

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO NIGERIA-Addendum

DENMARK

- When does Nigeria intend to ratify OPCAT and establish an independent and effective national preventive mechanism?
- What steps has the Government taken to eliminate discrimination of certain minority groups (e.g. indigenes in River State, non-Muslims in Muslim dominated states and women)?
- Has progress been made on the Freedom of Information Bill?

GERMANY

- When will the National Assembly of Nigeria approve the draft bill on "Abolition of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Nigeria and Other Related Matters" and which other measures does Nigeria take to improve the legal situation for women?
- Does the Nigerian Government intend to take measures to improve the situation of children and their rights? What, for example, are the authorities envisaging to ensure that street children are provided with adequate nutrition, clothing, housing, health care and educational opportunities?
- Germany would like to ask Nigeria to outline its policy on the death penalty. How does the government assess information alleging that the death penalty is carried out on persons below 18 years of age? Does Nigeria consider a moratorium on the death penalty, and if so, how the government will effectively ensure that no executions are carried out.
- The CERD has been alarmed at reports of assaults, use of excessive force, summary executions and other abuses against members of local communities by both law enforcement officers and security personnel employed by petroleum corporations. What measures does the Nigerian Government envisage to remedy this situation and to guarantee that the rights of the local communities are protected?

LITHUANIA

- Lithuania would like to ask what particular steps are being implemented to curb discriminatory traditional practices and deep-rooted stereotypes related to women.

IRELAND

Women's Rights

- Ireland notes the excellent progress underway in Nigeria with regard to the empowerment of women, notably in view of initiatives such as the National Gender Policy, the National Reproductive Health Policy and Strategy, and the National Policy on Child and Maternal Health. However, violence against women remains widespread, and Ireland is concerned that aspects of Nigeria's three-part (sharia, customary and statutory) legal system might undermine efforts made to date regarding women's rights, noting in particular that the Penal Code of Northern Nigeria permits wife battery. We are also concerned that Muslim women could be subject to harsher sentences or a different standard of proof than other Nigerians. In addition, we are worried that Nigerians, particularly Nigerian women, could be subject to prosecution for actions such as adultery, which are generally not considered criminal offences. Will the Government of Nigeria undertake to ensure that its legal system protects women and does not discriminate against them, and that specific legislation to protect women against sexual and gender-based violence is implemented?

Torture and ill-treatment

- While recognising that Nigeria has ratified the UN Convention against Torture, Ireland is worried by the 2007 report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, which noted that torture and ill-treatment are still routinely practiced in police custody, particularly to extract confessions from suspects. What measures has Nigeria taken in response to the report of the Special Rapporteur? Does the Government intend to introduce national legislation prohibiting torture?

Extrajudicial Executions

- Ireland is very concerned by the 2005 Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which stated that extrajudicial executions by police were widespread, including the killing of suspected criminals, and deaths in custody. In 2008, the Special Rapporteur concluded that on some issues, the situation had deteriorated. What steps has Nigeria taken to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur?

Death Penalty

- Ireland understands that Nigeria has an official moratorium on the death penalty. Nevertheless, the death penalty is allowed under Nigerian legislation for certain offences, and approximately 700 people remain on death row. Will Nigeria clarify its policy with regard to the death penalty, and to those remaining on death row?