

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CHINA (FOURTH BATCH)

AUSTRALIA

- Paragraph 4 of China’s 2018 National Report states that “there is no universal road for the development of human rights in the world”, with the relevant section headed “human rights with Chinese characteristics”; in contrast China’s 2013 report stated “China respects the principle of universality of human rights”.

Does China still accept the principle of universal human rights, and if not, can China explain how its conception of human rights fits into the international human rights regime built on the concept of universality? Can China explain how “human rights with Chinese characteristics” differs from universal human rights, and if it does not, why it wishes to introduce this distinction?

- Paragraph 14 of China’s 2018 National Report states that “China has signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the relevant departments of the Government are steadily continuing to advance administrative and judicial reforms in preparation for its ratification”.

Given that China’s 2013 National Report paragraph 7 was in similar terms, can China provide more information on the progress it has made since 2013 to ratify the ICCPR? For example, which areas does China consider still require further reform? Has China set itself a target date for ratification?

- Paragraph 14 of China’s 2018 National Report states that “China is also in the process of studying...the issue of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)”.

Given that China’s 2013 National Report paragraph 12 was in similar terms, can China provide more information on the progress it has made since 2013 to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles?

- Australia is concerned about reports regarding the arbitrary detention of Uighurs and other Muslim groups in Xinjiang, and the lack of transparency and access for members of the international community, including monitors from the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

What steps is China taking to ensure that the concerns raised by the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) are being addressed in an open and transparent manner?