

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BELIZE

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does the Government of Belize intend to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- Has the Government of Belize considered issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council?
- What measures the Government of Belize has been taking to address the human rights situation of indigenous peoples?
- What human rights training is provided to law enforcement and judicial officers?
- How is the protection of the rights of persons of minority sexual orientation or gender identity ensured against social stigmatization, discrimination, abuse and violence?

GERMANY

- UN Documentation reports on a serious problem with regard to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children. Germany would like to know what measures the Governments undertakes to address this alarming situation.
- UN reports state a high number of children working partially under harsh conditions in Belize. The reports highlight the negative consequences of the exploitation of child labour, such as school dropouts, and the negative effects on health of harmful and hazardous work. Germany would like to know what steps the Government is planning to protect children from exploitation.

THE NETHERLANDS

- What are the main priorities for the Belizean government with regard to upholding human rights?
- The Netherlands is concerned about reports indicating the use of excessive force by police forces. What will the government do to prevent the use of excessive force? Are Belizean police and security officers receiving training on human rights issues?
- The Netherlands notes that Belize has not signed nor ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Given the devastating and undermining impact of corruption on sustainable growth and development, on the population's daily enjoyment of its rights and therefore on overall political and social stability, we would like to ask when Belize will sign and ratify the UNCAC?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Please could you explain more about the role independent civil society has played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- As Belize has ratified most of the core international human right treaties, what progress/ plans have been made for the ratification and implementation of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)?
- What steps are the Government taking to reduce incidence of police violence, and to bring those officers that do use violence to justice?
- What steps are being taken to reduce the amount of time spent in prison by those awaiting trial, and to speed up the judicial process, for example, by taking on more magistrates and prosecutors?
- Since its introduction in 2008, what steps have been taken to make women aware of their rights under the Domestic Violence Act and reduce incidences of gender-based violence and sexual abuse of minors?
- Will the Government establish a mechanism to implement the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with regard to the cultural and property rights of indigenous Mayan communities, and what progress has been made to date?
- The National Report recognises that Belize is in need of technical assistance to build human rights capacity and expertise, and treaty monitoring bodies have urged Belize to apply for this. What steps has the Government taken to apply for technical assistance for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Belize.
- In support of existing efforts to ensure that human rights are embedded in reform and development in Belize, are there any plans to establish a national human rights institution in the country?
