**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SAUDI ARABIA**Generated on 19 Jan 2024 18:44

**ANGOLA**

* Since the last UPR cycle, could the Saudi authorities provide an update on initiatives undertaken to effectively reduce the number of stateless persons in the country, as well as measures to protect their rights?
* With regard to the right of the child, what mechanisms have been implemented with a view to monitoring violence against children?

**AUSTRALIA**

* Noting progress to date under Vision 2030, what legislative reforms are planned to ensure national laws are fully aligned with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and what is the timetable for full implementation?

**BELGIUM**

* Does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers? Does the government intend to review its reservations regarding the Convention of the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women?
* Would the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia consider issuing an invitation for an official country visit to the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders?
* Does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to review the cases of all prisoners currently sentenced to death, especially those under 18 at the time of their alleged offence, with the aim of commuting their sentences or retrying them in fair proceedings without recourse to the death penalty?
* Will the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia amend the Personal Status Law to completely abolish the male guardianship system and ensure that women have equal rights and responsibilities with regards to marriage, custody and guardianship of their children, access to divorce and inheritance?
* What steps is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia undertaking to ensure the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in line with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights? How does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia protect and safeguard the space for the exercise of this and other civil and political rights?

**GERMANY**

* Which legislation is the base of the travel bans that have been imposed on persons convicted by the Specialized Criminal Court upon completion of their prison sentences? Does Saudi Arabia intend to review this legislation with a view to lifting these travel bans?
* In light of reports of persons having been sentenced to death or to jail time for resisting their relocation in the context of NEOM, could the government of Saudi Arabia elaborate on the compensation that was offered in return for the expropriations?
* Could the government of Saudi Arabia provide any further update on the status of the investigation undertaken by the Saudi government regarding the alleged killing of migrants at the Saudi-Yemeni border?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Saudi Arabia taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has Saudi Arabia taken to ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT)?
* What steps has Saudi Arabia taken to accept the individual complaints procedure under article 22 of the Convention against Torture?
* What steps has Saudi Arabia taken to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols?
* What steps has Saudi Arabia taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?
* What steps has Saudi Arabia taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?

**PORTUGAL**

* PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs • 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 • 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?

**SPAIN**

* What measures does the Government consider taking to fight against tortures and arbitrary detentions?
* Does the Saudi Government consider implementing any measures to put an end to discriminatory and harmful practices towards LGTBI people?
* What measures does the Government plan on taking to protect human rights defenders and ensure they can operate freely?

**SWEDEN**

* As previously brought up by the European Union, when will the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?
* How will Saudi Arabia work to improve the respect for freedom of expression and the safety of journalists as well as individuals active on social media in light of ongoing judicial reforms, including the new Penal Code?
* In light of the announced legal reforms as regards labour law, and more specifically the rights of foreign labour and reforms of the so-called ‘kafala system’, an update on the current state of affairs would be appreciated.

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

* How does the government of Saudi Arabia plan to ensure that women are granted equal rights within marriage and address aspects within existing legislation (including the personal status law), such as the expectation for women to 'obey in a good manner'?
* What steps will the government of Saudi Arabia take to ensure that any violations of the Labour Law, including the new Regulations for Domestic Workers, are thoroughly investigated? Will the government provide support for victims of such violations whilst ensuring accountability for perpetrators?
* Will the government of Saudi Arabia publish the details of their investigation and remedial steps taken in relation to migrant deaths at the Saudi/Yemen border?
* Will the government of Saudi Arabia commit to transparently investigate all allegations of confessions extracted under torture, and ensure that judicial due diligence is taken to consider such allegations during trial proceedings?
* How will the government of Saudi Arabia ensure that the upcoming Penal Code for Discretionary Sanctions adheres to international standards of criminal prosecution? What measures will be taken to ensure that the Penal Code enhances the degree of predictability, consistency and transparency of public prosecution in the Kingdom?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* Saudi Arabia engages in the intimidation of critics living outside of Saudi Arabia, including in the United States, by such means as: cyber surveillance, harassment, and detention of dissidents’ relatives living in Saudi Arabia; abduction or repatriation of dissidents; attempted misuse of INTERPOL and the Arab Interior Ministers Council to seek the arrest and repatriation of critics and dissidents; and even killings. What is Saudi Arabia doing to end these practices of transnational repression?
* Saudi courts are reportedly using the death penalty against child defendants and against other inmates who have been charged with offenses that do not meet the most serious crimes threshold. Will Saudi Arabia cease such practices and commute the previously issued death sentences of individuals in these groups to sentences other than the death penalty?
* Consensual same-sex sexual conduct continues to be punishable by death or flogging. Will Saudi Arabia repeal laws that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct?
* NGOs report serious government restrictions on domestic and international civil society organizations (CSOs) that promote human rights, including the ban under the Law on Associations. Is Saudi Arabia considering amending the Law on Associations to allow the formation of independent CSOs and allowing international CSOs and international organizations access to Saudi Arabia to monitor human rights abuses?
* NGOs report that the Disobedience Law is used by husbands to punish their wives for defiance and by parents or other relatives to punish their adult children (both men and women) for exercising their freedom of expression. What is Saudi Arabia doing to amend or repeal the disobedience law?
* Thousands of members of the Huwaitat tribe have been evicted for the construction of Neom. Will Saudi Arabia commit to releasing all those unjustly arrested for peacefully criticizing their eviction and hold inclusive public consultations on all development plans to ensure that the rights and needs of all stakeholders – especially marginalized persons – are addressed?
* Saudi security forces have reportedly killed, wounded, and committed sexual violence and other abuses against Ethiopian and other migrants seeking to enter Saudi Arabia across the border from Yemen. What investigations has Saudi Arabia conducted into these very serious allegations, what steps has the government taken to ensure that abuses do not continue, and what accountability measures have been taken for any abuses or violations by Saudi security forces?