

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does the Russian Federation intend to accede and if so in which time frame to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- Has the government of the Russian Federation considered issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the HRC?
- There are some Special Procedures' requests for a visit that have not yet been agreed on. Could you elaborate on whether and in what time frame will these special procedures be allowed to visit the country?
- What measures are in place or being adopted in fight against corruption? How successful is prosecution of corruption cases?
- What measures are in place to protect freedom of expression and ensure protection of journalists?
- How is guaranteed freedom of peaceful assembly?
- What is the current situation of the judicial reform, how is ensured independence of judges and lawyers?
- What specific measures are available to protect the rights of children of detainees/prisoners and of children/juveniles alleged or convicted to have violated the law? Could you elaborate on implementation of provision allowing avoiding imprisonment of women with children under 14 years of age who have been sentenced to 5 years or less.
- What measures are in place to fight violence against women, in particular against domestic violence?
- How is ensured access to education of children with disabilities?

GEORGIA

Deportations

- Could you please elaborate on what steps/measures (both preventive and suppressive) the Russian Federation is taking to ensure efficient ban on discrimination of ethnic Georgians by the authorities, exacerbated particularly in 2006. In particular, with respect to the reports (NGOs and CERD) about the unlawful police conduct searches of Georgian nationals and businesses, police demands for listing of the names of Georgian students, identity checks and destruction of identity papers, detention in inhuman conditions and massive/collective deportations?

August 2008 and aftermath

- What specific measures had been taken by the Russian authorities to investigate alleged human rights violations against ethnic Georgian civilian population committed by the Russian Forces and/or South Ossetian separatist forces in the territories under Russian occupation and control?
- Independent international organizations report that the violation of the rights of remaining ethnic Georgian population continues in Gali District of Abkhazia, Akhagori District of South Ossetia as well as in the nearby Georgian villages in the said areas. What measures the Russian authorities have taken and are taking, to ensure that ethnic Georgians are not discriminated against in the territories under Russian occupation and control. In particular, to ensure that ethnic Georgians -
 - have access to education in their native language,
 - are not forced to receive Russian citizenship (passports) in order to be allowed to stay in their houses (in the territories under the control of the Russian Federation),
 - Have their freedom of movement and right to choose the place of residence fully guaranteed in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia and South Ossetia, Georgia.
- According to the reports of different international organizations, during Russian-Georgian war of August 2008 and afterwards the facts of torture and murder of Georgian war prisoners has been confirmed. Do Russian appropriate organs plan to investigate mentioned military crimes and punish executors as well as authors of these orders?
- At present, the total number of displaced persons from Abkhazia as well as from the Tskhinvali Region is more than 400 000 people (Georgians, Abkhazians, Russians, Armenians, Germans, Greeks, Estonians and others). What steps are undertaken by the Russian Federation in order to create conditions for the dignified return of these people to their places of permanent residence?
- Why is Russian side not guaranteeing property rights of the ethnic Georgians currently residing on the occupied territories of Georgia as well as those IDPs and refugees who were forced to leave their places of residence?

LATVIA

- According to the information by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 63 countries from different regions of the world have issued standing invitations to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Considering previous cooperation of the Russian Federation with special procedures mandate holders and despite 7 still pending requests by several Special Rapporteurs to visit the Russian Federation - would your country consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the future?

LIECHTENSTEIN

- In 2005 the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) expressed concern at the increasing number of street children and their vulnerability to all forms of abuse and exploitation, as well as the fact that these children do not have access to public health and education services. CRC was also concerned about the lack of a systematic and comprehensive strategy to address the situation and protect these children. What measures have been taken to address these concerns?
- In 2002 the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) expressed concern at the deteriorating situation of women in employment and that women are the overwhelming majority of workers in lower level and low-paying jobs in the various parts of the public sector. CEDAW was further concerned that women experience significant discrimination in the private sector, and that women constitute the majority of the long-term unemployed. The Committee urged the enactment of an equal employment opportunity law, prohibiting discrimination in hiring, promotion, employment conditions and dismissal, requiring equal pay for work of equal value and providing for effective enforcement procedures and remedies. How did the Russian Federation follow-up on these recommendations?

SWEDEN

- Reports by civil society organisations on the development over the past several years of the treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals in the Russian Federation give cause for concern. The European Convention on human rights, which the Russian Federation has ratified, offers protection of the rights of LGBT individuals, including the right to peaceful assembly and freedom from discrimination. Could the government of the Russian Federation elaborate on what measures it is taking to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of the human rights for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or identity?
- In its latest consideration of the Russian Federation in 2008, the Committee
- on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination expressed concern at discrimination of persons belonging to ethnic minorities and non-Russian citizens, including at

the “alarming increase in the incidence and severity of racially motivated violence” and at reports of “disproportionately frequent identity checks, arrests, detentions and harassment by the police and other law enforcement officers” of members of minorities. The Council of Europe and civil society organisations have also reported continued existence of xenophobia and other discrimination against members of minorities, including with regard to the right to education of minority children. Among the problems noted are segregation and insufficient resources. Could the government of the Russian Federation elaborate on its efforts to ensure full respect for rights of persons belonging to minorities including education of their children?

- Civil society organisations report large-scale incidence of violence against women in Russia. How is the government of the Russian Federation working to ensure women’s access to safe shelter and otherwise working to combat violence against women?
