

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO TAJIKISTAN

CANADA

Freedom of Religion

- Canada would be grateful for information on how the Government of Tajikistan will reconcile its laws on religion and its international commitments in the area of freedom of religion?

Treatment of Women

- While Canada recognizes that the Government of Tajikistan is concerned about the status of women in its country, what specific steps does the Government of Tajikistan plan to undertake to improve government services and legal treatment of women?

Use of Torture

- What is the status of the Government of Tajikistan efforts to define and abolish the use of torture?
- What efforts are being undertaken to implement independent investigations and prosecution of cases related to torture?

Transparency of Prisons and Detention Centres

- How is the Government of Tajikistan going to ensure that administrative detention is subject to the same right to challenge than other forms of detention?
- When will detainment facilities in Tajikistan be open for inspection by Tajikistan's ombudsmen and international observers?

Defamation laws

- What efforts are being undertaken to abolish criminal provisions on defamation?

Child Labour

- What steps are being taken to ensure that child labour is prevented and prohibited?

NETHERLANDS

- Paragraphs 124-130 of the national report refer to the freedom of the media in Tajikistan. The section does not mention the allegation letter of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, dated 9 November 2010. Would the government of Tajikistan be willing to reply to the letter of the special rapporteur on freedom of expression?
- Paragraph 24 of the national report refers to the role of the Commissioner for Human Rights, also known as the national Ombudsman. The Netherlands

would like to commend the Government of Tajikistan for having appointed a national Ombudsman and would like to ask how the independence of the Ombudsman is guaranteed, while he is appointed by the President?

- In Tajikistan the Law on Parental Responsibility for Education and Upbringing of Children has entered into force, according to paragraph 165 of the national report. It contains a near-complete ban on children's participation in religious activity. The Netherlands is concerned about enforcement of the law with regard to freedom of religion as is provided for in Tajikistan's constitution. In what way will Tajikistan guarantee the freedom of religion as described in paragraph 115 of its national report?

SWEDEN

- Sweden would like to ask the Government of Tajikistan to elaborate on its possible plans for a better and fuller implementation of recommendations from UN Treaty bodies. In this respect, it would also be of interest to have the Government's opinion on the functioning of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Republic of Tajikistan and how its work can be strengthened and be more effective.
- Sweden would like to know from the Government of Tajikistan how it intends to make the judicial system more independent and increase its capacity to withstand pressure and influences from other sources.
- Sweden would like to know if the Government of Tajikistan is considering changes in legislation and administrative procedures with a view to facilitate the establishment of viable, independent media? Sweden would also be interested in the Tajik Government's view on citizens' unlimited and unhampered access to such sources of information as the internet.

SWITZERLAND

- What are the steps the government of Tajikistan has taken and plans to take regarding the total abolishment of the death penalty and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty?
- What steps are underway when it comes to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT)?
- What measures have been developed for the effective implementation of the National Strategy for Labour Migration of Tajik nationals abroad for 2011-2015 (presently still a draft), and how far is it embedded into the economic and development policy of your country?
- What steps has the newly created Migration Service taken in regard to establishing an efficient system for protecting and promoting civil, political and social rights of labour migrants?

- How does the government of Tajikistan plan to ensure gender equality in all spheres of life, such as equal access to decision making positions in the government, equal rights to education, access to land, credits and to protect the women against discrimination and violence, including domestic violence?

UNITED KINGDOM

- Please can you tell us when Tajikistan will grant to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) access to its detention facilities?
- How advanced are your plans to include a specific article under the Tajikistani Criminal Code devoted to torture in line with the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- Can you tell us if Tajikistan will consider decriminalising defamation and in so doing allow consideration of cases involving media criticism of the government to be within civil procedure only?
- Precisely what kind of technical assistance – beyond capital expenditure for the construction of prisons – would you value from the international community for the reform of its correctional system?
- What further work is planned for you to consider the social and legal aspects of abolishing the death penalty and when do they envisage finishing its tasks?
- Which of the recommendations from ODIHR’s Final Monitoring Report of the February 2010 Parliamentary Elections will you be taking forward and in what timeframe?
- Do you plan to review the Law on Parental Responsibility, in particular concerning children’s access to religious services and consider amendments?
- What further stages of consideration does the draft law to prevent domestic violence need to undergo and when do you envisage the law being passed?