

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SEYCHELLES – Add.1

CZECH REPUBLIC

- How does the Government of Seychelles combat a judicial inefficiency in the light of the newly adopted the Judiciary Strategic Plan for 2010-2014? What steps have been taken to ensure a fair trial? Is there any complain mechanism in place to review an abuse of power by police and judiciary?
- How does the Government of Seychelles implement its international human rights obligations regarding the media freedom if the law allows the minister of information technology to prohibit the broadcast of any material believed to be objectionable or against the national interest? The law also requires telecommunications companies to submit subscriber information to the Government. Moreover, the law provides restrictions "for protecting the reputation, rights, and freedoms of private lives of persons" and "in the interest of defense, public safety, public order, public morality, or public health." As a result, civil lawsuits could be filed to penalize journalists for alleged libel. What safeguards are in place to guarantee that such provisions will not be distorted for politically motivated persecution?
- How does the Government of Seychelles implement its international human rights obligations regarding equality and non-discrimination if the Section 151 of the Penal Code establishes, among others, sanctions for sexual activity “against the order of nature” that allows to criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex?

NORWAY

- How are you planning to include civil society more actively in policy making processes in the near future?
- In the review of the constitution it was recommended to set up an electoral commission. Can you please explain what your plans are for the set up of an electoral commission?
- Gender based violence remains a concern. How will the government address gender based violence and its underlying issues?
- Girls under the age of 20 account for approximately 14 % of all births. Does the government have any strategies in order to ensure that reproductive health education and contraceptives are readily available for girls, also without parental consent? Are there any programs encouraging teenage mothers to return to school after the delivery of their child?

SLOVENIA

- What are the Government’s plans regarding further ratifications of CED, OP-CEDAW, OP-CAT, OP-CRC and OP-CRPD?

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report.
- Please could you tell us what steps you intend to take to ensure there is freedom of expression in the media ahead of the Seychelles Presidential elections in May 2011, including ensuring that the Media Commission is fully independent?
- Please could you tell us what steps you intend to take to ensure the National Human Rights Commission operates in accordance with the Paris principles, and is fully independent, including addressing calls from civil society to be represented on the Commission?
- Following recommendations from the Seychelles Constitutional Review in 2008, we should be grateful if you could tell us what steps you are taking to amend relevant legislation to bring it in line with the Seychelles Constitution, including the Public Order Act of 1993 and the legal framework for civil society?
- Please could you tell us how you intend to ensure that proper investigations are carried out regarding alleged human rights violations by the police, and if there are plans to set up an independent police complaints commission?
- Please could you tell what plans you have to strengthen legislation on domestic violence and the training of police officers who deal with the issue?
- Could you share with us how the Government of Seychelles will manage the follow-up to the Universal Periodic Review, and who will be responsible for oversight of implementation, monitoring and reporting?