

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BAHAMAS- ADD.1

DENMARK

- Reliable reports indicate [widespread] use of torture and ill treatment. What further steps are you taking to prevent and eliminate torture and excessive use of force by law enforcing agencies? When do you intend to ratify OPCAT?
- Do you intend to abolish capital punishment – perhaps initially by adopting a moratorium on executions – in accordance with the general trend in this direction?
- What is the reasoning behind the age of criminal responsibility (10 years)? Has the government thought about rising the age of criminal responsibility and has it assessed alternative ways of dealing with underage criminals such as youth institutions and psychological assistance?
- Bahamas is vulnerable to natural disasters and will continue to be so because of climate change. Such natural disasters often have severe social impacts and cause human rights violations. What will the Bahamas do to develop policies, appropriate responses and capacity to safeguard human rights in case of natural disasters?

GERMANY

- The Committee on Rights of the Child recommended that the Bahamas expressly prohibit by law corporal punishment in family, schools and other institutions. How does the government intend to react in follow-up to this recommendation? (CRC/C/15/Add. 253 para. 35-36 of 31.03.2005)

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 63 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. While no requests have been made by special procedures mandate holders to visit Bahamas – would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- Could you give us information on how you involved and will involve civil society organisations in the UPR process?
- Appreciation for your stated intention to accede to ICCPR and ICESCR (par. 32 of national report). Can you inform us about the timeframe you have in mind for this accession?

- Bahamas has not extended a standing invitation to the special procedures. Can you explain why this is not the case and would you consider extending such a standing invitation in the near future?
- Can you expand on your government's policy of 'Bahamianization', and in particular on what measures are taken to prevent discrimination against non-nationals of the Bahamas in this context?
- Bahamas initial CEDAW report has been overdue for more than 10 years. Do you envision the report to be submitted by the end of this year, as requested by the Committee?
- Bahamas has the highest rate of reported rape cases in the world. Can you explain what actions your government takes to bring the number of rape cases down? Also, would you be willing to include marital rape into your penal code?
- Noted that article 110 of the Bahamas Penal Code allows parents to "correct his or her legitimate or illegitimate child ... for misconduct or disobedience to any lawful command". Given this legal authorization for parents to use so-called 'justifiable force', could you explain how your government aims to protect children against physical abuse? And can you clarify whether teachers at schools also have the right to use this so-called 'justifiable force'.
