

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA (FIRST BATCH)

BELGIUM

- In 2006, South Africa signed the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture. Although South Africa accepted to ratify this Optional Protocol in the previous UPR cycle, this has still not happened. When is South Africa planning to ratify this Optional Protocol?
- We welcome the fact that South Africa has a standing invitation to all special procedures since 2003. In 2011, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance sent a visit request. This request is still outstanding. When is South Africa planning to accept this invitation and to facilitate a visit?
- Preventing and eliminating gender-based and domestic violence remain a serious challenge for South Africa. Although there is a Domestic Violence Act that provides a basis to tackle this issue, there seem to be problems with the implementation of this Act. How does South Africa intend to ensure the implementation of the key measures of this Act?
- Although many efforts have already been put forward to limit and prevent HIV infections and to improve the treatment of persons living with HIV, the rate of people dying from HIV-related causes remains high. Is South Africa working on the adoption and implementation of a sexual and reproductive health policy, as recently advised by the Human Rights Committee?

MEXICO

- What efforts have been taken to increase the registration of children in order to obtain official birth certificates? What measures have been adopted to improve the birth registry system? How is the universal registration of children guaranteed?
- What are the national strategies to prevent and combat domestic violence against women? Is gender based violence criminalized in national legislation? What are there mechanisms, policies or laws to punish the aggressors?
- What steps have been taken to legally prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity?

NETHERLANDS

- LGBTI

Which concrete steps has the government of South Africa taken to ensure the actual realisation of the rights concerning the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes of violence against individuals on the ground of their sexual orientation or gender identity?

- Protection of citizens against violent crimes

How does the government of South Africa ensure that the draft 'Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill' will not have implications on the right to freedom of speech as guaranteed in the South African Constitution?

- Gender Based Violence

Which concrete measures has the government of South Africa taken to put in place strong and effective mechanisms to protect woman and girls against gender based violence?

NORWAY

- In the last UPR hearing, South Africa accepted Norway's recommendation to take concrete measures to improve the protection of women against gender-based violence, and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. What has been done in this regard?
- What is the status of the Protection of State Information Bill, and has adjustments been made to ensure that it fully complies with international human rights law, particularly relating to the freedom of opinion and expression?
- Strong legal mechanisms against hate crimes are urgently needed in South Africa, yet the Hate Crime and Hate Speech Bill is still not ready for adoption despite years of preparations. Norway understands that challenges relating to the hate speech part of the bill is the main cause of the delay. Is South Africa considering separating the bill into one Hate Crimes Bill and one Hate Speech Bill, to ensure that a strong legal mechanism against hate crimes is speedily introduced?
- Most African countries have achieved substantial improvements in maternal mortality ratios, but South Africa seems to be experiencing an increasing number of deaths (108 per 100 000 in 1990, 138 per 100 000 in 2015). What can be done to improve South Africa's maternal mortality ratio?