

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO AZERBAIJAN-Addendum

DENMARK

- Freedom of expression and access to information is a fundamental human right. In this light, how do you explain the ban on foreign radio stations? And do you plan to lift these restrictions in the near future?
- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion is a fundamental human right. Reports indicate continued cases of politically motivated prisoners, which is not acceptable. What steps will the government take to ensure freedom of thought, conscience and religion?
- Despite the Law “On Gender Equality” there seems to be grave problems of domestic violence, early marriages, abortion of female fetuses and under-representation of women in decision making. How will you ensure the equality of genders?

GERMANY

Torture and ill-treatment of detainees

- Germany is concerned by reports by CRC and the SR on torture as well as the Azerbaijan Committee against Torture that torture and ill-treatment by police forces in Azerbaijan remain widespread and prosecution of abusive officers is still inadequate, despite the fact that the government has invested in training police staff on human rights norms. Furthermore, the ratification of the OP-CAT, which Azerbaijan has pledged to conclude before the HRC membership elections in 2006, has been prepared, but has yet to take place. Does the Government of Azerbaijan intend to take further steps in order to prevent torture and ill-treatment by police officials, such as improved training of police staff, installing supervision and complaint mechanisms? Does the government of Azerbaijan envisage to make further efforts with the aim to investigate allegations of torture or ill-treatment in detention and to bring perpetrators to justice? When does AZE proceed with the ratification of the OP-CAT ?

LITHUANIA

- Lithuania would like to ask about the plans to establish as separate office of ombudsperson on mass media as was outlined in the pledges of Azerbaijan during the elections to the Human Rights Council.

SLOVENIA

Women’s rights

- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) expressed concern at the prevalence of violence against women

and urged Azerbaijan to speedily enact the draft law on domestic violence ensuring that it encompasses provision for the prosecution and punishment of offenders, adequate access to justice for victims and protection and rehabilitation measures. Could the Government of Azerbaijan indicate whether this recommendation will be implemented?

Rights of the child

- The Committee on the rights of the child (CRC) expressed concern that persons below 18 are often held in pre-trial detention for long periods and not always separately from adults. Furthermore they can be sentenced to detention for a period of up to 10 years: The CRC also noted that detention conditions are often poor, inadequate and overcrowded. With regard to these detention concerns CRC issued a number of recommendations namely that persons below 18 are only deprived of liberty as the last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, that they are separated from adults and that the Government of Azerbaijan bring detention conditions for persons below 18 into full conformity with international standards. We would like to ask whether there has been any follow up on these recommendations.

Conscientious objection to military service

- When does the Government of Azerbaijan plan to introduce legislation to give practical effect to the Constitutional provision allowing conscientious objection to military service?

International Human Rights protection instruments

- What is the current status of the ratification procedure of the OP-CAT, which the Government of Azerbaijan signed in 2005?
Is the Government of Azerbaijan considering to sign and ratify the Rome Statute on International Criminal Court?
