

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TURKMENISTAN (FIRST BATCH)

GERMANY

- Which steps have been taken by Turkmenistan to improve freedom of expression and media since the last UPR in 2013? What is the basis for the detention of Human Rights Defenders such as Saparmamed Nepeskuliev, Mansur Mingelov and Gaspar Matalaev?
- In the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2016-2020, Turkmenistan committed to allow new visits by UN Special Procedures. When and to whom is Turkmenistan planning to extend these invitations?
- The National Human Rights Action Plan demands improvements regarding the registration of NGOs (“public organizations”): Which measures have been taken to implement this? When will the comprehensive registration obligations for civil society organizations stipulated in the "Law on Associations" of 2014 be changed to comply with the Action Plan?

SWEDEN

- Turkmenistan accepted all 17 UPR recommendations in 2013 concerning freedom of expression, including on the internet, stressing in its replies how these freedoms are guaranteed in law and practice. Since then, additional laws have been introduced which have even further restricted the media and access to information. What measures has the Government of Turkmenistan taken to implement the UPR recommendations from 2013 and what measures does the Government of Turkmenistan undertake to ensure that the freedom of expression and the freedom of press are guaranteed in accordance with international human rights norms and standards?
- What measures has the Government of Turkmenistan taken to provide information, including about health and whereabouts, to the families and relatives of persons in custody who previously have been reported as having disappeared?
- What are the legal justifications for banning several thousand individuals, who are not subject to restrictions established by the Law on Migration, from exiting the country?

SWITZERLAND

- What measures has the government of Turkmenistan taken to follow up on the letter of 22 March 2018 on the issue of forced disappearances and other human rights violations, which was signed by 14 OSCE participating States?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- What action is the Government taking to end the practice of state-sponsored forced labor in the cotton sector? Has there been progress made towards implementing the recommendations made by the UN Committee on Civil and Political Rights in its 2017 report, and the International Labor Organization's Supervisory bodies on this issue?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What steps is the government of Turkmenistan taking to inform the families of those in prisons of their whereabouts, and to allow access to prisons by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other observers?
- Following the appointment of a Human Rights Ombudsperson in March 2017, is the Ombudsperson's office fully operational and if so how many and what type of cases have been investigated and how were they resolved?
- Does Turkmenistan plan to reduce the current restrictions on internet usage, including access to social networking sites, and to guarantee freedom of expression in accordance with international law?
- What steps is the government of Turkmenistan taking to ensure that individuals are freely able to exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief including removing the obstacles to the registration of religious groups?
- What active steps has the government of Turkmenistan taken to eliminate forced labour in connection with state-sponsored cotton harvesting?