

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE PHILIPPINES – ADD.1

IRELAND

- When will the Government of the Philippines sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearance?
- Will the Government invite the UN Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights defenders to visit the Philippines?
- When does the Government anticipate the passage into law of the proposed Bill on Responsible Parenthood, Reproductive Health and Population and Development?
- What measures are being taken or proposed to protect the rights of indigenous peoples in areas subject to extensive mining operations?
- What measures are being taken to assess the environmental impact of large scale mining operations?

NETHERLANDS

SRGR rights

- The Netherlands would like to emphasize the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights irrespective of sex or religion. With the unfortunate unabated rise in maternal and child mortality and a decade-long reproductive health rights legislation pending in the Philippines Congress, could the Philippine government elaborate on how it will ensure that its citizens do not arbitrarily suffer from lack of complete and accurate information and access to all methods of family planning?

Impunity and the rule of law

- The Netherlands would like to commend the Philippines government's accession to many international human rights treaties as well as its zero-tolerance-for-human-rights-violations campaigns, particularly on cases of extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance and torture that involve armed forces officers and personnel. To date, however, there have been only seven successfully prosecuted cases from hundreds of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances since 2001. How could the Philippine government concretely, expediently, and effectively address this unrelenting impunity?

- **Human Trafficking – Women's rights and fundamental ILO labor standards**
The Netherlands would like to commend the impressive measures that the Philippines has undertaken in the fight against human trafficking especially during the past 1,5 years as well as its positive stance towards international cooperation. Could the delegation, in relation to women's rights and fundamental ILO labor standards, indicate what strategy will be put in place to address illegal recruitment and internal labor trafficking, including exploitation of domestic workers and other vulnerable workers with no social protection coverage, no protection against forced labor, and likely no access to collective action?

SLOVENIA

- We would be interested to hear more about the steps undertaken by the Philippines to reduce the dropout rates and improve the schooling facilities, particularly in remote areas.
- We would furthermore like to ask the Philippines about the state of play of pending requests of the special procedures mandate holders?

SWEDEN

- What further measures will the Government of the Philippines take to ensure that the pending Act and Security Plan will be implemented efficiently with regard to impunity and extra-judicial killings? Have the measures undertaken already led to a measurable decrease in extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances?
- Though freedom of expression is guaranteed in the Philippine constitution, the country has had a history of documented deficiencies in the prosecution of unlawful killings of journalists. The ongoing trial regarding the massacre of 57 people, of whom several were journalists, in Mindanao on the 23 november 2009 is therefore a welcome development in the fight against impunity. What further measures, and follow-up mechanisms, is the Government envisaging to guarantee the freedom of expression in the Philippines?

UNITED KINGDOM

- We would be grateful for information on the Philippines Governments efforts to strengthen the justice system, including witness protection and investigative capacity?
- What steps are the government taking to dismantle private armed groups?
- What are the government's plans to address the sexual exploitation of children?

- Could you tell us what steps have been taken to protect the rights and safety of women and children in situations of conflict?
- The Philippines has instituted human rights programmes for the armed forces and the police. Can you tell us how the success of these programmes will be measured?
- Towards preventing maternal deaths and reducing infant mortality, what steps are the Philippines taking to empower women to make informed choices? How much access is being given to women on those choices which include the number, spacing and timing of children?