

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

CZECHIA

- What concrete measures has the Government adopted since the last UPR to protect human rights defenders and representatives of civil society organizations, including the trade unions, and to facilitate their work? What steps have been taken to prevent stigmatization and harassment of peaceful civic activists and human rights defenders in State-controlled media? How does the Government protect and promote the right to participate in public affairs in accordance with article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- What concrete measures has the Government enacted to ensure the right to a fair trial, including opposition leaders and all those critical to the Government?
- Does the Government plan becoming a state party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture? Does the Government consider issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the HRC and will it allow visits already requested by Special Procedures to take place in a foreseeable future? What steps does the Government envisage to ensure a robust international human rights protection following Venezuela's denunciation of the American Convention on Human Rights and its mechanisms?
- How does the Government ensure investigation and accountability for alleged cases of human rights violations by security forces such as, e.g., arbitrary arrests, torture and unlawful killings as well as alleged cases of reprisals against those cooperating with UN or regional human rights mechanisms?
- What measures have been adopted or are being prepared to widen access of women to health care, medicines and services? What measures are in place or are planned to decrease the high and growing rates of maternal mortality and teenage and early pregnancies?

MEXICO

- How do you ensure that the norms and practices relating to freedom of speech comply with international standards? 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 decrease or eliminate the detention at the border of asylum-seekers and migrants? What measures are being taken to protect asylum-seekers and migrants, and guarantee their life, safety or integrity?
- What mechanisms are currently implemented to prevent discriminatory practices, particularly on the basis of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity? Are there considerations to strengthen and extend the legislation regarding discrimination on this regard? What steps have been taken to avoid the promotion or incitement of discrimination?

NETHERLANDS

- **Freedom of expression**
 - 1) Which steps has the government of Venezuela taken to secure the independence of the media and the protection of journalists?
 - 2) Can the government of Venezuela elaborate on reports of repression of persons for political reasons and guarantee the right that persons of dissenting political opinions are not arbitrarily arrested?

- **Judicial Independence**

Which measures is the government of Venezuela taking to ensure an independent judiciary and to guarantee that judges and prosecutors can operate without interference?

- **Visit of Special Rapporteur**

The Netherlands took note of the pending requests for visits from the Special Rapporteur on torture, other UN mandate holders and IACHR representatives. If and when will the Government of Venezuela accept these requests?

- **Shortage of food and medicines**

Could you elaborate on the measures Venezuela is taking to address the shortage of food and medicines and his willingness to accept humanitarian aid?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Venezuela what measures the government is taking to address concerns with regard to the number of homicides and extrajudicial killings, as well as concerns regarding impunity.
- Sweden would like the Government of Venezuela to please elaborate on the situation of supply of basic necessities such as food, medicines and medical equipment. What measures is the government taking to improve the national supply of food, medicines and medical equipment?
- Sweden would like ask the Government of Venezuela to please elaborate on how it plans to ensure the right to peaceful assembly.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What plans do you have to issue a ‘standing invitation’ to the Human Rights Council’s Special Procedures and to cooperate on a routine basis with regional thematic human rights mechanisms?
- Can you explain how Venezuela complies with its Constitution to appoint, replace and remove judges from the Supreme Court?
- What plans does Venezuela have to tackle accusations of harassment against human rights defenders by State representatives?
- How do you plan to guarantee access to public information, including official statistics and disaggregated human rights indicators, as identified as a challenge in your National Report?
- What are Venezuela’s plans to eliminate violence against women as, according to the Prosecutor General’s Office, femicide is the second most committed crime in Venezuela?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- What concrete actions — such as ceasing the practice of publicly defaming human rights defenders and activists — will the Government of Venezuela take to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their work without harassment or retribution?
- What steps will Venezuela take to reduce the number of persons held in pre-trial detention, to free all persons held without charge longer than the legal limit, and release those who have been detained for longer than the normal sentence for the crime of which they are accused?
- What will Venezuela do to improve prison conditions overall?

- When will Venezuela invite the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders and on Freedom of Expression to visit the country?
- Given the country's record of using the judiciary to intimidate and selectively prosecute critics of the government and restrict legislative authority, what steps will Venezuela take to strengthen a judiciary that is truly independent of the executive branch? For example, will it stop the practice of appointing judges on a temporary basis, which leaves them vulnerable to political pressure?
- How will Venezuela create an environment conducive to freedom of expression, including by members of the media? Will senior national and state government leaders cease harassment and intimidation of journalists and others representing independent, privately-owned or opposition-oriented television stations, media outlets through threats, property seizures, administrative and criminal investigations, and prosecutions based on accusations of fomenting antigovernment destabilization campaigns and coup attempts?