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

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* We note steps taken by the government of Guyana to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, but are concerned that children 16 and 17 years of age are still legally permitted to engage in hazardous activities, such as gold-mining and the production of iron, steel, glass, paper, and raw sugar.  What steps is the government taking to amend the list of hazardous work to prohibit children under age 18 from working in all listed sectors?
* Child labor is most prevalent in farming, bars and restaurants, domestic work, and street vending, as well as welding and working in scrap iron yards. What is the government doing to prosecute employers for violations relating to child labor?
* The government of Guyana has not effectively enforced applicable labor laws protecting collective bargaining and freedom of association, nor has it sufficiently imposed even the small fines allowable for violations of labor laws. Does the government intend to increase fines to deter future labor violations, and how will it ensure these fines are imposed?
* Occupational safety and health standards do not sufficiently protect workers in the country’s main industries and enforcement of these standards is weak. What is the government doing to improve these standards across all industries and how are best practices being shared with workers and employers? Is the government tracking the number of workplace injuries and deaths and developing a plan to reduce the number of incidents?
* How is the government of Guyana addressing employment and occupational discrimination, such as when newspapers carry advertisements seeking gender-specific or age-specific applicants to fill positions, most notably in the retail, cosmetology, and security sectors?
* The United States is concerned about judicial inefficiency, staff shortages, and cumbersome legal procedures that result in persistently high numbers of pre-trial detainees. We are also concerned about resulting overcrowding and harsh prison and jail conditions. What efforts are being made to reduce the number of pre-trial detainees and prisoners as well as to improve prison conditions?