

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ETHIOPIA

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does the Government consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as the Czech Republic recommended to Ethiopia in 2009? What measures has the Government of Ethiopia adopted to strengthen the protection against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment?
- Does the Government consider changing its position towards the decriminalisation of consensual same-sex activity between adults?
- Has the Government assessed the compatibility of the Proclamation on the Freedom of the Mass Media and Access to Information with its international obligations, in particular the right to freedom of expression? Could you provide details on journalists and media workers imprisoned in Ethiopia?
- Does the Government consider amending the Proclamation to Provide for the Registration and Regulation of Charities and Societies, which substantively limits the activities of non-governmental organisations in Ethiopia?
- Has the Government implemented recommendations of international election observation missions observing the 2010 parliamentary elections especially in the area of equal political participation? Could you elaborate on concrete steps undertaken in this regard and in view of the 2015 elections?

NETHERLANDS

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the extensive National Human Rights Action Plan and the Ministerial Task Force that has been set up for the implementation of the plan. Civil society should play an important role in implementing and monitoring the plan, to ensure full representation of and outreach to all parts of society.
- How will the Government of Ethiopia safeguard independent monitoring of the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan, including participation of civil society?
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomes the government's efforts to prevent violence, early marriage and other harmful practices against women and girls and stresses the crucial role civil society organisations can play to complement government programs.
- Can the Government of Ethiopia indicate how it will adjust the Charities and Societies Proclamation (CSP) in order to guarantee contributions for civil society organisations active in the field of preventing harmful practices against women and girls?

- The Netherlands applauds the progress made in diminishing the backlog of legal cases, the time suspects are detained awaiting trial, and co-operation with the ICRC in prisons. However, there continue to be individual reports about ill treatment and torture in detention centers and imprisonment without due process.
- Can the Government of Ethiopia indicate which measures it is taking to ensure proper treatment of prisoners, including the prosecution of perpetrators of torture or ill treatment?

NORWAY

- In forums convening both the government, the CSOs, and the international society, there have been discussions on possibilities of revising the CSO Proclamation, in particular the so-called 70/30 guidelines. **How far has the Ethiopian government come in considering making amendments as requested by the CSOs?**
- **What is being done to investigate human rights violations by law enforcement officers and to bring to justice the perpetrators?**
- Norway strongly believes that human rights defenders play an important role in fostering a culture of human rights and democracy. **Which measures are taken to follow up complaints of harassment, intimidation or arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders?**

UNITED KINGDOM

- What steps will Ethiopia take with respect to the ‘Anti-Terrorism Proclamation’ and other legislation to ensure that genuine political dissent is not penalised?
- What is the Ethiopian Government’s assessment of the impact of the Civil Society Proclamation, on the ability of Ethiopian civil society to hold government to account, and are there any plans to review the law or its implementation?
- What steps is the Ethiopian Government taking to ensure there are credible and independent investigations of alleged human rights violations, particularly by the Special Police in Somali Region and in relation to the Commune Development and other relocation programmes?

- What steps will the Ethiopian Government take to enable opposition participation in the forthcoming elections in May 2015, including through freedom of assembly and public debate of policies?
- Will Ethiopia accept the visit request made in 2005 by the Special Rapporteur on Torture during the next review period?