

SWEDEN
Advance written questions to States under Review (SuR)
Session 2: 5 – 19 May 2008

SuR	ISSUES	QUESTIONS
Gabon	Torture	The constitution of Gabon prohibits torture and other maltreatment of persons. Gabon is party to the Convention against Torture. Civil society organisations have noted, however, continuing reports of torture and other maltreatment in places of detention, including with regard to refugees and other immigrants. The government of Gabon has not recognised the mechanism for individual complaints provided by the Convention against Torture, or ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention that it has signed. Could the government of Gabon elaborate on its view of recognising the individual complaints procedure and ratifying the Optional Protocol, and on what measures it is taking to eliminate the occurrence of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
	Right to education	In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Gabon noted that schooling is mandatory and free of charge up to the age of 16. Varying figures, however, have been reported on primary school enrolment rates, from around 50 percent to over 90 percent for the past several years. In its concluding observations from its latest consideration in 2002 of Gabon, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern at the lack of access to education by children from the Pygmy minority. What measures is the government of Gabon taking to ensure that all children are able to fully enjoy their right to education?
Ghana	Torture	The constitution of Ghana prohibits torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Ghana is party to the Convention against Torture. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Ghana noted further specific legal provisions against torture and maltreatment in prisons, within the context of working to ensure the humane and dignified treatment of prisoners. Civil society organisations have continued to report cases, however, of alleged abuse of prisoners, while poor conditions in prisons and other places of detentions have threatened the health and physical safety of detainees. Could the government of Ghana elaborate on measures it is taking to ensure the well-being of prisoners and other detainees in compliance with the Convention Against Torture and other international standards, and on the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention which it has signed? Does the Government of Ghana face specific needs in terms of capacity building in this area?
Peru	Excessive use of force by the police	Several Human Rights Council Special Procedures mandate holders have expressed concern over excessive use of force by police against minors during several peaceful demonstrations. Is there any legislation in place in order to protect and prevent violence against minors?
	Rights of the Child	The government of Peru has enacted legislation in order to prohibit corporal punishment of children in some contexts. In its concluding observations following its latest consideration in 2006 of Peru, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern that the practice is still lawful in the home and widely practiced as a measure of discipline at schools. This concern has also been expressed by civil society organisations. The Committee recommended Peru to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings,

		in conformity with the overall position adopted by the Committee in its general comment no. 8 (2006) that the practice contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child. What measures is the government of Peru taking to ensure the sufficient legal protection of the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation in accordance with the said Convention?
Guatemala	Extrajudiciary Executions	In his latest report on Guatemala, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions highlighted the rapidly rising killing of women, lynching, the killing of persons for their sexual identity or orientation and the killing of human rights defenders and prison violence. Could the government of Guatemala elaborate on what measures it is taking to strengthen legislation in order to combat the persistent violence as well as to end impunity for such violations, in accordance with its international obligations?
	Women's rights	Civil society organizations have noted that the penal code in Guatemala does not recognize violence against women in the family, including marital rape, and sexual harassment as a criminal offence. It has also been noted that the law prohibits domestic abuse but does not provide prison sentences for cases of domestic abuse. What measures does the government of Guatemala foresee in ensuring the full legal equality of women, including with regard to violence against women?
Benin		NONE
South Korea	Death Penalty	In its resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007, the General Assembly called on states to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of the Republic of Korea referred to the fact that no executions have been carried out since 1997, as well as to ongoing discussions with regard to the overall status of the death penalty in the Republic of Korea. Could the government of the Republic of Korea elaborate on these discussions and on the government's position with regard to a formal moratorium on executions in the country?
Switzerland	Asylum seekers, Migrants	The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have presented criticism against the treatment of foreigners residing in Switzerland. Civil society organisations have expressed concern that the Swiss Asylum Law as revised in 2007 may weaken the standing of asylum seekers, for example by allowing for simplified extradition of persons without valid identification documents. Could the government of Switzerland elaborate on how the revised asylum law is applied in accordance with its human rights obligations, including with regard to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, and on what measures it is otherwise taking to ensure the equal treatment of foreigners residing in Switzerland?
	Rights of the Child	In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Switzerland listed a number of measures it has taken to promote the well-being of the child. Switzerland has prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools. In its concluding observations following its latest consideration in 2002 of Switzerland, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended Switzerland to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, holding that the continuing legality of such punishment in the context of the family contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child, an overall position it has reaffirmed in its

	Rights of the Child	In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Switzerland listed a number of measures it has taken to promote the well-being of the child. Switzerland has prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools. In its concluding observations following its latest consideration in 2002 of Switzerland, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended Switzerland to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, holding that the continuing legality of such punishment in the context of the family contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child, an overall position it has reaffirmed in its general comment no. 8 (2006). What measures is the government of Switzerland taking to ensure the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation in accordance with the said Convention?
Pakistan	Women's rights	Violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape, "honour killings," acid attacks, and forced marriages, remain serious problems in Pakistan. National legislation, instead of ensuring and protecting women's enjoyment of their human rights, has in some instances been deemed to contribute to violations and abuse. The so-called Zina law criminalizes heterosexual consensual sex outside marriage and imposes cruel, inhuman or degrading punishments on convicted offenders, while the so-called Hudood Ordinances have led to thousands of women being imprisoned for so-called 'honour' crimes and has rendered most sexual assault victims unable to seek redress through the criminal justice system. Civil society organisations have noted that an estimated 70 percent of women in jails are awaiting trials for adultery-related Hudood offences, and that recent amendments to these laws are insufficient to make the laws compatible with Pakistan's international obligations under CEDAW. Does the Government of Pakistan intend to completely repeal the Zina law and the Hudood ordinances? Does the Government of Pakistan intend to urgently release all women currently imprisoned for so-called "honour crimes"?
	Impunity related to torture, extrajudiciary executions, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances	What measures is the Government of Pakistan taking or envisaging to end impunity for the abuses that have been committed by the security forces, including extrajudicial killings, illegal detention, torture and enforced disappearances, according to credible reports, including reports by the Supreme Court of Pakistan?
Zambia	Death Penalty	In its resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007, the General Assembly called on states to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and to respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Zambia referred to the restrictions it has put in place with regard to the imposition of death sentences, as well to the fact that no executions have been carried out since 1997. Could the government of Zambia elaborate on the status of the death penalty in Zambia in relation to GA resolution 62/149?
Japan	Death Penalty	In its resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007, the GA called on states to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and to respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Japan referred to safeguard of guaranteeing state-financed defence counsel to persons indicted for crimes which are punishable by the death penalty. In 2007, some changes were also instituted in the process enveloping death penalty

Ukraine	Women's rights	Amnesty International and other non-governmental organisations report that rape, assault and other violence against women continue to be widespread. Civil society organizations report that police authorities often refrain from acting on complaints of violence against women. Could the government of Ukraine elaborate on what measures it is considering to eliminate violence against women?
	Rights of the Child	ILO and civil society organizations have noted that the situation of children in Ukraine continues to be problematic, including with regard to child labor, poor school facilities with high incidence of students discontinuing their studies, a high percentage of children living in institutions and inadequate child health. Especially children with disabilities appear to be discriminated against in these circumstances. Could the government of Ukraine elaborate on what measures it is taking to ensure that all children are able to fully enjoy their right to education?
Sri Lanka	Enforced Disappearances	What measures are the Government of Sri Lanka taking to effectively investigate and bring to justice perpetrators of the growing number of enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka, including the several hundred cases of enforced disappearances that were reported in 2007?
	Rights of the Child	The forced recruitment of children and the use of child combatants have long been associated with Sri Lanka's violent ethnic conflict. In spite of assurances given to the UN, and despite international scrutiny, the LTTE and the Karuna Group have not ceased to recruit children nor kept their commitments to release those children already in their ranks. What measures has the Government of Sri Lanka taken to fulfil its pledge to investigate the role of the security forces in child recruitment and other abductions by the Karuna group, and to hold all those responsible accountable?
France	NONE	
Tonga	NONE	
Romania	Prison conditions	The Romanian Helsinki Committee has expressed concern at the treatment of prisoners, including physical maltreatment, overcrowding, and access to education, where the Roma population is especially effected. Could the Romanian government elaborate on what further measures it is considering in improving the situation of persons in prisons and other forms of custody?
	Trafficking in persons	The Romanian government has taken measures to stem the continued occurrence in Romania of trafficking in persons. The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) argue that 5% of the children living in the streets in Romania are part of trafficking for prostitution. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) estimates that as many as 20-30 000 women leave Romania annually as victims of trafficking. Could the government of Romania elaborate of what additional measures are foreseen to eliminate this problem?
Mali	Women's rights	The constitution of Mali prohibits discrimination based on sex. Mali is party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Mali noted some of the measures it is taking to promote the rights of women, including in response to the concerns and recommendations issued by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in its latest consideration in 2006 of Mali. Could the government of Mali elaborate on ongoing work to draft a Personal and Family Code and on other measures it is taking to ensure full respect by the law for the human rights of women in Mali, in accordance with the said Convention?

	Pre-trial detention	Malian law requires that persons deprived of their liberty be formally charged or released within 48 hours, while provisions exist allowing for prosecutors to extend that period. It has been reported, however, that the 48-hour limit is often not respected. In its latest consideration in 2003 of Mali, the Human Rights Committee recommended Mali to amend its legislation to comply, inter alia, with provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Mali is party, that the lawfulness of detention be determined by a court without delay. What measures is the government of the Mali taking to ensure that persons are not deprived of their liberty in contradiction of international norms and standards?
--	----------------------------	--