

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LIBERIA – Add.2

NORWAY

- Norway has noted the efforts taken by the Liberian government on the question of advancement of women's rights. Still the situation remains difficult for women, not least in the rural areas of the country. What actions are the Government taking to further ensure better access for women to education, health services, justice and opportunities in economic life. Are you planning any specific government programs for women in rural areas. Also, *Female Genital Mutilation* (FGM) is a common practice. Will the Government of Liberia take steps to outlaw this practice?
- The adoption of the Anti Corruption Strategy in 2008 and the establishment of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission in 2009 is regarded as an important step to improve good governance in the country. What will the Government do to ensure that the Commission gets the required resources to play an independent role in the judicial system of the country?
- Liberia has ratified and signed a number of international human rights instruments, but has yet to implement these into domestic law. Has the Government a concrete plan for domesticating this international legal framework?
- Norway has noted that Liberia adopted an Action Plan for Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, in 2009. What steps have been taken to implement the action plan?
- The Special Court for Rape and Other Forms of Violence was established in 2008 in the capital, followed by the SGBV Unit in 2009. Both signify progress in the fight against violence against women. Still, a UNIFEM report, together with other reports, conclude that few rape cases are being brought before the courts in Liberia. What actions will the Government take to ensure an increase in the judicial handling of these serious offences? Furthermore, do you have any plans for extending these special courts to include all parts of the country?