

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES- ADDENDUM

DENMARK

- Do you intend to abolish capital punishment – perhaps initially by adopting a moratorium on executions – in accordance with the general trend in this direction?
- Denmark has noted the development towards the issue of labour rights that has recently taken place in the UAE. Which new concrete measures do the UAE authorities consider taking in order to give greater legal status to and protection of foreign workers, especially (female) domestic workers? (including giving them a right to a weekly day of rest, limited working hours, paid holidays or forms of compensations).
- How does the UAE government intend to implement the Prime Minister's call for a new press law in the UAE legislation – and what is the time frame for implementing the law?
- Which concrete measures will the UAE government take in order to ensure equality of women before the law, including on matters of family law (marriage and inheritance)?

GERMANY

- The Federal Republic of Germany commends the UAE for organizing the GCC Conference on Contractual Labour, held in Abu Dhabi in January 2008, with the objective of further improving the standard of living conditions of migrant workers. The Federal Republic of Germany shares the concern expressed by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrant workers, according to which the sponsorship system renders migrant workers vulnerable because their permits are linked to one employer only. The Federal Republic of Germany would like to ask the delegation how they assess this impact of the sponsorship system and what measures are taken to protect the workers from resulting dependence. Germany welcomes all recent and further steps by the UAE Government to address and improve the rights of migrant workers.

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 63 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Despite the pending requests by some Special Rapporteurs to visit UAE – would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

NETHERLANDS

- Would the UAE consider the establishment of an independent national (federal) human rights institution, which could advise the government, and receive and investigate complaints by the public?
- Could the UAE elaborate on the possibilities of the ratification of several human rights instruments i.e. the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- What is the reason for excluding migrant domestic workers from the existing labour legislation?
- Could the UAE comment on the suggestion that the (international) human rights discussion would benefit from a clearer distinction in Islamic societies between religion on the one hand and cultural and traditional influences on the other hand?
