the findings of the Commission of Inquiry.

Australia is also a long-time supporter of the Human Rights Council DPRK resolution, which has strengthened the ability of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Seoul to hold North Korean Leaders to account – we have heard from the UN and Human Rights Watch today on the importance of accountability.

We continue to support the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in North Korea and urge the DPRK to engage constructively with UN representatives and treaty bodies.

For our part, during Australia's Human Rights Council term, we will work to ensure the abuses taking place in North Korea remain on the Council's agenda and look forward to cooperating with others to that end.