

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

DENMARK

- The Republic of Korea is considered to hold a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Will the Republic of Korea abolish the death penalty in law?
- What measures is the Republic of Korea taking in order to protect the rights of migrant workers, in particular the large number of migrant workers in an irregular situation, lacking legal permission to remain in the country?

LATVIA

- According to the information of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 59 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering the cooperation of the Republic of Korea with the special procedures (visits of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in 1995, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 2005, 2006 and 2008, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants in 2006) – would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- The Netherlands acknowledges the achievements the Korean government has made in the field of human rights for women. Whereas a legal and institutional framework regarding women's rights is now in place, some areas remain of concern. This concerns especially domestic violence against women. Could you comment?
- What concrete and proactive measures is the Korean government taking to make sure that vulnerable groups in society (women, children, gays and lesbians, disabled persons and North-Korean refugees) receive equal treatment?
- The Special Bill to Abolish the Death Penalty has not been voted on in this parliamentary session and thus will automatically lapse on 29 May. Although the death-penalty has not been carried out in the past 10 years, does Korea consider to pass the Special Bill to Abolish the Death Penalty into law in the new National Assembly starting from 1 June 2008?

SWEDEN

- In its resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007, the General Assembly called on states to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of the Republic of Korea referred to the fact that no executions have been carried out since 1997, as well as to ongoing discussions with regard to the overall status of the death penalty in the Republic of Korea. Could the government of the Republic of Korea elaborate on these discussions and on the government's position with regard to a formal moratorium on executions in the country?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you please elaborate further on the extent to which civil society was involved in the preparation of your national report?
- Could you please elaborate further on the existence and status of a National Human Rights Institution in the Republic of Korea and whether it complies fully with the Paris Principles?
- A bill to abolish the death penalty has been introduced to the 15th 16th and 17th terms of the National Assembly. When the 17th term ends in May 2008 and the proposed bill lapses, what steps will the new administration take to abolish the death penalty during the 18th term of the National Assembly?
- The ROK is an important investor in developing economies, and through its own recent history is well placed to share the experience of democratisation and establishing a human rights framework. What role can the ROK play in promoting human rights internationally?
- What practical measures have been taken to ensure that the April 2007 Penal Procedure Code is justly implemented during the arrest and interrogation process, and to what extent has the video taping of interrogations been introduced?
- Some visa categories, notably 'E-2 Teaching Foreign Languages' ask applicants for their HIV status, and there have been reports of foreigners being deported because of their HIV status. Does the ROK Government consider this to be discrimination and, if so, what measures will it take to address this issue?