**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC (FIRST BATCH)**

**SWEDEN**

* What steps will Syria take to give independent international human rights monitors, including the OHCHR and the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria, immediate access to Syria to investigate all human rights abuses and violations?
* What further amendments to laws governing housing, land and property (such as law 33 of 2017, and laws 10 and 42 of 2018) does Syria intend to adopt in order to comply with commitments under international law and in order to adequately address the rights and challenges of displaced people to claim their property or secure tenure, thereby avoiding a negative impact on their housing, land and property rights?
* What steps will Syria take to systematically and transparently investigate attacks against journalists and human rights defenders; and ensure that those responsible for violence against journalists and human rights defenders are held to account?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* We remain deeply disturbed by the reports of human rights organizations, documentation groups, and the UN Syria Commission of Inquiry (COI) of the tens of thousands of Syrians who remain missing or arbitrarily detained. When will Syrian authorities release all arbitrarily detained Syrians, as called for in UNSCR 2254, and provide information on the fate of detainees?
* What steps will Syrian authorities take to search for the missing and detained and provide information on their whereabouts to their families?
* The COI noted that eyewitness accounts from Counterterrorism Court proceedings described the hearings as “brief, with scant (if any) evidence presented to support serious charges.” What measures are Syrian authorities taking to guarantee the right to a fair trial?
* We continue to see reports of Syrians being subject to incommunicado detention without charge, trial, or access to legal representation. What are Syrian authorities doing to stop mass detention without trial? What is being done to ensure that detainees are being informed of the charges against them in a timely manner or to seek review of their detention?
* We are alarmed by the continued credible reports of torture and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in places of detention in Syria. What measures are Syrian authorities taking to cease these abuses, punish the perpetrators, and grant independent monitors access to all detention facilities?
* What are Syrian authorities doing to hold government entities accountable for committing human rights violations and abuses? How many investigations have Syrian authorities launched, since March 2011, to look into these abuses?
* Syrians deserve to live free from killings, kidnappings, arbitrary detentions, SGBV, torture, and the looting and seizure of their private properties. What steps will Syrian authorities take to address these abuses and end the violence?
* The COI and NGOs, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, reported cases of returning refugees being subjected to arbitrary detention and torture, even in cases where reconciliation agreements were in place. What measures are Syrian authorities taking to stop such retaliation?
* NGOs report that ceasefire violations and attacks impacting healthcare facilities and personnel have created extreme disparities in healthcare access for Syrians, which has further exacerbated the impact of COVID-19. What steps have Syrian authorities taken to ensure it is not striking sites previously included in UN deconfliction lists? How is the regime cooperating with the UN-led deconfliction mechanism?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has the Syrian Arab Republic taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has the Syrian Arab Republic taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has the Syrian Arab Republic 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 the Syrian Arab Republic taken to ratify the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?

**URUGUAY**

* De conformidad con la recomendación presentada en el ciclo pasado por Uruguay, que fuera aceptada por Siria, Uruguay agradecería contar con mayor información sobre el estado de las discusiones nacionales orientadas a la firma y la ratificación de la Convención internacional para la protección de todas las personas de la desaparición forzada.