

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SWITZERLAND (FIRST BATCH)

BRAZIL

- What actions have been taken towards achieving a legal definition of torture as a specific criminal offence, covering all the elements of the definition in the convention against torture?
- After having acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, what measures is Switzerland taking to ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and lifelong learning for persons with disabilities, in particular children?

SLOVENIA

- What progress has been achieved in converting the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights into a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles? Does Switzerland plan for the institution to be fully compatible with the Paris Principles?
- Is the study on the human rights of older persons commissioned by the Government in January 2016 concluded? What results are available and how will the Government use them?
- What human rights training is provided to employees of state and canton authorities, including law enforcement and judicial officials, decision-makers and administration, for the protection of trans persons rights?
- First results of the Survey on diversity and coexistence in Switzerland 2016 became public in October. How does the Government plan to address the fact that 66% of the population recognise that racism is a key social problem?

SWEDEN

- Could the Government of Switzerland please elaborate on the steps that are being taken to mitigate the non-uniform application of international human rights law as a consequence of the relative autonomy of the cantons within the Confederation?
- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Switzerland what measures are being taken to address the areas highlighted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, such as regarding gender mainstreaming, gender budgeting and in reducing the pay gap between men and women?
- Could the Government of Switzerland please elaborate on whether it considers adopting an integrated gender mainstreaming strategy, including through the use of gender-budgeting processes, also taking into consideration Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the Agenda 2030?
- What measures is the Government of Switzerland taking to address the concerns raised in the previous UPR cycle on the incomplete prohibition of the corporal punishment of children?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We welcome Switzerland's recent ratification of the ILO 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, which will come into force in Switzerland in September 2018. Will the Government of Switzerland endorse the United Kingdom Prime Minister's Call to Action on Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking?
- We are pleased to learn that Switzerland adopted an open national selection process when deciding on its candidate for the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018. Does Switzerland intend to adopt this practice on a consistent basis from now on for all treaty body elections?
- We welcome the extension of the pilot phase for the Swiss resource centre for human rights. What progress has been made towards establishing a permanent independent successor consistent with the Paris Principles?
- What steps has the Government of Switzerland taken to promote LGBTI rights and to end discrimination against same sex couples, in particular ensuring that they can marry and adopt children?
- Is the Government of Switzerland considering introducing a statutory provision on paternity leave?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Increasing government restrictions on religious attire, a ban on the building of minarets and on ritual slaughter, restrictions on religious education, and other constraints, including the denial of citizenship for Muslims based on naturalization requirements (related to compulsory education), have a negative impact on the exercise of freedom of religion or belief. How will the government ensure that members of all religious minorities have equal rights to exercise freedom of religion or belief?
- Forced labor in several sectors of the Swiss economy, especially in domestic work, construction and agriculture, remains a concern. What measures, beyond criminal prosecution, is the government of Switzerland applying to address this problem?
- Last year the non-governmental organization Against Forced Marriage received over a hundred notifications of forced marriage involving minors, including girls under the age of 16 years. What legal and social measures is the government of Switzerland applying to address this problem affecting mainly immigrant Asian and African communities?
- We note the Federal Office for Health's and the State Secretariat for Migration's commitment to counseling and prevention against Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Is the Swiss government working to develop a comprehensive national strategy against FGM/C?

- The Future of Swiss Travelers Foundation has complained about the small number of permanent camping grounds available to traveling communities. What plans has the Swiss government to address this concern?

URUGUAY

- L'Uruguay apprécierait recevoir des informations mises à jour sur la recommandation acceptée par la Suisse relative à la création d'une institution nationale des droits de l'homme dotée d'un mandat étendu et de ressources financières et humaines suffisantes, conformément aux Principes de Paris (123.22).