

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO VENEZUELA

UNITED KINGDOM

- We should be grateful if you would provide information on the extent to which civil society was consulted in the preparation of your national report and the extent to which they will be included in the follow-up.
- Please could you explain how the Venezuelan Ombudsman (*Defensoria del Pueblo*) maintains its independence and conforms fully with the Paris principles?
- What plans do you have to invite EU and/or other international monitoring missions to upcoming elections?
- How do you plan to improve official statistic gathering systems in order to monitor, evaluate and report on human rights issues, as identified as a challenge in your national report?
- How do you propose reducing violence, including to human rights defenders, and improving the bringing to justice of those responsible?
- Please could you tell us what steps are being taken to ensure the independence of the judiciary, with particular reference to the system of appointing provisional judges?
- We should be grateful if you could elaborate on your plans to tackle the serious challenges you identified within the prison system and the level of urgency you are giving to this?
- What steps are taken to ensure that freedom of expression, as enshrined in the Venezuelan Constitution, is upheld?