

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO KIRIBATI – ADD.1

GERMANY

- A 2007 UNDP/UNIFEM report highlighted that the constitutional status given to customary law in addition to the absence of anti-discrimination provisions left women without legal recourse against discriminatory customs on the basis of gender (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KIR/2, page 4). According to Amnesty International, unequal or discriminatory treatment of women occurred in almost all aspects of economic, social and cultural life (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KIR/3, page 3). The German delegation would like to know how the Government of Kiribati is improving the situation of women with regard to discrimination?
- In 2006, CRC expressed concern at the high number of cases of violence and child abuse. UNICEF also noted with concern that the sexual abuse of children was a common issue. While welcoming the establishment of a Family Assistance and Sexual Offences Unit in the Kiribati Police, CRC also raised concerns over the lack of comprehensive measures to address this problem (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KIR/2, page 5). Germany appreciates the openness in the National Report (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KIR/1, page 9) where the Government of Kiribati acknowledges that legislative reforms in regard to the rights and interests of children are long overdue. Germany would like to receive more detailed information about the Child Protection Legislative reform that the Government of Kiribati commenced in January 2010?

NETHERLANDS

- **Discrimination against women**
Could the Government of Kiribati inform the Council whether it intends to amend the Constitution so as to expand the prohibited grounds of discrimination to include gender, sexual orientation, disability, health status (persons living with HIV & AIDS) and economic status?
- **Violence against women**
A recent study on violence against women in Kiribati done by SPC / UNFPA showed that up to 68% of the female population has been the victim of violence. What measures are being taken to protect women and children from domestic violence?
- **National human rights institution**
Could the Government of Kiribati inform this Council whether it intends to support the establishment of a national human rights commission which is compliant with the Paris Principles on NHRIs or a regional human rights commission that serves the needs of Pacific states and peoples?
- **Freedom of the press**
Could the Government of Kiribati inform the Council whether it intends to amend the Broadcasting and Publication Authority Act and restrict the Government's authority to prohibit freedom of expression on the grounds of public moral or

national culture in as far as such restrictions go beyond the dispositions of the ICCPR.

- **Water and sanitation**

Could you inform the Council of the steps the Government of Kiribati wishes to take in order to increase access to safe water and sanitation?
