

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

SuR	ISSUES	QUESTIONS
Gabon	Civil Society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	International Treaties	We welcome the signature of the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture in 2004. What are the issues preventing ratification of the OPCAT and do you have a date in mind for doing so?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in Gabon and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?
Ghana	Civil Society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	Women's rights	We would like to know how many victims the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) helps each year and what steps are being taken to review and improve its service?
	Justice	Could you tell us how Ghana is working to expand legal aid to rural areas?
	Justice	Could you tell us whether Ghana is considering separating the position of Attorney General and the Minister of Justice? Is Ghana likely to appoint an independent public prosecutor?
	Prison conditions	What is Ghana doing to improve prison conditions and reduce the amount of time prisoners serve while on remand?
	Right to information	Could you tell us what the position is on the draft Right to Information Bill? When might it be presented to Parliament?
	Women's rights	What steps are being taken, in line with Ghana's 3rd, 4th, and 5th periodic reports to CEDAW, to increase women's participation in politics?
	Rights of the Child	When will Ghana extend the Child Labour Monitoring Programme to other districts?
	International Treaties	Could you tell us when Ghana intends to ratify the Optional protocol to the UN Convention on Torture?
	Natural resources	We would be grateful for information on what Ghana plans to do to improve the relationship between mining companies, the security forces (private and public) and communities in mining areas?
	Death Penalty	Could you please tell us whether Ghana intends to turn their de facto moratorium on the death penalty into an official moratorium?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in the Ghana and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?
Peru	Civil Society	Please elaborate on the status of civil society consultations in the production of the national report.
	Transitional justice	We commend the achievements so far in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations. We would welcome more information, including timeframes, on how the Government of Peru plans to advance work on the outstanding recommendations, particularly those relating to vulnerable groups and institutional reform.
	Sexual orientation	How does the Peruvian Government ensure protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and

		transgender groups? We would welcome more information as to why they were not included on the list of groups protected by the National Human Rights Plan.
	National Human Rights Plan	In the national report, you mention the challenges and difficulties Peru faces in implementing its National Human Rights Plan, including the resistance from some groups to accept it. How does the Government of Peru plan to overcome this resistance and ensure that the plan is fully implemented?
	Justice	What steps is the Government of Peru planning to advance the CERIAJUS programme on judicial reform with particular regard to reducing the amount of time spent in prison by those awaiting trial?
	Women's rights	We welcome the various initiatives to reduce violence against women. What enforcement measures are in place to act on reports of violence, how they are implemented and evaluated?
	2007 earthquake	Could the delegation describe what progress has been made to ensure all victims of the August 2007 earthquake have access to shelter, food, education and sanitation. What are the particular challenges that the Government has faced?
	Death Penalty	We would welcome an update on the Government's views on the abolition of the death penalty.
	Trafficking in persons	Could the delegation expand on what steps the Government of Peru are taking to address the increase in human trafficking, including of children, both within Peru and across its borders?
	Torture	What progress has the Government made in responding to the UN Committee Against Torture's 2007 letter requesting information regarding Peru's anti-torture policies and actions?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in Peru and is it in full compliance with the Paris principles.
Guatemala	Indigenous peoples	The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples noted that implementation of human rights agreements is "thwarted by insufficient institutional backing and budgetary allocations". What measures is the Government of Guatemala planning to take in order to address these issues?
	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	Cooperation with treaty bodies	The Government of Guatemala was due to submit their follow-up response to CAT recommendations in May 2007. We would be grateful for an update on when the Government intends to respond.
	Extrajudiciary executions	The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions reported <i>inter alia</i> , on the rapid rise in murders of women. How does the Government of Guatemala plan to halt this increase and what specific measures is it planning to tackle the root causes of the problem?
	Rights of the Child	The Committee to the Convention on the Rights of the Child noted with great concern that 15,000 children are sexually exploited for commercial purposes. What measures is the Government of Guatemala taking to ensure children are protected at all stages of the criminal justice process for all crimes under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in Guatemala and is it in full compliance with the Paris principles.
	Human Rights Defenders	The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders noted that there is 98% impunity for attackers of human rights defenders in Guatemala. What further measures is the

		Government taking in order to tackle impunity at all levels?
Benin	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	National Preventative Mechanism	We welcome Benin's progress in establishing of a National Preventative Mechanism, as specified in the OPCAT. What experiences and advice can Benin share with other countries on this?
	Death Penalty	What steps is the Government of Benin taking in light of the UNGA resolution calling for a moratorium on executions, and what plans are there to abolish the death penalty?
	Women's rights	Could you tell us if the Government of Benin plans to create new legislation to protect women's rights, in particular on prevention of trafficking and domestic violence?
	Rights of the Child	On children's rights, what further measures is the Government of Benin planning particularly on promoting access to education, preventing child labour and supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS?
	Prison conditions	Could you tell us what the Government of Benin is doing to improve prison conditions and tackle impunity of law enforcement officers accused of crimes against inmates?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in Benin and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?
South Korea	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the extent to which civil society was involved in the preparation of your national report?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate further on the existence and status of a National Human Rights Institution in the Republic of Korea (ROK) and whether it complies fully with the Paris Principles?
	Death Penalty	A bill to abolish the death penalty has been introduced to the 15th 16th and 17th terms of the National Assembly. When the 17th term ends in May 2008 and the proposed bill lapses, what steps will the new administration take to abolish the death penalty during the 18th term of the National Assembly?
	Promotion of Human Rights	The ROK is an important investor in developing economies, and through its own recent history is well placed to share the experience of democratisation and establishing a human rights framework. What role can the ROK play in promoting human rights internationally?
	Interrogation procedures	What practical measures have been taken to ensure that the April 2007 Penal Procedure Code is justly implemented during the arrest and interrogation process, and to what extent has the video taping of interrogations been introduced?
	HIV/AIDS discrimination	Some visa categories, notably 'E-2 Teaching Foreign Languages' ask applicants for their HIV status, and there have been reports of foreigners being deported because of their HIV status. Does the ROK Government consider this to be discrimination and, if so, what measures will it take to address this issue?
Switzerland	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	Women's rights	Please could you tell us what Switzerland has done to address discrimination against women, including addressing the under-representation of women in positions of responsibility in the public and private sectors and the salary gap between men and women? When does Switzerland plan to ratify OP-CEDAW and when does Switzerland plan to enact legislation on paid maternity leave?
	Asylum seekers	Does Switzerland accept the recommendation of the European Court of Human Rights to stop rejecting applications out of hand when an asylum-seeker is unable to produce identity papers within 48 hours?

	Asylum seekers	Does Switzerland accept the recommendation of the European Court of Human Rights to stop rejecting applications out of hand when an asylum-seeker is unable to produce identity papers within 48 hours? Could you tell us what steps Switzerland has taken to address concerns about inadequate facilities for housing asylum-seekers?
	Rights of the Child	Could you tell us what steps Switzerland has taken to improve collection of data and information on child abuse and/or neglect and the extent of sexual exploitation of children in particular vulnerable groups?
	Suicide	Could you tell us what you plan to do to tackle the high number of suicides among adolescents in Switzerland?
	New law on offenders	Are you content that the new law on lifelong detention for sex offenders or violent offenders does not contravene the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols?
	Persons with disabilities	Could you tell us whether you plan to take steps to rule out discrimination on the grounds of disability, including to allow disabled children access to mainstream schools, protection for disabled people against discrimination in the workplace and to tackle the exclusion of some people with a mental disability from the naturalisation procedures in certain communes?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in the Switzerland and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?
Pakistan	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society in Pakistan played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	National Human Rights Institution	We understand that a bill for establishing a national commission for Human Rights is awaiting discussion at the National Assembly. Could you please provide an update on progress? Will this commission comply with the Paris principles?
	International Treaties	The UK welcomes the approval of the Government of Pakistan to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. When will the Government of Pakistan fully accede to these and other outstanding human rights instruments?
	Torture	In particular, how will the Convention against Torture be implemented through effective judicial oversight and by ensuring that current legislation eg the Maintenance of Public Order (Section 16) is not used for torture or illegal detention? Does the Government of Pakistan have plans to reform the terrorism laws to ensure that terror suspects are detained lawfully and face trial?
	Death Penalty	What plans does the Government of Pakistan have to review the use of the death penalty in relation to the 27 crimes for which it can now be applied?
	Women's rights	The Women's Protection Act of December 2006 was welcome, bringing rape under the Pakistan Penal Code. What plans does the Government of Pakistan have to further amend aspects of the Zina and Hudood Ordinances to ensure compatibility with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women?
	Religious minorities	Article 16a of the constitution guarantees protection for freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship and the protection of the interests of minorities. How is this consistent with discriminatory legislation such as Article 260 of the constitution and Articles 295 and 298 of the Penal Code – blasphemy legislation most notably used against the Ahmadiya and Christian communities? What

	Women's rights	Does the Government of Pakistan have plans to improve the political representation of women and minorities in line with the EU Election Observation Mission's recommendations of 16 April 2008 ?
Zambia	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society in Zambia played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	International Treaties	We would be grateful for further information about the steps Zambia is taking to incorporate the CAT, ICERD, ICESCR and ICCPR into domestic law and what further measures are planned to ensure timely reporting.
	National Human Rights Mechanisms	Could you tell us what Zambia is doing to strengthen the role of the Human Rights Commission and the Police Public Complaints Authority and to ensure that they are adequately resourced to perform their important functions.
	Death Penalty	We would be grateful for an update on the Government of Zambia's views on abolition of the death penalty given that the right to life is protected and guaranteed under Article 12 of the Zambian Constitution and that no executions have been carried in the last 10 years.
	Pre-trial detention	We would be grateful for further information about the steps Zambia is taking to reduce the amount of time spent in police custody by accused persons and in prison custody by those awaiting trial.
	Prison conditions	What measures are being considered to help reduce the prison population, in particular in relation to judicial reforms?
	Freedom of press	What consideration is being given to reforming the Penal Code with regards to the issue of defamation and publication of false news?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate further on the role of the Human Rights Commission in Zambia and if it is in full compliance with the Paris Principles?
	Japan	Civil society
National Human Rights Institution		Could you please elaborate further on the existence and status of a National Human Rights Institution in Japan, and whether it complies fully with the Paris Principles
Death Penalty		Does the Government of Japan have any plans to reconsider the continuing use of the death penalty in Japan or to begin a public debate on its use?
		Does the Japanese Government have any plans to undertake a review of the area of administration of justice, in particular the continuing use of the "Daiyou Kangoku" system where suspects can be held for up to 23 days without charge and without a lawyer?
Death Penalty		In relation to this, the Japanese rate of convictions at 99.8% is unusually high and raises concern about possible miscarriages of justice and wrongful executions. Will Japan consider a moratorium of the death penalty until the issue of contentious confessions has been addressed?
Detention and prison conditions		UN bodies have raised serious concerns about a range of issues relating to the treatment of detainees in Japan including conditions on death row, the use of solitary confinement, overcrowding in prisons, sexual violence including rape of suspects by officials, and the lack of a complaints mechanism. What is Japan doing to address these issues?
International Treaties		Does Japan have any intention to sign the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and if so please could you provide a time-scale for possible ratification?

Ukraine	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played to prepare Ukraine's national report for this UPR process?
	Racism	Could the government elaborate further on the steps taken by Ukraine recently to combat racism? What measures is Ukraine taking to increase tolerance in society of foreigners and ethnic minorities, and to prevent the rise of skinhead groups?
	Asylum seekers, Refugees	Could Ukraine provide an update on its measures to improve protection and integration of refugees and asylum seekers? What is Ukraine's response to the deportation of 11 at risk Sri Lankan asylum seekers this year? How is Ukraine seeking to integrate its own minorities, in particular Crimean Tatars (as recommended by CESCR and CERD)?
	Independence of Judiciary	What progress has Ukraine made in the past year to increase the independence of the judiciary and tackle corruption in the judiciary and the executive? What does Ukraine intend to do to tackle these problems in the coming year?
	Trafficking in persons	We would be grateful for an update on implementation of the first state programme to combat trafficking and how the funding allocated under the programme is being used. What progress has Ukraine achieved on the prosecution of traffickers under the legislation welcomed by CAT in May 2007 (mentioned at para 8 of the OHCHR report)?
	Women's rights	What progress has there been towards a law to criminalise domestic violence?
	HIV/AIDS	Could Ukraine please give us further information about its programmes to tackle HIV/AIDS? How does Ukraine react to the latest UN figures indicating Kiev and Mikolaev regions have become the first HIV/AIDS pandemic regions in Europe?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate further on the status of a national human rights institution in Ukraine, and if it is in conformity with the Paris Principles?
Sri Lanka	Civil society	Could you please elaborate on the role civil society in Sri Lanka played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
	National Human Rights Institution	How does the Government of Sri Lanka intend to address concerns expressed in paragraph 4 of the summary of stakeholders information about the lack of capacity of Sri Lanka's National Human Rights Commission and perceived lack of government support for its work. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that the SLHRC is fully independent both politically and financially as required by Paris principles?
	Cooperation with the UN	Why is the Government of Sri Lanka not willing to accept an independent monitoring body such as the UN to monitor the human rights situation?
	Armed Forces	What is the legal status and political justification for the existence of the armed wing of the Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) under Sri Lankan law and what steps is the Government of Sri Lanka taking to disarm it and/or ensure it fully complies with international human rights norms?
	Rights of the Child	The UK welcomes the commitment to a zero tolerance approach on child recruitment. What estimate has the government made of the number of child soldiers still being held by a) the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and b) TMVP? What steps is it taking to address this?
	Freedom of religion or belief	Is proposed legislation on "unethical conversions" consistent with a commitment to religious freedom referred to in paragraph 56 of the National Report? If not how will the Government of Sri Lanka seek to

	Freedom of religion or belief	Is proposed legislation on "unethical conversions" consistent with a commitment to religious freedom referred to in paragraph 56 of the National Report? If not how will the Government of Sri Lanka seek to address this?
	Extrajudiciary executions	What assessment does the Government of Sri Lanka make of the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions that many people - most notably Tamils and Muslims - faced a credible threat of death for exercising freedoms of expression, movement, association and participation in public affairs? How will Government of Sri Lanka seek to address these concerns? And how does the government intend to address the other concerns expressed by the Special Rapporteur?
	Enforced Disappearances	What financial and human resources are being made available to the police to resolve outstanding disappearance cases? How will witness protection be guaranteed if the accused are serving members of the police or armed forces?
France	Civil society	Please could you elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report?
	Racial discrimination	We would like to ask what steps France has taken to combat various forms of discrimination, and for more details of the legislative and regulatory framework that has been put in place to tackle racism, anti-semitism and discrimination. In this regard, we would like to ask whether France intends to take steps to ensure more rigorous enforcement of current legislation and whether France would consider collecting statistics on the impact on minority ethnic groups to ensure that policies have real impact and can be evaluated?
	Prison conditions	Please could you provide further information on France's efforts to tackle overcrowding in prisons, and the extended use of solitary confinement?
	Human Rights violations in third countries	Would France consider strengthening guarantees against human rights violations in third countries, including the use of torture?
	Excessive use by police forces	Could you tell us what plans France has to address reports of excessive police use of force, notably in detention centres and holding areas for migrants?
	Minorities	Please could you provide further information on France's efforts to increase integration of ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups into public service, the civil service, politics and judiciary, and to reduce discrimination in recruitment and employment?
	National Human Rights Institution	Please could you provide more information about the role of your national human rights institution and its conformity with the Paris Principles.
Tonga	Civil society	We would be grateful if Tonga could elaborate further on the role that civil society played in the preparation of Tonga's national report.
	National Human Rights Institution	Grateful for further information on the existence (and independence) of a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris principles in Tonga.
	International Treaties	What plans does Tonga have to accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)?
	International Treaties	Could you please tell us why Tonga's reporting on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its reporting on Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) appear to be delayed?

	Freedom of press	Could you please tell us what measures are currently being taken by Tonga to protect the freedom of the media?
Romania	Civil society	Could you please elaborate further on the extent to which civil society was involved in the preparation of your national report?
	National Human Rights Institution	Could you please elaborate further on the existence and status of a National Human Rights Institution in your country, and whether it complies fully with the Paris Principles?
	Minorities	What concrete steps have been taken to prevent discrimination against Roma in education and housing, particularly in relation to enforcing Order 1540/19.07.2007?
	Rights of the Child	We applaud the recent Romanian response to the joint UK-Romanian initiative on the rights of disabled children, which was in line with UN Conventions on the Child and Disabled Persons. When might Romania be in a position to elaborate a national strategy?
	Persons with Disabilities	Given the unusually low percentage of persons with disabilities that has been given, can you confirm what is being done to ensure that all persons with disabilities are being identified and provided with the benefits that they are entitled to?
	Health	Why is the lack of adequate Mental Health care not mentioned in your national report? This issue is raised in the Stakeholders report and also by various observers including the European Parliament as an issue of concern.
	Women's rights	Please can you confirm what action is being taken to reduce the high rates of abortion, particularly in teenage girls, and maternal mortality?
	Mali	Civil society
Cooperation with Treaty Bodies		What steps is Mali taking to fulfil its obligations to present periodic reports to the treaty monitoring mechanisms and to implement the recommendations?
Women's rights		We would like to know more about what Mali is doing to raise awareness of, and legislate against, discriminatory and harmful practices against women and girls rooted in tradition. In particular, could you elaborate on progress made to adopt legislation prohibiting and criminalising all forms of female genital mutilation, and whether Mali plans to legislate against practices such as conjugal violence, early and forced marriage, polygamy, levirate and sororate?
Rights of the Child		Could you please tell us whether Mali plans to adopt a comprehensive national plan of action for children as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child?
HIV/AIDS		Could you please elaborate further on how Mali is working to implement its strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS with particular reference to affected children, as recommended by the Committee on the Rights of the Child?
Freedom of opinion and expression		What steps are being taken to ensure that international obligations on freedom of expression and opinion are upheld in Mali?
National Human Rights Institution		Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in the Republic of Mali and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?