

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO JAPAN (SECOND BATCH)

BELGIUM

- Which measures have been taken by Japan since the second UPR to ensure that detention conditions of inmates on death row comply with international standards?
- Does Japan envisage to equalize the legal age of marriage between men and women through its *Plan for Gender Equality*?
- How does the Government of Japan assess the impact of the nuclear accident in Fukushima and its aftermath on the situation of women and children in that specific region? Were women and children more negatively affected, in particular regarding the enjoyment of the economic and social rights, and, if so, what are the underlying causes?
- Belgium welcomes the fact that Japan has adopted legislation in 2014 to criminalize the possession of child pornography. What has been the impact of this law? Have awareness campaigns been undertaken to inform the public of the definition and scope of child pornography?
- Is Japan considering to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?

GERMANY

- During the second UPR cycle of Japan, Germany recommended to establish a moratorium on executions and to initiate a broad public debate on the question of the death penalty with a view to its final abolition, which has not been accepted by the Government of Japan. In this context, we would be interested in how Japan ensures that the mentally ill people are excluded from the execution of the death penalty.
- Furthermore, we would like to ask the Government of Japan to elaborate on the measures to ensure equality and non-discrimination of women in the labor market. Which particular steps have been taken in order to combat the gender pay gap?
- In the aftermath of the events in Fukushima in 2011, what measures have been taken in order to protect the health and life of particularly vulnerable groups of persons such as women and children in the area of Fukushima?

NORWAY

- No law in Japan prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. What measures will the Government take to prevent discrimination of LGBTI persons in law and in practice?
- The Ainu has been recognized as an indigenous people of Japan. What measures will the Government take to ensure the rights of the Ainu people, in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- We commend Japan's efforts to ban discrimination against persons with disabilities through implementation of the Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities. We note that some nongovernmental organizations have raised concerns that the law does not go far enough in defining discrimination. What steps has the government of Japan taken to provide clarification and how will you adjust implementation when the law is up for review?
- Particularly in light of recent developments, we recognize Japan's ongoing engagement with the Myanmar government regarding abuses against members of the Rohingya population and other human rights issues. We commend Japan's efforts to issue temporary stay visas to a significant number of Rohingya Muslims, who went to Japan to seek asylum on the basis of persecution in Myanmar. Most of these individuals have resided in Japan more than five years, and some for more than 15 years. However, some hold temporary visas which require frequent renewal by regional immigration offices and some have no legal status in Japan. What steps has the government of Japan taken to grant refugee status, or some other form of permanent residency, to these Rohingya individuals?