ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND – ADDENDUM 1

SWEDEN

- In its national report to the 2008 Universal Periodic Review, the United Kingdom has affirmed that the protection of human rights is an integral and indispensable part of the country's efforts to counter terrorism. At the same time, civil society organisations have questioned the provision of the Terrorism Act of 2006 extending the period that persons suspected of terrorist offences may be held without charge to 28 days, as well as the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 allowance for control orders against persons that may be involved in terrorist activity. Could the government of the United Kingdom elaborate on how these measures are applied in accordance with its human rights obligations?
- The United Kingdom has prohibited the use of corporal punishment in schools. In its 2002 concluding observations following the latest consideration of the United Kingdom, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended the United Kingdom to prohibit all corporal punishment of children, holding that the legality of such punishment in the context of the family contradicts the Convention on the Rights of Child. What measures is the government of the United Kingdom taking to ensure the freedom of children from physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation in accordance with the said Convention?

DENMARK

- The use of lengthy pre-trial detention in the UK has been the subject of concern of the Commissioner for Human Rights as well as a number of human rights organizations. What measures will the UK Government take to improve the application of pre-trial detention?
- Concerns have been expressed by the Commissioner for Human Rights and human rights organizations on the use of diplomatic assurances to permit the deportation of terrorism suspects. How does the UK Government intend to ensure that human rights are respected by recipient countries?
- In a recent report submitted by Save the Children, concern is expressed among others regarding the reservations made by the UK Government in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the UNCRC, and the implementation of human rights obligations in relation to children in general. What measures will be taken by the UK Government in order to improving the human rights conditions in relation to children?

FINLAND

- We acknowledge that the Government of the United Kingdom has made commitments to protect children from violence, including by prohibiting the use of corporal punishment in schools¹.
- With regard to the United Nations study on violence against children², which states that "no violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable", we would appreciate to receive further information on legislative, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Study's overarching and setting-specific recommendations in the United Kingdom. In particular, we would greatly appreciate if the Government of the United Kingdom could share with us good practices to prevent and respond to violence against children.

¹ The concluding observations adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.188, paragraphs 3(i) and 35) and the summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/WG.6/1/UK/3, paragraph 15).

² Report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children (A/61/299).