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

**SLOVENIA**

* What steps have you taken towards the adoption of a comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination in line with the international human rights standards? What are your future plans?
* What steps has the Government undertaken to reduce the early pregnancies, including what measures have been undertaken to help those girls whose pregnancy is a result of rape or incest?

**GERMANY**

* Germany has in the past two cycles of the UPR recommended to “Develop a comprehensive and forgery-proof land registry to enable indigenous communities to hold legal titles to their ancestral land” – these recommendations have been supported by Paraguay. However, according to para 201 of the national report, the bill is still in preparation. Conflicting land titles continue to be a problem for the land owners and for domestic and foreign investors. Can you elaborate on the delay in setting up the land registry that would benefit indigenous communities? What steps have been taken towards setting up a land registry?
* Domestic violence including femicides continues to be problematic. While recognising the 2018 law to protect women and children, what further measures is the Government of Paraguay planning to enhance the security of women and girls, i.a. against domestic violence?
* The protection of human rights defenders and journalists is of paramount importance to ensure promotion and protection of human rights. However, there are reports of threats and harassments. In the past, there have been extrajudicial killings in the context of reporting on drug trafficking or organized crime or when protesting against illegal land confiscations. What is the Government doing in order to better ensure the security of human rights defenders and journalists?
* Which measures is the Government of Paraguay planning in order to address the prison situation, including overcrowding, with the aim to bring the conditions in the prisons into conformity with international standards?
* Criminal cases brought before Paraguayan courts often take several years until a verdict is reached. The system of penal jurisdiction seems to be chronically overloaded. What measures does the Government of Paraguay take in order to overcome this backlog and to enhance the efficiency of the Paraguayan penal jurisdiction?
* Teenage pregnancies remain frequent. Which steps has the government taken related to protect the young women’s sexual and reproductive health?

**BELGIUM**

* Is the government of Paraguay considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights?
* What steps has the government of Paraguay taken to address the concerns and recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the CEDAW-Committee regarding gender-based violence against women? The COVID-19 pandemic increases the risk of gender-based violence. Is the government of Paraguay planning additional measures to address this risk?
* Which actions is the government of Paraguay envisaging to address the high pregnancy rates among girls aged 10–19 years and the high rates of sexual violence against adolescent girls? What is the state of play regarding the implementation of the National Plan for Children and Adolescents (2020-2024)?
* Is the government of Paraguay considering granting the Human Rights Unit of the Public Prosecutor’s Office the authority to investigate crimes against journalists or creating a specialized prosecutorial unit to investigate those crimes?
* What concrete measures have been taken to ensure the effective implementation of the National Program to Prevent, Combat and Care for Victims of Human Trafficking and the National Investment Fund to Prevent and Care for Human Trafficking Victims, as recommended by the Human Rights Committee and the CEDAW-Committee?