**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO CUBA**Generated on 14 Nov 2023 07:24

**BELGIUM**

* Is Cuba considering ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (189) and on Violence and Harassment (190)?
* Will Cuba extend invitations to the UN Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and about human rights defenders and facilitate their visits by the end of 2024?
* Will Cuba review its media, broadcasting, Internet and cybersecurity laws, such as the recently adopted Communications and Cybersecurity Act, to seek alignment with international freedom of expression standards? Which steps is Cuba taking to amend the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code with a view to ending detention on the basis of subjective, vague and imprecise criminal concepts, as recommended by the Committee against Torture?
* Which measures is Cuba taking to guarantee that discrimination on the grounds of political opinion or social origin in employment and occupation is prohibited?
* What steps is the government of Cuba taking to implement the Committee against Torture’s recommendations on gender-based violence, in particular to enact a comprehensive law on gender-based violence?

**CANADA**

* How can Cuba seek to ensure on-the-ground help for victims of gender-based violence and strengthen civil society groups supporting vulnerable women?

**GERMANY**

* When will Cuba ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?
* What concrete steps is Cuba undertaking or planning in order to ensure freedom of assembly, expression and the press as guaranteed by the Cuban constitution as well as to enhance the independence of the judiciary?
* What concrete steps is Cuba undertaking or planning in order to permit and foster the creation and activity of independent civil society organisations in Cuba?
* What practical measures is Cuba planning to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, in particular femicides, and ensure accountability for such crimes?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Cuba taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has Cuba taken to ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT)?
* What steps has Cuba taken to accept the individual complaints procedure under article 22 of the Convention against Torture?
* What steps has Cuba taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?
* What steps has Cuba taken to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has Cuba taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has Cuba taken to join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT)?

**PANAMA**

* Mucho apreciaríamos conocer si Cuba está considerando ratificar el Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos, y el Pacto Internacional de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales.
* Observamos que desde 2003 en Cuba existe una moratoria de facto sobre la imposición de la pena de muerte. Deseamos preguntar a Cuba si se está contemplando la posibilidad de abolir de jure la pena de muerte.
* ¿Qué iniciativas está impulsando Cuba para prevenir y abordar el embarazo en la adolescencia?

**PORTUGAL**

* Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs (National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up): Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs (National Mechanisms for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up): Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures are in place to combat ageism and eliminate age discrimination in all its forms, and to protect the human rights of older persons?
* We would be interested to learn more about what further measures are planned by Cuba to prevent domestic violence and to raise awareness among women, children and older persons?

**SWEDEN**

* Sweden notes the improvement of internet access for the Cuban population in recent years but is concerned by the systematic control and restrictions of the internet. Could the Government of Cuba elaborate on what measures are being taken to increase access to an open, free and safe internet in the country?
* Could the Government of Cuba elaborate on its plan for a law on the right to association and when it can be expected to be in place?
* What measures is the Government of Cuba taking to ensure the human rights of prisoners?

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

* What steps will the Government take to guarantee freedom of expression through any media and to ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and activists can express opinions freely and without fear?
* What steps is the Government taking to guarantee that internet access in practice gives effect to international regulations that protect the right to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas?
* How does the Government plan to safeguard freedom of association and ensure that civil society collectives can obtain legal status and receive domestic and international funding without risk of prosecution?
* What steps will the Government take to free individuals convicted on charges of “pre-criminal social dangerousness”, now that the offence has been removed in law?
* What are the Government’s plans to improve prison conditions and implement the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners?
* Given the Government’s moves away from the use of the death penalty, what plans are there to remove it from national legislation?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* We are concerned with the treatment of several political prisoners currently in detention. Can you provide an update on the health status of Maykel Castillo, Luis Manuel Otero Alcántara, José Daniel Ferrer Garcia, and Loreto Hernández García?
* What is Cuba doing to increase transparency of the contractual agreements signed with government-affiliated workers, including medical professionals? Why is Cuba punishing workers seeking to move freely by preventing them from returning to Cuba for eight years?
* We are concerned with by the rising number of cases of gender-based violence, including femicides, in Cuba and the lack of transparency and access to information surrounding this issue. Why does Cuba not release data about gender-based violence and why does it punish independent groups which monitor this issue
* We are concerned by continued reports of harassment, arbitrary fines, and discrimination faced by members of religious organizations awaiting registration from the Office of Religious Affairs. What is Cuba doing to establish transparent and publicly accessible requirements for registration of religious groups and to ensure that such measures are applied equitably and without discrimination?
* We have heard from various activists about challenges they face returning to Cuba. Why has Cuba denied reentry to Cuban citizens such as Anamely Ramos, Omara Ruiz Urquiola, Glenda Corella Cespedes?

**URUGUAY**

* Durante el tercer ciclo de examen, Uruguay recomendó a Cuba: “Continuar armonizando las leyes nacionales, incluida la justicia penal, con las disposiciones establecidas en la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño y sus Protocolos Facultativos”, lo cual fue aceptado por la delegación cubana. En tal sentido, ¿Qué medidas ha implementado el Estado para armonizar su marco legislativo nacional, incluyendo la justicia penal, con las disposiciones establecidas en la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño y sus Protocolos Facultativos?