**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LATVIA (FIRST BATCH)**

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Latvia considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance? Is the government of Latvia considering ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)?
* Which concrete measures will the government of Latvia take to address the CEDAW-Committee’s concerns regarding discriminatory gender stereotypes?
* What steps has the government of Latvia taken to address the concerns and recommendations of the CEDAW-committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding gender-based violence? The COVID-19 pandemic increases the risk of gender-based violence. Is the government of Latvia planning additional measures to address this risk?
* Which measures will the government of Latvia take to intensify its efforts against trafficking, including the early identification and referral to appropriate services of victims?
* Is the government of Latvia considering steps to promote equal rights for LGBTI and address hate speech?

**AUSTRIA**

* Austria expresses concern about high levels of violence against women and domestic violence. What measures does Latvia take to ensure the necessary investigation, prosecution and punishment for all instances of violence against women and how do you intend to raise public awareness about the objectives of the Istanbul Convention? How do you envisage that the ratification process for the Istanbul Convention will not continue to falter?

**SLOVENIA**

* What measures are being taken to reduce the violence against children and increase the transparent and timely reporting about it in Latvia?

**PORTUGAL ON BEHALF ON THE GROUP OF FRIENDS ON NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION, REPORT AND FOLLOW-UP (NMIRF)**

* 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?

**CANADA**

* What measures has Latvia taken to address violence against women?
* What measures has Latvia taken to bridge the gaps in protecting the rights of vulnerable groups and women?
* What additional steps does Latvia plan to take to combat sexual and forced labour trafficking?