

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO PARAGUAY

GERMANY

- In the previous UPR, Germany recommended the Government of Paraguay to develop a comprehensive and forgery-proof land registry to enable indigenous communities to hold legal titles to their ancestral land, a recommendation which the Government of Paraguay had referred to as “implemented or being in the process of implementation”. As of today, cases of conflicting legal land titles remain a problem for domestic as well as foreign investors in Paraguay. Legal insecurity affects small peasants as well as large scale land owners and indigenous peoples. Conflicts are often resolved by the law of the strongest or most influential, including land occupation, sometimes accompanied by destructive violence and physical harm. We would therefore like to enquire in which way the Government of Paraguay intends to address this issue and advance a forgery-proof land registry, ensuring legal certainty and equal opportunity to indigenous peoples, peasants as well as investors?
- Legal and societal rehabilitation of victims of human rights violations committed during the former dictatorship in Paraguay remains an important precondition for the democratic well-being of all Paraguayans. Which measures is the Government of Paraguay taking to promote a culture of remembrance, e.g. in education and society in general?
- Germany acknowledges remarkable progress achieved in the field of poverty reduction, in particular through the Government’s policy to combine targeted support with economic incentives to foster employment and combat the widespread shadow economy. In the same vein, we would like to enquire about the Government’s plans to raise investment in the education of the young generation, making primary and professional education more accessible to the neediest parts of the population, e.g. in rural areas and indigenous communities, and further improving its quality?
- What are the Government’s plans to ensure efficient protection of human rights defenders, including journalists, some of them facing continued threats, harassment and even killing? In particular, we would like to call attention to those working against land confiscations, as well as journalists - seven of them were murdered from February 2014 to June 2015 - exposing drug trafficking and acts of organized crime? How does the Government ensure prosecution of crimes related to these issues?
- Please provide information as to measures
 - addressing the high level of overcrowding in prisons,
 - bringing detention conditions in conformity with international standards

- reducing the backlog of criminal cases.

LIECHTENSTEIN

- Liechtenstein recognizes Paraguay's commitment to international criminal justice, as evidenced by its continued support for the International Criminal Court and its ratification of the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC). The Government of Paraguay has already begun the process of ratifying the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute. When does Paraguay envision finalizing this process?

MEXICO

- Are there considerations to strengthen and extend the legislation regarding discrimination on the basis of gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and ethnicity?
- What are the measures taken to ensure that the Defensor del Pueblo complies fully with the Paris Principles?
- What is the minimum age for criminal responsibility? Are there plans to harmonize the domestic legislation with the international standards in the area of child labor?

NETHERLANDS

➤ Human rights defenders

- How does the government of Paraguay plan to significantly reduce the harassment, intimidation and death threats against defenders of human rights, that still seem to take place regularly?
- Is the government of Paraguay prepared to publicly and repeatedly underline the legitimacy and importance of the work of human rights defenders?

➤ Vulnerable groups

- Which steps has the government of Paraguay taken to protect, respect and fulfill rights related to (young) women's sexual and reproductive health?

➤ Indigenous rights

- Could the government of Paraguay elaborate on the National Integral Programme on Indigenous Peoples (PRONAPI) in relation to the three cases concerning the indigenous population currently before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights?

SLOVENIA

- What steps has the Government taken to reduce early pregnancies, and to help girls whose pregnancy is a result of rape or incest?
- What is the current state of play of the envisaged bill to combat all forms of discrimination?
- We noted that human rights defenders and journalists face insecurity, harassment and attacks, especially those working for the defense of peasants' rights and the indigenous community. What steps and measures is the Government undertaking to protect human rights defenders, journalists and media workers as well as to guarantee freedom of expression?
- In your report we noted many steps and measures to improve the situation of indigenous people. What concrete steps has the government undertaken to improve the situation of indigenous women who are more at risk of discrimination?

SPAIN

- Regarding access of indigenous communities to their land, what steps will Paraguay take in order to further guarantee full implementation of the rulings issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights?
- Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, is Paraguay considering the creation of a national mechanism in order to ensure the monitoring of these rights, as required by article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and requested by the Special Representative during her latest visit to Paraguay?
- Finally, is the government considering taking further measures in order to encourage the approval of the Law against of all forms of discrimination?

SWEDEN

- What legal and other measures has the Government of Paraguay taken over the last four years to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?
- Could the Government of Paraguay please elaborate on the role and functioning of the Ombudsperson and the reportedly shrinking space for human rights organizations?
- Does Paraguay provide for independent human rights mechanisms for the receipt and process of complaints of human rights abuses, and if so, could the Government please describe how these mechanisms work?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What action does the Government of Paraguay intend to take to ensure that adolescents, particularly from rural and low income families, receive a comprehensive education on sexual health and reproductive rights?
- What is the Government of Paraguay doing to promote cultural acceptance of, and ensure more tolerant attitudes towards, the LGBTI community?
- What level of human rights training is the Government of Paraguay providing to members of police and military forces, including those operating in the Joint Task Force in the north of the country?