

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO UKRAINE (THIRD BATCH)

NORWAY

- We are concerned by the allegations of torture and ill-treatment of detainees in Eastern Ukraine. Norway welcomes that UN OHCHR is enjoying cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities and access to official places of detention, allowing for confidential interviews of conflict-related detainees in line with international standards. *What further steps will be taken to address these allegations and to hold the perpetrators accountable?*
- The humanitarian needs of those living in the Non-Governmental Controlled Areas remains an issue of great concern. The security related challenges are further compounded for the almost 400 000 Ukrainian who are prevented from receiving their earned social rights and benefits. We recognize the efforts made by the Ukrainian authorities in meeting the needs of the internally displaced and protecting the affected population. *What further steps will the Ukrainian authorities take to ensure vulnerable groups living in the NGCA the right to pensions and other social benefits?*
- Reports that Non-governmental organizations working to disclose illegal behavior or practice by the government or other authorities are increasingly exposed to crackdowns by police and law enforcing entities are a cause for concern. The reports include information regarding allegations of working as agents for other powers, of organizing criminal activities or hiding irregularities in their accounts. Tendencies seem to suggest that small organizations in the countryside or outside the big cities are more likely than others to experience this kind of crackdown. *How will the authorities ensure a free and inclusive civil society that includes the critical watchdog role of NGOs?*
- In light of the findings by the Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) and the UN OHCHR, minorities including LGBT-persons and Roma remain targeted groups for violent discrimination. *How will Ukraine ensure that all minorities enjoy the same rights and protection as are due Ukrainian citizens?*

PORTUGAL

- 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? 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?