

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO GAMBIA- ADD.2

### NETHERLANDS

- Could the government of The Gambia explain the appointment and removal from office of judges without consultation with the Judicial Service? Could the government indicate how it will continue to guarantee the separation of powers and the independent judiciary?
- Does the Government recognise that the exemption of the laws concerning marriage, divorce and inheritance from the general prohibition of 'discrimination on the basis of gender' is potentially inconsistent with sections 27, 28 and 33 – safeguarding equality and non-discrimination - of the same constitution and the obligations under international treaties? To what extent is the government willing to harmonize the existing laws in order to protect women's rights?
- There are international concerns about the freedom of expression in Gambia. What measures is the government taking to improve the situation, i.e to guarantee that journalists may freely carry out their work?
- In accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights what measures will the government take to decriminalize homosexuality and to make a distinction between paedophilia and homosexuality?
- Is the government taking measures to investigate and bring persons to justice who hold people which are considered 'witches' in detention like conditions?
- Could the government clarify whether measures have been undertaken to guarantee the operating of the National Intelligence Agency according to international human rights norms, and if so, which?

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