

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SERBIA—ADD 1

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Minority rights:

- What steps will Serbia take to ensure a security environment that permits members of the LGBT community to fully enjoy its right to freedom of assembly and stage the Belgrade Pride 2013 parade in September 2013?
- Serbia has already taken steps towards developing its legislation against hate crime against all minorities. How will Serbia ensure the full implementation of existing legislation, and develop existing legislation to prevent discrimination against and intimidation of minority groups?
- The system of National Minority Councils (NMCs) in Serbia has had mixed success in advancing the rights of persons belonging to minorities and devolving some powers to national minorities. What steps will Serbia take to ensure the full functioning of the Bosniak NMC, and to further promote the effectiveness of other NMCs?

Human rights defenders:

- Late 2012 and early 2013 has seen an increase in threats to NGOs, journalists and other human rights defenders from extreme-right groups casting them as “anti-Serbian”. There have also been a small but rising number of threats and attacks on journalists from other sources. What are the government’s plans to tackle these threats, and enable human rights defenders to enjoy full freedom of expression in Serbia?

BELARUS

- **Support of unilateral coercive measures as a violation of human rights and international law**

In the resolution entitled "*Human rights and unilateral coercive measures*" the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council stressed that unilateral coercive measures and legislation *are contrary* to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States.

Both the General Assembly and the Council recognized the far-reaching implications of unilateral coercive measures for the human rights of the general population of targeted States and therefore they expressed concerns at the *negative impact* of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, development, international relations, trade, investment and cooperation.

The General Assembly and the Council condemned the continued unilateral application and enforcement of such measures *as tools of political or economic pressure* against any country with a view to prevent these countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems. They reiterated calls upon Member States that initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter,

the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions, and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by *putting an immediate end to such measures*.

In clear violation of the UN Charter, principles and norms of international law the European Union and the United States of America imposed unilateral economic, financial and travel restrictions on Belarusian citizens and companies under farfetched political pretext. State officials, journalists, members of election commissions, university rectors, school directors, judges, prosecutors, businessmen and a chief surgeon of a hospital continue to be targeted by them.

Regrettably, the Republic of Serbia has joined the EU-imposed unilateral sanctions against Belarus.

How do Serbian authorities see their support of the EU's unilateral sanctions in terms of the aforementioned provisions of the resolution "Human rights and unilateral coercive measures"?

NORWAY

- In the previous UPR Norway recommended Serbia to follow up the recommendation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders and denounce more forcefully verbal and physical attacks against human rights defenders. How has this issue been addressed since the previous review?
- What steps will the Serbian Government take to ensure that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community is enabled to exercise their fundamental freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly?
- What steps will the Government take to address the prevalence of domestic violence and to punish perpetrators of violence against women and children?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Taking into account the prevailing stereotypes regarding women in society and the fact that few domestic violence cases reach the courts, what concrete measures are in place in order to combat domestic violence?
- Could you provide further information on the steps Serbia is taking to fully harmonize its legislation with international standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?