

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GABON

DENMARK

- Detention and Prison conditions
It is of concern that the State is currently not able to provide detention and prison conditions in line with ICCPR obligations and with the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Has a plan of action been prepared and is it under implementation?
- According to CEDAW a special concern is women's access to justice and redress for alleged violations. What steps has the Government taken to remove impediments and ensure access to affordable and expeditious means of redress for women?

Indigenous people (pygmies)

- What concrete measures has the Government taken to ensure that the indigenous peoples of Gabon, the pygmies, enjoy the same constitutional rights as the (Bantu) majority, including ensuring their traditional living places in the rain forests? It is of special concern that exploration of national wealth and resources, such as wood, iron ore and hydro power, does not appear to ensure the basic human rights of these peoples, including rights to their traditional living places.

Children's rights

- Reports about increasing numbers of children being victims of commercial sexual exploitation, high incidents of child abuse within family, child labour, street children and child trafficking (often coming from abroad) are still widespread. Which measures does the Government intend to implement to provide all children with a safe and secure childhood?

GERMANY

- It appears from para 13 of the compilation prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/2/GAB/2) that the Human Rights Committee and CEDAW recommended that Gabon review its legislation to modify or eliminate customs and cultural and traditional practices that discriminate women.
An area of particular concern related to this issue is the ongoing practice of polygamy in Gabon, para 14. Which concrete legislative and other measures does the Gabon Government envisage to take fight discrimination of women and to put an end to the practice of polygamy ?
- It appears from paras 27 and 28 of the compilation prepared by OHCHR (A/HRC/WG.6/2/GAB/2) that the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention sent communications to the Gabon Government concerning the arrest and detention of journalists in Gabon.
Which concrete measures is the Gabon Government taking to guarantee the right of freedom of opinion and expression?

LATVIA

- According to the information of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights 59 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Despite visit requested and not yet agreed upon Special Rapporteur on the right to education (2007) – would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

SWEDEN

- The constitution of Gabon prohibits torture and other maltreatment of persons. Gabon is party to the Convention against Torture. Civil society organisations have noted, however, continuing reports of torture and other maltreatment in places of detention, including with regard to refugees and other immigrants. The government of Gabon has not recognised the mechanism for individual complaints provided by the Convention against Torture, or ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention that it has signed. Could the government of Gabon elaborate on its view of recognising the individual complaints procedure and ratifying the Optional Protocol, and on what measures it is taking to eliminate the occurrence of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
- In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Gabon noted that schooling is mandatory and free of charge up to the age of 16. Varying figures, however, have been reported on primary school enrolment rates, from around 50 percent to over 90 percent for the past several years. In its concluding observations from its latest consideration in 2002 of Gabon, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern at the lack of access to education by children from the Pygmy minority. What measures is the government of Gabon taking to ensure that all children are able to fully enjoy their right to education?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- We welcome the signature of the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture in 2004. What are the issues preventing ratification of the OPCAT and do you have a date in mind for doing so?
- Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in Gabon and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?

