

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MOROCCO (FIRST BATCH) – REV.1

GERMANY

- During the second UPR cycle in 2012, Morocco supported the German recommendation to revise the Press Act and abolish provisions that lead to a restriction of freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of religion and belief and take measures in order to allow for free, impartial and objective media. Germany welcomes the adoption in September 2016 of the new Press Code under which press-related offences are no longer subject to custodial penalties. We are, however disappointed and alarmed about the introduction of new provisions in the Criminal Code, namely in Article 267-5, establishing terms of imprisonment for acts perceived as being offensive to Islam or the monarchy or as posing a threat to the countries territorial integrity.

For this reason, Germany would like to know which concrete amendments the Government of Morocco is proposing to ensure that the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code are brought in line with Morocco's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular with regard to the freedoms of speech and opinion, and how does the Government ensure that the new legislation does not impede journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders, both male and female, to freely exercise their right to freedom of expression.

- Germany welcomes the important steps taken to combat torture and ill-treatment in police custody as well as the plans for a comprehensive reform of both the penal law and the penal system.

In this context, Germany would like to enquire about the current state of affairs of the reform of the penal law, in particular with regard to the death penalty, the age of criminal responsibility, and the penal system. What is the time line for the passing of new legislation and what does the government plan to implement the "Strategy 2016-2018 for the reform of the penal system"?

SLOVENIA

- What steps is Morocco taking to further address the issues which impede women's rights, including polygamy, women's access to legal guardianship, unequal inheritance, and access to land?
- Is Morocco considering withdrawing the remaining declarations and reservations to CEDAW?

SWEDEN

- Could the Government of Morocco please elaborate on when the new Authority for Gender Parity and Fighting All Forms of Discrimination will be operationalized?

- How will the Government of Morocco secure the full respect for freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of assembly and association for people who want to express their views on the situation of and in Western Sahara?
- What measures will the Government of Morocco take to tackle the problem of overcrowding in prisons and generally improve the prison conditions?

SWITZERLAND

- Le Maroc avait accepté la recommandation 129.6 de la Suisse de 2012 concernant la ratification du Statut de Rome de la Cour pénale internationale (CPI). Le Maroc est un Etat signataire du Statut depuis le 8 septembre 2000. Quelles sont les mesures prises et / ou envisagées par le Maroc pour mettre en œuvre la recommandation 129.6 de la Suisse ?
- Le Maroc connaît un moratoire de fait sur la question de la peine de mort depuis 1991. En tant que pays abolitionniste, la Suisse encourage le Maroc à prendre les mesures nécessaires afin d'abolir la peine de mort. Quelles sont les mesures envisagées par le Maroc en la matière ?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- When will the National Preventive Mechanism against torture be formally established?
- Can the Kingdom of Morocco provide an update on its new Law on Human Trafficking and how it is being enforced?
- What measures is the Kingdom of Morocco taking to prevent child marriage?
- How does the Kingdom of Morocco plan to address domestic child labour? Transitional five year period set by the Moroccan law on domestic labour allows recruiting minors aged 16-18 year old.
- What actions are being taken to reinforce freedom of expression and avoid the issuing of prison sentences to journalists?
- Could the Kingdom of Morocco provide an update on the civilian Gdim Izik trials of the Sahrawi activists, previously condemned by the Moroccan Military court?