

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ETHIOPIA – ADD.1

GERMANY

- With regard to the overall human rights situation, Germany remains concerned that an independent monitoring entity for human rights does not exist in Ethiopia. The lack of national indicators to help measure the implementation of UPR recommendations or the national human rights action plan is particularly worrisome. How does Ethiopia ensure an independent assessment of human rights, and participation of independent civil society organizations in this matter?
- In the first cycle of the UPR of Ethiopia in 2009, Germany recommended to adopt all necessary measures to provide for a free and independent media which reflects a plurality of opinions, including those of minority groups and political opposition parties. Reports have surfaced that despite the media and information law, press freedom has decreased considerably in recent years, inter alia by blocking websites, jamming or arrests of journalists, leading to an erosion of diversity of opinion and the freedom of press / media. What measures is the government taking to counter this erosion and to guarantee freedom of expression, freedom of press and the independence of the media?

MEXICO

- How Ethiopia could develop steps such as affirmative actions for women in electoral positions at national and local level as well for women in decision-making positions in the private and public sector?
- How Ethiopia is ensuring the participation of civil society as independent observers to take part of the Electoral process. And does the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) is independent and autonomous institution?

SPAIN

- Does the government plan to adopt measures to facilitate and guarantee the work of human rights NGOs in the country, modifying the law of 2009 in force and permitting the expansion of its external funding?
- What concrete measures is the government of Ethiopia taking to implement the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities? What outcome is foreseen to be achieved upon its completion?
- Does the government of Ethiopia intend to eliminate the existing obstacles to freedom of expression?

SWEDEN

1. With respect to Civil Society Organisations promoting respect for human rights in Ethiopia, what measures are the Ethiopian Government taking to:
 - a) assure that these organisations, and in particular those working with women's and/or children's rights and the rights of disabled, obtain access to funding, in line with the UNGA Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, inter alia by allowing enhanced access to foreign funds, removing restrictions on income generating activities and reviewing the 30-70 directive; and
 - b) involve them in the implementation, monitoring and future drafting of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP)

2. What measures is Ethiopia taking to amend the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation with a view to ensure that this:
 - a) does not infringe on the rights of freedom of expression and assembly;
 - b) is in line with international human rights standards; and
 - c) includes a more narrow definition of terrorism which does not contravene the Ethiopian constitution?