

ADVANCE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO VIET NAM- ADDENDUM

ARGENTINA

Derechos económicos, sociales y culturales.

- El “Programa para la eliminación del hambre, la reducción de la pobreza y la creación de empleo” es señalado en varios informes como una herramienta importante y efectiva en materia de cumplimiento de los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales en Vietnam. *Al respecto, la Delegación argentina desea conocer las líneas generales del programa y cómo atiende en concreto las necesidades de los grupos más vulnerables de la sociedad. Además, desea saber si tienen previsto tomar medidas para que la crisis económica en curso no afecte la situación de los sectores menos favorecidos de la población de Vietnam.*

CANADA

- Could Vietnam provide statistics on how many individuals were arrested, tried and convicted each year on charges relating to state security or anti-state propaganda? If not, could Vietnam explain why such information cannot be provided?
- In the recent court appeal of Catholic protesters, the judges indicated that there is no right to representation by a defence lawyer except in capital cases. Could Vietnam elaborate on the mechanisms in place in the justice system for cases such as this? What legal protection is there for lawyers who defend people in politically-sensitive cases?
- More than 60 countries around the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Would Vietnam consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council?
- What steps is Vietnam taking to ratify or accede to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children?

DENMARK

- We note that the Judicial Reform Strategy until 2020 foresees a reduction and limitation of the application of capital punishment. However, the current number of 29 crimes with capital punishment in the Penal Code has not been lowered since 1999 and capital punishment is still maintained for non-violent crimes such as corruption. When will the Government of Vietnam take concrete steps to restrict the use of the death penalty and set out a clear roadmap towards its eventual abolition, including an early moratorium, as well as publish statistics on the use of the death penalty in Vietnam?
- A free and open media is a key tool in the Government of Vietnam’s declared battle against corruption. While the Vietnamese constitution guarantees press freedom and the freedom of expression of the media, extensive limitations exist on press freedoms and the right to freedom of expression in the media. When will Vietnam take steps to guarantee the media freedom from strong state control and censorship?

- Detention conditions appear to be extremely harsh, and reports have been received about beatings and torture. What steps are taken to deal with these problems?
- Denmark welcomes the commitment of Vietnam to consider accession to the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT). As work has been ongoing for some time to assess such a potential accession to UNCAT, when will Vietnam make public a clear time table or road map for its accession to UNCAT?

HUNGARY

- What does the Government of Vietnam do for the revision of the group of crimes imposing death penalty? How does she explore the possibilities to replace death penalty with other penal sentences in the future?
- What steps does the Government of Vietnam take for the harmonisation of Vietnamese law with paragraphs 69-70 of the Constitution in order to protect the right to freedom of religion and to prevent administrative restrictions on different religious communities?
- What does the Government of Vietnam do for the improvement of the conditions of detention and for the prohibition of the detention of prisoners for a longer period without any fair trial or without a sentence of an independent court?
- What does the Government of Vietnam do for defining discrimination properly in her law? What steps have been taken for the establishment of an institutional framework for the detection, data collection, and protection of victims by the Government?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 63 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of Viet Nam with special procedures mandate holders (Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (19 - 28 October 1998)) and despite the pending requests by 6 Special Rapporteurs to visit Viet Nam - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NORWAY

- How did the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam involve civil society organisations in the elaboration of its national report?
- How is the work on the amendment of the Press Law progressing, and how will the amendment of this law improve the situation for media and press freedom in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam?
- Are there any plans to review national security laws to ensure that all state security provisions or anti-state propaganda provisions are clearly and narrowly defined to better conform to international norms and constitutional provisions guaranteeing rights protection, including freedom of expression?
- Norway takes note of the national report where Viet Nam states its determination in addressing remaining problems such as discrimination, maltreatment and violence against women. What steps will be taken to bring about changes in traditional attitudes and in gender stereotyping?
- How can Viet Nam ensure that sufficient human capacity and resources are available to implement its international and national commitments to promote gender equality?
- In 2002 the Human Rights Committee recommended Viet Nam to establish an independent human rights monitoring body. What steps is Viet Nam taking to establish such an independent national human rights institution?
- What concrete steps is Viet Nam taking to ratify or accede to the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children?
- Does the Government of Viet Nam have plans to ratify ILO Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Associations and Protection of the Right to Organise and Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and Bargain Collectively?
- Is the Government of Viet Nam planning to further reduce the scope of crimes subject to the death penalty, including the elimination of all non-violent crimes? What steps could be taken to by Viet Nam to publish national statistics on death sentences imposed and executions carried out?
