

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE

GERMANY

- There exist NGO reports expressing concern over the issue of discrimination in the field of citizenship on grounds of adherence to a certain religion or ethnicity. A disproportionate number of the Muslims of various ethnicities in the north of the country are allegedly denied access to citizenship and thus suffer from ethnic or religious discrimination. Germany would like to know what steps Côte d'Ivoire is taking to guarantee non-discrimination through access to citizenship in the above mentioned cases.
- Violence against women and girls has been noted as a serious cause for concern. In July 2009, the Secretary-General reported that a disturbing trend of abduction, rape and violence against girls and women persists, especially in the west and north of the country, where young children are reportedly raped by unidentified men (para. 15 of the OHCHR compilation A/HRC/WG.6/6/CIV/2, referencing S/2009/344, para. 34). Germany is interested in what measures the government of Côte d'Ivoire has taken in order to proceed against acts of sexual violence against women and children.

SWEDEN

- While the law in Côte d'Ivoire prohibits rape and female genital mutilation, reports indicate that these laws are not generally enforced in practice. In January of 2009 the Security Council called upon all Ivorian parties to take appropriate measures to refrain from, and prevent and protect civilians from, all forms of sexual violence. In April 2009 the Secretary-General stated that violence against women and girls remained a serious cause for concern. The Secretary-General reported in July the same year that a disturbing trend of abduction, rape and violence against women and girls persist. In 2009 UNICEF noted that female genital mutilation remains prevalent in Côte d'Ivoire.
- What measures is the Government of Côte d'Ivoire taking to stop and prevent the widespread violence against women and girls?
- In April 2009 the Secretary-General noted that most perpetrators of violence against women enjoy impunity countrywide due to corruption and the failure of the judicial system to address the issue adequately. In 2007 President Gbagbo signed a regulation providing amnesty for most crimes committed in the conflict since 2002. The law did not expressly exclude crimes under international law including systematic acts of sexual violence against women. In 2008 The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern about the 2007 Amnesty Ordinance, and recalled that in fighting impunity, there should be no amnesty for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of human rights.

- Could the Government of Côte d'Ivoire elaborate on the measures it is taking to fight impunity?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you please elaborate further on the role Civil Society in Cote d'Ivoire played in the preparation of your national report for this process? What plans are there to involve them in the follow up to the review?
- What action is the government taking to deal with the perpetrators of gender-based and other forms of violence?
- What are the intentions for dealing with the nationality issue, as referred to in paras 2, 3 and 4 of the UN report (A/HRC/WG.6/6/CIV/2)?
- What plans does the government have to reform and strengthen the justice system?
- What plans does the government have for bringing the National Human Rights Commission into line with the Paris principles and making it fully operational?
- What plans does the Government have to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture?
- What investigations have been carried out or are planned regarding arbitrary detentions, torture, forced disappearances and murder, including by the Forces Nouvelles?
- What steps is the Government taking to eradicate the practice of sexual violence, including Female Genital Mutilation?
- What steps are being taken to address the lack of gender equality, in particular women's access to services and to employment?
- What steps are being taken to address delays in reporting to Treaty Bodies?
