

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CUBA-ADD 1

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Will the statements in Cuba's national report that Cuba will "continue to promote the strengthening of Cuban democracy" and "further increase popular participation in elections and decision-making" allow for independent political parties to legally register and participate in future elections in Cuba?
- Please can the Cuban government explain why so-called "dissidents'" rights to freedom of expression and assembly are restricted within Cuba, in contrast to other individuals and groups, and when moreover, since the migration reform implemented in January 2013, those same dissidents can travel abroad and enjoy freedom of expression and assembly?
- The UK welcomes the commitment in the national report to "promote access to all for information". Following the installation of the fibre-optic cable from Venezuela and the lifting by the US of all previous restrictions potentially preventing Cuba's access to international broadband networks and equipment, please can the Cuban government confirm whether and when unfettered access to the global internet will be made available to the Cuban population and whether any foreign assistance is required?
- Given the statement in the national report that "the Cuban government remains strongly committed to continuing to issue invitations to the special mandate holders of the Human Rights Council", please can the Cuban delegation elaborate on what is preventing the extension of standing invitations to thematic UN Special Procedures/Rapporteurs and confirm that visits will be arranged including for the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment?
- Please can the Cuban government explain if they have any plans to review national legislation, including the Constitution and Criminal Code, in order to bring the domestic legal framework into line with international human rights standards on freedom of expression, association and assembly, and if so, whether they would welcome any assistance?

MONTENEGRO

- Question: Montenegro welcomes 2011 amendment to the Decree No.217/97 on regulations governing internal migration that improves the freedom of movement.

What methods the Government uses to determine who may obtain permission to leave the country under the new travel requirements?

- Question: Montenegro values Cuba's positive response to the visit request of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture as confirmed in its voluntary commitments during the universal periodic review. What further steps has Government taken to address concerns over the ill-treatment of prisoners and ensure compliance with the Convention Against Torture?

NORWAY

- Capital punishment: Norway notes with satisfaction that Cuba in its national report underlines its respect and understanding for the international movement that advocates the abolition of the death penalty; and that no new death penalties have been imposed since 2003. What are the conditions that will enable Cuba to abolish or formalizing a moratorium on the death penalty?
- Ratification of ICCPR and ICESCR: Norway has welcomed the signing by Cuba of the two key human rights instruments, the ICCPR and the ICESCR. However, in its national report Cuba does not describe the status and the process towards ratification of these treaties. What steps is Cuba taking towards ratification of the ICCPR and the ICESCR?
- Internet: Free access to information, including through the Internet, is important for the economic, academic and social development of all countries and societies. What steps will Cuba take to increase the opportunities for Cubans on an individual basis to get unrestricted access to the internet, and by this promoting the people's right to information?
- Sustainability of public services: Cuba has established a comprehensive welfare system that ensures, among others, the right to health, food and education for its population. In light of the economic situation, and the fact that the number of elderly is expected to increase significantly in the years to come, how does Cuba plan to ensure the sustainability of these important public services?

SLOVENIA

- What are the government's plans regarding the ratification of OP CEDAW?
- As an example of good practice, we would be interested to learn how Cuba encourages women's participation in the political and public life, and how it encourages gender equality and women's participation in public life in rural areas.

- We welcome that topics relating to gender equality, rights of the child, sexuality, environmental preservation and management, and local development are incorporated into study plans for primary, secondary and higher education. Please provide more specific information about programs focused on human rights education in general.

NETHERLANDS

- Does Cuba consider acceding to the Rome Statute?
- A human rights institute can play an important role in enhancing the human rights situation of a country, is Cuba willing to investigate, with the available technical assistance of OHCHR, the possibility of the establishment of a national human rights institute?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Can you inform us on progress with regard to Cuba's accession to the ICCPR and ICESCR?
- What is the current situation with Cuba's accession to the OP-CAT?
- Is the government of Cuba considering extending a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council?
- What concrete measures is Cuba undertaking in promoting access to information including access to Internet?