**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO ZIMBABWE (FIRST BATCH)**

**SWEDEN**

* What measures will be taken to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, in order to ensure that courts and judges can perform their duties free from influence from the government and other actors?
* How will the proposed “Patriot Act/Bill” and the amendment to the Private Voluntary Organizations Bill contribute to the respect for human rights, especially the right to freedom of expression and assembly?
* What steps will be taken to prevent and combat gender-based violence, which has increased since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Zimbabwe taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has Zimbabwe taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has Zimbabwe 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 Zimbabwe taken to ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?
* What steps has Zimbabwe 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?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What specific actions has the Government taken to date to investigate the allegations of violations of human rights by members of the security forces that resulted in the deaths of 17 civilians in 2019 and seven civilians during post-election violence in 2018?
* The United States and partners note with concern Zimbabwe’s Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) Act, gazetted in November 2021, that many believe the government will use to control and intimidate non-governmental organizations. How do you respond to assertions that Zimbabwe is manipulating Financial Action Task Force (FATF) guidelines to restrict civil society actors?
* When will Zimbabwe consider ratifying the UN 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?
* When will the government respond to the High Court’s 2018 order to provide updates on the alleged 2015 disappearance of democracy activist Itai Dzamara? Does the government have any updates on the earlier reported disappearances of human rights activists like Patrick Nabanyama and Paul Chizuze?
* We are concerned that the government has used the courts, over which it exerts influence, to settle internal political party processes with an aim of weakening the opposition by allowing the recall of democratically elected Parliamentarians or Councilors. Long-standing parliamentary vacancies have left over 754,000 voters in 26 constituencies without elected representation. When will the government hold long overdue by-elections to fill parliamentary and municipal vacancies?
* When will the government allow political parties to have equal access to state-controlled media?
* When will the government allow Zimbabwean citizens in the diaspora to vote in elections?
* When will the government enforce the SADC tribunal rulings issued between 2007 to 2010, including 18 disputes involving employment, commercial, and human rights cases surrounding dispossessed Zimbabwean commercial farmers and agricultural companies?
* When will the GOZ bring existing laws into alignment with the 2013 constitution, which prohibits marriage before the age of 18, and enforce these laws as revised?
* When will the GOZ enforce laws prohibiting voter intimidation and food politicization and rigorously investigate and prosecute politically motivated violence, such as the fatal beating of Mazwi Joseph Ndlovu?
* When will the Government of Zimbabwe amend Zimbabwe’s Trafficking in Persons Act (2014) to incorporate a definition of trafficking consistent with the 2000 UN TIP Protocol?
* When will the Government of Zimbabwe accept the ILO direct contacts mission as urged by the Committee on the Application of Standards at the 108th session of the ILO conference in 2019?
* We share civil society concerns that growing executive influence over the judiciary threatens judicial integrity leading to further public distrust in the system. What is the government doing to restore judicial independence and impartiality?