**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO BHUTAN**Generated on 06 Nov 2024 14:17

**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**

* In the last two UPR cycles Bhutan accepted the recommendation to better the protection of women from domestic violence. Which policies have been taken to achieve progress in this area?
* Which measures does Bhutan intend to take in order to allow registration of minority non-governmental organizations and what would support Bhutan to make progress here?
* How does Bhutan ensure that legislation leading to long-term prison sentences comply with international human rights standards, such as the right of fair trial, and does Bhutan allow independent monitoring of prison conditions?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Bhutan taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has Bhutan taken to ratify International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its Optional Protocols?
* What steps has Bhutan taken to ratify the Convention against Torture (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CAT)?
* What steps has Bhutan taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?
* What steps has Bhutan taken to ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, both supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?

**PANAMA**

* What policies are put in place by Bhutan to prevent and address adolescent pregnancy, as well as to enable adolescent mothers to return to school after pregnancy?
* Is Bhutan considering ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?

**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**

* According to the National Commission for Women and Children in Bhutan, 70% of rape cases reported in 2020 involved children. The victims knew 62% of the perpetrators, and 16% of those offenders were blood relatives. Which measures is the Government planning to carry out to lower sexual violence against children and eradicate child marriage?
* Bhutan’s ranking in the World Press Freedom Index dropped from 33rd to 90th in 2023, and plummeted down to 147th in 2024. How are the increasing restrictions on press freedom affecting the work and security of human rights defenders in Bhutan, and which efforts will the Government undertake to protect these individuals?
* What steps is the Government of Bhutan taking to guarantee the respect for the voting rights for the Nepali-speaking minorities? Furthermore, are there any legal frameworks or amendments currently being considered to bolster the inclusion of the Lhotshampa people in the political process?
* As of 2023, Bhutan successfully achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education in terms of women’s share of enrolment, aided by the adoption of a National Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan in 2020. Is the government considering to adopt domestic measures to increase gender parity in technical and vocational education, where gaps still remain?

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

* What is the Bhutanese government doing to uphold the constitutional right to practice religion freely, particularly for non-Buddhist Bhutanese people?
* How will the proposed Gelephu City of Mindfulness benefit all Bhutanese people, including those in minority ethnic groups?
* What plans does the Government have to continue to uphold the values of media freedom?
* What is the Government doing to ensure the equal rights of persons belonging to marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What steps is Bhutan taking to develop educational programs to prevent and combat negative social attitudes towards different ethnic groups?
* What steps is Bhutan taking to prevent the misuse of defamation laws to unduly constrain freedom of expression both online and offline?