

## **ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ZIMBABWE**

### **2<sup>ND</sup> BATCH**

#### **BELGIUM**

- Is the Government of Zimbabwe considering issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures and responding positively to the outstanding requests of special rapporteurs to visit the country?
- During its last UPR, the Government of Zimbabwe has accepted recommendations to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. What is the status of the ratification process?
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed concern regarding forced and early marriage. What concrete steps is the Government of Zimbabwe taking to eliminate this practice?
- Belgium welcomes recent efforts to improve access to land, property and credit facilities for women. What concrete steps is Zimbabwe taking to strengthen and effectively implement these measures, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women?
- What concrete measures is the Government of Zimbabwe taking to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and unmarried adolescents, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child?

#### **CZECHIA**

- Is the Government considering ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)? Does the Government consider becoming a state party to the Convention against Torture? What steps have been taken in this regard since the first UPR when Zimbabwe committed itself to the ratification of these instruments? Does the Government consider ratifying the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR? Does the Government consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and allowing visits of the special procedures already requested?
- How is ensured effective and impartial investigation and prosecution of all cases of harassment of and attacks against civil society activists and human rights defenders, including enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests? What measures are being adopted or prepared to ensure that civil society organizations, including those defending human rights, can work freely?
- How is ensured the compliance of the national legislation with the international obligations of Zimbabwe and with the country's Constitution in particular with regard to freedoms of association, assembly and expression and of the media?
- What measures does the Government adopt to eliminate discrimination, stigmatization and violence against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity and to promote tolerance and raise awareness in this regard?
- What measures have been adopted to review national legislation and to fight customary and religious norms which discriminate against women?
- What measures have been adopted or are being prepared to implement recommendations of the African Union and SADC from its 2013 observation of the harmonized elections in the

Republic of Zimbabwe in order to strengthen its election procedures (e.g., with regard to logistical challenges, the availability of the final Voters Roll to stakeholders within reasonable time, the excessive number of printed ballot papers, the fair and equitable coverage of electoral issues by the mass media, the need for the election date to be provided for in the law in order to avoid disputes relating to its determination as well as an establishment of mechanisms for allowing Zimbabweans living abroad to vote)?

## **NORWAY**

- What steps is the Government of Zimbabwe taking to ensure an environment where freedom of expression is respected? How will it ensure that upcoming legislation, for instance the Computer and Cyber Crime Bill, does not limit citizens' rights to engage in free and private exchange of information on social media platforms like WhatsApp?
- What is the Government of Zimbabwe doing to ensure free and unrestricted assembly, and to cease arrests, harassment and detention of individuals with dissenting views as well as to implement the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders?
- What steps has Zimbabwe taken since the last UPR round in 2011 to review and update the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and Private Voluntary Organisations Act (PVOA), which are often invoked when Human Rights Defenders are targeted by the state security apparatus, to be in line with international standards?
- What is the Government of Zimbabwe doing to ensure that the governing party does not utilize state resources in order to win the 2018 General Elections, for instance by preventing that distribution of humanitarian aid is used for party-political gain?

## **SLOVENIA**

- How is the Government addressing a very high child abuse rate and the difficulties the victims face in accessing child friendly services?
- In what way is the Government tackling the ever increasing problem of a 15% prevalence rate of HIV among the population with 69.000 new infections per year, the majority of which occur among girls aged between 15 - 24 and what is the role of the newly established National AIDS Trust Fund in the area of prevention?
- How is the Government implementing its commitment to the preservation of equal rights and principles of equality and non-discrimination guaranteed by the Constitution in the area of sexual orientation and gender identity?