

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE SUDAN – second batch

BELGIUM

- Belgium welcomes the recent amendment of article 149 of the Sudanese Criminal Code introducing a distinction between adultery and rape on the one hand and the concept of sexual intimidation on the other hand. Which further measures is the Government of Sudan planning to take in order to ensure an effective response to all forms of **violence against women**, as recommended by the Human Rights Committee? Are concrete measures envisaged to address in particular domestic and sexual violence as well as female genital mutilation (FGM)?
- Belgium welcomes the amendment of the Sudanese electoral law of 2014, which raised the quorum of women in parliament from 25% to 30%. Does the Government of Sudan plan to take additional measures with a view to the elimination of all forms of **discrimination against women**? What is the state of play of the ratification process of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)?
- Which measures have been taken to address the concern of the Human Rights Committee and the Independent Expert that the **death penalty** was maintained for crimes below the threshold of the “most serious crimes”, contrary to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)? How many individuals have been sentenced to death and/or executed since the first UPR? Could the delegation provide us an overview of the nature of the crimes for which those death sentences were imposed in Sudan?
- Which concrete measures is the Government of Sudan considering in the **fight against impunity**? Will prompt, independent, impartial and effective investigations be launched into all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in order to bring to justice those suspected of criminal responsibility?

GERMANY

- How does the Government of Sudan intend to uphold the highest standards of press freedom, as also enshrined in its constitution, in the face of its repeated threats to the media, inter alia resulting in confiscation of newspapers?
- How does the Government of Sudan justify the detention of political activists without charge and trial in light of its international human rights obligations and what steps will it take to ensure that such unlawful detention is prevented in the future?

NETHERLANDS

Laws

- How does the government of Sudan intend to reform the laws, especially those touching the Bill of Rights, such as the criminal law to make them more compatible with the constitution and Sudan’s commitments towards the international community?

Civil society

- What steps does the government of Sudan take to protect Sudanese human rights defenders participating in international meetings?

- Which steps will the government of Sudan take to investigate and bring to justice those responsible for arbitrary arrests, unlawful detention, enforced disappearances and torture?
- What measures will the government of Sudan take to protect human rights defenders from violence and address impunity for crimes against human rights defenders, including defenders of women's human rights?

Women's human rights

- How is the government of Sudan working to realize its 2011 commitment to ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and ensure its implementation?

Freedom of expression

- Does the government of Sudan intend to inform UNESCO of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators of the killing of journalists and notify UNESCO of the status of the judicial inquiry conducted?

Freedom of Religious Belief

- Which steps does the Government take to guarantee de facto and de jure freedom of religion and belief?

Humanitarian access

- Which steps will the government of Sudan take to provide unrestricted access to conflict area's such as Darfur, South-Kordofan and Blue Nile?

NORWAY

- What is currently being done to align national law with international human rights treaties to which Sudan is a state party? Are there steps taken to revise national laws like the Personal Status Law, the Sudanese Criminal Act of 1991 and the Penal Code?
- What is being done to raise awareness of human rights treaties ratified by Sudan and to ensure their application by the armed forces, the police, the National Intelligence and Security Services and the Rapid Response Force?
- What has been done to safeguard independence and ensure sufficient resources to the established National Human Rights Commission? How can the international community best support this process?
- In 2011, Sudan accepted to ratify the UN Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW). What has been done to comply with this accepted recommendation?
- What concrete steps will the Sudanese Government take to ensure freedom of press?
- How is the government ensuring that allegations of unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture, mass-rape and other human rights violations are independently investigated?
- We commend the government on their work towards the abolishment of child marriages. What is being done to ensure that law and practices are aligned with international treaties?

MEXICO

- What measures have been taken to improve the reporting of cases of sexual and gender-based violence offences against women?
- Are there any efforts to appropriately investigate sexual violence offences and secure access to justice for the victims?
- What efforts have been taken to increase the registration of children in order to obtain official birth certificates?

SPAIN

- In what stage are the investigations opened after the death of nearly 200 people in the riots that took place in September 2013?
- What measures will the Sudanese Government adopt in order to allow the several millions of IDPs that, according to United Nations, are in the country; to return to their hometowns?
- What measures does the Sudanese Government envisage to effectively combat impunity?