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

**BELGIUM**

* In light of the recent commendable decision to amend the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act to abolish the death penalty, does Zambia intend to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights? In the same vein, does Zambia envisage to amend Article 12 of the Constitution?
* Is Zambia considering ratifying the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child?
* What measures will Zambia take to step up efforts to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence, feminicide and domestic violence? Does Zambia envisage the adoption of a National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based violence?
* What actions is Zambia taking to ensure the safety of journalists and human rights activists, and to guarantee and safeguard the independence of their work?
* Given the very low number of children registered at birth, and the even lower number of children who receive a birth certificate, which measures is Zambia taking to increase the notification of births to the State’s Registration Authorities?

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

* What steps are being taken by the Government of Zambia to reduce gender inequality, eradicate sexual and gender based violence, and increase the participation of women in politics?
* What measures are the Government of Zambia taking to ensure that any changes to human rights legislation are subject to widespread public consultation?
* How is the Government of Zambia ensuring that social spending (on poverty reduction, nutrition, education and health) is being protected whilst the government responds to the IMF reform deal?
* How is the government ensuring that the increased Constituency Developent Fund will have a positive impact on poor and marginalised groups?