

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO OMAN

CZECH REPUBLIC

- What measures has the Government adopted to address discrimination as, for example, against women, religious minorities and based on SOGI? Do they include support to public debate, awareness-raising campaigns and steps towards necessary review of national laws with a view to eliminate any discrimination?
- What steps does Oman intend to take to increase its efforts to prevent acts of gender-based and domestic violence, ensuring that these acts are penalized and their perpetrators prosecuted? Do programs for its victims include also foreign domestic workers? Does the Government intend to abolish the *kafala* system making foreign workers vulnerable to various forms of abuse?
- Does the Government consider ratification of further international human rights instruments, including CAT, ICCPR and ICESCR? Does the Government consider issuing a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedures?
- Does the Government intend to facilitate procedures for holding peaceful protests? Does it consider refraining from criminally punishing the exercise of the right to peaceful assembly, including through unregistered peaceful assemblies? Could you provide more information on the investigation into cases of the excessive use of force by police and law enforcement officials against protestors in 2011 and 2012, including information on the number of persons prosecuted and imprisoned in this regard?
- How does the Government protect the freedom of speech? Does it consider adopting measures to protect persons, including bloggers, human rights defenders and journalists, against harassment and prosecution for exercising their right to freedom of expression? Does the Government plan to allow registration and unhindered operation of independent non-governmental organizations, including those dealing with human rights, as well as political parties?
- Does the Government consider abolishing the death penalty?

GERMANY

- The Government of Oman has accepted, in principle, to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and to consider accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). What is the current state of affairs regarding ICESCR and ICCPR?

NETHERLANDS

Freedom of Association

- Could the delegation of Oman share its views about the implementation of the recommendations by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, especially the recommendation to amend article 134 of the Omani penal code?

Nationality Law

- Could you elaborate on what steps have been taken and how Oman will work to strengthen women's rights in the future, including the right of Omani mothers to independently pass on their nationality to their children?

SLOVENIA

- Taking into account that the values, customs and culture of Arab and Islamic societies, including Omani society, do not acknowledge or encourage relationships outside marriage, we remain very concerned with the practice of placing children born out of wedlock into alternative care. This practice is contrary to the right of the child to know and be cared for by his or her parents, as per the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Does the Government intend to implement continuous CRC recommendation in this regard, which calls for the abolishment of this practice?
- We welcome the recently adopted legislation on child labor from May 2014, which among other establishes a child protection committee serving also as a complaints mechanism. Does the government of Oman intend to sign and ratify also the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (OP-CRC-IC) which sets out an international complaints procedure for child rights violations?
- We welcome the ongoing dialogue of Oman with ILO in the framework of the tripartite programme "Decent Work Country Programme", especially on conditions of work of domestic employees. How does Oman plan to expand its efforts in the field of employment and working conditions for foreign workers?

SWEDEN

- Sweden welcomes efforts made in improving women's participation, particularly in education and the workforce, and recognizes the inherent challenges in combating discrimination in public life. How is the Government of Oman furthering these efforts with regards to reports of sexual harassment at the workplaces?

- Sweden notes that during the last round of UPR in 2011, Oman pledged to review the Law on Civil Associations. Has such a review been carried out, and if so, what was its outcome?
- Sweden appreciates the work of the National Human Rights Commission and the effort to work with human rights. However, the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights deemed it, in 2013, not fully in compliance with the Paris Principles on the basis of concerns about representation, mandates and the selection process. What has the Government of Oman done to reform NHRC so as to make it more compliant with the Paris Principles?
- Sweden notes that Oman voted in favour of the ILO Convention No. 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, but has yet to ratify it. Does Oman currently have any plans to ratify the convention?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What measures will Oman put in place to ensure the independence and autonomy of the National Human Rights Commission, in order to comply with the Paris Principles?
- How will Oman ensure the full engagement of civil society and NGOs with human rights review processes and consultations, to meet international standards on freedom of expression, assembly and association?
- Does Oman have plans to sign the Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol, which are consistent with the guarantees already enshrined in its Basic Law?
- What steps is Oman taking to continue its progress on women's rights and enact comprehensive legislation, in particular toward codifying the right of women to transfer nationality to children?
- Does Oman plan to implement a moratorium on the use of the death penalty?