

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA – Add.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- While we take note that Papua New Guinea has not carried out an execution since 1954, we would like to know whether the Government intends to abolish the capital punishment.
- CEDAW expressed serious concern about reports of brutal torture, and killing of girls and women, especially old women, accused of witchcraft and was particularly concerned that the number of female victims was increasing. CEDAW urged Papua New Guinea to take immediate measures to investigate such incidences and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. CEDAW also called on Papua New Guinea to accelerate its review of the law on sorcery and sorcery-related killings, and to strengthen enforcement of relevant legislation. How does the Government implement the recommendations?
- The Special Rapporteur on torture indicated that he had found systematic beatings of detainees upon arrest or within the first hours of detention. In correctional institutions, those who attempt to escape or succeed in escaping are often tortured and disabled upon recapture. Does the Government consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto and bringing the definition of torture in line with the international standards in order to criminalize such treatment?
- CEDAW noted with concern that only a small percentage of the population had been registered at birth, and that this might impact negatively on the legal status of women. What measures are in place ensuring that all children are registered at birth?
- Does the Government intend to review the laws relating to abortion, with a view to removing punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortion, and provide them with access to quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortions?
- Less than 50 per cent of children in rural areas are enrolled in primary school, and only slightly more than half of those enrolled complete Grade 5. Girls are less likely to be enrolled in school and frequently fail to complete their education. What measures have been taken to provide a discrimination and violence-free educational environment?

IRELAND

- Ireland is of the view that it is important that States provide for the prohibition of discrimination based on sex or gender and uphold the principle of equality between women and men in accordance with CEDAW. Does the Government have any plans to amend the Constitution to prevent discrimination based on sex or gender?

- Papua New Guinea has not yet established an independent national human rights commission in conformity with the United Nations Paris Principles to investigate, monitor and report on human rights issues and to provide education and information on this area. Has Papua New Guinea any plans to establish an independent national human rights commission?
- Ireland welcomes the establishment of the Ombudsman Commission, an independent institution which guards against the abuse of power in the public sector, but is concerned at reports of efforts to curtail its powers. What actions has Papua New Guinea taken to ensure the continued independence of the Ombudsman Commission and its ability to carry out its functions?
- Ireland is concerned at the reintroduction of the death penalty in Papua New Guinea. Ireland maintains a principled and consistent opposition to the use of capital punishment as a cruel and inhuman punishment. It holds no value as a deterrent and renders any miscarriages of justice irreversible. Has Papua New Guinea considered abolishing the death penalty in domestic legislation?

NORWAY

- What concrete steps is Papua New Guinea taking to ratify all UN Human Rights Conventions?
- The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has recommended a number of urgent actions from the Government of Papua New Guinea. What concrete steps has the Government taken to address these recommendations in regards to:
 - ❖ Including gender as a ground of non-discrimination in its Constitution;
 - ❖ ensuring that village courts' decision making processes is in accordance with human rights and gender equality standards;
 - ❖ establishing a national human rights commission?
- What initiatives have been taken to involve women in decision-making processes at the national and local level, in particular to increase the number of women in Parliament?
- What steps has the Government of Papua New Guinea taken to change local practices that discriminate against women?
- What is being done to increase women's access to justice in Papua New Guinea?
- What is the Government's current position on providing relevant authorities, including law enforcement and judicial officers, with sensitivity training in relation to sexual orientation and gender identities?

SLOVENIA

- How does the Government intend to enhance the accessibility and availability of free and compulsory primary education and of secondary education?
- How can the Government prevent the excessive use of force by the police forces and the raids of police mobile squads on villages and urban settlements?
- What measures is the Government taking to address the widespread domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence?

SWIZERLAND

- Does the Government of Papua New Guinea intend to amend the Constitution to include « sex » and « gender » as prohibited grounds for discrimination?
- Will the Government of Papua New Guinea develop and implement strategies to prevent further acts of sorcery-related killings?
- Is the Government of Papua New Guinea intending to declare a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it in future?
- What are the measures the Government of Papua New Guinea is planning on putting in practice in order to ensure that all complaints of violence, including sexual violence against detainees by police are fully investigated and that suspected perpetrators are brought to justice?
- Does the Government of Papua New Guinea intend to ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as its Optional Protocol?