

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AZERBAIJAN (FIRST BATCH)

URUGUAY

- Uruguay would like to receive information on any concrete measures that Azerbaijan has taken to fight discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as hate speeches.

SLOVENIA

- During the last UPR in 2013, Azerbaijan accepted recommendations to protect freedom of expression online. How the amended laws since then can ensure that websites are only blocked on the basis of an independent court order?

GERMANY

- How many allegations of torture have been reported in the reporting period; how many of them have been investigated; how many have been confirmed and led to which consequences?
- With the amendments to the law about legal counsel which came into force on 1 January 2018, the membership in the Bar Association became obligatory for lawyers in order to represent clients in court. What is planned to lower the entrance barrier for the Bar Association and thus to raise the number of barrister lawyers in the country which is currently the lowest per capita in the region?

SWEDEN

- Does Azerbaijan intend to review the conviction of Mr. Mammadov, in light of the decision on the 5th of December 2017 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to launch infringement proceedings against Azerbaijan?
- Despite the reportedly worsened situation for civil society in Azerbaijan, Sweden notes that paragraph 14 of Azerbaijan's national report states that "*Azerbaijan is committed to the principles of the universality, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. /.../ The recommendations of the relevant United Nations mechanisms are also taken into account in the process of improving legislation.*" What measures does the Government of Azerbaijan plan to undertake in order to facilitate the activities of civil society actors and to end undue restrictions and interference in their work?
- How does the increased penalty for defamation of the president relate to Azerbaijan's commitments, e.g. under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?