

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CHINA

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What measure is China taking towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that it signed back in 1998?
- Does the government of China intend to accede to Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- What legal safeguards are in place to protect against abuse of criminal provisions for persecution of human rights defenders?
- How is ensured protection of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly?
- What specific measures are available to protect the rights of children of detainees/prisoners? What is the procedure to find out whether a person arrested or detained has caring responsibilities? Do babies and young children accompany their mothers as primary caregivers to detention facilities or prisons? What facilities and arrangements are available to them?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 63 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of China with special procedures mandate holders (Working Group on Arbitrary detention (6-16 October 1997 and 18-30 September 2004), Special Rapporteur on the right to education (9-19 September 2003), Special Rapporteur on torture (20 November – 10 December 2005)) and despite the pending requests by several Special Rapporteurs to visit China - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

LIECHTENSTEIN

- In 2005 the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) expressed concern about poor and hazardous conditions of work, and that the problem is especially acute for internal migrant workers, as well as about children working in hazardous occupations, often in precarious conditions that fall short of international labour standards. What measures have been taken to address these concerns?

- In 2006 the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) expressed concern about the disadvantaged position of rural women, in particular with regard to access to education, health, employment, participation in leadership and land property. While noting with satisfaction the efforts to strengthen rural women's and girls' access to education, CEDAW also remained concerned that rural girls have disproportionate illiteracy and school dropout rates. CEDAW recommended, *inter alia*, that China take measures to ensure that all rural girls complete the nine years of compulsory education, free of all miscellaneous fees and tuition. The Committee also recommended that China further assess the reasons for the disproportionate representation of women among the rural landless and take appropriate remedial action, including measures and steps to change customs that result in discrimination against women. How did China follow up on these recommendations?

SWEDEN

- Reports that hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens continue to be placed under various forms of administrative detention, including through the “re-education through labour” (RTL) system, give cause for serious concern. What steps are the Government of the PRC taking to abolish these systems of arbitrary detention, and to ensure that any reformed prison and/or compulsory care system meets international human rights standards? What steps are the Government of the PRC taking to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment in administrative detention facilities?
- Over the last decades, China has made significant progress in raising living standards and reducing poverty. While recognizing that this has enabled China to attain some of the key Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule, persistent poverty, in particular with regard to certain regions and specific populations, as well as growing socio-economic disparities between urban and rural areas, remain serious concerns. Economic disparities are exacerbated by the fact that the current *hukou* residency system results in large parts of the population not being covered or enjoying less privileged access to basic social services. What steps are the Government of the PRC currently taking to abolish or reform the current *hukou* residency system to ensure that all citizens are ensured access to basic health care, education, old-age pensions and other relevant social welfare systems on an equitable basis and in line with the principle of non-discrimination?
- Credible reports have highlighted that religious minorities, such as Uighur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists, are facing increasing restrictions on their freedom of religion and their culture in the aftermath of last year's events in Tibet and Xinjiang. What steps are the Government of the PRC taking to remove any restrictions on the freedom of religion, culture, and expression in this regard?
- Severe restriction on the freedom of expression and the freedom of information continue to give cause for concern. Domestic censorship remains in force, and the state secrecy legislation continues to be abused to harass and detain

journalists and human rights defenders. The internet remains under tight regulatory and technological control. What steps are the Government of the PRC taking to remove restrictions on freedom of information and expression? What steps are being taken to more clearly define what ‘‘endangering state security’’ means, and to ensure that any state secrecy legislation is implemented in a way which meets international human rights standards? What steps is the Government of the PRC taking to ensure that human rights defenders, such as the signatories of the recent Charter ’08, are not harassed or detained simply for exercising their freedom of expression and opinion?
