

## **UPR of Madagascar – advance questions submitted by Norway**

1. How did Madagascar involve civil society organisations in the elaboration of its national report?
2. What steps will Madagascar take to follow up and implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council? How will the civil society and the UN be involved in this process?
3. The establishment of the National Human Rights Committee has been severely delayed, partially due to the dissolution of the National Assembly following the coup in March 2009. What steps is Madagascar taking to ensure that the establishment of the Committee will take priority once a democratically elected parliament is in place?
4. How is the work on the amendment of the Code of Communication progressing, and how will the amendment of this law improve the situation for media and press freedom in Madagascar?
5. The Malagasy Constitution guarantees the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. However, interpretation of the laws concerning national security seems to make disproportionate restrictions on citizens' rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Will the government conduct constitutional reviews of these regulations and how they are implemented?
6. The events of 7 February 2009 led to a high number of persons being killed. When will Madagascar set up an independent and impartial investigation of this event?
7. What specific measures will Madagascar apply to improve conditions in Malagasy prisons, especially with regards to the disproportionately high ratio of prisoners on remand?
8. How is the work on the law abolishing the death penalty progressing?
9. Norway takes note of the national report where Madagascar states its determination in addressing remaining problems such as discrimination, maltreatment and violence against women, including those issues arising from cultural traditions and stereotypes. Beyond seeking financial and technical assistance from the international community, how can Madagascar ensure that sufficient human capacity and resources are available to implement its international and national commitments to promote gender equality and bring about changes in traditional attitudes and in gender stereotyping?
10. What steps will Madagascar take to increase the participation of women in political life?