

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BANGLADESH (SECOND BATCH)

SLOVENIA

- Given the government's commitment to protect civil society, bloggers and other vulnerable groups and individuals, could you share in more details the steps taken in order to better ensure their safety and protect their freedom to work and express their views freely and without intimidations?

SWITZERLAND

- Child Marriage Restraint Act: There is widespread concern that the clause regarding “special circumstances” will de facto serve as a loophole for child marriage, which makes effective safeguards important. How will the rules to the Children Act 2013 be defined in order to effectively prevent child marriage, who will be consulted in the process and what is the timeline?
- Minorities: What concrete measures will the Government undertake to effectively protect ethnic and religious minorities from violence and harassment in Bangladesh and when will Bangladesh enact the draft Anti-Discrimination Act that has been under consideration for several years?
- Workers’ rights: Despite good initiatives following the Rana Plaza disaster, poor working conditions and safety standards, low wages, irregular payment of wages, weak implementation of union rights continue and workers are often targets of violence for union activities. How will Bangladesh protect the rights of workers in compliance with international standards, in particular the ILO Conventions, both within and beyond the garments sector?

SWEDEN

- Is the Government of Bangladesh considering a review of the Child Marriage (restraint) Act due to the vague wording of the provision for exemptions in “special circumstances”?
- Will Bangladesh revise the draft of the Digital Security Act and ensure that it is drafted in line with international norms and standards and of the rule of law?
- What measures will the government take to reduce the number of forced disappearances as well as investigating the known cases?

LIECHTENSTEIN

- Liechtenstein recognizes Bangladesh commitment to international criminal justice, as evidenced by its ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- What steps has Bangladesh taken to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression?
- What steps has Bangladesh taken to join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT)?
- What steps has Bangladesh taken to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime ('Palermo Protocol')?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- There are reports that hundreds to thousands of opposition members were arrested in the run-up to and aftermath of the arrest of opposition leader Khaleda Zia on February 8, 2018. What measures is the Government taking to ensure the political opposition can participate freely in the upcoming elections?
- What measures is the Government taking to respect, protect, and ensure the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association?
- Punitive media laws such as Section 57 of the Information and Communications Technology Act (ICTA), and the restrictive new Draft Digital Security Act, criminalize "defamation" and "hurting religious sentiment," and extend jail terms for these offences. What steps has the Government taken to ensure freedom of expression in relation to these laws?
- What steps is the Government taking to ensure that the judiciary is independent, particularly after the resignation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court last fall?
- What is the Government doing to ensure that those responsible for human rights violations and abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances, are investigated and held accountable by Bangladeshi authorities, including when those responsible are members of the police, military, or security services?
- We welcome progress made on the investigation of the murder of former USAID employee Xulhaz Mannan. Please provide additional updates. When do you expect the charge sheet to be submitted?
- What is the government doing to improve the NGO registration and visa approval process for humanitarian workers in Rohingya camps?

- What is the Government doing to protect members of vulnerable groups, including atheists, ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous groups, girls and women, and LGBTI activists? Will the Government condemn attacks on them without implying their identities justify violence against them?
- What is the Government doing to ensure applications for union registration are acted upon expeditiously and are not denied unless they fail to meet clear and objective criteria set forth in the law?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What steps are the Government of Bangladesh taking to tackle forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking in fulfilment of SDG 8.7?
- What progress has been made to investigate those members of law enforcement agencies accused of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances, and what steps are being taken to agree and facilitate a visit to Bangladesh by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions?
- What response does the Government of Bangladesh have for the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances' call to act to halt enforced disappearances in Bangladesh?
- What actions are being taken to ensure a free, fair and inclusive general election, and to guarantee democratic freedoms, including the right to freedom of assembly?
- What action has the Government of Bangladesh taken to combat local level discrimination and violence, particularly that suffered by minority religious communities?

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?

BRAZIL

- Could Bangladesh comment on measures taken to protect the right to freedom of expression and privacy online?
- How does your country envisage to promote synergies in implementing the UPR recommendations and the Sustainable Development Goals, under the 2030 Agenda?