

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (SECOND BATCH)

SWITZERLAND

- During the second cycle of the UPR in 2013, the United Arab Emirates committed itself to the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in line with the Paris Principles. Germany would like to know how well-advanced the efforts for the setting up the NHRI are so far?
- Thousands of long-term residents in the United Arab Emirates are not allowed to obtain the citizenship. These families have not had any official documents for decades and thus are deprived from access to health care, education and other basic services. What steps have the United Arab Emirates recently taken to seriously improve the human rights situation of the so-called Bidoon?
- How do the United Arab Emirates guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to privacy, including online, in light of the cybercrime law (No. 5 of 2012)?

GERMANY

- During the second cycle of the UPR in 2013, the United Arab Emirates committed itself to the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) in line with the Paris Principles. Germany would like to know how well-advanced the efforts for the setting up the NHRI are so far?
- Thousands of long-term residents in the United Arab Emirates are not allowed to obtain the citizenship. These families have not had any official documents for decades and thus are deprived from access to health care, education and other basic services. What steps have the United Arab Emirates recently taken to seriously improve the human rights situation of the so-called Bidoon?
- How do the United Arab Emirates guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to privacy, including online, in light of the cybercrime law (No. 5 of 2012)?

PORTUGAL

- Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
- Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- In what time frame can we expect UAE becoming a state party to core human rights instruments such as ICCPR, ICESCR, ICPED, OP CAT etc. and to the Rome Statute? In what time frame will it allow visits of the representatives of the UN human rights thematic special procedures that requested a visit to UAE? Does it plan issuing a standing invitation to thematic procedures of the UN Human Rights Council?
- What measures have been or are being adopted to prevent arbitrary detentions, incommunicado detentions and to ensure protection of persons held in detention or prison system against any act of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment?
- How is the Government ensuring freedom of expression, especially internet freedom and free use of social media and how does it plan to guarantee that individuals are not persecuted for the exercise of their freedom of expression and those held in prison for their peaceful exercise of the freedom of expression are released?
- Does the Government publicly recognize the positive role of human rights defenders for the society and ensure investigation and punishment of any acts of intimidation or harassment against them? What are the guarantees that the cyber-surveillance legislation or counter-terrorism laws and the government sponsored software tools are not abused for persecution of human rights defenders?
- What measures have been adopted to further strengthen the independence of the judiciary and safeguards of fair trial?

SLOVENIA

- What steps have been taken in relation to withdrawing reservations to CEDAW, in particular to articles 2(f), 9, 15(2) and 16?

- We welcome the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography as well as active engagement of the UAE in the WeProtect global alliance. We however note with concern observations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child during the second periodic reporting. Could the UAE provide information on steps taken to address these observations?
- While welcoming positive steps taken in the area of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, we hope the same will be done with regard to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression. In this regard, we are concerned about reports about arbitrary and incommunicado detention, enforced disappearances and torture and ill-treatment. Could the Government of UAE provide information on what concrete measures have been taken to investigate these allegations?