

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO KYRGYZSTAN – ADD.1

### NETHERLANDS

- **Media**

In 2009, there were reports of murder and physical harassment of journalists, blocking of websites and the closure of media-outlets in Kyrgyzstan. How does the interim Government intend to protect the freedom of the media and which measures does the interim Government intend to take to ensure the security of reporters?

- **Torture**

The human rights NGO Memorial and a public commission set up by the ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan investigated allegations of torture in the handling of the 2008 Nookat events. In the light of these allegations, would the interim Government be willing to review the sentences handed down in these cases? Could the interim Government inform us whether those convicted after the event are still serving their sentence?

- **Rule of Law**

The UN Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers raised concerns on the independence of judges in 2005. What measures have been taken since, so as to promote their independence?

- **Democracy**

Which measures does the interim Government intend to take to ensure free and fair elections in five months? Will both presidential and parliamentary elections take place?

- **Freedom of Religion**

The Netherlands received allegations that the religion law that was adopted in 2009 places restrictions on the freedom of religion. Would the interim Government be prepared to review this legislation? Would the interim Government consider evaluating the work of the State Agency for Religious Affairs, which was reportedly responsible for harassment during religious services?

- **Rights of minorities**

In the wake of the events of 7 April 2010, different minority groups have been targeted by looters. How does the interim Government protect the rights of minorities and prevent discrimination against them?

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