

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GEORGIA ADD.1**

### **BELGIUM**

- Is Georgia considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol on Children and Armed Conflict to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its optional protocol?
- Which initiatives have already been carried out in order to tackle judicial corruption and to ensure the independence of the judiciary? Which additional policies are to be implemented?
- Is the Government of Georgia intending to increase the resources of the Child's Rights Centre of the Office of the Public Defender?
- Which initiatives is the Government going to take to introduce gender mainstreaming in public institutions, policies and programmes?
- Which steps have been taken by Georgia to submit its report on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, both overdue since 2007?
- How is the Government intending to address concerns by the Human Rights Committee and the Special Rapporteur on Torture about the continuing use of excessive force and torture by police and prison officials?
- Is Georgia considering reinstating the minimum age for criminal responsibility at 14 years, as it has been urged to do by the Committee on the Rights of the Child?
- Which steps have been taken to ensure equal enjoyment of the right of freedom of religion or belief?
- How is the Government going to address the vulnerability of specific risk groups concerning HIV-AIDS, like migrants, sex workers and men who have sex with men?
- How is the Government ensuring proper knowledge of ethnic minority languages?
- Which steps have been taken by the government to establish a special property resolution mechanism for displaced persons as has been recommended by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons?

### **NORWAY**

- What concrete steps are being taken to address transparency of media ownership and sources of funding in Georgia? How is the Government

planning to involve the civil society and the wider public in shaping and implementing policies and regulations aimed at addressing these issues?

- Concerns have been raised by several actors, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, about overcrowding of prisons and prisoners access to health care. Is the Government of Georgia working to resolve these issues? If so, what steps are being planned and when will their implementation start?
- Reports from civil society refer to indirect and direct discrimination of religious minorities in Georgia. This particularly pertains to issues such as registration and property rights, but also regarding military service. How does the Government of Georgia intend to alleviate these concerns?
- What steps is the Government of Georgia planning to take in order to combat domestic violence?
- What steps will the Government of Georgia take to further acceptance and inclusion of sexual minorities in society?

## **SLOVENIA**

- Which further measures could the government undertake in order to raise higher school attendance among Roma children?
- How does the government envisage that anti-discrimination provisions established in Georgian legislation would cover all vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities, minority and internally displaced children?
- How does the government reconcile appropriate security measures with the freedom of expression?

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

- To what extent was civil society consulted and involved in the preparation of your national report?
- Could you please explain what steps have been taken against groups that interfere with the performance of worship, following credible reports of houses of worship being blockaded by nationalist groups?
- What steps are being taken to address shortcomings identified by ODIHR and other international organisations following the May 2010 local elections, particularly those relating to access to the media, the use of state resources for political purposes; and recurring problems in the minority areas such as a lack of access to election-related material in minority languages and under-representation on the district election committees and party proportional lists?

- Could you explain how the draft law on media transparency is intended to operate and elaborate on the role and powers of the proposed regulatory body?
- What measures are being taken to ensure that the economic, social and cultural rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are fully protected?
- Could you please explain what steps the Government plans to take in order to address prison overcrowding?
- How does the Government intend to respond to the recent Georgian Public Defender's Report on "Rights of Persons with Disabilities in State Resident Care Institutions", and in particular, the way in which children are cared for?
- Could you tell us how the Government intends to manage the follow-up to the Universal Periodic Review, who will be responsible for the oversight of implementation, monitoring and reporting, and how you intend to involve civil society in the follow up?