

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TURKMENISTAN

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Does Turkmenistan plan to allow fewer restrictions on Internet usage, for example in respect of social networking sites? And will the new media law guarantee freedom of expression in accordance with international standards?
- We welcome the introduction of a new law on political parties and subsequent establishment of a second political party, and would like to know whether Turkmenistan will invite international observers, such as the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), to assess the extent to which the parliamentary elections later this year represent progress towards a more pluralistic society.
- In July 2012, the ODIHR produced an Assessment of Turkmenistan's electoral legislation. Is Turkmenistan planning to implement the recommendations contained in that Assessment?
- We would like to know whether Turkmenistan plans to develop a more substantive programme of cooperation on access by independent organisations like the ICRC to detention facilities, and when Turkmenistan expects to conclude its consideration of access by Special Rapporteurs and extend invitations where visit requests are outstanding.
- In 2008, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief visited Turkmenistan. Could you further elaborate which of her recommendations Turkmenistan will take forward and how?

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What measures have been undertaken by the Government of Turkmenistan in order to facilitate the activities of non-governmental organizations and to limit undue restrictions and interference in their work?
- Since the last UPR in 2008 what concrete steps has the Government of Turkmenistan taken to improve basic political rights such as freedom of expression, association, assembly, movement?

- What specific actions have been undertaken by the Government of Turkmenistan to prevent trafficking in persons, including forced prostitution and forced labour and to protect and assist victims of trafficking? What specific actions have been taken to prosecute the perpetrators of these criminal acts?

SWEDEN

- Could the government please elaborate on which regulations have been issued to accompany the new media law, which provides the framework for independent media to function without restrictions, so as to guarantee the freedom of expression and opinion and encourage private financial investments in the media sector?
- Note is taken of the launch in January this year of a new political party. How will parliament continue the pluralisation process of society and promote freedom of expression and assembly? Having the upcoming parliamentary elections late this year in mind, which further regulations have been decided to give the framework of activity of the new party – campaign resources, campaign time on national media, campaign meetings around the country and indiscriminate registration of candidates?
- Sweden asks the government of Turkmenistan what measures have been taken lately in order to improve conditions in the penitentiary system, prisons and pre-trial facilities under the various authorities?

SLOVENIA

- What measures has the government taken to prevent torture and ill-treatment of detainees and to ensure accountability for such acts?
- What steps have been taken to implement CEDAW's recommendation to adopt temporary special measures in all areas in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged?
- What is being done to address corruption?

MEXICO

- What are the internal obstacles that the Turkmen government has faced to grant access to the UN Special procedures into Turkmenistan, particularly regarding the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on torture, who have requested invitations?
- How does the Turkmen government ensure that the restrictions of the right to leave Turkmenistan, established in article 30 of the Migration Act, do not violate the right of freedom of movement?