

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SWITZERLAND – ADD.1

MALDIVES

- Problem of human trafficking remains as a huge challenge in Switzerland and Switzerland is taking steps to counter this problem. The Maldives has an interest on the issue of human trafficking as it remains a huge challenge in the Maldives as well. Maldives as a receiving country is interested to know the steps taken and lessons learnt from those steps against human trafficking?¹
- One of the advancements on tackling this issue, is the working group between Switzerland and Romania which is a bilateral task force to prevent human trafficking. Maldives is interested in know how well the taskforce is working, and in this regard wishes to ask if the bilateral task force help prevent trafficking in significant numbers?

MEXICO

- ¿Qué obstáculos ha enfrentado el Estado suizo para ratificar la Convención sobre la Protección de las Personas con Discapacidad y su Protocolo Opcional?
- ¿Cuáles son los principales desafíos de la Comisión Nacional de Prevención de la Tortura recientemente creada (1° de enero de 2010) para garantizar la plena aplicación del Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención contra la Tortura?
- ¿Qué esfuerzos ha realizado el Estado suizo para diseñar una estrategia global contra la trata y la explotación sexual de mujeres, que cubra la debida detección y protección de las víctimas y que tenga impacto en todo el territorio nacional?

NETHERLANDS

- The Netherlands notes the significant progress Switzerland has made in the area of gender equality, but inequality in the labour market still exists in terms of a wage gap between men and women, an overrepresentation of women in the low-wage sector and the predominance of women in temporary and part-time work. Especially migrant women are in a vulnerable position in this respect. How does the government of Switzerland intend to further reduce these inequalities in the labour market?

NORWAY

The Swiss NGO Coalition for the UPR has expressed some concerns regarding the fact that corporal punishment of children is not explicitly banned by the Federal Law.

¹ The court sentences for traffickers are often not commensurate to the gravity of the crime.

The Federal Court has still declared repeated acts of violence as being incompatible with children's rights. What measures are taken to ensure that these rights are not violated?

2. In 2009, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief regretted the outcome of the vote on the initiative to prohibit the construction of minarets in Switzerland, noting that a ban on minarets amounted to an undue restriction of the freedom to manifest one's religion. The Human Rights Committee made similar observations. Could you please elaborate on what measures Switzerland is taking to make sure that the Swiss federal- and cantonal laws are compatible with Switzerland's international human rights commitments?

3. Reports indicate that legal protection against discrimination is fragmentary and that LGBT-persons have been subject to discrimination. Does the government of Switzerland plan to adopt federal legislation in order to provide protection against all forms of discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity? Could you please elaborate on measures that have been taken to address reported discrimination against LGBT?

4. Switzerland has given a great contribution to the shaping of the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights. In our view it could be challenging to control that these guidelines are actually followed by TNCs operating on foreign locations. Is Switzerland planning to take any measures to ensure that human rights are respected by Swiss-based private- and governmental corporations?