

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO INDIA – ADDENDUM 1

ITALY

- As India announced its intention to take steps towards the ratification of the convention against torture, could you provide more information about this process?
- Does India intend to issue a standing invitation to special procedures in order to enhance its longstanding cooperation with the human rights machinery of the United Nations?
- According to human rights monitoring mechanism – particularly the Committee against racial discrimination – traditional practices and customs are still leading to discrimination against women, unprivileged classes and minorities. Could you elaborate on this issue, in particular on what are the main challenges and on what measures can be envisaged to eradicate this phenomenon?

SWEDEN

- The constitution of India stipulates a number of fundamental rights enjoyed by individuals. India has ratified and acceded to several instruments of international law relating to human rights. There are also instruments to which India is not party, notably the Convention against Torture, the Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and International Labour Organisation conventions 138 and 182 relating to child labour. In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, India indicated its intention to ratify the Convention against Torture. Could the government of India elaborate on its efforts to ratify this and other conventions instruments of international law relating to human rights?
- The constitution of India forbids discrimination of individuals. Provisions in the constitution and in other law provide special protection for members of vulnerable groups. Homosexual conduct, however, is prohibited by the Indian Penal Code. Civil society organisations have reported discrimination of homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual persons, both by agents of the state and on a general societal level. What measures is the government of India taking to ensure full equality before the law of all individuals regardless of their sexual orientation?

DENMARK

- In Indian law the basic rights of dalits are firmly inscribed. How will the Indian government ensure that the legislative rights of dalits are implemented?