

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MOROCCO – ADD.1

### NETHERLANDS

- **Follow-up to the consideration of the report of Morocco submitted under the universal periodic review procedure**

In its national report of 2012 (A/HRC/WG.6/13/MAR/1, par. 5), Morocco states that nearly all the recommendations of the Equity and Reconciliation (IER) Commission have been implemented in areas related to the disclosure of the truth, the provision of redress for injury suffered by individuals or communities and the recommendations on institutional and legislative reforms. What will steps will the Moroccan government do take to ensure implementation of the provisions in the IER report that deal with punishing those responsible for severe human rights abuses in the past? What efforts will the Moroccan government undertake to effectively prevent serious human rights abuses from occurring again, as allegations of arbitrary detention, as well as mistreatment and torture in police cells and prisons continue to surface?

- **Normative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights**

As stated in its National Report of 2012 (A/HRC/WG.6/13/MAR/1, par. 17-26), Morocco has created an impressive institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights. Yet many of the institutions that have been set up in the past few years, including the Interministerial Unit on Human Rights, the Ombudsman and the National Human Rights Council, face – even by their own admission – the problem of a lack of staff, a lack of financial means, and a lack of clear competences. How does the Moroccan government foresee envisage to improve the functioning of these and other human rights bodies?

- **Women's rights**

The Netherlands congratulates Morocco on its family law (“Mudawanna”), which is among the most enlightened family laws in the MENA region. Nevertheless the Netherlands has received some concerns about the conservative way in which local judges are interpreting the law. Could you please elaborate further on the extent to which the Moroccan government shares those concerns? Does the Moroccan government envisage putting in place new educational campaigns to divulge more broadly the content of the Mudwanna among all concerned, such as women (especially in rural areas), lawyers and judges?

- **Freedom of the press**

Remarking the guarantees in the new Moroccan constitution for a free press, including an explicit ban on censorship, it is noteworthy (A/HRC/WG.6/13/MAR/3, par. 41-49) that in early 2012 a considerable number of reputable publications (including *Le Monde* and *El Pais*) have been banned from Morocco. Can the Moroccan government

elaborate under what circumstances publications can be banned in the future, in conformity with the guarantees of article 28 of the Moroccan Constitution?

## **NORWAY**

- Does the Government of Morocco plan to build on the recent constitutional amendments and proceed to review current legislation on freedom of expression, including a revision of the press code, with a view to bringing it in compliance with international standards?
- Could you please elaborate on the procedures governing registration of civil society organizations, including for the organizations advocating for the Saharawi people's right to self-determination, and whether these are in conformity with international human right standards?
- Could you please elaborate how the Government of Morocco will follow up the constitutional provisions for gender equality, and how the Government will proceed to secure equal rights and participation for women?
- Will the Government of Morocco consider inviting the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture to Morocco?

## **SWEDEN**

- What measures are being undertaken by the Government of Morocco to ensure that press freedom is fully respected and that journalists can fully utilise their constitutional right to freedom of expression? How does the Government ensure that freedom of expression also applies fully to the Internet?
- How will the Government of Morocco secure the full respect for freedom of expression, assembly and association for people who want to express their views on the situation of and in Western Sahara?