

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO QATAR

DENMARK

- Which steps has Qatar taken to abolish corporal punishment, including of children? When will Qatar adhere to OPCAT?
- Which measures does the Qatari Government consider taking in order to establish effective anti trafficking mechanisms, including enforcing already existing labor laws?
- Which measures will Qatar take in order to protect the human rights of migrant workers, including their right to freedom of movement?
- How will the Qatari Government ensure that national laws discriminating women (e.g. laws on marriage and divorce) are amended or repealed?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 65 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of Qatar with special procedures mandate holders - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NORWAY

- How did Qatar include civil society organizations in the elaboration of its national report?
- Several of Qatar's human rights organizations, such as the National Human Rights Committee and the Doha Centre for Media Freedom, were established by Sovereign Decree. How is Qatar encouraging private initiatives to form groups or organizations?
- Qatar has ratified five of the eight core ILO conventions. Are there plans to join, and ratify, the remaining three (Nos. 87, 98 and 100)?
- In its reservations upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Qatar states that Article 9, paragraph 2 is "inconsistent with Qatar's law on citizenship". Would Qatar consider changing its citizenship law in order to conform with the Convention?

- Similarly, Qatar has reserved itself against the Convention's Article 15, paragraph 4, which orders States Parties to accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile. Qatar states that the article is inconsistent with "the provisions of family law and established practice". Will Qatar's government work to change such law and practice?
- What is Qatar doing to protect female domestic workers against abuse and violence from employers? In particular, how does the government ensure that the police prioritize and investigate such cases?
- Will Qatar change its criminal code to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, as a follow-up of the 1993 Ministerial Decree stating that such punishment should not be used in schools?

SWEDEN

- Sweden welcomes Qatar's accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in April 2009, making Qatar the 186th state party to the convention. At the same time, domestic legislation discriminates against women, in particular concerning marriage and divorce.
- Can the Government of Qatar elaborate on what measures it is taking to ensure women's equal rights according to CEDAW, including with regard to marriage and divorce?
- By its articles 281 and 284, the Penal Code of Qatar criminalizes consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex. These acts are punishable with imprisonment or according to Sharia law by flogging or by death.
- What measures is the Government of Qatar considering in order to ensure that all persons fully and equally their human rights free from discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation or identity, in line with the Yogyakarta principles?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

- We would be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report.
- Please could you inform us as to whether an independent national human rights institution exists in your country and operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions?

- Could you please elaborate on what steps the government of the State of Qatar is taking to amend the Criminal Code and Prison Act to abolish flogging and stoning?
- We would welcome a statement by the government of the State of Qatar outlining what plans it may have to end discriminatory practices against migrant workers, including the requirement for employers to provide permission for migrant workers to leave the country.
- Could you please outline what steps have been taken by the government of the State of Qatar to adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate de jure and de facto discrimination on any grounds and against children, especially girls, children with disabilities, children born out of wedlock and children of migrant workers, as recommended by the CRC?
- Could you please elaborate on what steps have been taken by the government of the State of Qatar to address the concerns of the CRC that some provisions of the Family Act and the Nationality Act perpetuate discrimination against women and girls?
- We would welcome further information on what steps the government of the State of Qatar has taken to include an explicit non-discrimination provision in the Labour Code covering all grounds, as recommended by the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.
- We would welcome details on any plans held by the government of the State of Qatar to end the practice of execution.
