

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC –
ADD.2

NETHERLANDS

- **Refugees**

Will the Laotian Government grant representatives of the inviting countries and UNHCR unhindered access to the 158 Lao Hmong refugees who were invited by The Netherlands, the United States, Canada and Australia to resettle within their borders? If so, when will the Lao Government do so?

- **Refugees**

In this context and pursuant to the international obligations of Laos under the ICCPR (which in Article 12 states that “Everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own”): when and how will the Laotian government provide means for the 185 recognised refugees to emigrate to the countries willing to accept them?

- **Children’s rights**

Laos has taken measures to implement the *Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interest of Children*. Would the Laotian government consider further steps in its efforts to strengthen implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children and the National Programme on Anti-Trafficking in and Sexual Exploitation of Children, in line with the Optional Protocol to the CRC?

- **Ratification of human rights standards / co-operation with human rights mechanisms**

Laos has not yet ratified international human rights instruments, such as the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Would the Laotian Government consider ratifying these instruments? Could the Laotian Government also give an indication when it could submit periodic reports under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination?

- **Freedom of expression**

Would the Laotian government consider the removal of internet monitoring and control facilities which restrict the full use of the internet, in line with international standards on the freedom of expression and freedom of information?

- **Freedom of religion**

In 2008, reports emerged of attempts of local officials to force Christians to recant their faith. Recent converts to Christianity seem to have been targeted. Could the Laotian government inform the Council of the measures it takes to ensure that the freedom of religion is respected in Laos?
