

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOUTH SUDAN

3RD BATCH

CZECHIA

- What measures has the Government taken to establish a functioning pluralistic system of political parties and independent civil society and ensure that civil society organizations including those dealing with human rights can operate in a safe and enabling environment without any harassment or intimidation?
- What measures has the Government adopted to ensure investigation of and accountability for extrajudicial killings and ethnic rape as a weapon of war? How does it support the establishment of the hybrid court to investigate the cases of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other serious violations of international and South Sudanese law, especially with regard to the July 2016 violence in Juba? How does the Government extend its cooperation and support to the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan established by the Human Rights Council and with other international human rights mechanisms?
- Given the recent ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), how does the Government proceed with the national implementation of the CRC and does it plan the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict? What measures has the Government adopted to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers and to establish a program for effective reintegration of child soldiers?
- What measure has the Government adopted to ensure that the freedom of expression and plurality and freedom of the media are fully respected and any cases of harassment or attacks against journalists are investigated and their perpetrators held accountable?
- What steps has the Government adopted to ensure that free, fair and democratic elections are held in regular intervals and that the electoral system is conducive to a democratic and transparent electoral process?
- How does the Government ensure a better protection of women against discrimination, violence and sexual abuse and how does it promote meaningful participation of women in peace process?

NORWAY

- Norway is gravely concerned about the many reports of atrocities and note that these may constitute war crimes and/or crimes against humanity. The culture of impunity for these crimes is one of the key challenges that would have to be addressed in an efficient way in order for South Sudan to ensure that human rights are secured in practice. What is currently being done by the Government of South Sudan to strengthen command and control within its security forces and to end impunity?
- How is the government ensuring that allegations of unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, torture, mass-rape and other human rights violations are independently investigated? How are perpetrators being held accountable?
- Sexual violence continue on a disturbing scale. It has been described as a tactic of war with ethnic as well as political motivations. What is the government doing to end the use of sexual violence? What is being done to implement the joint communiqué signed by the Government and the Special Representative for the Secretary-general on Sexual Violence in Conflict in October 2014?

- Reconciliation processes can be important in a peace process but cannot replace accountability. Continued impunity will likely trigger new rounds of violence. What concrete steps will South Sudan take to fulfil its obligation under the peace agreement to cooperate fully with the Hybrid Court?
- We note with grave concern the deteriorating conditions for freedom of expression. What measures will the South Sudanese government take to ensure freedom of expression for its citizens, including human rights defenders, civil society and the media?