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

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Belarus considering ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty? Could you inform us about the progress made by the parliamentary working group on the death penalty since your last UPR?
* Does the government of Belarus intend to amend the law “On public associations” and other legislation governing work of NGOs with a view to ensuring it does not unduly restrict freedom of association?
* Is the government of Belarus intending to amend the law “On mass gatherings” to ensure it complies with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ensuring in particular that any sanctions for organizing assemblies are proportionate and do not create undue obstacles to freedom of assembly?
* Does the government of Belarus intend to amend the law on mass media and limit the powers of the Ministry of Information, to avoid unjustifiably restriction of freedom of expression, by abolishing inter alia the licensing-based procedure for the registration of print and online media as well as extrajudicial blocking of access to Internet-based resources?
* What measures have been taken by the government of Belarus to address the concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus in her latest report?

**URUGUAY**

* Following the recommendation submitted by Uruguay during the second cycle of the UPR, which was accepted by Belarus and in addition to the information provided in its national report, we would appreciate knowing what specific measures the country adopted to counteract direct and indirect forms of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

**CANADA**

* What concrete measures is Belarus intending to take in order to address the serious allegations of torture and cruel treatment of detained individuals as a result of their participation in peaceful protests?
* What constructive steps is Belarus taking to address concerns raised by various countries regarding the Government’s violations to human rights following the 2020 presidential elections?
* Could you explain how Belarus plans to safeguard the right to freedom of expression when the registration of media outlets and the accreditation of foreign journalists seem to be granted arbitrarily?
* When will the Government of Belarus recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and issue an invitation to visit the country?

**PORTUGAL on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF’s**

* 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?
* 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?