

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SWITZERLAND

### **DENMARK**

- What is being done in Switzerland to prevent discrimination against foreigners?
- Which measures are being taken to secure equal pay between women and men?
- How is it secured that the ruling of the Supreme Court regarding the period of pre-trial detention is implemented?

### **GERMANY**

- Para. 29 of the OHCHR's compilation (A/HRC/WG.6/2/CHE/2), referring to concerns of CRC, and para. 24 of the summary of stakeholder's submissions (A/HRC/WG.6/2/CHE/3), referring to information provided by the NGO "Stop Suicide", point to the relatively high number of juvenile suicides in Switzerland. According to "Stop Suicide", « il n'existe en Suisse ni programme ni objectif fédéral de prévention de suicide ». What measures is the Swiss government taking at both federal and local level to address this problem ?

### **NETHERLANDS**

- The Netherlands highly appreciates the efforts by the Swiss government to increase the participation of women in the labour market. Although the number of women elected to government positions is still far from 50 percent, the participation level has steadily increased. The federal council has set a good example: for the first time in history three out of seven ministers are women. Increasing the participation level of women in the private sector seems more difficult. We welcome initiatives like the handbook "profession and family" for the SMI, published by the State Secretariat for Economy SECO. Is Switzerland considering other measures to improve the participation of women, including women from minority groups, in the labour market and address the still existing gender differences in remuneration ?
- The direct democracy in Switzerland is unparalleled in the world. The rights of co-determination that the Swiss people have are far-reaching and impressive. However, 20% of the population does not have the Swiss nationality and is therefore not entitled to vote. Does Switzerland consider this a potential problem and if so, does it see possibilities to increase the participation of minority groups in politics?

### **SWEDEN**

- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the UN Human Rights Committee, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees have presented criticism against

the treatment of foreigners residing in Switzerland. Civil society organisations have expressed concern that the Swiss Asylum Law as revised in 2007 may weaken the standing of asylum seekers, for example by allowing for simplified extradition of persons without valid identification documents. Could the government of Switzerland elaborate on how the revised asylum law is applied in accordance with its human rights obligations, including with regard to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, and on what measures it is otherwise taking to ensure the equal treatment of foreigners residing in Switzerland?

- In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the government of Switzerland listed a number of measures it has taken to promote the well-being of the child. Switzerland has prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools. In its concluding observations following its latest consideration in 2002 of Switzerland, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended Switzerland to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, holding that the continuing legality of such punishment in the context of the family contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child, an overall position it has reaffirmed in its general comment no. 8 (2006). What measures is the government of Switzerland taking to ensure the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation in accordance with the said Convention?

## **UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

- Could you please elaborate further on the role civil society played in the preparation of your national report for this process?
- Please could you tell us what Switzerland has done to address discrimination against women, including to address the under-representation of women in positions of responsibility in the public and private sectors and the salary gap between men and women? When does Switzerland plan to ratify OP-CEDAW and when does Switzerland plan to enact legislation on paid maternity leave?
- Does Switzerland accept the recommendation of the European Court of Human Rights to stop rejecting applications out of hand when an asylum-seeker is unable to produce identity papers within 48 hours? Could you tell us what steps Switzerland has taken to address concerns about inadequate facilities for housing asylum-seekers?
- Could you tell us what steps Switzerland has taken to improve collection of data and information on child abuse and/or neglect and the extent of sexual exploitation of children in particular vulnerable groups?
- Could you tell us what you plan to do to tackle the high number of suicides among adolescents in Switzerland?

- Are you content that the new law on lifelong detention for sex offenders or violent offenders does not contravene the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols?
- Could you tell us whether you plan to take steps to rule out discrimination on the grounds of disability, including to allow disabled children access to mainstream schools, protection for disabled people against discrimination in the workplace and to tackle the exclusion of some people with a mental disability from the naturalisation procedures in certain communes?
- Could you please elaborate on the existence of a national human rights institution in the Switzerland and if it is in full compliance with the Paris principles?