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

**SWEDEN**

* In the last cycle Sweden recommended that Venezuela ensures that it grants the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression in accordance with its international obligations. Which actions have been taken to implement this recommendation?
* Sweden also recommended that Venezuela ensures cooperation with international actors to help address the situation of food insecurity and public health. Which actions have been taken to implement this recommendation?
* Which measures have been taken to prevent hate crimes against members of the LGBTIQ community?

**SLOVENIA**

* We would be interested to learn if there has been any consideration:

(i) to reduce the maternal mortality and a severe shortage of medicines and treatments as well as (disproportionate and differentiated) impact of crisis on the human rights of women and girls,

(ii) to decriminalize abortion at least in case of rape, incest, non-viability of the fetus and when the pregnancy posed a danger to the life or health or the pregnant woman?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Venezuela taken to ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression?
* What steps has Venezuela taken to join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (ACT)?
* What steps has Venezuela taken to implement Liechtenstein’s recommendations from the previous cycle of the UPR that have been accepted by Venezuela, notably recommendation 133.129?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What is the Maduro regime doing to improve respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and create a safe operating environment for press and civil society organizations, and humanitarian organizations? We call on the Maduro regime to reconsider its decision to suspend the presence of independent international human rights monitoring mechanisms, which are needed in Venezuela now more than ever.
* We remain deeply concerned about regime control over all levers of power, including the judicial and legislative branches and electoral system. In particular, the regime has used the criminal justice system to target peaceful activists, allowed them little to no access to legal representation, and presented no credible evidence against the accused. What is the regime doing to ensure fair trial guarantees and adherence to constitutional requirements? What actions will the regime take in the coming year to rebuild the separation of powers and restore the democracy the Venezuelan people desire?
* Conditions in Venezuelan prisons are harsh and life-threatening. Prisoners of conscience have reportedly been subjected to torture and rape. We urge the regime to give access to local human rights organizations to visit prison facilities. What has the regime done to improve poor prison conditions and abuse?
* We remain deeply concerned by widespread government corruption. Regime officials continue to exploit their position to profit from drug trafficking and illicit mining. What has the government done to create more transparency in budgeting and eliminate public-sector corruption?
* We are troubled by continued attacks against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) persons; increased gender-based violence; and discrimination against persons with disabilities, and members of ethnic minority groups and indigenous communities. What has the regime done to prevent such attacks, improve access to justice, and fight discrimination against these groups? What efforts has the regime made to provide services to women who are victims of gender-based violence, which is increasing in Venezuela?
* We are concerned by the inadequate attention that has been paid to resolving labor disputes in the established labor court arbitration process. Wait times and complicated procedures, and stalling tactics cause many disputes to be settled out of court. What is the Maduro regime prepared to do to make sure that this labor court arbitration process is fair, open, and capable of settling labor disputes independently and impartially?
* We continue to note a lack of substantial progress to counter trafficking in persons. What concrete steps is the regime taking this year to investigate, prosecute, and convict human traffickers? What concrete steps is the regime taking to create and improve the systems needed to address victim services, train regime officials on preventive strategies to mitigate the crime, and strengthen law enforcement’s ability to identify human trafficking victims and crimes, including those involving children forcibly recruited by non-state armed groups?
* Religious freedom includes the freedom of members of religious groups to practice their religion or belief in community with others. What is the Maduro regime doing to prevent attacks against the credibility, independence, financial status, and physical safety of religious leaders and stop the harassment of religious groups, including those that call attention to the country’s humanitarian crisis?
* We are concerned that illegal mining and logging, are not only leading to pollution, but are also associated with issues such as forced labor, deforestation, and contaminated waters. What steps is the regime taking to address the human rights concerns that have come hand-in-hand with environmental degradation?