**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO INDIA (THIRD BATCH)**

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of India considering ratifying the Convention against Torture, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty? Will the government of India respond positively on outstanding requests from UN special procedures, including those from the Working Groups on discrimination against women and girls, the special rapporteur on freedom of expression, the special rapporteur on minority issues and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances?
* What measures will the government of India take to ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organisations can exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, free from threats, harassment, intimidation and attacks?
* What additional measures will the government of India take to ensure the effective implementation of laws that combat sexual and gender-based violence, including caste-based violence? Will those measures entail allocating sufficient resources to prevention and redress? Will the government make training on women’s rights and gender mandatory for law enforcement personnel, medical staff and judicial officials?
* Will the government of India review and repeal anti-minority laws such as the Citizenship Amendment Act and anti-conversion laws which target religious minorities, and introduce measures and legislation to prevent and respond to communal and targeted religious violence?
* What measures will the government of India take to eliminate all forms of discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from all religions? How does the government of India ensure the effective enforcement of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, including in rural areas?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures have been put in place to combat ageism and eliminate age-based discrimination in all its forms and to protect the human rights of older persons (in line with the resolution A/HRC/RES/48/3)?
* We welcome India's efforts to guarantee free and compulsory education of all children and that India's education policy emphasises the completion of secondary education by all children, guaranteeing equal access to quality and affordable technical and vocational education, while eliminating gender, caste, regional and income disparities and to achieve universal access to quality higher education. In this backdrop, could you please share with us, which curriculum and pedagogy changes have been adopted to ensure more flexible, inclusive and focused on contemporary skills and rights education?

**CANADA**

* With respect to the India’s stated commitment to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (UNCAT), does India have a timeframe to become a party to this Treaty?