

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AUSTRIA (FIRST BATCH)

GERMANY

- Germany welcomes the intention of the Austrian Government to establish an independent agency responsible for investigating accusations of abuse by the police in an independent and systematic manner. What is the status in implementing this agency?
- International human rights obligations need to be respected at all times – also when implementing counter-terrorism policies. How will Austria ensure the full respect of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular with regard to freedom of religion and belief in this regard?

SWEDEN

- What safeguards are in place to ensure the independence of the legal counsel and the provision of effective legal remedy in light of the fact that the newly established Federal Agency for the Provision of Care and Support (*Bundesbetreuungsagentur, BBU*) is under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior?
- The incidence of femicide has increased (more than doubled) in Austria since the last reporting cycle (from 17 in 2015 to 49 in 2019) and a moderate comparative increase of domestic violence has been recorded since the start of the corona pandemic. *What preventive actions are taken to reduce the incidence of femicide and violence against women and girls?*
- Austria's anti-discrimination legislation is fragmented on a federal and regional level. *What steps does Austria take to follow recommendations made by international observers in this regard, including recommendations made by The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)?*

BELGIUM

- Is the government of Austria considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure?
- The COVID-19 pandemic increases the risk of gender-based violence. Is the government of Austria planning additional measures to address this risk?
- Which measures will the government of Austria take to address the CEDAW-Committee's concern regarding the gender pay gap?
- Is the government of Austria considering further steps to promote equal rights for LGBTI?

- Does the government of Austria intend revising school curricula to include mandatory and age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls and boys, including on responsible sexual behavior?

SLOVENIA

- What are the plans for the Austrian Government in the course of implementation of its program of 2020 – 2024 in respect of the rights of national minorities?