

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE COMOROS

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What are the measures the Government of the Union of Comoros has been taking in order to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) signed in 2008 and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) signed in 2000?
- Has the Government of the Union of Comoros considered issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council?
- What is current state of play in the process of establishment of a national human rights institution?

GERMANY

- Documentations of the UN and NGO Stakeholders report on the alarming situation of children living in Comoros. Reports mention, inter alia, legal corporal punishment, sexual exploitation, sale of children and child pornography, as well as widespread child labour and limited access to education. Germany would like to learn more about measures the Government undertakes or plans to undertake to effectively protect the rights of the child.

THE NETHERLANDS

- Can the government of the Comoros inform us of steps taken with regard to the ratification of the Comoros of core Human Rights treaties like ICESCR (signature 2008), ICCPR (signature 2008) and CAT (signature 2000)?
- While legislation in the Comoros does prohibit domestic violence, women rarely seek protection through the courts. Extended family or village elders customarily address these problems. Another issue according to reports is the existence of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is prohibited by law, but due to societal pressure rarely reported. What measures has the government taken or is it considering to address these problems?
- How will the Comoros ensure and protect the freedom of religion, both in legislation and in practice, given the fact that according to reports several legal restrictions are currently in place which deny religious minorities the right to practice their religion in freedom?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We would be grateful for information about the steps the Comoros has taken and will continue to take to establish a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

- Could you please elaborate on the progress of the Ministry of Health's health sector development plan, in particular in order to address maternal and child deaths?
- Could you please tell us what the Comoros is doing to ensure that the national policy on gender and equality (adopted in 2007) contains measures for the promotion of gender equality in employment and occupations?
- What plans does the Comoros have to accede to the international and regional human rights instruments to which it is not yet party?
- Could you please elaborate on the steps that the Comoros is taking to prevent sexual violence and all forms of abuse and exploitation of children? In addition we would be grateful for information on the plans to include in the Comoros' existing legislation specific prohibition of corporal punishment of children within the family and at school.
- We would be grateful for further information on the measures the Comoros is taking to prevent the marginalisation of and discrimination against children with disabilities. In particular what measures are being taken to ensure that children with disabilities are integrated into society and have access to legal protection?
- What consideration has the Comoros given to introducing a moratorium on executions as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/149 and reaffirmed in a further resolution adopted by the General Assembly in November 2008?
- Could you please tell us what consideration the Comoros has given to acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court? What consideration has the Comoros government given to implementing this Agreement in National Law?
- Could you please tell us what consideration the Comoros has given to allowing religious minorities to freely practice their faith, to allowing Muslims to convert to faiths other than Islam and to allowing those of other faiths to proselytise?
