**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TURKMENISTAN**Generated on 05 Nov 2023 13:06

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Turkmenistan considering ratifying the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure as well as the ILO Conventions on Domestic Workers (189) and on Violence and Harassment (190)?
* We welcome the fact that a standing invitation has been issued to Special Procedures. Is Turkmenistan considering to respond positively to the outstanding requests of Special Rapporteurs to visit the country and facilitate their visits by the end of 2024?
* We welcome the adoption of the second National Action Plan of Action for Gender Equality for 2021-2025 but remain concerned about the arbitrary and discriminatory restrictions on the rights of women and girls. Will the government revoke all restrictions on women’s self-presentation, dress code, social behavior, communication and guarantee the right to freedom of expression and speech?
* Will the government take measures to effectively combat all forms of discrimination or violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, including by decriminalizing consensual same-sex relationships between adult men, by providing training for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and the judiciary, and by conducting awareness-raising activities promoting respect for diversity among the general public?
* Will the government take measures to effectively combat all forms of discrimination or violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, including by decriminalizing consensual same-sex relationships between adult men, by providing training for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors and the judiciary, and by conducting awareness-raising activities promoting respect for diversity among the general public?
* What concrete measures will the government take to ensure the complete elimination of the use of compulsory labor of public and private sector workers as well as students and children, in cotton production?

**CANADA**

* In the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2021-2025, Turkmenistan committed to allowing UN special rapporteurs and working group members to visit the country. What measures is the government planning to take to allow such visits (when, who, and where)?

**GERMANY**

* What measures are envisaged by Turkmenistan, if any, in order to strengthen the office of the ombudsperson for human rights in terms of financial and personal resources?
  • Does Turkmenistan intend to invite the ICRC and/or other relevant international bodies and agencies in order to examine and possibly improve the conditions of detention? If so: What is the state of play regarding these plans and when can a first visit be expected?
  • What measures does Turkmenistan intend to take in order to implement the national agenda for human rights and gender equality, to increase the representation of women in public life and to combat and eradicate domestic violence against women?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Turkmenistan taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has Turkmenistan taken to ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT)?
* What steps has Turkmenistan taken to accept the individual complaints procedure under article 22 of the Convention against Torture?
* What steps has Turkmenistan taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?
* What steps has Turkmenistan 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)?

**PANAMA**

* Is Turkmenistan considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
* What steps have been taken by Turkmenistan to combat the discrimination and stigmatization against persons with HIV/AIDS?
* What measures have been adopted by Turkmenistan to increase the levels of participation of women in political and public life, including in the decision-making processes?

**PORTUGAL**

* Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs (National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up):
  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?
* Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs (National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up):
  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, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? 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?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures are in place to combat ageism and eliminate age discrimination in all its forms, and to protect the human rights of older persons?
* We have some concern regarding reports of restrictions for Turkmen women's grooming and attire, as well as reports of restrictions of their right to operate a motor vehicle. Please clarify how such restrictions comply with the prohibition of discrimination against women under the CEDAW Convention, which Turkmenistan is a party to?
* The right to freedom of opinion and expression includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. What efforts has Turkmenistan invested in providing secure, reliable and unhindered access to the internet for better digital connectivity of the country and access to the internet for its population?

**SPAIN**

* Which measures is the Government considering to ensure the right to freedom of expression and media freedom, both online and offline?
* Is Turkmenistan considering the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
* What measures is the Government considering to improve prison conditions and facilitate interviews with inmates by independent observers?

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

* Following Turkmenistan’s commitments in the previous UPR cycle to reform its legislation on civil society organisations and to allow for greater freedom of association, what steps has Turkmenistan taken to implement these recommendations?
* What steps is the Government taking to inform families of the whereabouts of their relatives who are incarcerated?
* What steps is the Government taking to protect children and state employees such as doctors and teachers from being forced to work in the cotton harvest?
* Can the Government confirm that UN Special Procedures and the working group on Special Procedures will be permitted to visit Turkmenistan?
* How is the Government ensuring freedom of access to information online, including the apparent ban on Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)?
* What steps is Turkmenistan taking to combat gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What action is the government taking to reduce restrictions on internet usage, including blocking of VPNs; independent foreign media websites; and social networking and messaging apps to guarantee freedom of expression in accordance with international law? What Turkmen laws or regulations establish a standard for which sites are blocked, and is there a current list of blocked sites stating why they are blocked?
* What actions is the Turkmen government taking to share information about the condition of prisoners and their remaining terms of incarceration with their families and lawyers, and to allow access to prisons and correctional facilities by monitoring organizations such as the Red Cross?
* What steps is the Government of Turkmenistan taking to support the development of independent media and civil society, which are necessary for greater political pluralism for the people of Turkmenistan?
* What is the Turkmen government doing to ensure all eligible women, regardless of age, are given equal opportunities to receive a driving license, and can the government provide the number of driving licenses issued over the last five years by gender?
* What steps is the Government of Turkmenistan taking to advance greater gender equity and equality for Turkmen women and girls? How is the Government working to remove unjust and discriminatory restrictions on travel that women currently face?
* What actions is the Government of Turkmenistan taking to rescind laws and policies that unfairly target LGBTQI+ persons? Rescinding Article 135 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes same-sex sexual conduct, would ensure all persons can access critical health care services, including antiretroviral and HIV drugs, and employment opportunities without fear of discrimination.