**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MOROCCO (SECOND BATCH)**

**(revised version)**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion on October 10, 2022, finding that journalist Souleiman Raissouni was “arbitrarily detained” and that his right to freedom of expression and fair trial guarantees had been violated and calling on the Government of Morocco to release him without delay. What is the Government of Morocco’s response to the Working Group’s recommendations?
* We are concerned about reports from several NGOs that Moroccan authorities have used surveillance technology to monitor journalists and human rights defenders. Do legal and policy safeguards exist to prevent the use of surveillance technology to monitor, intimidate, or harass human rights defenders and journalists?
* We note with significant concern Article 489 of Morocco’s Penal Code, which criminalizes consensual same-sex relations between adults and carries a fine and possible imprisonment. We also understand that there is a draft law from 2016 that would decriminalize same-sex and pre-marital relations. What is the status of the draft law and the government’s efforts to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults? Will the government pardon all individuals convicted under Article 489?
* Acquiring accurate data on gender-based violence (GBV) incidences is a significant challenge around the world. How has the launch of the Government of Morocco’s online portal “We Are With You” assisted with your efforts to combat gender-based violence and how are you ensuring effective implementation of relevant laws?
* Local NGOs report the March 2018 law related to violence against women (Law 103-13) does not include clear procedures for law enforcement and the judiciary to investigate and prosecute cases of violence against women. Will the Government of Morocco amend the penal code to create effective procedures for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting cases of violence against women?
* What steps has the Moroccan government taken to facilitate the ability of journalists, netizens, and bloggers to acquire mandatory government-issued press credentials and to facilitate the ability of civil society organizations to register in accordance with the law?
* During the 2017 UPR, the Government of Morocco accepted Denmark’s recommendation to “repeal provisions which deny women legal guardianship of minor children on an equal footing with men” (144.133). However, NGOs report that under the Family Code fathers remain the legal guardians of children and are granted sole authority to make decisions related to education, health care, and finances and mothers with physical custody face restrictions on mobility and obstacles to remarrying. When will the Government of Morocco implement the recommendation accepted in 2017 and permit women legal guardianship of children on an equal basis with men?

**CANADA**

* Quelles mesures le Maroc prend-il pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations qui lui ont été émises par le Comité des Nations Unies sur les travailleurs migrants?
* Le Canada salue l’adoption de la nouvelle Stratégie nationale de santé sexuelle et reproductive et l’intégration d’une éducation sexuelle complète dans les programmes scolaires. Cependant, comment le Maroc compte-t-il adresser les normes socio-culturelles qui font encore obstacle aux droits à la santé sexuelle et reproductive de toutes les Marocaines, y compris les plus vulnérables?