

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GEORGIA – ADD.1

MEXICO

- What measures have been taken to enable an accessible mechanism to register cases of domestic violence and provide legal, medical and psychological advice to victims?
- How does the legislation governing radio, television and communications fully guarantee the openness, transparency and the diversity of the media in the country?
- What measures have been taken to develop legislation to explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings? Is there a mechanism to follow-up the implementation of recommendations of the treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child?

NETHERLANDS

Freedom of media

- Which steps is the government of Georgia taking to uphold freedom of the media, especially with a view to ensuring a level playing field for all political actors in the upcoming parliamentary, local and presidential elections?

Istanbul Convention

- Could the government of Georgia elaborate on the prospect for ratification of the Istanbul Convention (CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence)?

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

- Which steps has the government of Georgia taken to increase awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights, e.g. by including SRHR lessons in the general education curriculum?

Anti-discrimination

- Which steps has the government of Georgia taken to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation mechanism of the anti-discrimination legislation with a view to securing minority rights in both legal terms and in practice?

NORWAY

- Many cases against Georgia from the European Court of Human Rights concern the lack of effective investigation after allegations of ill-treatment and death in custody.

How does Georgia plan to implement these judgements in order to fulfil their obligations under the European Convention of Human Rights?

- Media freedom has improved significantly in Georgia over the last few years. However, over the last few months, there have been worrying indications of attempts to bring certain media outlets under political influence. How will Georgia work to ensure that the media can operate freely and independently in the upcoming pre-election period?
- Important reforms of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) are under way. What concrete reform measures will be taken to ensure that democratic control of the MoI is strengthened?

SLOVENIA

- Does Georgia intend to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and if so, in what time-frame?
- We note that Georgia supported our previous recommendation to equalize the length of alternative service for conscientious objectors with the length of military service, but that there had been no action to implement it. What is the action plan and time frame to fully implement the norm that equalizes the length of alternative service for conscientious objectors with the military service?
- While commending Georgia's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, we seek information on what concrete measures have been taken, and to what effect, to address the issue in accordance with the Convention.
- How does Georgia intend to improve the currently limited access to family planning services, and ensure that sexual and reproductive health services, including legal and safe abortion and contraception services and information, are available, accessible and affordable for all women and girls, including those living in rural areas?

SWEDEN

- Women's political and economic empowerment is an important precondition for sustainable development in Georgia. Women's political participation and access to economic resources remain limited and will require special attention. What measures does the Georgian government plan to take to effectively promote women's political and economic empowerment?

- It is a welcome step that the Constitutional Court has clarified that pre-trial detention may not exceed a total of nine months. What additional measures does the Georgian government prepare to take to limit the application and duration of pre-trial detention?
- What steps are being taken in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination in light of the fact that the Public Defender's Office is limited to non-binding recommendations?
- NGO reports show that crimes which are motivated by hatred towards LGBT persons are labelled under different provisions under the Criminal Code, such as bodily injury, hooliganism, etc. As a consequence, it is difficult to gather official data on the extent of hate crimes in general and hate crimes against LGBT persons in particular. What measures does the Georgian government plan to take to map the extent of the problem, in order to effectively prevent hate crimes?

SWITZERLAND

- What measures does your government take to ensure an effective and independent investigation of human rights violations committed by **law enforcement officers** - for example, cases of torture, deprivation of the right to life or illegal imprisonment that occurred in the past?
- What measures does your government take in order to increase political empowerment and participation of **women** in Georgia? What concrete measures is your government taking in order to tackle domestic violence against women? CEDAW recommended to Georgia in its concluding observations of July 2014 to “introduce age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights education, including on responsible sexual behavior, at all levels.” What concrete measures is Georgia taking in order to implement given recommendation?
- What measures does your government take in order to increase political empowerment and participation of **ethnic minorities** in Georgia?
- Georgia recently ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of **People with Disabilities**. What steps does your government take in order to implement the Convention and ensure that the rights of people with disabilities are protected?
- How does your government ensure that the new **data protection law** is in line with the right to privacy and will not be used for illegal surveillance?

