

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BELARUS – ADD.3

NORWAY

- While noting the positive step taken by the government in involving parts of the civil society in the UPR-reporting process, how do you intend to include these actors in the process of follow-up to UPR recommendations?
- Belarus has failed to present periodic reports on fulfillment of obligations under key treaties and conventions of the UN. Moreover, Belarus has declined to cooperate with important special procedures of the UN Human Rights system and has yet to fulfill significant recommendations. Will Belarus follow up and fulfill the decisions of the UN Committee on Human Rights pertaining to individual complaints? If so, when and how is Belarus preparing to do this?
- Over the past years there have been several reports of discrimination against citizens for their political convictions in Belarus. Discriminating treatment of individuals criticizing the government include dismissal from work, expulsion from educational institutions, arbitrary detention and restrictions on freedom of association and free assembly. How does Belarus ensure the safety and wellbeing of its human rights defenders as well as other citizens exercising their right to free expression and political activity?
- How is Belarus encouraging the freedom of speech; the distribution of independent publications and safe working conditions for journalists?
- Belarus is the only country in Europe which still applies capital punishment. Does Belarus have plans to abolish capital punishment and if so, how?
