

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BOLIVIA

DENMARK

- CAT and CRC have expressed concern about complaints of torture and ill-treatment. In 2008 OHCHR provided advice on a bill on State policy against torture and on the establishment of an NPM. What is the status of this legislation? What other steps has Bolivia taken to eliminate torture and ill-treatment?
- Several reform processes are ongoing with regards to the judicial system in Bolivia, not least following the new Constitution, which entered into force January 2009. Yet the judicial system continues to function poorly, and several key institutions are currently paralyzed - the most recent example being the Supreme Court.
- How does the Bolivian Government propose to implement the reform programmes in the Justice Sector, so as to improve access to justice and the protection of human rights?
- Which measures will Bolivia take to investigate and take appropriate action against regional and national state officials alleged to be responsible for discrimination against Indigenous Peoples?

HUNGARY

- In 2009, CRC regretted that national legislation, including the Child Code and laws concerning corporal punishment, marriage, alternative care and juvenile justice were not in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Does Bolivia intend to take steps towards strengthening the overall legal framework on children's rights and child protection?
- Hungary welcomes Bolivia's efforts to recognize cultural diversity in the legislation of the country, however, we would like to express our concern for the gap between the legal background and the practice. What measures does Bolivia take to ensure that the legal standards are applied in practice?
- Although Bolivia's legislation is consistent with the ILO Worst Form of Child Labour Convention, the number of children under 18 in condition of debt bondage or forced labour does not show declining tendency. How does Bolivia intend to handle this problem in reasonable timeframe?
- The significant development gap between urban and rural areas, especially in the case of sanitation coverage is alarming. What actions have been taken or are being considered to reduce this discrepancy? What are the expected goals in this field for the next decade?

- Hungary welcomes the incorporation of the prohibition of torture in the new Constitution of Bolivia. However, Hungary is concerned about the reported cases of inhuman treatment by the Bolivian police in the course of investigation, law enforcement activities and dealing with detainees in prison. Therefore, we recommend the urgent investigation of these cases and the establishment of a national mechanism in order to prevent further incidents.

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 65 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of Bolivia with special procedures mandate holders - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NORWAY

- How did the Plurinational State of Bolivia involve civil society organisations in the elaboration of its national report?
- What steps will the Bolivian Government take to follow up and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council? How will the civil society be involved in the process?
- What steps are the government taking to reduce violence against women in Bolivia, and are there any concrete plans for measures to combat discrimination in the education of girls?
- Norway takes note of Bolivia's determination to promote the rights of indigenous people, but what concrete steps are being taken to fight contemporary forms of slavery which the Guaraní people in Santa Cruz, and other indigenous groups in Bolivia are still being subjected to?
- What judicial and legislative measures are being taken in order to ensure fair and equal treatment and safeguard the human rights of prisoners, to reduce the situation of overcrowding and to improve the living conditions in Bolivian prison facilities?
- What steps will be taken in order to ensure that the Judiciary is competent, independent and impartial in line with International Human Rights Law?

- What concrete measures are being taken by the government in order to guarantee freedom of expression and to investigate complaints filed by journalists?

SWEDEN

- Several incidents of excessive force, killings and arbitrary detention have been reported in connection with protests related to the adoption of the new Bolivian constitution, including in Pando department in 2008. Notwithstanding several investigations, the perpetrators of these abuses have not been brought to justice, while civil society organisations have reported extensive impunity for human rights violations at large.
- What measures is the government of Bolivia to bring all perpetrators of abuses to justice and to eradicate impunity for human rights violations?
- Sweden notes that, although there have been positive developments in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, such as increased support for pregnant women, the United Nations Population Fund reports that Bolivia continues to have the highest incidence of maternal mortality in South America (290 deaths per 100,000 live births). Reports show that there is a large discrepancy in the access to maternal health services and information on family planning methods between urban and rural areas and that gender or ethnic discrimination is the main obstacle to the exercise of sexual and reproductive health rights. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and poorly performed abortions are the leading causes of death for Bolivian women.
- Could the Government of Bolivia elaborate on the measures it is taking to ensure all women their sexual and reproductive health rights?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

- We would be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report?
- Please could you inform us as to whether an independent national human rights institution exists in Bolivia and operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions?
- What plans does the government of Bolivia have to implement the recommendations outlined in the December 2009 EU Election Observation Mission report?
- We would be grateful for an update on the status of the draft Law Against Assault and Gender-Based Political Violence.

- Could you please give us an update on the judicial investigations into the violence of September 2008 in Pando?
- We note with concern recent attacks on journalists, including the cases of Carlos Quispe and Paola Mallea. What measures is the Bolivian Government taking, in partnership at the regional and national level, to ensure freedom of expression for all in Bolivia, particularly journalists?
- How is the Bolivian Government tackling poverty and inequality in its country and how are Human Rights built into these plans? How is the Bolivian Government at central and local levels engaging with local community and civil society groups in the development of integral and progressive approaches to poverty alleviation?
