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

**SLOVENIA**

* Panama supported a number of recommendations in the second cycle of UPR on aligning its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We would appreciate information on the progress in implementation of these recommendations.
* We note the efforts undertaken to eliminate inequality and improve the standards of living for the most vulnerable in the country since the last UPR. What steps is Panama taking to ensure that this progress is not overly affected by the challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic?

**GERMANY**

* Prisons in Panama continue to be overpopulated. This may lead to an increase in violence, as the fight between armed gangs in La Joyita prison in December 2019 has shown. What is the Government of Panama undertaking to reform the penitentiary system and reduce overpopulation in prisons?

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

* What reforms are being implemented across the public sector to improve transparency and accountability and decrease corruption?
* What efforts are being made toward repealing laws that allow for censorship of government criticism and that criminalize libel? What efforts are being made to protect and expand freedom of expression, particularly in the context of investigative journalism, civil society’s voice in exposing corruption and demanding transparency from the government?
* Panama has advanced efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, especially within the coffee and melon-harvesting sectors. What more is being done to address child and forced labor?
* What efforts are being made toward vigorously investigating and prosecuting alleged traffickers, including those involved in child sex tourism? How has the judiciary handled sentencing of convicted traffickers? Does the government believe the law provides for adequate penalties, including significant prison terms, to better address the issue of trafficking in persons? What efforts are being made toward amending the anti-trafficking law to align with the Palermo Protocol by removing the requirement for movement and making the use of force, fraud, or coercion essential elements of the crime rather than aggravating factors?
* What is being done to increase accessibility for and reduce discrimination against persons with disabilities?
* During the Covid-19 lockdown, we saw that the transgender community was unduly affected by the gender-based movement restrictions, as documented by Human Rights Watch and highlighted in international media. The government released one tweet in May and a print communicado in July, but reports of harassment and discrimination against transgender individuals continued until the quarantine was lifted on September 14. What efforts are being made to train security forces to respect the human rights and dignity of all Panamanians should a lockdown be enforced in the future?

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

* What measures is the Government of Panama taking to adopt more comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and policies that prohibit discrimination in all its forms, and on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity, race and ethnicity, age, and disability?
* What steps is the Government of Panama taking to improve the economic and social rights of indigenous people and people of African descent, particularly women and girls?
* What plans does the Government of Panama have to guarantee women’s equal access to decision-making positions?
* What steps is the Government taking to improve the independence, impartiality and competence of all courts in Panama?
* How is the Government of Panama protecting journalists and the media from interference and harassment?