

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO QATAR (FIRST BATCH)

### **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- In light of amendments to its media law that will remove the threat of prosecution for many forms of freedom of expression, what plans does the Government of Qatar have to protect the freedom of expression for social media users, who can still be prosecuted under the cybercrime law?
- How is the Government of Qatar ensuring effective implementation of the domestic worker law, and does the Government have plans to extend their labour law to domestic workers?
- What legislation is, or will be, in place to ensure that members of vulnerable groups are not discriminated against on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief?
- As a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, what steps is the Qatari Government taking to ensure that there is an effective and efficient independent investigative body in place to investigate cases of alleged mistreatment made by people detained by government agencies, and for reporting such findings to the judiciary and any other investigative body?
- What measures is the Government taking to strengthen and enforce laws against perpetrators of domestic abuse, in particular to establish a legal framework which criminalises all gender-based violence, and guarantees and protects the rights of the victims?

### **PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF's**

- Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
- Has the State-under-review established a dedicated 'national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up' (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, *inter alia*, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

## SWEDEN

- What steps is the Government of the Qatar taking to address domestic violence among family members as well as with regards to domestic workers?
- What measures is the Government of the Qatar taking to ensure effective implementation of recent legislation aimed at abolishing the kafala sponsorship system?
- What measures is the Government of Qatar taking to ensure the rights of domestic workers are adequately protected and that employers comply with the 2017 law on domestic workers?

## URUGUAY

- Considering the recommendation made by Uruguay during the last UPR cycle, which was accepted by the Government of the State of Qatar, regarding the implementation of necessary measures for the adoption of a migration policy with a human rights perspective, Uruguay would like to know which steps had been taken.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- Qatari law requires internet service providers to block objectionable content upon request from judicial authorities. Internet providers also are obligated to maintain long-term electronic records and traffic data for the government. The government-regulated internet service providers restricts the expression of views via the internet and censors the internet for political, religious, and other content through a proxy server, which monitors and blocks websites, email, and chat rooms. **What steps will the Government of Qatar take to ensure that its cybercrime law and its practices related to it do not infringe on users' privacy, their exercise of freedom of expression, or their ability to access information? Can the government elaborate on how electronic records are used, housed, and protected?**
- Qatar has faced international scrutiny leading up to its hosting of the World Cup in 2022, in light of reports of dangerous working conditions and abuse of migrant laborers in the construction of World Cup facilities. **What steps is the Government of Qatar taking to ensure workers, including those working on World Cup related projects, are protected from abuse and have the right to freedom of association in order to address their grievances?**
- The ILO Governing Body will hold its second annual review of progress under the ILO program of technical cooperation in November 2019. The government of Qatar has a number of difficult issues that remain to be addressed. **When does Qatar intend to abolish the No Objection Certificate requirement for changing employers? When does Qatar intend to abolish the exit permit requirement for domestic workers?**

## **BELGIUM**

- What is the state of play concerning a new law regulating the status of domestic workers? Is the Government of Qatar considering to apply the Labour Law to this category of workers? Is the Government of Qatar considering ratifying ILO Convention No. 189 on Domestic Workers?
- Which measures have been taken to ensure that all cases of gender-based violence against women are thoroughly investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately sanctioned and victims obtain redress, including fair and adequate compensation, as recommended by the Committee against Torture? Will domestic violence and marital rape be introduced as specific offences in the Qatari Criminal Code, including appropriate sanctions?
- In January 2019, the CERD Committee recommended Qatar to revise the law to allow Qatari women to transmit their citizenship to their children without discrimination. What follow up will be given to this recommendation?
- Is the Government of Qatar considering reforming the sponsorship (Kafala) system in order to remove the requirement for foreign nationals to obtain the permission of their current employer before moving jobs or leaving the country?
- Is the government of Qatar considering to establishing a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and commute death sentences to prison sentences?

## **GERMANY**

- What is the timeframe under which Qatar intends to implement the remainder of the labor law reform package?
- How and when will Qatar implement the broadening of the labor law reform to include domestic workers?
- In which legal context will Qatar ensure that domestic workers can complain regarding violence, including sexual and other abuses, without fear of harassment and potentially pursue legal proceedings?
- How does Qatar aim to achieve gender equality, in particular regarding citizenship laws that do not allow women to automatically pass on their nationality to their children?