**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ALBANIA**Generated on 02 Nov 2024 19:19

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Albania considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (No. 189)?
* Belgium congratulates Albania with the adoption of the Justice for Children Strategy 2022-2026. What measures will Albania take to ensure that all cases of violence against children are investigated, perpetrators are brought to justice, court decisions are fully implemented and victims receive redress and access to legal assistance, medical care and psychological support?
* Notwithstanding the progress that Albania has made in relation to gender equality and women’s rights, gender-based violence remains a serious issue. What measure is Albania taking to encourage reporting of domestic violence against women and girls, and protect women from reprisals for reporting incidents, and improve support for survivors in terms of access to healthcare services and long-term shelters with a view to their physical safety?
* Does the government of Albania intend to amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a clear and comprehensive definition of rape based on a lack of consent as well as to criminalize femicide?
* What concrete measures has the government taken to promote and protect independent media? Will it implement measures to address and prevent intimidation and harassment of journalists, especially women journalists, to hold perpetrators accountable and to provide protection when necessary?

**CANADA**

* What steps is Albania taking to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?

**COSTA RICA**

* Joint submission on behalf of Costa Rica, the Maldives and Slovenia, as members part of the core group of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment:
  What progress has your country achieved in the national, regional or international implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment?
  In this regard, could you provide some examples related to clean air, a safe climate, healthy and sustainably produced food, access to safe water and adequate sanitation, non-toxic environments in which to live, work, and play, healthy ecosystems and healthy biodiversity, or any other areas?
* Do you have specific guidance for policy- and decision-makers about asylum claims for conscientious objectors to military service?
  If you have such a policy, have you reviewed it to ensure that it is compatible with the current international human rights and refugee law standards, including UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection No. 10: Claims to Refugee Status related to Military Service within the context of Article 1A (2) of the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees?

**GERMANY**

* What measures can be taken to further improve the accessibility of support services for victims of domestic violence, in particular women and girls, and the participation of the health sector in the detection of cases of domestic violence?
* Which further measures can be taken to ensure equal treatment of persons belonging to minorities, especially Roma and Egyptians, in the housing and labour markets?
* Which measures can be taken to promote the attendance of children from minorities to compulsory education and to combat the problem of de-facto school segregation?
* Which measures can be taken to further safeguard the freedom of expression and to promote media plurality and independent reporting?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Albania taken to ratify the Kampala Amendment to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression?

**PANAMA**

* What policies are put in place by Albania to prevent and address adolescent pregnancy, as well as to enable adolescent mothers to return to school after pregnancy?
* What measures are being implemented by Albania to protect women and children in the digital environment, especially against cyberviolence?
* What steps have been taken by Albania to decrease the gender pay gap?

**PORTUGAL**

* PORTUGAL on behalf on the Group of Friends on NMIRF’s: Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs: Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures are in place to combat ageism and eliminate age discrimination in all its forms, and to protect the human rights of older persons?

**SPAIN**

* Various human rights organizations have expressed concern about the judicial restructuring that reduced the number of courts in Albania from 34 to 16, which could make access to justice more expensive and difficult. Which measures does the Albanian government plan to take to avoid these possible consequences and ensure equal access to justice?
* The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have expressed concern about the persistence of child marriage, especially in the Romani and Egyptian communities in the Balkans. Does the Albanian government consider eliminating all exceptions that allow marriage under the age of 18?
* Over the past few years, professional journalists have been subjected to hate speech, physical assaults, and a gun attack. Does the Albanian government consider any measures to protect these professionals and safeguard freedom of expression?

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

* How is the government ensuring the protection of journalists and the media from undue interference and harassment?
* Will the government increase the capacities of the authorities to ensure full implementation of the Action Plan on LGBTI+ Persons (2021–2027)?
* What is the government doing to reduce the backlog of court cases and length of legal proceedings and protect the right to timely access to justice?
* What steps is the government taking to intensify measures for the identification of potential victims of trafficking, including through migration screening, and promptly investigate, prosecute and adequately sentence those responsible for trafficking?
* What steps is the government taking to address and prevent corruption at all levels and strengthen institutional capacities to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute cases of corruption?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* The United States recognizes that trafficking in persons remains a significant challenge in Albania. What steps is the government taking to ensure perpetrators of trafficking in persons are appropriately investigated and prosecuted? What additional steps is the government taking to ensure the protection of survivors of human trafficking?
* Noting concerns raised by Albania’s Office of the Ombudsman, the Albanian Helsinki Commission, and others, how is the government working to address reports of overcrowding and poor physical conditions in its prisons and detention facilities?
* We applaud Albania’s demonstrated commitment to addressing high-level crime, corruption, and discriminatory police practices in the country. What are the most significant challenges to progress in this area?
* How is Albania ensuring the implementation and enforcement of existing laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity? What further steps are planned to ensure LGBTQI+ persons are not experiencing discrimination and can enjoy the legal protections of marriage?
* What steps is Albania taking in furtherance of the government’s commitments to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and to increasing accessibility?