

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO INDIA (SECOND BATCH)**

### **BELGIUM**

- Belgium welcomes India's announcement that it will ratify ILO Convention No. 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and work and No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour. The Government of India signed the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1997 and committed to ratify this Convention at its previous UPR. What is the state of play of the ratification process of these international legal instruments?
- Does the Government of India intend to respond positively to the outstanding requests of Special Rapporteurs to visit the country?
- Is the Government of India taking measures to ensure that all state-level police personnel establish standard operating protocols, in line with international standards, for registering and investigating cases of violence against women, and that officials who fail to properly register crimes involving violence against women are held accountable ?
- Which follow-up will the Government of India give to the recommendations of the CEDAW-committee, in particular those regarding violence against women and women, peace and security?

### **CZECHIA**

- What steps have been taken since the last UPR regarding the ratification of the CAT and OP-CAT? Does the Government consider accession to the OP-CEDAW?
- Which measures has the Government adopted to prevent and punish traditional harmful practices against women, in particular foeticide, child and forced marriage, marital rape, dowry-related murders and honour killings and to combat discriminatory practices, including the lack of registration and the difficulty in obtaining an identity card, which result in denying women access to essential services?
- What measures have been adopted to step up the fight against caste-based violence and discrimination, including deeply-rooted caste-based prejudice?
- Which legislative measures has India adopted to ensure safe and enabling environment for the work of human rights defenders, free from intimidation, harassment or violence? Does the Government consider repealing the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act which restricts foreign financial assistance? Could you provide more details about the recent increased number of Internet shutdowns?
- Does the Government intend to follow the recommendations of the Law Commission of India and consider the possibility of abolishing or declaring a moratorium on the death penalty?

## **MEXICO**

- What legislative, civil and criminal measures have been taken to provide the appropriate protection to women, and children that are victims of sexual abuse?
- What measures have been put in place to ensure birth registration on a universal basis, particularly for persons living in extreme poverty, belonging to religious minorities or in remote areas?
- What legislative and policy measures have been taken to ensure universal, compulsory and free education, specially those aimed at eradicating discrimination, particularly discrimination that affects girls, marginal groups and persons with disabilities? What measures have been taken to transition from segregated education for children with disabilities into inclusive education in accordance with the CRPD?

## **NETHERLANDS**

- How are religious minorities' rights to Freedom of Religion and Belief protected under the various anti-conversion laws that are practice in seven states? To what degree has their rights situation improved since the last UPR?
- What measures are the Indian authorities taking in order to ensure swift and independent investigations into attacks against journalists and in tackling the issue of impunity? Moreover, how can the relevant work of the 'Press Council of India' be facilitated?
- How does the Indian Government foresee to improve the qualitative and quantitative capacity of the judiciary to safeguard access to justice?

## **NORWAY**

- Concern is regularly voiced on human rights violations committed in areas under martial law. Will India consider repealing the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Acts?
- The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders has highlighted the need for specific attention to defenders working on minority rights in India, including Dalits and Adivasis, Right to Information-activists and journalists, women defenders and defenders working on rights of women and children. She recommended the establishment of a comprehensive protection programme for human rights defenders and witnesses at central and state level. What steps have the Government of India taken to follow up on the report of the Special Rapporteur?
- We note that India is carrying a substantial backlog on mandatory reporting to the human rights Treaty Bodies. How will India bring its obligations to the UN Treaty Bodies up to date?

- Concern has been raised about the status of religious minorities and prevalence of communal violence incidents in India. What can the Government do to safeguard religious freedom and to protect against discrimination and violence against religious minorities?

## **SPAIN**

- Does the Indian government intend to repeal section 377 of the Penal Code in the wake of the 2014 landmark judgment of the Supreme Court affirming the equal rights of transgender persons?
- What effective measures have been proven effective in fighting against human trafficking in India?
- Could India give further information about the first outcome of the 2016 law on the rights of persons with disabilities?