

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

### **CZECHIA**

- Does the Government intend to grant access to the country to international monitors, including the Independent International Commission of Inquiry and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council as well as the OHCHR? In what time frame? Would the Government consider issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council?
- What measures is the Government adopting to protect to the maximum possible extent human rights of the civilian population affected by the conflict, including the right to life, to food, health and education? How is ensured investigation of serious violations of international human right law and international humanitarian law? How is protected medical impartiality?
- Would the Government consider becoming a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture?
- According to the latest report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, 6.6 million people have been internally displaced in Syria in consequence of the ongoing armed conflict. Is the Government adopting any measures to ensure protection and assistance to this large group of population?
- What measures have been adopted to eliminate discrimination against women in the Personal Status Law and in practice including to ensure that women have guardianship over their children and are able to travel with their children on their own, including in the absence of the father, and that women can transfer their citizenship to their children?
- How will the Government start the peace process and ensure meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations?

### **GERMANY**

- The Syrian Arab Army and its allies impose a siege on 15 distinct territories in Syria, affecting more than 700.000 Syrians. Thereby the forces of the Syrian government intentionally and completely block (almost) all humanitarian aid and medical relieve for the Syrian citizens living in the respective territories, exposing these civilians to starvation, hardship and – eventually – death. What measures is Syria taking to ensure that the very basic human needs of the citizens living in the 15 territories classified by the UN as “sieged by the Syrian government” are effectively and completely addressed? What measures is Syria taking to immediately grant the UN humanitarian agencies full and unconditional humanitarian access to these 15 territories?
- Numerous reports document that the Syrian armed forces, systematically and intentionally target civilian (especially: medical) infrastructure and residential areas with heavy weapons. These incidents occur often in besieged territories, but are not limited to them. Which measures is Syria taking to prevent Syrian government forces from bombing civilian targets in Syria? Which procedures do the Syrian government forces apply to prevent civilian casualties when massively using imprecise and rudimentary weapons like artillery or barrel bombs in densely populated urban neighborhoods like Eastern Aleppo?
- Treaty bodies and human rights organizations have repeatedly reported on massive and systematic detention without trial, of torture and murder in official and secret Syrian detention facilities. According to the reports, the victims are often women and minors, whereas International organizations (UN, ICRC) are completely denied access to these facilities. What

steps is Syria taking to stop torture and murder in its facilities? What steps is Syria taking in order to stop the massive detention of people without trial? What steps is Syria taking to grant international agencies full access to all detention facilities?

## **MEXICO**

- What measures have been taken to incorporate in the domestic legislation the definition of torture, in line with the Convention against Torture and ensure that no confession or statement made as a result of torture can be invoked as evidence in any judicial proceedings?
- What is the progress made in reforming the legal system in order to address allegations related to impunity granted to agents responsible of human rights violations, including members of the military as well as security and intelligence agencies?
- What measures have been taken in order to guarantee unhindered access to humanitarian aid and assistance, particularly in Aleppo and other regions and communities deeply affected by the conflict?

## **SWEDEN**

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to please elaborate on whether or not it intends to cooperate with the OHCHR Syria Monitoring Team and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic whether it will withdraw its reservations to CEDAW, in particular to paragraph (2) of article (9).