

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SIERRA LEONE – Add.1**

### **BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of Sierra Leone considering responding positively upon the outstanding requests of several special rapporteurs to visit the country?
- A considerable number of reports from Sierra Leone to the treaty bodies are overdue. What measures has Sierra Leone taken to remedy this?
- Is the Government of Sierra Leone considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture?
- The UN Country Team in Sierra Leone noted that some legislative provisions were shrouded by discrimination and inequality. For example the Constitution for the moment provides that only persons who were of Nero descent could qualify for Sierra Leonean citizenship by birth or naturalization. Also customary law still seems to discriminate against women, for example when it comes to inheritance rights. Is the Government of Sierra Leone considering reviewing these discriminatory provisions?

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- In 2010, the Committee on the Right of the Child recommended the explicit prohibition by law and criminalization of the use of children in hostilities by the armed forces and the recruitment and use of children in hostilities by non-State armed groups. How does the Government of Sierra Leone implement the recommendation?
- In 2010, the High Commissioner stated that the absence of a clear land policy had resulted in disputes over ownership of lands. The causes of such disputes included the lack of appropriate demarcation, proper registration and record-keeping. What steps has Sierra Leone taken/is going to take in order to adopt a clear land policy, including with regard to the demarcation and proper registration of land?
- In 2010, the High Commissioner stated that ritual killings continued in various parts of the country. What measures have been taken to combat such occurrence and ensure effective investigations and successful prosecutions of such crime?
- At the level of local courts, customary law is reported to be often discriminatory to women. Moreover, capacity constraints on investigating authorities, the low rate of prosecution, out-of-court settlements and interference by traditional leaders in judicial matters continue to undermine the judicial process and create room for impunity, particularly regarding sexual and gender-based violence. How does the Government of Sierra Leone address the issue?

## **NORWAY**

- In relation to Sierra Leone's commitment and support for the joint statement on ending acts of violence, criminal sanctions and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, delivered to the Human Rights Council in March on behalf of 85 States, we ask you to elaborate on any plans you may have to bring the national legislation into conformity with your recent commitments by repealing all provisions which may be applied to criminalise sexual activity between consenting adults?
- What is your view on the high number of teenage pregnancies, and do you have strategies in place in order to tackle the phenomenon?
- What is the current status for family planning initiatives? Please also elaborate of any specific measures taken in order to reduce maternal mortality?
- Will you consider reinstating the draft clause prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation that was removed when the Child Rights Act was adopted in 2007?

## **SLOVENIA**

- Besides the establishment of a free health-care programme, what measures have been taken, or are planned, to tackle the high infant, under 5, and maternal mortality rates, including by improving access to drinking water and sanitation facilities?
- What measures have been taken to effectively monitor the situation of former child combatants, particularly girls, who were not included in the DDR process, with the view to providing them with the assistance necessary to facilitate their full reintegration?

## **SWITZERLAND**

- What are the measures taken in order to address the challenges with regard to delays in delivering justice and prolonged pretrial detention?
- What are the measures the Government of Sierra Leone is planning on putting in practice in order to improve food supply, sanitation and access to medicine and health services within prisons?
- How can the internal disciplinary control mechanisms within the Police Force be improved?
- Does the Government of Sierra Leone consider abolishing the death penalty?
- Does the Government of Sierra Leone plan to enact legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation (FGM)?
- What means can be taken by the Government of Sierra Leone in order to further improve access to and quality of education?