

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ECUADOR (SECOND BATCH)

BELGIUM

- The Government of Ecuador has agreed in principle to the visit of the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Have dates been set for this visit?
- Belgium wishes to congratulate Ecuador with the raising of the minimum age of marriage to 18 years. Is the Government of Ecuador also taking steps in order to decriminalise abortion in cases of rape, incest and severe foetal impairment?
- What is the Government of Ecuador doing in order to eliminate sexual violence against women and girls and to ensure that victims of sexual violence have access to effective remedies?
- How is the Government of Ecuador planning to execute its national plan for the prevention and eradication of child labour? Is it considering of setting up an interagency coordination mechanisms at national and subnational level as recommended by UNICEF?

CZECHIA

- How does the Government ensure the independence of the judiciary and its protection against cases of alleged political interference?
- How is ensured a safe, free and enabling environment for civil society representatives, in particular for human rights defenders and trade unions, including in areas of freedom of expression and the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly? Does the Government consider reviewing the Organic Act on Communication and relevant executive decrees so that civil society organizations can operate freely and cannot be arbitrarily sanctioned or disbanded?
- What measures have been adopted to strengthen efforts to prevent sexual violence and to increase effectiveness of its investigation?

MEXICO

- What measures are taken to ensure the inclusion and permanence of girls in schools, including in cases of early pregnancies?
- What are the plans for the effective implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on education on sexual and reproductive health and rights?
- Could you elaborate on the mechanisms to promote human rights education in school curricula? What actions have been taken to provide human rights training to teachers, particularly with regard to prevention of violence in schools?

- What are the measures to prevent school dropouts? How are indigenous peoples and African descendants encouraged to stay in school? What steps have been taken to reduce the gender gap in education?
- What progress has been made in implementing programs to ensure access to justice? What are the mechanisms to ensure due attention to complaints concerning racial discrimination? Please elaborate on challenges and next steps.

NETHERLANDS

- Independence of the judiciary

How does the Republic of Ecuador guarantee that the Judicial Council does not interfere with the freedom of the judiciary? Can you elaborate on the safeguards that are in place to make sure the Judicial Council uses its powers in accordance with international human rights norms?

- Business and Human Rights

Can the Republic of Ecuador elaborate on the protection of human rights defenders, especially women and indigenous people, peacefully protesting business projects in their communities? How does Ecuador ensure businesses do not violate human rights of human rights defenders?

NORWAY

- Follow-up of recommendations form the 2nd UPR cycle

What measures have been taken to increase the space for national and international human rights organizations to undertake their non-violent advocacy, campaigning, reporting and investigative work? How has the Government engaged with human rights defenders operating in the country?

- Indigenous peoples

We encourage Ecuador to comment on its position regarding the judgment of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the *Sarayaku v. Ecuador case*, which requires the State to ensure indigenous peoples' right to prior, free and informed consultation.