

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AFGHANISTAN-ADD 1

GERMANY

- What measures does the government intend to take in order to ensure that the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission retain its A status under the Paris Principles for National Human Rights Institutions?
- When does the government of Afghanistan intend to present the report on the implementation of the Law for the Elimination of Violence against Women? Which steps does the government intend to take in order to ensure the effective implementation of that law?
- Germany notes that the situation of many children in Afghanistan raises human rights concerns, including high child mortality and malnutrition rates, child work, the situation in prisons and in orphanages, access to education, sexual abuse of girls and boys, early and forced marriages and the situation of street children. What does the government of Afghanistan do to improve the human rights situation for children in the country?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does the Government of Afghanistan plan considering a revision of the use of the death penalty?
- Has the Government of Afghanistan the intention to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)? What concrete measures has the Government taken to promote gender equality and improve the situation of women?
- Does the Government of Afghanistan prepare measures to guarantee protection of and support for women peace activists and human rights defenders, as well as female politicians?
- What concrete measures does the Government of Afghanistan plan to apply in order to ensure effective freedom of religion for everyone?

BELGIUM

- Is the Government of Afghanistan considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures?
- Does the Government of Afghanistan intend to respond positively to the special rapporteurs that have requested to visit the country, like the Special rapporteur on Torture, the Special rapporteur on Violence against women, the Special rapporteur on Terrorism and the Special rapporteurs on Internally displaced persons and Arbitrary detention?
- Is the Government of Afghanistan considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?

- Is the Government of Afghanistan considering ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court?
- Is the Government of Afghanistan considering removing its reservations to articles 20, 28(1) and 30 (1) of CAT?
- When is the Government of Afghanistan envisaging presenting the overdue reports to the CERD, the HR Committee, the CAT and the CRC?
- The CESCR has expressed its concern about discrimination against women, regretting the discrepancy between the legal framework and inequality in practice in work, public life, education and health. Which concrete steps have been taken by the Government to address this concern?
- How has the Government of Afghanistan addressed the concern that the majority of children remain unregistered in the country?
- The CESCR, CEDAW and CRC have expressed concern at the persistence of forced and child marriages and the absence of effective measures to prevent and eliminate these practices. What effective steps have been taken by the Government of Afghanistan to address these concerns?
- How many individuals are currently on death row? Of those, how many are foreign nationals? And how many are juvenile offenders?
- Do family members have the right to be informed of an execution before it takes place? If so, how are they informed and what is the notice period? Do children and other family members of a person sentenced to death have the right to a final meeting before an execution is carried out?
- What steps has the Government of Afghanistan taken to ensure that all action taken by Afghan National Security and Polices Forces are fully compliant with international human rights and humanitarian law?

MEXICO

- What measures is Afghanistan taking for designing and implementing a national policy for the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons, specifically the rights of tenure and adequate housing and of access to drinkable water and sanitation and how is it further working for these persons' political, economical and social reintegration?
- In what way is Afghanistan working towards the full recognition of women's rights in practice and legislation?
- What measures are being taken to tackle the high rate of malnutrition among children under five years of age and how will such a solution be sustainable in the long run?

- How are Afghanistan and all relevant allied forces within its territory ensuring that the fight against terrorism is carried out with utmost respect for human rights?

SLOVENIA

- Regarding the recommendations of several UN actors on violence against women we would like to inquire about the plans to repeal the Article 389 of the Penal Code reducing the punishment for honour killings, and clearly define the crime of rape and separate it from the offence of *zina*.
- We would like to inquire on the steps taken to prevent that child victims of violence and abuse, especially girls, are treated as perpetrators and protect these children.

SPAIN

- What specific measures have been adopted in Afghanistan in order to implement Presidential Decree 129 that order some State bodies to act in order to prevent and eliminate torture? Could you evaluate the impact that this Presidential Decree has had on the existing attitude and professionalism within the armed forces?
- A General Attorney's Directive issued on April 2012 establishes that abandoning one's home is not a crime according to Afghan law. It also establishes that it must not be considered as an aggravating factor the fact of a woman or a girl that flees her home with the aim of committing adultery (*zina*) or trying to commit it (*attempted zina*). What specific measures have been taken in Afghanistan to make judges and attorneys implement what has been established in this directive?
- Spain welcomes the launch of the Afghan Peace and Reconciliation Programme, to which is a donor. Nevertheless, Spain is concerned by the limited effectiveness of this programme regarding gender violence acts committed by non State actors. What measures have been adopted to avoid that those who are candidates to this reintegration programme and who have committed gender violence abuses be suitable for the assistance established in this programme?