**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO SRI LANKA (FIRST BATCH)**

**PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRFs**

* Could the State-under-review describe its national mechanism or process responsible for coordinating the implementation of accepted UPR recommendations and the monitoring of progress and impact?
* Could the State-under-review elaborate specifically on how is the collaboration of its national mechanism with other stakeholders, such as National Human Rights Institutions, CSO, the judiciary and parliamentarians?
* Has the State-under-review established a dedicated ‘national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up’ (NMIRF) covering UPR recommendations, but also recommendations/observations generated by the UN human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and relevant regional mechanisms, which, inter alia, clusters all the above, manages them in national databases, coordinates implementation actions across government, monitors progress and impact, and then streamline reporting procedures back to the UN? If so, could the State-under-review briefly share its experience on creating such mechanism, including challenges faced and lessons learnt, as well as any plans or needs to strengthen the NMIRF in the future?

**LIECHTENSTEIN**

* What steps has Sri Lanka taken to ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version?
* What steps has Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka taken towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty?
* What steps has Sri Lanka taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure?
* What steps has Sri Lanka taken to ratify the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and 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?
* What steps has Sri Lanka taken to implement the recommendations made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the report A/HRC/51/5?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* We are concerned by the application of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and sections of the Sri Lanka Penal Code to arrest and charge advocates, activists, and ethnic or faith leaders for exercising free speech. What steps is the government taking to ensure the PTA is not used arbitrarily or in cases without clear linkages to terrorism, and that these acts (including any forthcoming replacement of the PTA) comply with international human rights obligations and commitments?
* Close to 2,000 Muslims were arrested under the PTA and Emergency Regulations in the aftermath of the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks, including human rights lawyer Hejaaz Hizbullah and poet Ahnaf Jazeem. Most have now been released on bail, along with dozens of Tamil detainees. Dozens of Tamils and Muslims remain detained under the PTA, as well as Inter-University Students’ Federation (IUSF) convener Wasantha Mudalige. What is the status of their cases? What steps is the government taking to ensure those detained or charged under the PTA have access to fair bail hearings, legal counsel on a confidential basis, visits from family members at regular intervals, and a fair and timely trial?
* Many civil society groups have assessed that burdensome NGO Secretariat documentation requirements inhibit important civil society work and is sometimes utilized to constrain civil society. How will the government design and implement any new NGO law transparently in cooperation with civil society to support their ability to operate and defend the freedom of association?
* We are deeply concerned about the protection of the constitutional rights of members of religious minority groups. There are numerous disputes over archeological heritage at religious sites, and examples of the destruction of historic buildings at sites sacred to minority religions, as well as the lack of accountability for acts that intimidate religious and ethnic minority communities, such as hate speech and the surveillance of their homes, organizations, and businesses. What steps is the government taking to protect members of religious minority groups, including women, from discrimination, and to ensure a fair and transparent process for any religiously motivated land disputes?
* The Office on Missing Persons and Office for Reparations have closed some cases but have yet to deliver answers about the status of any disappeared persons. Families, especially the mothers, of these missing victims are entitled to answers and should be at the center of this work. How will the government ensure these institutions are not only effective and independent, but also meet their duty of care to citizens through facilitating families’ rights to truth, justice, and reparations – without exerting pressure on them to close cases?
* Despite past commitments to address accountability, there has been no domestic accountability for human rights abuses during the war period and its immediate aftermath or for more recent violations such as threats against and intimidation of ethnic or religious minority groups, human rights defenders, and journalists. Does the government have plans to credibly pursue justice and accountability for gross violations of human rights or threats of violence by officials, individuals, or groups against members of ethno-religious minority groups? Can the government provide information about its plans to pursue a truth commission that will be viewed as credible by victims and survivors?
* While the government has standard operating procedures to guide law enforcement and other government-supported frontline responders on the identification of trafficking victims and referral to care, implementation of the procedures has been inconsistent. How is Sri Lanka working to proactively identify trafficking victims, including among undocumented migrant workers abroad and women in commercial sex work?
* As LGBTQI+ Sri Lankans advocate for legal frameworks and greater social acceptance, what progress has the government made in advancing a bill that would fully decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity? We also welcome news that the Inspector General of Police recently met with LGBTQI+ civil society leaders to formally apologize for past mistreatment of LGBTQI+ persons by Sri Lankan police. What steps will the government take to ensure LGBTQI+ persons are protected from violence and discrimination and that institutions treat them with dignity and respect?
* We are concerned by the use of sexual bribery by men in positions of power exploiting and taking undue advantage of women and girls. We also have increasing concerns surrounding women being trafficked, exacerbated by Sri Lanka's ongoing economic crises. What steps will the government take to protect women and girls, especially those in vulnerable economic situations?

**URUGUAY**

* En seguimiento de la recomendación presentada por Uruguay en el tercer ciclo de examen, que fuera aceptada por Sri Lanka, agradeceríamos recibir información complementaria sobre el estado de los debates nacionales encaminados a la firma y ratificación del Segundo Protocolo Facultativo del Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos.

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Sri Lanka considering ratifying the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ILO Convention 189 on Domestic Workers?
* Will the government of Sri Lanka respond positively to the outstanding request for a country visit by the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls?
* Is the government of Sri Lanka preparing a comprehensive strategy on transitional justice and accountability, with a time bound plan to implement outstanding commitments, including taking steps in relation to the establishment of a credible truth-seeking mechanism, as recommended by the High Commissioner for Human Rights?
* What is the state of play regarding the commitment by the Sri Lankan authorities regarding the amendment/replacement of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, to ensure the legislation fully complies with Sri Lanka’s human rights obligations? What measures does the government of Sri Lanka take to ensure that human rights defenders, civil society activists, peaceful protesters and journalists are able to freely and peacefully express their views, without fear of reprisal, arrest, intimidation, surveillance or harassment?
* Is the government of Sri Lanka considering a security sector reform, as recently recommend by the High Commissioner for Human Rights? Which steps will Sri Lanka take to prevent police brutality and deaths in police custody and to ensure that law enforcement officials use force only as a last resort, proportionate and necessary? What measures will Sri Lanka take to ensure that officials suspected of using unlawful force are brought to justice and held accountable?

**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

* What timeline has the Government of Sri Lanka set for outlining a roadmap on transitional justice towards accountability and reconciliation?
* What future policies or programmes are being implemented to further encourage participation, and ensure adequate representation, of women in politics at national, provincial and local levels?
* Will the government take further steps to reduce the presence of military in the North and East, including in areas of law enforcement and commercial activity? How will this be addressed and what is the timeline for delivery?
* What steps will the Government of Sri Lanka take to protect the environment for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, especially in light of the use of State of Emergency Regulations and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in response to protests, and impending controls on social media use?
* What further steps will the Government of Sri Lanka take to support and empower those most affected by the economic crisis, including economically vulnerable communities, elderly persons, children and persons with disabilities?

**ANGOLA**

* What initiatives have been taken by national authorities to ensure the respect of freedom of religion by minority groups with a view to strengthen social cohesion?
* As part of SDG 5, is the Government implementing measures to train judicial and police officers aimed at reducing gender discrimination in the judicial context and access to justice?

**GERMANY**

* How does the Government of Sri Lanka plan to reform the current Anti-Terrorism legislation and ensure that any reformed legislation is in line with international obligations and cannot be used to infringe upon freedom of assembly and expression?
* What are the current plans for the new “NGO Law” and how will the Government of Sri Lanka ensure this law will not impose unnecessary obstacles to the work of NGOs?
* When can we expect results from the “Commission on Reconciliation and Truth” and what is the current state of planning for a domestic accountability process?

**PANAMA**

* What initiatives are put in place to eradicate child marriage and female genital mutilation in all its forms across the country?
* What steps is Sri Lanka taking to review its Penal Code with a view to bringing it into full compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in line with the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child?
* Could Sri Lanka please elaborate on its efforts to develop a national policy on gender equality?