**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA (FIRST BATCH)**

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has South Africa taken to ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression?
* What steps has South Africa 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 South Africa taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?

**GERMANY**

* According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Right Defenders, Mary Lawlor, killings remain a serious risk to human right defenders in South Africa. At present, no legal and policy frameworks in South Africa recognize HRDs. The increased use of Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (SLAPPs) by powerful corporations has become a way of silencing environmental and land rights defenders. How does the Republic of South Africa foresee to ensure an environment conducive for Human Rights defenders and whistle-blowers to speak up against grievances and misconduct? What steps is the government taking to investigate the killing of HRDs and, specifically, the 22 leaders of the Abahlali movement who were assassinated between 2009 and 2022?
* According to a report in The Citizen (Gauteng) of January 19th 2022 the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services expressed “deep concern” about solitary confinement which, it says, could be seen as a form of torture. The inspectorate announced that it would engage with the South African Human Rights Commission’s national preventive mechanism against torture and offer reform recommendations. Have these recommendations been brought forward? What are the plans of the Republic of South Africa to prevent torture according to the criteria of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture?
* How does the Republic of South Africa intend to counter hatred and hate crimes against LGBTI persons?

**CANADA**

* What steps is South Africa taking to address the ongoing challenge of xenophobic violence and tackle widespread impunity?

**PANAMA**

* Is South Africa envisaging to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness?
* What efforts have been made to ensure the protection of human rights in the implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction strategies?
* What legislative and policy measures are being implemented to guarantee non-discrimination against persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and older persons?
* What steps has been taken to promote changes in the attitudes and behaviours of society with a view to eradicating harmful gender stereotypes?

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of South Africa considering to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.
* The access to quality sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to abortion, remains a challenge for many people in South Africa. The National Clinical Guidelines for Implementation of the Choice of Termination of Pregnancy Act provide a basis to tackle this issue. Is South Africa planning to put in place training and comprehensive sexuality education, also for health care workers, to enhance the implementation of this Act?
* How is South Africa working to ensure the protection of whistleblowers and the safety of journalists and activists in the performance of their duties as well as the independence of their work?
* Although many efforts have already been put forward to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence, the number of feminicide and domestic violence, including against children, remain high. We welcome the importance that South Africa is giving to the situation, via the adoption of a National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based violence. How does South Africa intend to ensure the effective implementation of this plan?
* What measures will South Africa take to increase the representation of women in local administrations and the judicial system, as recommended by the CEDAW committee?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* The pandemic exacerbated the number of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) incidents, including domestic violence, and not just in South Africa. What recent lessons has your government learned that you can share with others? Where have your efforts been focused more: on new legislation or stepping up enforcement of existing laws?  We commend your issuance of the 2020 National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF, but ask what is preventing its implementation? Which Ministry has leadership of the NSP?
* What kind of economic assistance or programming is available to GBV survivors who have been forced to leave their homes due to safety concerns?
* There has been an increase in xenophobic violence, racial discrimination, and anti-foreign national sentiment driven by organized groups like “Operation Dudula.” What efforts is the government taking to counter xenophobic rhetoric, racism, prevent attacks against immigrants and to hold perpetrators of violence responsible?
* Although we have not seen reports of trafficking victims being deported, the regulations meant to ensure their ability to remain in South Africa have been pending for several years. Will the Department of Home Affairs commit to passing, promulgating, and implementing the immigration provisions in Chapters 3 and 7 of PACOTIP, including Sections 15, 16, and 31(2)(b) (ii), and ensure the issuance of appropriate immigration status and identification documents for trafficking victims?
* What is the government doing to address the risk of statelessness among individuals born or residing in South Africa?
* Despite constitutional protections for LGBTQI+ persons, an alarming number of LGBTQI+ persons, especially Black lesbians, have been subjected to “corrective” rape and even murdered in South Africa. How is the Department of Justice leading a multi-sectoral approach to stop these hate crimes?
* What measures are being taken to ensure that asylum seekers have full access to asylum determination procedures and that all migrants can access civil documentation?
* Recognizing that forced sterilization, including but not limited to HIV positive women, is illegal in South Africa, we continue to note incidents of forced sterilization in South Africa, particularly against Black, HIV positive, poor, and young women. What efforts is the government taking to prevent forced sterilization and hold perpetrators accountable?

**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)?