

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO QATAR

BELGIUM

- Is the Government of Qatar considering accepting the individual complaints procedure under all the human rights conventions to which it is already a State party?
- Is the Government of Qatar considering ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances?
- Is the Government of Qatar considering acceding to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court?
- Is the Government of Qatar considering ratifying ILO Convention No. 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers?
- Which concrete steps have been taken by the authorities to criminalise domestic violence, ensuring that the definition is not limited to relatives living in the same residence but includes all persons, thereby protecting domestic workers?
- Will the Government of Qatar develop a dedicated strategy to ensure that domestic workers can complain of violence and other abuse, without fear or harassment?
- The CERD has recommended Qatar to revise the law to allow Qatari women to transmit their citizenship to their children without discrimination. Which concrete steps has the Government taken to implement this recommendation?
- Is the Government of Qatar considering reforming the sponsorship (*Kafala*) system in order to remove the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country?
- Which measures has the Government of Qatar taken to ensure that all workers have their labour rights protected by law and to guarantee their access to justice?
- What concrete steps have been taken by the Government of Qatar to improve the enforcement of the labour protections contained in the Labour Law?
- How has the Government of Qatar addressed the concern of the CAT at the very low age of criminal responsibility (7 years)?
- 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 under national law 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?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Could you please inform us what progress has been registered with regard to the political participation of women, including women's participation in decision-making processes in Qatar?
- What measures has Qatar taken in order to protect migrants/non-citizens, especially migrant children and women, who often find themselves in a situation of a greater vulnerability in particular concerning access to justice, employment, education, housing, and health services?
- In May 2013 the Cabinet approved a draft cybercrimes law. The government-owned Internet service provider Ooredoo is responsible for monitoring and censoring objectionable content on the Internet. What concrete steps has Qatar taken to ensure that freedom of expression on the Internet is fully guaranteed?
- The Constitution guarantees freedom of assembly and association. The national legislation, however, strictly limits these rights in practice. Law No. 18 of 2004 requires organizers of public gatherings to obtain an express permission of the director of public security of the Ministry of the Interior, which in practice often prevents the holding of peaceful assemblies. Does Qatar envisage aligning the legislation with the Constitution and easing administrative requirements for the organization of assemblies?
- Law No. 12 of 2004 grants citizens the right to establish private societies and professional associations. What measures have been taken to make this process faster and less expensive? The law further prohibits such associations engaging in political matters. Does Qatar envisage any steps that could change this situation?

NETHERLANDS

- There are reports that foreign domestic female servants are subject to abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. What legal and social measures does Qatar take to protect these women from exploitation?
- It has been announced that Qatar will reform its sponsorship system for foreign nationals. Will the removal of the requirement (in the Sponsorship Law) that foreign nationals need permission from their employer to change jobs or to leave the country be part of this reform?
- Through bilateral agreements with some other countries, minimum wages have been set for nationals of these countries. How is the payment of these wages monitored and

enforced; and will a system be put in place to determine a minimum wage for all migrant workers, regardless their nationality?

- In what way is Qatar encouraging active participation of civil society in the democratization process?
- Is Qatar planning to become a party to the OPCAT?

NORWAY

- What is Qatar doing to stop foreign migrant workers being exploited and abused by their employers? How will the protective provisions set out in the 2004 Labour law and related decrees be strengthened and enforced?
- In which areas will Qatar prioritize legal improvements for women and children?
- When will the parliamentary election in Qatar take place and who will be able to vote? How will Qatar include Qatari citizens in the decision making process in the Parliament?
- How will Qatar strengthen cooperation and coordination with civil society and non-governmental organisations with regard to human rights questions? How is Qatar encouraging private initiatives to form such groups or organizations?

UNITED KINGDOM

- In 2010 Qatar accepted the recommendation to lift restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and to take steps to promote freedom of press in all forms of media. The UK would like to know how Qatar plans to ensure that freedom of expression is upheld if the new draft media and cybercrime laws, which would further tighten government control, are adopted?
- We note that the Qatari Government has made some efforts to improve the rights of migrant workers. We would be grateful for further information on the government's plans to reform the sponsorship system and set out a clear timeframe for when these changes will be implemented.
- The UK would welcome an update on Qatar's progress on amending the Labour Law to include legal rights and protection for domestic workers.

- The UK remains concerned at reports of individuals being detained under the Protection of Society Law without charge or trial for long periods of time. The law also makes no provision for detainees to have access to legal counsel or relatives. What steps is the Qatari Government making to ensure their criminal code adheres to international human rights standards and to end the practice of administrative detention?