

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO QATAR – ADD.1

ARGENTINA

- El Comité de los Derechos del Niño expresó su preocupación ante la situación de vulnerabilidad de los trabajadores migrantes y sus familias. La Argentina querría preguntar que medidas esta tomando el gobierno con el fin de proteger a los migrantes, especialmente a los niños migrantes, quienes suelen encontrarse en una situación de mayor fragilidad.
- Diversos informes (CAT, ILO, CEDAW) dan cuenta de la persistencia de la violencia contra la mujer, incluida la trata de mujeres con fines de explotación sexual. Al respecto la Argentina desea preguntar que avances se han realizado para prevenir, combatir y sancionar estos delitos. Asimismo, la Argentina desea preguntar qué avances se han llevado a cabo en materia de participación política e igualdad de condiciones en el mercado laboral.

[Informal translation provided by Argentina]

- The Committee on the Rights of the Child has expressed its concern about the vulnerability of migrant workers and their families. Argentina would like to ask what measures the government is taking in order to protect migrants, especially migrant children, who often find themselves in a situation of greater fragility.
- Several reports (CAT, ILO, CEDAW) account persistence of violence against women, including trafficking in women for sexual exploitation. In this regard Argentina would like to ask what progress has been made in order to prevent, combat and punish these crimes. Argentina also would like to ask what progress has been registered with regard to the political participation and equality of conditions in the labor market.

CZECH REPUBLIC

- Does Qatar consider issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council?
- Does the Government of Qatar intend to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment(OP-CAT), Optional Protocols to the ICCPR, and to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol?
- How is ensured on national level protection of the rights of the child, in particular in relation to vulnerable groups, e.g. children asylum seekers, children of persons in detention or of prisoners, especially young babies of women in prisons? What specific measures are being adopted to eliminate any

discrimination against for instance children with disabilities, children born out of wedlock and children of migrant workers?

- How is ensured full protection of rights of the child with regard to juvenile justice?
 - Does Qatar consider raising the age of criminal responsibility in accordance with the CRC?
 - What human rights education and training programmes are provided to police, prison and detention staff and all professionals working in the juvenile justice system?
- How is ensured implementation of art 1 of the CAT – use of the comprehensive definition of torture and punishability of all acts of torture as a crime in national criminal law?
- How is ensured on national level non-discrimination of women? What strategy does the Government of Qatar implement to fight domestic violence against women and children? Does the Government use e.g. awareness-raising campaigns on this topic and what tools are available to victims?

GERMANY

- The Qatari Foundations to combat human trafficking and to protect women and children are appreciated and their work is observed with interest. However, deep concerns have been expressed by Amnesty International about the situation of migrant workers in Qatar. Most prominently female and domestic workers are reported to be at risk to humiliating and degrading treatment or physical and verbal abuses by employers as well as authorities. In this regard especially the precarious legal status of migrant workers may refered to be alarming (para. 37 of the OHCHR stakeholders summary A/HRC/WG.6/7/QAT/3 referencing AI, p. 4).Germany would like to know what measures the Government of Qatar has taken to improve the legal status of migrant workers in the country?
- The summary of stakeholders submissions refers to reports by civil society stakeholder Al Karama, that Qatari anti-terrorism measures have led to an extensive restrictions, prohibitions and punishmentd of legitimate human rights, already prior to the terrorist attacks of 19 March 2005. There are concerns about the implications that the subsequent broad and vague definition of terrorism may have on the rights of free speech, or the freedom of assembly and of association and even the individual's personal freedom (para. 39 of the OHCHR stakeholders summary A/HRC/WG.6/7/QAT/3 referencing Al Karama, p. 2 and 3).Germany would like to know how Qatar is addressing such concerns?

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NETHERANDS

- To what extent is Qatar undertaking any concrete steps to encourage the active and independent participation of civil society in the democratization process in the country?
- Under the new sponsorship law legal measures have been taken by Qatar to facilitate the procedure to obtain exit permits to leave the country. Is there any intention to abolish this requirement completely in the near future?
- Through bilateral agreements with some other countries, minimum wages have been set up for nationals of these countries. How is the enforcement of payment of such wages monitored, and will a system be put in place to determine a minimum wage for all migrant workers, regardless of nationality?
- Qatar has put in place strategies to deal with the issue of domestic violence via the Supreme Council for Family Affairs. Does this include female domestic workers and other female members of the expatriate community?
- 5. Senior governmental positions are almost exclusively occupied by male Qatari's. In view of the fact that many Qatari women are now getting higher education, how will Qatar improve the representation of women in this domain and guarantee equal opportunities for women?
- Qatar has ratified a number of conventions like CRC, CERD and CAT. Although Qatar has also ratified CEDAW it still holds 6 reservations on important matters for women's equality, including the right for a child to derive Qatari nationality from a Qatari woman married to a foreign man (see reservation on Article 9/2). Given the social, economic and human implications that it has on such a family, will this reservation be lifted?
