

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO NIGER ADD.1**

### **BELGIUM**

- Is Niger considering withdrawing its reservations to articles 2 and 16 of the CEDAW, deemed to be contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention by the CEDAW Committee?
- Which measures is Niger considering to implement and to enforce its law abolishing female genital mutilation and slavery?
- Which policy is Niger implementing to eradicate the practice known as 'Wahaya', whereby eminent persons buy young girls as their concubines?
- Is Niger considering adopting legislation setting the minimum age of 18 for recruitment into military forces and raising the legal age to enter military schools?
- Is Niger considering ratifying the Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child?
- Which measures is Niger considering to improve people's access to justice?
- Is Niger considering establishing a moratorium on the use of capital punishment or abolishing the death penalty? Which measures is Niger, in the meantime, taking to ensure that the death penalty is applied in conformity with the international minimum standards?
- Has Niger already or is it intending to lower administrative and practical restrictions upon the operation of international non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights and humanitarian assistance for children?
- In which ways is Niger tackling the persistent malnutrition? How is Niger prioritizing the problem of malnutrition?
- Which measures is Niger considering to improve literacy rates, especially amongst girls?
- Which measures is Niger taking to improve the human rights situation of internally displaced persons?

### **FINLAND**

#### **1) National Penal Code (Office national du code pénal)**

**Question:**

- The 2003 amendments to the Penal Code define slavery and make it a criminal offence. What measures does the Government intend to take to ensure the effective enforcement of these amendments and the prosecution of persons suspected of practicing slavery?
- Les amendements de 2003 au code pénal définissent l'esclavage et en font une infraction pénale. Quelles mesures le gouvernement a-t-il l'intention de prendre pour assurer l'application effective de ces amendements, et poursuivre les personnes soupçonnées de pratiquer l'esclavage ?

**2) Nutrition Crisis in Niger (Crise alimentaire au Niger)**

**Question:**

- What measures are taken by the Government to fight recurrent food insecurity, malnutrition and shortage of safe drinking water, especially with regard to lowering the high level of maternal mortality?
- Quelles sont les mesures prises par le gouvernement pour lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire récurrente, la malnutrition et le manque d'eau potable, en particulier en ce qui concerne l'abaissement du niveau élevé de mortalité maternelle ?

**GERMANY**

- In 2007, CEDAW expressed concern about deep-rooted cultural traditions, norms and customs which discriminate against women, tolerate violence against women and hinder them in enjoying all human rights. CEDAW recommended to Niger to develop strategies, including clear goals and timetables to protect women and assert equal rights for both men and women. Germany would be grateful for information how Niger is following up on this recommendation and if Niger set up a strategy to improve women's situation?

**SWITZERLAND**

- Does the Government of Niger intend to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty ? And with this aim, will the Government ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?

- Niger suffers the effects of food crisis which aggravate the already precarious nutritional status of its children. What does the Government plan to do in order to stop the food crisis?
- The general security situation mainly in the northern part of Niger is particularly unstable since February 2007. A relatively high number of ambushes, armed raids, hostage-taking and road mines is reported. What will the Government of Niger do to secure the country and to ensure the protection of all citizens, including human rights defenders?
- Does Niger plan to investigate all allegations of torture in the future and bring the perpetrators to justice? Will the Government ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- What are the measures Niger is planning to ensure the freedom of expression and of association for all its citizens, including media representatives and civil society?
- What measures will be taken in order to ensure the protection of the rights of children, especially with regard to child slavery and trafficking of children, forced labour, begging and sexual exploitation, including of migrant children in Niger?

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- Can you confirm if the National Observatory on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions? If not, what steps do you intend to take to bring the institution into line with the principles?
- We would be grateful to know to what extent civil society will be included in the follow up your review and if it will include similar measures as those taken to consult civil society when following up the review?
- What steps have been taken by the Government to address the concerns raised by CEDAW in 2007 relating to violence and discrimination against women, particularly where this results from negative cultural practices and harmful stereotypes?
- The Government acknowledges in its National Report that the conditions in many prisons in Niger do not meet international standards and that there are significant infrastructural and resource difficulties to overcome. How does the Government plan to address these difficulties and identify sources of technical and financial support in order to continue prison reform?

- The death penalty has not been used in Niger since 1975. Is the Government planning to abolish the death penalty in light of its not being used for 35 years?
- What is the Government doing to ensure the practice of slavery and slave like practices is eradicated and the perpetrators of slavery offences are prosecuted and appropriately sentenced under the provisions set out in articles 270.1 – 270.5 of the Criminal Code?
- We would be interested to know if the Government has amended the 1961 Penal Code to include a clear definition of torture, if not whether there are any plans to do so and if any steps are being taken towards ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture?
- Does the Government have any plans to establish an independent complaints mechanism to investigate, and remedy where appropriate, all allegations of human rights violations by security forces and armed opposition groups and all unlawful killings, including the deaths of civilians during armed conflict?