

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TUNISIA

### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

- The Czech Republic welcomes the recent positive changes towards the establishment of free and independent media as one of the basic preconditions for the development of the democracy. We would like to ask what further steps are envisaged in order to guarantee independence and impartiality of the media sector, how the current state media will be transformed into the independent public media and in what timeframe the creation of the High office for the audiovisual communications (HAICA) in accordance with the recently adopted law could be expected?

### **DENMARK**

- How does Tunisia intend to ensure that prisoners will no longer be exposed to torture or ill-treatment? How will Tunisia ensure that those who have been responsible for acts of torture or ill-treatment under the former regime or during the revolution will be held accountable?
- What does Tunisia intend to do about the high prevalence of gender based violence in the Tunisian society and how will Tunisia provide support to women subjected to violence?
- What does the government of Tunisia intend to do to ensure the rights of minors and to protect them from child labour? How does the government of Tunisia intend to enforce the country's labour code in this respect?
- How will Tunisia safeguard the freedom of the press?

### **GERMANY**

- In view of the improvements of the new Press Code, how does the government of Tunisia explain the prosecution of the Director of Nessma TV following the showing of the movie "Persepolis"? According to the new Press Code, criminal prosecution is not allowed in this circumstance, yet, was still pursued.
- How does the government of Tunisia intend to deal with radical tendencies that want to suppress the rights of women, freedom of speech, and freedom of religion?"

## **IRELAND**

- Will Tunisia consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights?
- Ireland welcomes Tunisia's commitment to removing its reservations to the CEDAW and aligning its legislation in line with the Convention? When does Tunisia expect to be able to complete this process?
- Will Tunisia give priority to reforming or repealing legislation that does not provide equal treatment to men and women?

## **LIECHTENSTEIN**

- The historic changes in Tunisia in 2011 have ushered a political transition with significant opportunities to advance the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in the area of gender equality. Liechtenstein commends Tunisia for its renewed commitment in that regard and welcomes in particular Tunisia's ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC and the removal of reservations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Liechtenstein commends Tunisia for its electoral law of April 2011 paying due attention to gender equality. With the current level of female political representation lagging behind, how does Tunisia ensure that new constitutional and legal provisions pay equal attention to women's priorities and ensure the full and equal participation of women at all levels of the political and social life?
- How does Tunisia support and promote women political actors? Are supporting mechanisms being established such as women's parliamentary caucuses and governmental services?
- A diversified media landscape consisting both of traditional and new media sources has proven crucial to ensure women's freedom of expression and access to information. What measures are taken to enhance women's access to information and their use of media as well as to address gender stereotypes in popular media?

## **NORWAY**

- Are there any plans to revise the penal code, including the provision of article 121ter of the penal code, which criminalizes the spreading of false information as well as articles 245 and 248 criminalizing defamation?
- Could the government of Tunisia please elaborate on the progress towards abolishing the death penalty within its jurisdiction? What plans does Tunisia have to ratify the second Optional Protocol to the Covenant?

## **SLOVENIA**

- What measures have been taken to combat the growing incidence of violence and threats of violence against women?
- At what stage is the embodiment of gender equality in the text of the constitution and what are the obstacles to a nation-wide consensus on this issue?
- What measures have been taken to prevent and combat child labor which seems to be a recurring problem in the country?

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- We congratulate Tunisia for prioritising human rights, despite the significant pressures of the transition period. A particular challenge has been around public order, crowd control and security sector reform. What steps are you taking to address these and how can the international community assist?
- We welcome the significant time and effort being made by the Constituent Assembly to work on drafting a new constitution for Tunisia. We would be grateful to know what provisions will be made for the protection of human rights?
- The UK welcomes Tunisia's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The next challenge will be creating the National Preventative Monitoring Mechanism. What plans do you have for consulting civil society on the creation of the Mechanism, and what will be the timetable for its implementation?
- What plans do you have to protect the right to freedom of speech and ensure media independence?
- How will Tunisia improve the independence of its judiciary and ensure fair trials for all?