**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (SECOND BATCH)**

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of the United Arab Emirates considering to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict as well as the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers ((n° 189)?
* During a previous UPR, the United Arab Emirates accepted the recommendation to cooperate with the special procedures and to accept visits currently pending by the special rapporteurs. Is the United Arab Emirates considering to accept requests currently pending by Special Rapporteurs to visit the country?
* As a strong opponent of the death penalty, Belgium commends the United Arab Emirates on the current moratorium on executions. How will the United Arab Emirates ensure access to a duly qualified legal counsel for all individuals facing a death sentence and those on death row? Is the United Arab Emirates considering ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
* Given its sizeable native-born stateless population, does the United Arab Emirates intend to establish a fair and transparent process based on objective, verifiable criteria, for stateless persons in the United Arab Emirates to apply for UAE nationality? Does the United Arab Emirates intend to ensure that stateless persons can access education and healthcare on equal terms with UAE nationals, without discrimination?
* How does the United Arab Emirates intend to ensure that human rights defenders, including those sharing information with United Nations human rights mechanisms, are able to work safely and effectively in the country?

**GERMANY**

* What does the Government of the UAE do to improve the housing conditions of migrant workers, and which conclusions does it draw from experiences made during the Covid pandemic?
* Are there any plans to increasingly naturalize the so-called Bidoon and their descendants?
* On which legal basis do the UAE prevent independent observers or even close family members to watch proceedings at the country’s criminal courts, although access is granted by the UAE Criminal Procedure Law?
* Which steps will the UAE Government take to increase confidence in its criminal justice system and the security forces so that foreign female victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse and harassment do not primarily need to seek protection of their respective embassies any more?

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* What steps has the UAE taken since 2018 to criminalize spousal rape, and to reform other laws and regulations to combat gender-based violence, including domestic and intimate partner violence and violence against children?
* What measures has the UAE taken since 2018 to remove obstacles and restrictions to freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, and to guarantee protection for the exercise of these rights?
* Has the UAE considered early release for human rights defenders who have been convicted under the cybercrime law in order to demonstrate its commitment to respect for international human rights?
* What steps has the UAE taken since 2018 to ensure all individuals charged with a crime are provided a fair trial, that information obtained by torture is not used as evidence in criminal proceedings, that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are thoroughly and transparently investigated, that any individuals responsible are prosecuted, and that victims are guaranteed access to justice without retaliation? What steps has the UAE government taken since 2018 to ensure that any use of solitary confinement is consistent with UAE’s international obligations and commitments?
* What measures has the UAE taken since 2018 to eliminate forced labor conditions among migrant workers, and to protect victims of sex and labor trafficking?
* Recognizing the UAE’s steps to establish a national human rights institution (NHRI), how is the UAE supporting the NHRI’s work to develop mechanisms to receive and consider individual complaints about abuses and violations of human rights?