

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ARMENIA – Add.3

AZERBAIJAN

- In 2011, the Working Group on arbitrary detention called upon the Government to ensure full protection of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, to peaceful assembly and to freedom of association, as provided for under the ICCPR and under the Constitution. In 2010, The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders was also concerned about hindrances to the right to freedom of assembly and to freedom of expression by Armenian law enforcement officers as well as private actors. *What concrete measures is the government of Armenia taking to ensure that the rights to freedom of assembly and expression of its people are fully respected and fulfilled in accordance with its international obligations?*
- In 2012, the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) noted with concern that Armenia's programmes and activities in favour of national minorities had failed to address conservative customs determining relationships between men and women, and between adults and children, within the Yezidi and others communities. It called upon Armenia to address discriminatory customs in its work with national minorities and, in particular, to take account of the double discrimination faced by women from minorities, when implementing the Gender Policy Concept Paper. *What measures does the government of Armenia take to prevent negative stereotyping and discrimination against other religious and ethnic minorities in the country and to ensure safe, decent and dignified livelihood opportunities for members of such communities?*
- In 2012, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) noted the absence of a legal prohibition of organizations involved in activities promoting and inciting racial discrimination and urged Armenia to bring its legislation into line with the Convention, and outlaw any organization which promoted or incited racial discrimination. *Which measures have been taken to legally prohibit incitement to hatred and violence? Does the government of Armenia intend to bring its legislation in line with the Convention?*

- In 2012, The Committee against Torture (CAT) expressed its concern on the routine use of torture and ill-treatment on the suspects in police custody in Armenia. The reports indicate that torture was used by police to coerce self-incriminating evidence in investigating rooms and that such evidence continued to be used during trials. The Committee against Torture was also concerned about allegations that forced confessions were used as evidence in courts in Armenia. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the lack of accountability of law enforcement officers in case of excessive use of force, as well as the lack of an independent mechanism for investigating police abuse, and the absence of an independent complaints mechanism to deal with cases of alleged torture or ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty. Working Group on arbitrary detention called upon Armenia to systematically investigate all cases of police, military and national security services abuse so as to avoid impunity and put an end to widespread ill-treatment of detainees. *What measures are being undertaken to prevent widespread practice of tortures and ill-treatment by Armenian law enforcement agencies and put an end to the climate of impunity in the country? Could the government of Armenia indicate whether there has been investigation of all cases contained in the communications of the UN special procedures and non-governmental organization?*
- In 2012, the Human Rights Committee was concerned about the ongoing impunity for the excessive use of force by the police during the events of 1 March 2008. Armenia should establish effective investigative procedures to ensure that law enforcement officers found responsible for excessive use of force during those events, including those with command responsibility, were held accountable, and guarantee adequate compensation to victims. *What measures have been taken so far in order to bring those accountable to justice and prevent the environment of impunity in the society?*
- In 2012, the Human Rights Committee was concerned at allegations of persistent corruption among all branches of State institutions, especially the police and the judiciary, and called Armenia to combat corruption, by

investigating all incidents of alleged corruption and punishing those responsible. *Which legal and practical measures have been undertaken to combat the persistent corruption in Armenia and punishing those responsible? What concrete measures the government of Armenia takes to strengthen the independence of the judiciary? Could the government indicate what reforms are planned to combat corruption in Armenia?*

- In 2012, The Human Rights Committee was concerned about limitations and restrictions on religious freedom in Armenia. There are numerous reports on the negative public attitudes and intolerance towards religious minority organizations. *How do you comment the religious intolerance in Armenia? Elaborate on the measures undertaken to prevent the restrictions on the religious freedom in Armenia?*
- In 2013, Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was concerned that a significant number of children were dropping out of schools to work in informal sectors, and about the increasing number of children involved in begging in the streets and in heavy manual labour. *Could the government of Armenia to indicate the concrete steps that have been taken in order to lift the concern of CRC? What measures does the government intend to undertake in order to protect the rights of children from vulnerable stratum of the society, especially those who have lost their parents? How would the government comment on the deplorable conditions of orphanages and other state-funded child-care institutions and what efforts are intended in order to prevent child abuse and misbehaviour in those facilities?*
- In 2014, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) was concerned about the high levels of violence against women. It recommended that Armenia adopt legislation to explicitly prohibit domestic violence. *What measures the government of Armenia takes to address these concerns?*
- The Human Rights Defender noted that the threats against women's rights non-governmental organizations are highly reprehensible. *To what extent this situation stems from deeply rooted attitudes and stereotypes regarding the role of women and men in the family and in society which*

was identified as a serious concern by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other influential bodies?