

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOMALIA

DENMARK

- What measures will the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) take in order to prevent its security forces, and all militia and forces affiliated to it, in committing unlawful attacks, including those targeting civilians, and those which do not attempt to distinguish between military targets and civilians or civilian objects?
- Will the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) take steps to ensure that effective and impartial investigations are carried out into the killings of all Somali civil society actors and journalists and will the TFG put an end to all practices that threaten the right to freedom of expression, including threats against journalists and media outlets?

IRELAND

- Ireland thanks the Transitional Federal Government for their National Report. Notwithstanding the extreme importance and urgency of improving the human rights situation in Somalia, we recognize that there are constraints at present as the Government seeks to establish peace and security throughout the country.
- Ireland welcomes the signature and ratification of a number of international instruments by Somalia. What is the Government doing about implementing and enforcing the standards of human rights within the areas under government control? Does the Government plan to introduce any legislation aimed at addressing human rights issues of concern?
- In addition, we would like to know what steps the Government is taking to improve access for humanitarian actors within Somalia to ensure that the very basic human rights of the people can be realized?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 82 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of Somalia 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?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Somalia what actions it is taking to ensure the humanitarian access to those in need and thus enabling the enjoyment of certain human rights of internally displaced persons?

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Somalia if it has taken steps to establish an independent Human Rights Commission? If so, what is currently the status of such a process?

SWITZERLAND

- In 2010, the Independent Expert on Somalia called for the protection of civilians to be a matter of constant focus for all the parties concerned, particularly the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). What concrete measures have been taken by the TFG to give priority to the protection of civilians?
- Serious human rights abuses take place on a daily basis, such as summary executions, including beheadings of innocent people, amputations, floggings, forcible marriage of young girls to militiamen, the use of civilians as human shields. What means can be taken by the TFG, as well as by the international community, to end these violations of fundamental rights? How do you plan to work with regional administrations to contribute to the respect of human rights?
- In 2010, the Independent Expert on Somalia recommended that the UN-Secretary-General considers the establishment of an Independent International Commission of Inquiry, or similar mechanism, to investigate and map violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in the conflict of Somalia. What is the TFG's reaction to this recommendation? What measures have been taken by the TFG so far to end impunity with regard to members of its security forces suspected of violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law?
- What measures does the TFG plan to take in order to ensure that the freedom of expression, particularly of journalists and human rights defenders, is respected?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- Can you confirm whether the National Observatory on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms operates in accordance with the Paris principles designed to guide the practice of such institutions? If not, what steps do you intend to take to bring the institution into line with the principles?
- Could you share with us how the Transitional Federal Government intends to oversee the follow-up to the Universal Periodic Review? Who will be responsible for the direction of implementation, monitoring, review and reporting? How will civil society be involved in the follow-up to the Review?
- What measures have you taken to ensure media freedom and the protection of journalists, and how will you protect independent media throughout the transitional period?
- How does the Transitional Federal Government intend to follow through on its intention to ratify a number of international human rights treaties, including

the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child?

- What were the outcomes of the Transitional Federal Government's investigation, announced on 16 June 2010 by President Sharif, into the recruitment and use of child soldiers by Government forces?
- What measures have you taken to protect civilians from indiscriminate fire in Mogadishu and how do you intend to further safeguard civilians?
- What measures are you taking to protect internally displaced people in Mogadishu?
- How do you plan to approach, in an independent manner, the need to address accountability for past human rights violations?