**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (FIRST BATCH)**

**GERMANY**

* Germany welcomes the adoption of the national Human Rights Committee Act 2015. What are the plans to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles as recommended by various treaty bodies?
* Given the recent ratification of two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Republic of the Marshall Islands, what are the intentions to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict?

**SLOVENIA**

* What actions are planned to implement the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (UNCAT)? What additional support is needed by the Government of the Marshall Islands to implement the provisions of UNCAT?

**BELGIUM**

* Belgium welcomes the ratification by the Republic of the Marshall Islands of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Does the government of the Marshall Islands consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty in the near future?
* Which measures has the government of the Marshall Island taken to address the concerns raised by the CEDAW Committee regarding gender-based violence, including domestic violence? How will the Marshall Islands intensify its efforts to combat domestic and sexual violence and ensure that perpetrators are persecuted and adequately punished?
* What measures did the Marshall Islands take to strengthen the capacity of  judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers and other law enforcement officials with regards to women’s rights and gender equality, as recommended by the CEDAW Committee? How does the government raise awareness to eliminate the stigmatization of women who claim their rights?
* What concrete measures will the government of the Marshall Islands take to ensure the implementation of its legislative framework against child trafficking and exploitation, in particular with regards to increasing awareness and bringing perpetrators to justice?
* How does the government of the Marshall Islands intend to further strengthen and protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons?

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

* What progress has the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands made in establishing a national human rights mechanism compliant with the Paris principles?
* What progress has been made in reviewing the Republic of the Marshall Islands Criminal Code to address the problem of statutes prohibiting corporal punishment being undermined?
* How does the government plan to build on the Gender Equality Act, Domestic Violence  Prevention and Protection (Amendment) Act, and National Gender Mainstreaming Policy to address discrimination and violence against women and girls?

**CANADA**

* What is the Government doing to protect the rights of LGBTI persons, and to protect them against discrimination?
* What efforts are being made by the Government to strengthen the enforcement of existing laws criminalizing rape and domestic violence?
* What measures does the Government have in place to prevent or mitigate early marriage?
* What steps is the Government taking to increase representation of women in the Nitijela and local councils?

**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?

**URUGUAY**

* Following the recommendation submitted by Uruguay during the second cycle of the UPR, which was accepted by Marshall Islands, additional information would be appreciated on the State of the national deliberations on the signature and ratification of the International Convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.