**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA (THIRD BATCH)**

**BELGIUM**

* During the previous UPR, Venezuela accepted the recommendation to consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed in 2008. What is the state of play regarding this ratification?
* In its report of September 2020, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela finds reasonable grounds to believe that arbitrary detentions were used to target individuals based on their political affiliation, participation, views, opinions or expression, between 2014 and 2020. In the 33 cases investigated, a number of detainees were also victims of short-term enforced disappearances and acts of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including sexual and gender-based violence, at the hands of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service and the Directorate General of Military Counter-intelligence. Will prompt, independent, impartial and effective investigations be launched into these crimes in order to bring the perpetrators to justice?
* In the aforementioned report, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela finds that killing in the context of security operations or protests remain high. Most of the killings were attributed to members of the Special Action Forces of the Bolivarian National Police, the Bureau for Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigations, and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations of the Bolivarian National Police. Which measures will Venezuela take in order to revise security policies to bring them into in compliance with international human rights norms, in particular by restoring the civilian nature of police forces, conducting vetting, restricting the functions of “special forces” and strengthening internal and external oversight mechanisms?
* Regarding the high-level of violence against women and girls, especially femicides, has Venezuela the intention to develop a national plan to tackle such violence?
* Will Venezuela consider establishing a legal framework to prevent all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

**PANAMA**

* Mucho apreciaríamos conocer si Venezuela está considerando ratificar el Protocolo Facultativo de la Convención contra la Tortura y Otros Tratos o Penas Crueles, Inhumanos o Degradantes, el Acuerdo Regional sobre el Acceso a la Información, la Participación Pública y el Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales en América Latina y el Caribe, y la Convención sobre Municiones en Racimo.
* El Comité para la Eliminación de la Discriminación contra la Mujer recomendó a Venezuela adoptar un plan de acción nacional sobre la violencia contra la mujer e incorporar medidas específicas para combatir todas las formas de violencia, incluidas las nuevas formas de violencia en línea que afectan a las mujeres. ¿De qué manera se está implementando está recomendación y qué otras iniciativas se han puesto en marcha para eliminar la violencia contra las mujeres, incluyendo la violencia verbal, psicológica, física y sexual?
* ¿Cuál es el estado de situación del proyecto de Ley Integral sobre la Trata de Personas y qué medidas se han adoptado para abordar adecuadamente la detección y el acompañamiento de las víctimas de la trata de personas?

**SPAIN**

* What steps is the government taking to put an end to attacks against media outlets and journalists?
* What measures has your government taken to fight impunity for human rights violations and ensure accountability of those responsible for repressive action against demonstrators and members of the opposition?
* Does the government envisage any structural reforms aimed at fostering independence of judges and prosecutors?
* Does Venezuela plan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance?