

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LIBERIA – Add.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What steps the Government of Liberia has taken/is planning to take in order to implement the issues raised and recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, notably the issues such impunity or immunity?
- What measures have been taken to raise a confidence in state enforcement agencies? What steps the Government of Liberia takes to strengthen police and judiciary to combat criminality in the country?

DENMARK

- The high number of rape cases in Liberia is of critical concern. Which concrete steps is the Government of Liberia taking to eliminate gender and sexually based violence in the country - in addition to the establishment of the Criminal Court - both with regard to the prevention of these human rights violations as well as with regard to the promotion of redress of victims, as women and children are currently subjected to societal stigmatization (for instance as rape victims) and hence are unlikely to address the Court?
- Which concrete steps is the Government of Liberia taking to ensure the speedy and effective establishment and work of the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, including a speedy appointment of Commissioners as well as sufficient allocation of funds for the Commission to implement its mandate, which is instrumental for the protection of human rights in Liberia?
- Which specific initiatives will the Government of Liberia be taking to promote the rule of law in Liberia, especially with regard to eliminating impunity and bringing to justice anyone suspected of having committed extrajudicial executions, torture, ill-treatment, rape or other grave human rights violations?

GERMANY

- In its report to the Council in 2009, OHCHR described the situation in orphanages as critical, and noted that most of the children in these institutions were not actually orphans, but rather recruited with promises to parents that their children would receive a better education and other opportunities. The institutions had become business ventures for their directors, who collected funds from unsuspecting donors and uninformed rural families, while failing to comply with the minimum standards promulgated by the Government for such institutions. OHCHR recommended that orphanages operating without accreditation be identified and reassessed and that those found to be below standard be closed down. Children concerned should be reunified with parents

or relatives, or relocated to suitable institutions. Germany would like to know how Liberia has been following-up to this recommendation by OHCHR?"

- In 2009, CEDAW called on Liberia to incorporate the principle of equality between women and men into the Constitution. Germany would like to know how Liberia has been following-up to this recommendation by CEDAW?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 72 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation with special procedures mandate holders and despite several still pending requests by special rapporteurs to visit Liberia - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- **The Independent National Human Rights Commission**
In reference to paragraph 28 of the national report which recalls the important role of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INCHR), and in the light of paragraph 9 of the OHCHR compilation which refers to the recommendations made by OHCHR and UNCT to appoint commissioners and ensure that INCHR become fully operational as a matter of priority, how does the Government of Liberia ensure an independent and effective functioning of the INCHR? In addition to that, what will be the main source of funding for INCHR and how will the Government adequately staff the Commission?
- **Impunity for past human rights violations**
In light of the publication, as is recalled in paragraph 30 of the national report, of the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the 142 recommendations contained therein, and with reference to paragraph 38 of the OHCHR compilation which recalls that one of these recommendations is the establishment of an extraordinary criminal tribunal to prosecute individuals who have committed gross violations of human rights, and the remarks stated in paragraph 40 of the OHCHR compilation by the independent expert on technical cooperation that the Commission was only one element of transitional justice and that the Government should also put in place effective mechanism to provide reparation, what concrete steps does the Government of Liberia taken to bring to justice anyone suspected of having committed gross human rights violations and to ensure that victims and their family obtain full reparation?
- **Corruption**
The Netherlands welcomes the establishment of the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission as is mentioned in paragraph 104 of the national report. In light of the recommendation made in paragraph 36 of the stakeholder report to

strengthen the efforts of the Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate allegations of corruption by government personnel and publicly expose their findings, what recent measure does the Government of Liberia take to guarantee sufficient funding and staff for the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission to investigate and prosecute corruption cases? Moreover, does the Government of Liberia consider to implement the law that requires all elected officials to publicly disclose their finances?

- **Women's rights**

Considering paragraph 75 of the national report which bears witness to the establishment of the Special Court for Rape and Other Forms of Violence, and in reference to paragraph 27 of the OHCHR compilation which implies that rape and other forms of violence against women remains the most frequently committed serious crime in Liberia, and which also claims, as does paragraph 29 of the stakeholder report, that a large number of cases of rape have not been fully prosecuted, what measures will the Government of Liberia put in place to ensure effective and impartial investigation and prosecution of all reported cases of sexual and domestic violence against women? Furthermore, what concrete measures does the Government of Liberia intend to take in order to prevent violence against and exploitation of women and girls?

- **Judicial reform**

With reference to remarks by the Secretary-General on the serious challenges posed by the weakness of rule of law institutions, including the legal, judicial and corrections sectors, and in light of the allegations made in paragraph 14, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 of the stakeholder report on numerous problems in the legal, judicial and corrections sectors, including lengthy periods of pre-trial detention, abuse by policemen, and the continued exercise of torture, what concrete measures does the Government of Liberia take to speed up the reform of the justice sector and improve law enforcement?

- **Land disputes, inter-ethnic and religious violence**

With a view to settling violent and sometimes lethal disputes over land of which mention is made in paragraph 48 of the stakeholder report, how is the Government of Liberia ensuring that internally displaced people and returnees can exercise legitimate claims of their land and property? Moreover, how does the Government of Liberia maintain peaceful cohabitation between different ethnic and religious groups ?

SLOVENIA

- Since female genital mutilation is prevalent in Liberia, Slovenia would also like to ask what measures have been taken to prohibit this practice.
- Children were disproportionately affected and suffered the majority of the human rights violations committed during the conflict in Liberia. Slovenia would like to ask what measures has the Government of Liberia taken to address the needs of these children, including their physical and psycho-social rehabilitation and reintegration.