

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO KUWAIT – ADD.2

DENMARK

- When does Kuwait plan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture?
- When does Kuwait intend to withdraw its reservations relating to the Convention Against Torture?
- Denmark notes with concern the continued use of executions in Kuwait. When does Kuwait plan to establish a moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty?
- When does Kuwait intend to sign the international conventions that secure basic human rights?
- Which measures does Kuwait plan to take to ensure full citizenship, with all the citizens' rights that follow, for the Bidoon population?
- Which measures does the Kuwaiti Government consider taking in order to establish effective labour laws with equal rights for migrant workers, including domestic staff?
- As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, how will Kuwait ensure that the freedom of assembly is protected, not only by law, but also in practice?

NETHERLANDS

- **Statelessness**

The Netherlands has received reports that stateless Bidoon are denied the possibility of becoming Kuwaiti nationals, are faced with many restrictions in employment, health care, education, marriage and residency and that some of them are subject to prosecution and deportation. Could the Kuwaiti Government elaborate on measures taken to address this issue? What guarantees do Bidoon have for access to social services and a recognized status?¹

- **Participation of women in the labour market**

Could the Kuwaiti Government elaborate on steps taken to ensure equal employment opportunities for women and to enhance women's participation in the workforce by recruiting qualified women for expert and supervisory positions in all ministries, diplomatic corps and the Judiciary? What are the Government's views on the need to have women represented in Kuwait's judiciary?²

¹ OHCHR information compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KWT/2), Part II, Section B (1), no. 16,17 and 18, p. 5-6, CESCR, ILO Committee and HR Committee comments.

² OHCHR information compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KWT/2), Part II, Section B (1), no. 13, p. 5, CEDAW comment

- **Discrimination against women**

The Netherlands has received reports about the persistence of ‘de jure’ and ‘de facto’ discrimination against women in various laws, including the Nationality Act, the Person Status Act, and the Civil Code. We would welcome the Government's views on the need to address gender equality especially in the Nationality Laws where there were concerns about Kuwaiti women ability to transfer nationality to children under specific circumstances (spouse’s death or divorce) which are detrimental to family ties in society. We would welcome information on the Government's intentions to review all existing laws and amend or repeal reservations to CEDAW.³

- **Foreign and domestic workers**

There have been several reports about the situation of foreign workers and domestic workers in regard to discrimination and unequal treatment due to the sponsorship system. In welcoming the recent important steps taken by the government to address the rights of migrant workforce, please could you inform us whether the Kuwaiti government foresees the need to establish a national agency for the recruitment of foreign labour as well as drawing up enacting legislation to include domestic workers in a specific labour law?⁴

- **Capital punishment**

Kuwait had abstained from performing executions since May 2007 while there are currently about 23 on death row up to date. We would welcome information on the Government's intentions in regard to considering the abolition of death penalty.⁵

- **Human rights mechanisms**

Could the Kuwaiti government elaborate on the difficulties faced by the government with regard to cooperating with Human rights mechanisms that subsequently resulted in overdue responding to Treaty Bodies' reporting, not responding to letters of allegations and urgent appeals, and not responding to most of the questionnaires on thematic issues?⁶

³ OHCHR information compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KWT/2), Part II, Section B (1), no. 14, p. 5, CESCR and CEDAW comments.

⁴ OHCHR information compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KWT/2), Part II, Section B (1), no. 19, p. 6, and Section B (2), no. 30-31, p. 7-8, ILO Committee and CESCR comments

⁵ OHCHR information compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KWT/2), Part II, Section B (2), no. 21, p. 6, HR Committee comments

⁶ OHCHR information compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/8/KWT/2), Part II, Section A (1) and (2), p. 4.