

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO PANAMA – Add.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Could you elaborate how the Government of Panama combats the high rate of maternal mortality caused mainly by lack of appropriate medical care, particularly for rural and indigenous women and adolescent girls?
- How the Government of Panama ensures effectiveness of police investigation of domestic violence and what measures have been taken to prevent violence against women?

GERMANY

- In 2009, after a visit to Panama, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people issued a report on the situation of the Charco la Pava community and other communities affected by the Chan 75 hydroelectric project. One of the conclusions drawn by the Special Rapporteur in his report was that the communities affected had not been properly consulted before the Government gave the project the go-ahead and that they had not had the chance to consent to their relocation. Germany would like to know how the government of Panama intends to better protect the human rights of those citizens who are living in the vicinity of big industrial or mining projects.

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 72 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of Panama with special procedures mandate holders (Special Rapporteur on the use of mercenaries (8-10 May 2002)) - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- **Pretrial detention**

With reference to paragraph 58 of the national report which states that there exists a problem of overcrowding of prisons, and considering the high number of prisoners that are awaiting their trial and the fact that these prisoners are not separated from convicted prisoners as has been detailed in paragraph 31 and paragraph 40 of the OHCHR compilation, what measures will the Government of Panama take in order to reduce the number of untried prisoners and to keep untried prisoners separated from convicted prisoners?

- **Juvenile criminal responsibility**

In light of the recent passing of Act No. 6 in March 2010, which lowers the age of criminal responsibility from 14 to 12 years, how does the Government of Panama

guarantee compliance with Art. 37 and Art. 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and how will the Government provide appropriate rehabilitation and re-education of convicted minors that are over 12 years of age?

- **Freedom of association**

With reference to comments in paragraph 53 of the OHCHR compilation on the threshold to establish an employers' organisation or a workers' organisation at the enterprise level being higher than international standards, and the allegations in paragraph 39 of the stakeholders report on the interference of the Ministry of Labour in the governance of trade unions, how will Government of Panama guarantee the right to freedom of association in order to comply with ILO Convention No. 87?

- **Eradication of child labour**

The Netherlands welcomes the measures elaborated on in paragraph 99 of the national report to eradicate child labour. In this regard, does the Government of Panama intend to take measures to address the root causes of child labour, specifically to eradicate poverty and improve the quality of education? If so, what measures does the Government of Panama intend to take?

- **Rights of indigenous people**

In light of conclusions of the report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people on the Chan 75 hydroelectric project, and with reference to paragraph 69 of the OHCHR compilation on the absence of guarantees or regulation to the right to consultation leading up to mining, hydroelectric or tourist projects, how does the Government of Panama guarantee the territorial integrity of indigenous *comarcas* and non-*comarca* traditional indigenous lands?

- **Sexual education for adolescents**

With the view of reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies and halting the spread of STD's, does the Government of Panama intend to guarantee adequate and age appropriate sexual education for pupils?

NORWAY

- How did the Panamanian State take into account the opinions by civil society organizations in the elaboration of its national report? Could you please elaborate on the role civil society in Panama played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- What steps will the Panamanian government take to follow up and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council? How will the independent human rights organizations and the UN be involved in the process?
- Norway takes note of the national report where Panama states its determination in addressing remaining problems such as discrimination, abuse and violence against women. What steps will be taken to bring about changes in traditional attitudes and in gender stereotyping?

- Does the Government of Panama have plans to ratify:
 - The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
 - The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
 - The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
 - The Convention No. 169 of the International Labor Organization concerning indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries

- What measures have been taken to eliminate discrimination against women, in particular to ensure compliance of all relevant national legislation and policies with legal framework of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)?

- CEDAW has expressed concern about the occurrence of femicide and other gender related violence. How does Panama intend to remedy the situation?
 1. How are human rights of persons deprived of liberty ensured? What human rights education and training is available to police, prison and judiciary staff and how is accountability for any violations of human rights guaranteed?

 2. Reports indicate that indigenous peoples in Panama often face discrimination in several areas of society such as education, health services, and land rights issues. There are also reports of violation of indigenous peoples` right to be consulted in order to achieve their free, prior and informed and consent to proposed measures or development activities which may affect them. What further efforts is the Government of Panama taking to ensure indigenous peoples their land rights and their right to be consulted, as well as their equal rights to education and health services?

SLOVENIA

- Have any concrete measures been taken to eliminate child labor in the field, additionally to the institutional and national plan efforts mentioned in the national report?