

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

### **BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of Brunei Darussalam considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures?
- Is the Government of Brunei Darussalam considering ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict?
- Is the Government of Brunei Darussalam considering lifting the reservations it has to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- The second and third reports from Brunei Darussalam to the CRC are overdue. What measures have been taken by Brunei Darussalam to remedy this?
- Is the Government of Brunei Darussalam considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Is the Government of Brunei Darussalam considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court?
- The revised penal code in Brunei Darussalam stipulates the death penalty for numerous offences, thereby contravening international law. Does the Government of Brunei intend to proceed with the entry into force of this revised code?
- How many individuals are currently on death row? Of those, how many are foreign nationals?
- How many of those on death row have children, and how many children are affected in this way? What support is provided to these children?
- How many individuals have been sentenced to death and/or executed in the last four and half years? How many of those have/had children? How many are/were foreign nationals?
- Do family members, including children, of persons on death row have the right to visit (or if unable to visit to communicate in other ways)? If so, is the visiting/communication regime the same as that for other prisoners?
- Do family members have the right under national law to be informed of an execution

before it takes place? If so, how are they informed and what is the notice period?

- Do children and other family members of a person sentenced to death have the right to a final meeting before an execution is carried out?
- Has the Government of Brunei Darussalam considered taking steps to reform the Nationality Act to address concerns of the CRC regarding equality between women and men in their ability to confer their nationality on their children?

## **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- The new Penal Code, enacted in October 2013, reintroduces the death penalty and, *inter alia*, continues to criminalize adultery or extramarital sexual relations. Could you elaborate on how you envisage implementing the Penal Code while complying with international laws and standards?
- The UPR National Report states that Brunei has been reviewing a number of international human rights treaties since 2009. Could you inform us about your intentions regarding signature and ratification of/accession to the CAT, OP-CAT, and the ICCPR?
- What measures have been adopted to address the problem of child trafficking? Do you consider amending your national legislation to strictly prohibit the use, procuring and offering of all children under the age of 18 for prostitution and production of pornography to comply with ILO Convention No. 182?
- We are concerned about the range of punishments to which persons under the age of 18 may be sentenced, including life imprisonment and corporal punishments for boys. Have you considered amending the respective legislation?
- Could you inform us on how Brunei addresses concerns relating to freedom of expression and the media independence restricted under the emergency powers, the Sedition Act and the Local Newspapers Order?
- Has the Government of Brunei the intention to change the national legislation in order to guarantee fully the right to freedom of association?

## **MEXICO**

- What measures are being taken in order to ensure that the Sedition Act, The Local Newspapers Order, and the Undesirable Publication Act is in compliance with international standards of freedom of expression?
- Are there any institutional programs in place which offer counselling and support to victims of human trafficking and if so, how do they promote their rehabilitation and reintegration into normal social life?
- What mechanisms exist in order to combat child labor and do they have a special focus on vulnerable groups such as migrant children?

## **NETHERLANDS**

- The Netherlands is concerned about the implementation of the sharia law announced on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2013. The government of Brunei stated in a media comment that the Sharia law would only apply to Muslims. However in some cases the Sharia law was to be applied to non-Muslims as well.
- How will the government of Brunei ensure a fair and consistent application of the law to all its citizens and ensure equal human rights for all its citizens?
- Will the government of Brunei ensure that implementation of the Sharia law meets international human rights standards, as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action?
- Can the government of Brunei indicate whether it is planning to accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

## **SLOVENIA**

- We would like to ask the delegation what steps have been taken in order to implement the freedom of opinion and expression in conformity with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- We would like to ask the delegation about the statistics regarding the efforts towards non-discriminatory access to education.
- We would like to ask the delegation about information regarding efforts to protect children from trafficking and prostitution.

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- What plans does the Government of Brunei Darussalam have to accede to core UN human rights treaties, including ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD and CAT?
- The UK welcomes the expansion of the Legislative Council to 33 members, and the inclusion of two female members. When does the Government of Brunei Darussalam intend to establish direct elections to the Legislative Council?
- Could you tell us what further consideration has been given during the period covered by this review to the lifting of the state of emergency?

- Following implementation of Syariah Penal Code 2013, what steps is the Government of Brunei Darussalam taking to ensure that existing constitutional provisions concerning freedom of religion will continue to apply and that the rights of non-Muslims to practice their religions will be safeguarded?
- How does the Government of Brunei Darussalam intend to ensure that implementation of the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 is consistent with international human rights standards, including Brunei Darussalam's specific obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child such as Article 37 prohibiting the sentencing to death of minors under the age of 18?