

## Issue Analysis

### **-Civil Society at the national level-** *Session 1-8*

#### **Introduction**

- Civil society at the national level is an issue that is not very frequently raised within the context of the Universal Periodic Review.
- Out of over 12,500 recommendations in total over 8 sessions, 201 recommendations focussed on the issue of civil society on the national level, although it was raised much more frequently in the last few sessions than in the first ones (session 1: 1 recommendation, session 2: 7 recommendations, compared to session 7: 42 recommendations and session 8: 37 recommendations).
- In total, 62 advance questions concerned the issue of civil society on the national level.

In order to facilitate further analysis of this issue, a division has been made between those recommendations and questions relating to the constraint on the existence and work of the civil society and NGO's, and those that concern a call for cooperation with the civil society and NGO's, excluding those relating to the UPR Process.

#### **Analysis**

##### **Constraint on the existence and work of civil society**

- This category contains all recommendations and questions relating to the constraint on the existence and work of the civil society and NGO's.
- Out of 201 recommendations on civil society on the national level, 112 recommendations focussed on constraints on the existence and work of civil society.
- Out of 63 questions, 41 questions deal with the constraint on the existence and work of civil society.
- Issues covered in recommendations and questions range from, for example, "Abolish the system of registration for nongovernmental organizations working in the country" to "Improve the working conditions and involvement of local and international NGOs".
- Belarus received the most recommendations in this category.

##### **Top 5 countries making recommendations on this issue**

1. Canada and Norway (13 recommendations each)
2. The Netherlands (1 recommendations)
3. The United Kingdom (9 recommendations)
4. Spain (7 recommendations)
5. France (6 recommendations)

##### **Top 5 States under Review receiving recommendations on this issue**

1. Belarus (12 recommendations)
2. Ethiopia (8 recommendations)
3. Uzbekistan (7 recommendations)
4. Turkmenistan (6 recommendations)

5. Egypt (5 recommendations)

**Top 3 countries posing advance written questions on this issue**

1. The Netherlands (12 questions)
2. United Kingdom (8 questions)
3. Sweden, Norway and Ireland (4 questions each)

**Top 3 States under Review receiving advance written questions on this issue**

1. Belarus (6 questions)
2. Iraq (3 questions)
3. Iran, Angola, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Armenia (2 questions each)

**Call for cooperation with civil society**

- This category contains all recommendations and questions relating to a call for cooperation with civil society and NGO's.
- Out of 201 recommendations on civil society on the national level, 89 recommendations focussed on a call for cooperation.
- Out of 63 questions, 22 questions deal with the constraint on the existence and work of civil society.
- Issues covered in recommendations and questions include, for example, “hold open consultations with civil society” or “Include civil society and human rights defenders in the development of legislation and decision-making processes, through an institutionalized consultation process”.
- Belarus, Egypt and Mexico received the most recommendations in this category.

**Top 3 countries making recommendations on this issue**

1. Mexico (6 recommendations)
2. Norway and the United States of America (5 recommendations each)
3. Malaysia, the Netherlands and the Philippines (4 recommendations each)

**Top 3 States under Review receiving recommendations on this issue**

1. Belarus, Egypt and Mexico (5 recommendations each)
2. Canada and Spain (4 recommendations each)
3. Colombia, Viet Nam, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Iran (3 recommendations each)

**Top 3 countries posing advance written questions on this issue**

1. United Kingdom (12 questions)
2. Norway (4 questions)
3. The Netherlands (3 questions)

**Top 2 States under Review receiving advance written questions on this issue**

1. Egypt (5 questions)
2. El Salvador (3 questions)