

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOMALIA

CZECH REPUBLIC

- How does the Federal Government promote effective and equal participation of citizens in public affairs? Does it prepare any legislation regulating establishment and functioning of political parties?
- What measures has the Federal Government adopted to strengthen the freedom of speech and independence of media? How is ensured protection of journalists against threats, violence and harassment and responsibility of perpetrators, including any state security staff, for any such acts? How does the legislation prevent censorship? Does the Federal Government plan revision of the Media Act of September 2014 in this regard?
- What measures have been adopted to end enrolment of children in armed forces? Does the Federal Government consider ratification of the OP CRC AC?
- What measures is the Government preparing to implement the newly ratified CRC? Is the Federal Government preparing establishment of the obligatory birth registration of children?

GERMANY

- IDPs risk being forcibly evicted in Mogadishu and other cities. How will the Federal Government of Somalia stop forced evictions and what measures is it going to take order to ensure assistance to and protection of IDPs?
- Is the Federal Government of Somalia considering ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocol and the three additional protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
- Journalists are often victims of attacks and of mistreatment by the National Intelligence and Security Agency without fair process being adhered to. In this regard, Germany welcomes the recent dialogue efforts of Information Ministers with media representatives to better guarantee freedom of the press, to ensure review of draft media laws and to prevent unlawful threats, arrests and killings. What concrete measures is the Federal Government of Somalia going to take to tackle abuses of security forces towards journalists and to hold them accountable for the violations of the freedom of press? What concrete measures is the Federal Government of Somalia taking to ensure that new laws on the media across Somalia protect and promote free expression?

LIECHTENSTEIN

- Liechtenstein recognizes that, during the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review, Somalia accepted a recommendation to accede to the Rome Statute. What steps has Somalia taken to accede to the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?

MEXICO

- What measures have been taken to reduce marriage of minors, in particular to prohibit forced marriage of girls?
- Are there public efforts regarding the prevention of sexual violence against women and female genital mutilation?
- Is there a legal prohibition of death penalty, life imprisonment or corporal punishment in judicial sentences related to offences committed by children?

NETHERLANDS

➤ Women's rights

- Does the government of Somalia still intend to ratify the “Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa”, and ensure its implementation, as it promised to do in 2004 “within a year”?

➤ Female Genital Mutilation

- Given that FMG is prohibited by Article 15 of Somalia’s provisional constitution; given the technical assistance received on this issue, and given the repeated assurances of Minister Sahra Ali Samatar and her predecessor Minister Khadija Mohamed Dirie that a law on FGM “would soon be finalized”, can the Government of Somalia explain why the bill is not yet finalized and why the enactment of such a bill is not foreseen for 2016?

➤ Ratifying the Rome Statute

- Which concrete steps have been taken by the Somali Government since 2013 to further the ratification process of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and its related instruments, as Somalia is legally bound to do through its accession to the Cotonou Agreement in 2013?

➤ Piracy and the rule of law

- Which legal considerations led the Government of Somalia to release Mr. Garfanje a month after his arrest in August 2014, without trial, given that Mr. Garfanje is an

ascertained pirate leader whose activities have been well documented by the UN Security Council's Somalia & Eritrea Monitoring Group? How has his release contributed to the government's objectives of combating piracy and to strengthening the rule of law in Somalia?

NORWAY

- What specific steps has the Federal Government of Somalia taken to prevent assassinations, threats, harassment and intimidation of journalists, editors and human rights defenders? What independent investigations into such offenses has the government undertaken?
- What concrete steps has the Federal Government of Somalia taken to reduce gender inequality and realize its goal of increasing women's participation in elected and appointed bodies at all levels of government?
- What concrete steps has the Federal Government of Somalia taken to amend its penal code with provisions to prohibit the harmful practice of female genital mutilation in accordance with accepted UPR-recommendations from 2011 and the FGS Human Rights Action Plan?
- What steps has the Federal Government of Somalia taken to prevent torture, enforced disappearances and extra judicial killings, including in efforts to counter terrorism?
- Has the Federal Government of Somalia taken steps to ensure that any evictions of internally displaced persons communities residing in informal settlements are conducted in conformity with International Human Rights Law? What steps have been taken to provide protection to those groups against illegal use of force, sexual violations, rape, and lack of secure living environments?

SLOVENIA

- We note with regret that Somalia has failed to fulfil several of its reporting obligations under international human rights treaties. In this respect we note that Somalia's fifth report to the CERD is overdue since 1984. We note with interest that in its National Report Somalia's expressed its commitment to fulfil its reporting obligations and that it is currently working on initiating the reports. We would be interested to learn how the Government intends to address the technical and financial constraints that hinder Somalia from meeting its reporting obligations.
- We note Somalia's intention to ensure the participation of women and youth in the state formation process. What actions has the Government undertaken in this respect?

- What specific measures has the Government envisioned for better mainstreaming gender issues into the Somali justice sector?

SPAIN

- Somalia has developed a National Plan against the Recruitment of Children in the Army. In this regard, what specific measures have been taken until now?
- During UPR 2011, Somalia accepted to take measures to abide by international rules on human rights and International Humanitarian Law. However, violations of human rights law and International Humanitarian Law by the security forces remain. Have the Somalian authorities planned to reform or reorganize the National Police or the Army in order to strengthen respect for human rights and international humanitarian law and the fight against impunity?

SWEDEN

- Somalia has on several occasions (UPR 2011 and in 2014 following the HRW-report on sexual exploitation) voiced commitment to tackle the alarming levels of sexual violence in the country. What concrete steps have been taken so far, what are the next steps and how will Somalia ensure implementation of bills passed in parliament?
- What measures have been taken to follow up recommendations from the 2011 UPR process to issue clear public orders and take clear steps to ensure that its security forces (and militias under its purview) comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction and proportionality?
- How does the Federal Government of Somalia see NISA's role in arrests and detention of journalists and what measures could be put in place to provide an enabling environment where journalists can undertake their assignment without fear of arbitrary arrest, harassment or closing down of media outlets?
- Sweden notes that Somalia committed during its latest UPR in 2011 to implement a moratorium on the death penalty. What progress has been made by the government to create an enabling environment for dialogue on this issue as well as ensure improvement of the judicial process, including fair trial guarantees?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What action will the Federal Government of Somalia, including the Federal Parliament, take to ensure the swift passage of key legislation on the National Human Rights Commission and the Sexual Offences Bill?

- What tangible steps does the Federal Government of Somalia plan to take to implement the National Action Plan to End Sexual Violence in Conflict?
- What measures are the Federal Government of Somalia taking to ensure that targeted killings of journalists, including past incidences, are appropriately investigated and prosecuted?
- How does the Federal Government of Somalia intend to protect internally displaced persons from human rights violations and abuses, including forced eviction and sexual and gender based violence?
- Since Somalia supported the 2012 and 2014 UN General Assembly resolutions on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty and works towards its abolition, when does the Federal Government of Somalia intend to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Somalis and the international community look forward to the completion of Vision 2016, including an on-time 2016 electoral process. What is the status of electoral preparations, including in regards to securing an agreement on the electoral model?
- Somalia has made significant progress in regards to state formation. How is the government working to ensure inclusivity in the Middle Shabelle state formation process?
- Somalia has also continued to make progress on eliminating the unlawful use and recruitment of child soldiers, including through its efforts to screen for children. What additional action is the government taking to implement its action plan with the UN?
- The lack of rule of law and corruption negatively impact development in Somalia by diverting funding that could be used to improve the quality of life for Somali citizens. Have any officials been held accountable for corruption?
- The arbitrary eviction of persons, including IDPs in Mogadishu, remains deeply concerning. How is the government working to ensure that individuals are not arbitrarily evicted from their homes?
- What steps is parliament taking to establish the Human Rights Commission, which is mandated by the provisional constitution?
- How is the government taking action to address continuing concerns about fair trial guarantees and other protections in death penalty cases consistent with its international obligations?

- What is the government doing to protect the human rights of members of various religious faiths, including those Muslims who are not associated with Sunni Islam or who convert to another religion?