**ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (FIRST BATCH)**

**SWEDEN**

* Sweden notes the increase in hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and that many states lack reference to sexual orientation and gender identity in their laws. How does the United States of America intend to ensure LGBTI-person’s full enjoyment of human rights, without discrimination?
* There are worrying reports about the treatment of migrants at the Southern United States border, in particular the practice of separating children from their parents (or legal guardians) as well as keeping children in detention at length and under conditions that imply a conflict with for example Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. What concrete steps will the United States of America take to ensure the rights and safety of all children at immigration?
* Sweden notes the usage by representatives of the United States of America of the term “unalienable rights” to hold forth certain, but not all, human rights. This shift in terminology could be interpreted as a step to redefine human rights, contrary to the globally agreed definition of them being universal, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. How will the United States of America ensure that any development of its human rights policies continue to adhere to international human rights law and the norm that human rights are universal, interdependent and mutually reinforcing?

**GERMANY**

* We encourage the United States to consider rejoining the Human Rights Council and lift sanctions against the ICC. Equally, it would be a significant asset if the U.S. joined the vast majority of States that are party to and promote the implementation of major international covenants in the field of human rights, such as ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC. Which steps is the U.S. planning to take towards ratification of Treaties and Optional Protocols to Conventions it has already signed, but not yet ratified?
* Germany welcomes that there has been significant improvement in the field of LGBTI rights, not least due to a landmark Supreme Court decision in 2020. However, some of the content of the final report by the Commission on Unalienable Rights relegates sexual and reproductive rights to the status of “divisive social and political controversies“, which seems not in line with the Supreme Court decision. Similarly, the Commission’s report introduces a notion of hierarchy between rights. What steps will the U.S. take to demonstrate its commitment to the indivisibility of human rights?
* Germany would like to enquire how the U.S. currently assesses the factors of racial disparity in the application of the death penalty and whether adequate compensation for persons who were wrongfully convicted is provided on the federal as well as on states level. Which steps is the USA taking in order to prevent the execution of mentally/intellectually disabled prisoners?
* We welcome that the USA accepted relevant recommendations in the second UPR cycle on combating racial profiling and the excessive use of police force. In light of recent cases and related public criticism in the USA, what steps will the U.S. undertake to reform use of force standards and bring them into line with international norms?
* Is the U.S. planning to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act?

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

* The illegal presence of the American forces in the Syrian territories is an occupation according to international law. What measures are taken by the American authorities to put an end to this occupation and to address its consequences according to international humanitarian law and human rights law, including:

Stop supporting terrorists or separatist militias which constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria, and has a grave impact on the human rights and humanitarian situation in Syria.

Hold accountable American politicians and military officers involved in violations of IHL and war crimes committed in the Syrian territories, including in the city of Raqqa and the city of Der Al- Zour.

Provide compensation or any other form of reparation for the gross human rights violations committed in the context of this occupation and other acts of aggression undertaken by the American forces.

* According to international humanitarian law and international human rights law; the occupying power has no legal authority to exploit any resources and property of the occupied territory for the benefit of its own economy. As an occupying power of Syrian territories; what measures are taken to stop looting and pillage of Syrian natural resources?
* What measures are taken by the American authorities to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training, protection and transit of mercenaries and terrorists, or for the planning of activities designed to impede the right to self-determination, to overthrow the government of any State or to dismember or to impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States?

**SLOVENIA**

* How is the US addressing the possible issues of  discrimination on the basis of race, including in the law enforcement on the federal level and what measures has it recommended to the states?
* "Dialogue over exclusion" is Slovenia's approach to multilateralism. Considering the progressive force the US has traditionally voiced in the field of promotion and protection of human rights within the UN framework, Slovenia wishes the US would reconsider the decision to cease the membership of the Human Rights Council in 2018 and would like to ask whether any steps in this direction have been taken?

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

* Does the US plan to take steps regarding The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention’s recommendation for all states to change their laws and practices with the aim of abolishing the sentence of life without parole for persons who were under the age of 18 at the time of committing a crime?
* What are the US’ plans to mitigate the impact of the opioid crisis on communities across the country?
* As part of the C19 response, does the US plan to increase the availability of shelters, programmes and housing support for women at risk of violence, as recommended by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice?
* Does the United States have plans to introduce any requirements for businesses and public bodies to report on how they prevent modern slavery in their operations and supply chains?
* Please could you give details on your national selection process for selecting candidates to nominate for UN human rights treaty body elections?

**BELGIUM**

* How is the national debate developing on a possible ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women? What are the prospects for ratification of these instruments by the USA in the near future?
* Does the government of the USA intend to prioritize combating sexual and gender-based violence against indigenous women?
* During the previous UPR, the government of the USA signaled support for measures to avoid racial bias and wrongful sentencing to the death penalty, and to provide adequate compensation in the event of wrongful sentencing. Which measures have been taken by the government of the USA in this respect? Will the government of the USA commission or conduct a study on racial disparities in the imposition of the death penalty?
* In follow up to our recommendation during the previous UPR: Are the United States considering - as permitted by existing federal law in the cases of rape, incest and life endanger - their foreign assistance to support safe abortion services, where legal in the host country?
* Which measures have been taken to address concerns of the Committee against Torture (CAT) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) about police brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, in particular against persons belonging to certain racial and ethnic groups?

**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

* Given the inhumane, illegitimate, illegal and indiscriminate nature of unilateral coercive measures that result in gross, widespread and systematic violations of human rights of the targeted populations, in particular during the pandemic, and being aware of numerous calls by international authoritative bodies to terminate the unilateral sanctions, will the US commit to cease its unlawful practice of imposing unilateral sanctions against other countries? How will the United States compensate for the loss of human life as well as material damages incurred as the result of its unilateral coercive measures against the targeted States and their populations? Will the United States commit to hold those responsible for devising and implementing unilateral sanctions accountable?
* Will the US commit to address the requests of the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for US cooperation on assessing and evaluating the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the fundamental human rights of the people of the targeted countries, especially children, women and vulnerable people?
* Noting the order of provisional measures issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 3 October 2018, where the Court unanimously ordered that “the US, in accordance with its obligations under the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights, shall remove by means of its choosing any impediments arising from the measures announced on 8 May 2018 to the free exportation to the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran of (i) medicines and medical devices; (ii) foodstuffs and agricultural commodities; and (iii) spare parts, equipment and associated services (including warranty, maintenance, repair services and inspections) necessary for the safety of civil aviation”, will the US government stop defying the ICJ`s order and reverse all unlawful unilateral sanctions introduced in violation of this ICJ’s order?
* Considering the assertion by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions that assassinating the top military official of the Islamic Republic of Iran, General Ghasem Soleimani, and his 4 companions namely Hossein Pourjafari, Hadi Taremi, Shahroud Mozaffarinia, and Vahid Zamanian constituted an unlawful act of arbitrary killing under IHRL and a violations of IHL and Article. 2 (4) of the UN Charter, what actions have been taken by the US to hold accountable and bring to justice those persons involved in that grave criminal act? Will the US government commit to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and stop arbitrary murders across the globe?
* The US authorities have reportedly resorted to cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment and arbitrary detention of citizens of other countries including by harassing them at the US entry points. There are also credible reports confirming that the US' security agencies have coerced persons of dual nationality into becoming an agent of intelligence gathering and sabotage in their countries of origin (reference is made, for instance, to The New Yorker of 14 September 2020 about The Man Who Refused to Spy). Will the US commit to stop arbitrary detention of their citizens of foreign descent and stop coercing them into becoming a US agent? Will the US commit to investigate such cases of rights abuse and end systematic arbitrary detention and wrongful conviction of innocent people?
* The US so-called ‘zero tolerance’ policy against migrants has resulted in systemic and gross violation of human rights, including by separating thousands of young kids from their parents and subjecting them to extremely cruel, humiliating and degrading treatment including by putting them in cages without enough food and minimum health standards and by denying them any adult caretaker. Several young kids have died as the result of this inhuman treatment. The parents of at least 545 kids remain missing. Will the US government commit to cease violating its international legal obligations concerning the human treatment of migrants and bring the perpetrators to justice?
* Given the serious concerns about the poor living condition of immigrants and asylum seekers in detention centers and facilities, what plan has the United States implemented to ensure access to health care services and adequate living standards in such places especially during the COVID-19 pandemic?
* Will the US stop contributing to grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law across the globe, including in West Asia, through its sale of weapons to the aggressor States and terrorist groups?
* Will the US comply with the recommendations made by several special procedure and mandate holders urging the US government to put an end to impunity for the human rights and humanitarian law violations persistently committed as the result of the so-called global war on terror?
* Will the US commit to comply with its international obligations to avoid providing any sort of financial, logistical, military or other supports to terrorist groups that are responsible for acts of terrorism against innocent people?
* Considering the deeply institutionalized racism against minorities especially African Americans in the US, and recalling the resolution on promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement officers (A/H/43/), will the US commit to adopt concrete legislative, administrative and law-enforcement measures and policies to address the systemic racism and racial discrimination? What steps has the United States taken to instruct law enforcements to reduce violence and the use of lethal force from the previous round of UPR?
* Recognizing the reports on a spike in the killing of civilian people especially African-American juveniles as a result of lax gun laws, will the United States commit to limit the weapons that cause increasing violence and innocent human lives in the country?
* Given reports on the prevalence of sexual violence against women and girls by the figures in the US, what measures has the United States taken to address the harassment against women, especially by politicians and cultural figures?
* Noting existing concern that criminal records can deprive individuals of certain citizenship rights, especially the voting rights, will the US commit to amend related legislations to ensure that all people enjoy this fundamental right?
* Recalling the continued systemic repression and violation of human rights of the Palestinian by the Israeli regime, will the US commit to stop being complicit in those rights abuses by ending the provision of financial, military and political support to the occupying apartheid regime and holding the regime accountable for the atrocities committed against Palestinians?

**CANADA**

* What recent measures has the United States put in place to reduce the racial and socio-economic gap in access to maternal, sexual and reproductive health services, as part of advancing women’s human rights and reducing maternal and infant mortality among the most at-risk?

**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 the United States, additional information would be appreciated on the state of the national deliberations towards the signature and ratification of the main international and inter-american human rights instruments.