

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ERITREA (FIRST BATCH)

ANGOLA

- Avec l'élection de l'Erythrée comme Membre du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme, comment les autorités nationales envisagent-elles d'augmenter la coopération avec les mécanismes chargés de la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme ?
- Depuis le dernier examen, quelles ont été les mesures mises en œuvre pour renforcer les capacités des fonctionnaires de justice et pour faciliter l'accès à la justice par la population ?
- Dans le cadre de la CEDEF, quelles sont les mesures que le gouvernement envisage d'adopter pour limiter les effets négatifs de la durée indéterminée du Service National sur l'exercice du droit des femmes et des filles, en particulier ?

GERMANY

- Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship on 9 July 2018. Since then, the Government of the State of Eritrea has acknowledged that the threat against the security and sovereignty of Eritrea impeding the implementation of the Constitution of 1997 has been eliminated. When and how does the Government of Eritrea plan to implement the constitution and hold free and fair national elections? Alternatively, how will the Government conclude the process of drafting a new constitution, as mentioned in Eritrea's mid-term report, in an inclusive and expeditious way?
- When does the Government of Eritrea envisage ending the practice of indefinite conscription for national service, now that the threat to national security and sovereignty has been eliminated?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- What plans does the Government of Eritrea have to reform the system of national service and how can the international community assist in this reform?
- When will the Government release names and details of detention of those held because of their adherence to a non-sanctioned religious group and allow access by the International Committee of the Red Cross?
- Will the Government consider a future amnesty or pardon for detained political activists, journalists, and religious leaders and practitioners?
- Will the Government consider the opportunity presented by the appointment of a new Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation, and seek to build a constructive and forward-looking relationship?

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? 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?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- The Government of Eritrea has detained a number of locally employed staff of the U.S. Embassy. When will the U.S. Government and the family members of those detained be allowed to visit them and when will they be released?
- The whereabouts of many detained Eritreans, including journalists and members of the 'G-15,' remain unknown. There are reports that some of these individuals have died. When will the Eritrean government inform families of the whereabouts, fate, and/or well-being of these political prisoners?
- There are reports of people imprisoned for their religious beliefs, including cases of some who have died while in custody. What will the Eritrean government do to ensure freedom of religious practice to people beyond the four officially recognized groups? What will Eritrea do to allow more religious organizations to participate in Eritrean society?
- Is the government willing to restore citizenship to Jehovah's Witnesses and give them national ID cards?
- According to people who have been incarcerated, prison conditions are harsh and pose risks to the lives of those detained. What steps will the government take to demonstrate that the treatment of prisoners and prison conditions comply with international human rights obligations and meet minimum international standards?
- Will the government meet with the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Eritrea over the next year, and will the government allow her to visit the country and build a dialogue and a mutual understanding on human rights issues?
- Given the recent peace agreement with Ethiopia and improved relations with its neighbours, is the government willing to implement previous UPR recommendations regarding its national service program, including defining options that take into account various religious beliefs to allow for conscientious objection and adhering to the national service proclamation's 18-month limit? Given the economic implications

of any changes to the national service program, is there any support Eritrea would require from the international community to make such a transition?

- Eritrea ratified a constitution in 1997 that mandates periodic elections and includes provisions protecting human rights such as the freedoms of expression, including for members of the press, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief, and provides for due process of law and an independent judiciary. Previous UPR recommendations have included that Eritrea hold democratic elections. Will the government create a roadmap to implement the constitution? What are Eritrea's plans to provide the public with the ability to participate in their government and shape Eritrea's future?
- There are currently no independent media outlets based in Eritrea. Will the government create a mechanism to license non-state media outlets and allow them to operate independently and without undue restrictions?

SWITZERLAND

- In May 2015, the Government of Eritrea declared its intention to elaborate a new constitution. What process for its elaboration and adoption is planned and what is the current status?
- Switzerland welcomes Eritrea's accession to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in September 2014. What implementation measures has the Eritrean Government taken and which measures is it planning to take in the near future in order to eliminate torture and other ill-treatment?
- The signing of the peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia in September 2018 marked an important milestone for lasting peace in the region. Are there any intentions from the Government of Eritrea to reform the armed forces or the national military service?

SWEDEN

- Given the positive developments on the Horn of Africa, including the peace agreement with Ethiopia and the re-established diplomatic relations with Somalia, what measures has the Government of the State of Eritrea taken, and what measures does it plan to take, to implement its national Constitution guaranteeing universally recognized human rights for all Eritrean citizens (accepted recommendation made by Ghana in the UPR 2014)?
- What measures has the Government of the State of Eritrea taken to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, opinion, conscience and religion or belief, as well as the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association (accepted recommendation made by France in the UPR 2014)?

- As laid down in the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/252, members elected to the Human Rights Council “shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights, and shall fully cooperate with the Council”. As an elected member of the Human Rights Council 2019-2021, how will the State of Eritrea do this in terms of cooperation with the Human Rights Council’s special procedures, including its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea?