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**Universal periodic review**

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\*

### Bahrain

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\* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-first session from 7 to 18 November 2022. The review of Bahrain was held at the 1st meeting, on 7 November 2022. The delegation of Bahrain was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abdullatif Rashed Alzayani. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 November 2022, the Working Group adopted the report on Bahrain.

2. On 12 January 2022, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bahrain: Gabon, India and the Russian Federation. At its 71st plenary meeting, on 10 May 2022, the General Assembly, pursuant to its resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, elected Czechia for the remainder of the term of office of the Russian Federation beginning on 10 May 2022 and ending on 31 December 2023.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, Czechia replaced the Russian Federation as a member of the troika for the universal periodic review of Bahrain.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bahrain:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>2</sup>

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>3</sup>

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>4</sup>

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Bahrain through the troika. The questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation affirmed the commitment of Bahrain to the universal periodic review mechanism for human rights, emphasising its importance and effectiveness in enhancing the human rights situation in all countries of the world.

6. The head of the delegation affirmed the importance of international solidarity in establishing the values of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and promoting the freedom of religion and belief, noting the historic visit of Pope Francis to Bahrain and his participation in the Bahrain Dialogue Forum, which had resulted in the announcement of the establishment of the King Hamad International Prize for Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence.

7. The delegation noted that Bahrain was included in the list of countries with very high levels of human development, according to the *Human Development Report* for 2021/22, issued by the United Nations Development Programme, ranking thirty-fifth globally and third in the Middle East and North Africa region.

8. The delegation provided information about efforts to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its repercussions, through a balance between maintaining public

<sup>1</sup> See [A/76/PV.71](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/41/BHR/1](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/41/BHR/2](#).

<sup>4</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/41/BHR/3](#).

health and safety and the continuation of life with proactive plans that included the following three main pillars.

9. The first was providing sustainable, high-quality health and treatment services. Bahrain had implemented high-quality health services with the development of an open budget that did not take into account costs, conducting tests and vaccinations free of charge for all citizens and residents alike, with testing available that amounted to coverage of 600 per cent of the population, with 82 per cent receiving the second dose of the vaccine and 67 per cent receiving the booster dose.

10. The second was the implementation of five financial and economic packages. Since March 2020, Bahrain had invested approximately \$12 billion dollars, the equivalent of one-third of its gross domestic product, on over 40 initiatives to support individuals, the private sector and the sectors most affected by the pandemic. That had been followed by the launch of the economic recovery plan in October 2021 in accordance with five priorities to accelerate the pace of employment of citizens and their integration into the labour market.

11. The third was supporting digital transformation in the provision of governmental, health and education services. Bahrain had an advanced communications and information technology infrastructure, and it ranked first globally in the use of the Internet, according to the World Bank, and first in the Arab world in 2021, according to the report of digital trends of the International Telecommunication Union, and was among the countries with very high indicators in the field of e-government.

12. In the context of promoting economic and social rights, Bahrain had maintained its tier 1 ranking for the fifth consecutive year in the United States State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, in 2022, a unique achievement of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa region, through the application of the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons of 2008.

13. The delegation affirmed the commitment of Bahrain to protecting the rights of expatriate workers, by establishing a comprehensive and specialized centre to support and protect expatriate workers. It had received 60,000 cases since its launch in 2016, providing guidance, legal, medical, accommodation and preventative services.

14. The delegation referred to the sixth parliamentary and municipal elections, after the success of previous rounds, the most recent of which was in 2018, with a high popular participation rate of more than 67 per cent, a sign of the vibrancy of the exercise by citizens, both men and women, of their constitutional right to elect.

15. The delegation referred to the issuance of advanced legislation and pioneering mechanisms in the Middle East region, such as the application of the Law on Alternative Sanctions and Measures of 2017, which provided for the replacement of custodial sentences after half of it had been served. Due to the success of the programme, in 2021, an amendment had been issued that authorized the Ministry of the Interior to request the replacement of the sentence of those convicted before the start of the sentence. The number of beneficiaries had surpassed 4,400 since it came into effect.

16. The activation of national oversight mechanisms was increasing, with independent human rights institutions exercising their functions freely, impartially, transparently and with full independence in oversight and accountability in the presence of an impartial judiciary that protected rights, freedoms and human dignity, most notably the National Institution for Human Rights, the Ombudsman Prisoners, the Detainees' Rights Commission and the Special Investigation Unit.

17. Bahrain had extended an invitation to resident ambassadors and the Resident Coordinator of United Nations to visit the Reform and Rehabilitation Centre in Jau and to view the facilities and services provided.

18. The delegation affirmed supporting the advancement of women, in accordance with the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women, 2013–2022. Women's indicators had risen through their assumption that year of four ministerial portfolios, their chairmanship of the Council of Representatives and the legislative authority since 2018, while holding 19 per cent of the seats of the Shura and Representative Councils, 12 per cent of judgeships.

They represented 56 per cent of workers in the government sector, 35 per cent in the private sector and 70 per cent of students in higher education, and women held 49 per cent of academic positions. Bahrain ranked first globally in bridging the gender gap in enrolment in secondary and higher education, according to the 2021 Davos Report. In global forums, women of Bahrain represented 33 per cent of diplomats, and held membership in many United Nations committees and organizations.

19. The adoption of the Law on Restorative Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment of 2021 represented a qualitative leap in the care of children and their protection from exploitation or abuse, including psychologically, physically, sexually and economically, through which a judicial committee and specialized courts for children were formed to ensure their privacy. Criminal responsibility of children under the age of 15 had been abolished, while allowing for the imposing of alternative sanctions or protective measures on children in the event that they committed a felony or misdemeanour, such as reprimands, training, rehabilitation, educational programmes or caring for him or her in a social welfare institution or hospital.

20. In line with the national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities, the country had assisted persons with disabilities in integrating into education in schools, universities, training and employment programmes and the labour market.

21. The delegation referred to the continuous efforts and attention given to the health, social and psychological well-being of the elderly and the promotion of their value and status in society by enacting the Law on the Rights of the Elderly of 2009 and the national strategy for the elderly of 2012.

22. The delegation affirmed the keenness of Bahrain to take into account the environmental dimensions related to sustainable development, through: its pledge before the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060; its support for the climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh; the continuation of its policy and projects in accordance with the new Law on the Environment of 2022; and its economic vision 2030 towards a healthy, safe and sustainable environment.

23. The delegation affirmed the importance of strengthening coordination and partnership with the United Nations and its agencies, in line with the strategic cooperation and sustainable development framework signed between the two sides, and of continuing the constructive cooperation with the Human Rights Council and OHCHR.

24. It was working to host a United Nations resident coordinator for human rights on a permanent basis and to present the second national report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the high-level political forum on sustainable development next June, to deliver voluntary reports every two years and to continue its commitment to submit periodic reports to the treaty bodies.

25. The delegation referred to the issuance of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, with its adoption by the Government in April 2021, and the follow-up of its implementation in partnership between national institutions, with the plan including 17 main goals, 34 subobjectives and 102 projects, distributed over four themes that would promote civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights, the rights of the most vulnerable groups, and solidarity rights to achieve the desired goals, especially in the areas of legislation, institutional development and capacity-building. The plan included indicators to measure performance and the impact of its implementation on the human rights situation in the country.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

26. During the interactive dialogue, 92 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

27. The United States appreciated the investigations of security forces for alleged human rights abuses and the prosecutions of some of those found responsible, while expressing

concern about the lack of transparency surrounding such investigations. It also commended Bahrain for strengthening legal protections for children and juvenile offenders and for its alternative sentencing initiatives.

28. Uruguay welcomed the delegation of Bahrain and recognized the efforts made by the country, including through the national human rights plan, 2022–2026.

29. Uzbekistan welcomed government efforts to support all segments of society during the COVID-19 pandemic, including by promoting the rights to education, health and work. It also welcomed the adoption of a number of laws aimed at strengthening human rights and democracy and the national human rights action plan, 2022–2026.

30. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the important progress made in the right to health and regarding the empowerment of women.

31. Viet Nam commended the commitment of Bahrain to promoting and protecting human rights, including through the measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

32. Yemen highlighted the promotion by Bahrain of infrastructure to protect human rights, including the national human rights plan and new relevant legislations.

33. Algeria praised of Bahrain efforts to promote and protect economic and social rights, including human rights education and training programmes.

34. Argentina congratulated Bahrain for its national report and for the efforts made towards the implementation of recommendations.

35. Armenia noted the adoption of the national plan of Bahrain and encouraged the Government to ensure women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life.

36. Australia acknowledged the work of the independent ombudsman and the National Institute for Human Rights and the adoption of a national human rights plan, however, it remained concerned by reports of torture, enforced disappearance and the abuse of detainees.

37. Austria expressed concern at the maintenance of the death penalty and the prosecution of human rights defenders, including by withdrawing their citizenship.

38. Azerbaijan positively noted the measures taken to implement the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle, including the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and new human rights legislation, as well as the signing of the strategic partnership framework for sustainable development with United Nations agencies.

39. Bangladesh welcomed the cooperation of Bahrain with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the submission of reports to various human rights treaty bodies. It also welcomed the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and an initiative to implement human rights curricula in educational institutions and the training of law enforcement personnel.

40. Belarus noted improvements regarding human rights legislation, the protection of vulnerable groups and the cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

41. Belgium expressed concern about the resumption of executions, despite the de facto moratorium of 2010, and the practice of revoking citizenship.

42. Botswana noted the progress made by Bahrain on previous recommendations and encouraged more implementation, especially to guarantee fundamental freedoms and fulfil women's rights.

43. Brazil welcomed the measures taken but remained concerned about guarantees for the exercise of freedom of opinion and the high number of political prisoners.

44. Brunei commended the efforts of Bahrain to improve human rights amid the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.

45. Bulgaria commended the national human rights plan of Bahrain, the women's political participation programme and the establishment of the National Committee for Childhood.

46. Cambodia recognized the efforts of Bahrain towards legal reforms and other initiatives to fulfil its commitment to its international human rights obligations.
47. Canada acknowledged the national human rights plan of Bahrain, 2022–2026, and also noted that many accepted recommendations from previous universal periodic review cycles had not been implemented.
48. Chile highlighted the development of the Bahraini human rights plan and the measures developed to address the consequences of the pandemic.
49. China noted that Bahrain had implemented the 2030 economic vision, improved people's living standards, promoted education fairness, effectively protected the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and combated human trafficking.
50. Costa Rica congratulated Bahrain for the presentation of its national report.
51. Côte d'Ivoire applauded the efforts to promote human rights, in particular the adoption of a national plan for human rights for the period 2022–2026.
52. Cuba recognized the efforts made in the implementation of the national strategy for children and for other initiatives on social protection.
53. Cyprus commended the adoption of a national human rights plan, the developments in juvenile justice, the adoption of Decree No. 24 of 2022 and the anti-human trafficking measures.
54. Czechia welcomed the adoption of the national plan for human rights of Bahrain, noted the improvements in the areas of health care for detainees and juvenile justice and the efforts to combat religious discrimination.
55. Denmark commended the efforts of Bahrain to address human rights, however, it remained concerned about the arbitrary arrests of citizens and the undignified treatment of prisoners in Jau Prison.
56. Djibouti welcomed the creation in 2022 of a ministry dedicated to sustainable development responsible for the integration of all public programmes.
57. The delegation referred to the Higher Council of Women, which aimed at ensuring the translation of equality into reality, partnering with all stakeholders, and including it in the political strategy imposing equality commissions supervising and reporting on the equality of opportunities and on gender and wage parity within institutions. It also confirmed that the Ministry of Justice was the guarantor of freedom of association and that no association could be closed without the authorization of the Ministry.
58. Egypt commended the consolidation by Bahrain of citizenship values, the regulation of family relations and the promotion of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and expatriate workers.
59. Estonia applauded Bahrain for adopting a national human rights plan, noted the attempts to eradicate religious discrimination and highlighted progress in the juvenile justice field.
60. Finland highly appreciated the engagement of Bahrain in the universal periodic review process.
61. France commended the commitment of the authorities illustrated in the concrete actions implemented, such as the use of alternative sentences to imprisonment.
62. Gabon commended the measures related to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic that allowed public life to continue without exceptional measures restricting travel.
63. Morocco expressed the aspiration that the country would consolidate the gains for the further maintenance of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.
64. Georgia welcomed the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, the establishment of the ministry for sustainable development, the alignment of the 2030 economic vision with the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to submitting voluntary reports every two years to the United Nations human rights system.

65. Germany welcomed the development of restorative justice mechanisms and the active promotion of freedom of belief. It expressed concern regarding the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as the resumption of use of the death penalty.
66. Ireland urged Bahrain to uphold freedom of religion and belief for all persons, including members of the Shia community, carry out independent and prompt investigations into all allegations of torture or other forms of ill-treatment and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. It also regretted the reintroduction of the death penalty.
67. India appreciated the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, the establishment of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the signing of the strategic partnership framework for sustainable development, 2021–2022, the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women and the National Committee for Childhood.
68. Indonesia welcomed the enactment by Bahrain of its comprehensive module for addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.
69. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.
70. Iraq commended the first national human rights plan of Bahrain and the establishment of a special prosecution for trafficking in persons.
71. Iceland commended Bahrain for the adoption of its national human rights plan, 2022–2026.
72. Italy welcomed the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and the measures adopted aimed at increasing women’s empowerment.
73. Jordan appreciated the new human rights legislation of Bahrain and its protecting and promoting human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic.
74. Kazakhstan appreciated the progress made in the area of women’s rights, the efforts to strengthen the independence of the Ombudsman’s Office and the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026.
75. Kuwait highlighted the establishment by Bahrain of a national human rights institution and other specialized institutions and mechanisms related to human rights.
76. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the development of a legislative and institutional framework to promote and protect human rights, including the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and the efforts undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic.
77. Latvia welcomed the delegation of Bahrain and thanked it for its presentation of its national report.
78. Lebanon commended the establishment of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, whose main mission was to achieve the goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
79. Libya appreciated the efforts of Bahrain to undertake constitutional and legislative reforms to protect and promote human rights.
80. Lithuania acknowledged the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, but remained deeply concerned about the maintenance of the death penalty.
81. Luxembourg recognized the progress made in the field of women’s rights and wished Bahrain success in the implementation of recommendations.
82. Malaysia commended Bahrain for its commitment made to realize the Sustainable Development Goals, including by establishing the Ministry of Sustainable Development.
83. Maldives applauded Bahrain for the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and the creation of the Ministry of Sustainable Development.
84. Mauritania noted with satisfaction the considerable efforts to combat human trafficking and the national human rights plan, 2022–2026.
85. Mauritius applauded Bahrain for amending the labour laws to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.
86. Mexico thanked Bahrain for the presentation of its national report.

87. Montenegro acknowledged the positive results in combating trafficking in persons, but it was concerned about the restrictions imposed on some freedoms.
88. Gambia commended the efforts in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and the efforts in getting 84 per cent of the total population vaccinated.
89. Namibia commended Bahrain for the adoption of legislation aimed at protecting children from ill-treatment and for its advances on human rights.
90. Nepal appreciated the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons.
91. The Netherlands remained concerned about reports of shrinking civil society space, but it welcomed the measures taken to ensure protection against torture.
92. Nigeria commended the Government for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and its commitment to the implementation of previous recommendations.
93. The delegation indicated that the press law guaranteed the protection of all journalists, as it affirmed that the opinion issued by a journalist or the correct information that he published should not be a reason for compromising his security. That resulted in the absence of the presentment of any journalist due to publishing issues.
94. The pretrial detention of journalists, pending investigation, in any case, for the crimes stipulated in the press law had been abolished under the Penal Code, and the word “discipline” had been replaced with the word “accountability” in all articles of the law.
95. Norway commended Bahrain on the adoption of its first human rights action plan, however, it remained concerned about the discrimination against women.
96. Oman appreciated the achievements of Bahrain in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and the adoption of the new national human rights plan.
97. Pakistan commended the commitment of Bahrain to strengthening national human rights frameworks through institutional, legislative and policy steps.
98. Panama welcomed the presentation of the national report.
99. The Philippines appreciated the ongoing labour reforms undertaken by Bahrain and its sustained efforts to combat human trafficking, including through cooperation with bilateral partners. It also noted a major human rights trafficking case on which it had successfully worked together with Bahrain in 2020.
100. Poland expressed concern about acts of torture committed by law enforcement officials, the freedom of conscience, the right to worship, human trafficking and forced labour.
101. Portugal noted with satisfaction the adoption of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, and the efforts made by the national human rights institution.
102. Saudi Arabia praised the new national human rights plan of Bahrain and the progress it had made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
103. Sierra Leone commended Bahrain for establishing the Private Sector Labour Code and specialized courts for children to ensure the quality of proceedings for cases involving minors.
104. Singapore commended the national human rights plan, the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women and the measures to address the impact of the pandemic.
105. Slovenia recognized the improvements regarding the rights of detainees, but it expressed concerns about the increasing trend of death sentences in Bahrain.
106. Somalia commended the measures to develop the legal framework, especially the Act on Restorative Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment.
107. South Sudan commended Bahrain for submitting the midterm report in 2019 on the implementation of the recommendations made during the third cycle of the universal periodic review.



108. Spain welcomed the initiatives taken to promote religious pluralism in the country, as well as the improvements in prison legislation.
109. Sri Lanka commended the national human rights plan, the enactment of legislation to promote women's rights and the measures to align national priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals.
110. The State of Palestine noted the efforts to protect and promote human rights, including the adoption of the national human rights plan for the period 2022–2026.
111. The Sudan praised the national human rights plan of Bahrain, its sustainable development plan and its commitment to submit periodic human rights reports.
112. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Bahrain.
113. The Syrian Arab Republic noted the efforts made to expand the programmes dedicated to support, rehabilitate and integrate persons with disabilities into public life.
114. Thailand acknowledged the endeavours of Bahrain to promote and protect the rights of the child, while recognizing that more could be done in that field.
115. Tunisia appreciated the achievements regarding promoting and protecting human rights since its last review, reflecting its commitment to that mechanism.
116. Türkiye welcomed the national human rights plan, the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women and the Alternative Sanctions and Measures Law.
117. Turkmenistan commended, among other things, the actions taken by the National Committee for Childhood to promote the educational, cultural and psychological development of children.
118. Ukraine commended the success of Bahrain in the area of health and nutrition and encouraged it to continue making progress in other important fields.
119. The United Arab Emirates applauded the national plan for human rights, 2022–2026, which had been realized in a participatory approach with national stakeholders and international organizations.
120. The United Kingdom recognized progress made, including the development of bodies and legislation to safeguard rights and provide independent oversight of police behaviour and detention standards.
121. Tanzania commended its dedication to attain the Sustainable Development Goals, the measures for the protection of persons with disabilities and the enactment of laws in favour of women.
122. With regard to the children of a Bahraini woman married to a known foreigner who holds the nationality of his country, the delegation mentioned that they obtained the nationality of the father. Despite that, Bahrain had taken many legal measures in favour of the children of a Bahraini woman married to a foreigner, to treat them like a citizen in terms of fees for government health and education services and residency fees, and they benefitted from social security and social assistance as a citizen, and they benefitted from the services provided by the alimony fund, in the event of the divorce of their parents, and with regard to university tuition fees.
123. The head of delegation expressed warm thanks to OHCHR, the troika and all the participating countries with their constructive comments. The delegation affirmed that all comments, recommendations and questions would be given due attention by Bahrain, with the involvement of all concerned stakeholders, in order to have a common ground position. Reiterating its thanks to the Working Group, the delegation reaffirmed its commitment and intention of continuous collaboration with the universal periodic review mechanism, as it was one of the most successful, transparent and participatory mechanisms guaranteeing the effective support of human rights worldwide.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

124. The following recommendations will be examined by Bahrain, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council:

124.1 Consider the ratification of the core United Nations human rights treaties to which it is not yet party (Chile) (State of Palestine) (Turkmenistan);

124.2 Join and ratify, and ensure the effective implementation of, the main international human rights related instruments, in line with the country's international human rights commitments (Ukraine);

124.3 Ratify the core United Nations human rights treaties, to which it is not yet a party (Islamic Republic of Iran);

124.4 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (Finland); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as previously recommended (Uruguay);

124.5 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as suspend the application of death sentences (Mexico); Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and announce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its eventual abolition (Ireland); Commute all death sentences, re-establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);

124.6 Consider declaring an official moratorium on executions, with a view to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the abolishment of the death penalty (Lithuania); Consider the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia);

124.7 Immediately restore a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg); Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);

124.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Arms Trade Treaty (Panama);

124.9 Declare an official moratorium on executions, with a view to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the abolishment of the death penalty (Austria);

124.10 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);

124.11 Adopt the necessary measures for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);

- 124.12 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, as previously recommended (Armenia);**
- 124.13 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Botswana);**
- 124.14 **Ratify and accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Czechia) (Denmark) (Estonia) (Finland) (Lithuania) (Nigeria);**
- 124.15 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia) (Czechia) (Lithuania);**
- 124.16 **Work towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia); Intensify efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Maldives); Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mauritius);**
- 124.17 **Take measures to further limit all forms of torture, including by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and ensure full accountability for violations and abuses (Italy);**
- 124.18 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile) (Philippines);**
- 124.19 **Consider ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization (Philippines);**
- 124.20 **Implement measures against torture and violence, especially towards vulnerable populations, including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex populations, people with disabilities, minorities, migrants and refugees and human rights defenders, and in this regard, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Costa Rica);**
- 124.21 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia); Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**
- 124.22 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Mauritius);**
- 124.23 **Continue enhancing its frameworks for the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of migrant workers, especially women and household service workers (Philippines);**
- 124.24 **Continue the efforts made in the education sector, especially those related to considering the possibility of ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Saudi Arabia);**
- 124.25 **Withdraw all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);**
- 124.26 **Withdraw reservations to articles 2, 9, 15, 16 and 29 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify the Optional Protocol thereto (Iceland);**
- 124.27 **Work on making amendments to the Press and Electronic Media Law, in line with international standards and agreements ratified and joined by Bahrain (Kuwait);**

- 124.28 Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures, as soon as possible, including to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Netherlands);
- 124.29 Extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Czechia) (Finland);
- 124.30 Consider issuing a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Kazakhstan);
- 124.31 Accept pending visit requests from the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider extending a standing invitation to them (Latvia)
- 124.32 Accept requests for visits submitted by special procedure mandate holders (Luxembourg);
- 124.33 Allow requested visits by mandate holders, particularly the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Montenegro);
- 124.34 Further enhance its cooperation with the special procedure mandates holders (Mauritius);
- 124.35 Collaborate with the United Nations special procedures and accept requests for visits from the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (Switzerland);
- 124.36 Strengthen further cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to successfully implement the national human rights plan (Turkmenistan);
- 124.37 Continue the efforts in protecting human rights, especially through legislative reform programmes and accession to international conventions (Sudan);
- 124.38 Continue to activate the new legislation issued in the field of human rights, especially the law on justice and reform (Jordan);
- 124.39 Align national legislation with international standards, enabling members of the opposition, as well as political societies, journalists and human rights defenders, to exercise these rights (Spain);
- 124.40 Consider the possibility of adopting laws promoting the strengthening of civil society organizations (Mauritania);
- 124.41 Develop the capacities of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights (Egypt) (Kuwait);
- 124.42 Create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including children human rights defenders (Ireland);
- 124.43 Intensify training programmes aimed at educating, and raising awareness and strengthen the capabilities of, national cadres in the field of human rights (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 124.44 Continue to raise awareness of human rights among all groups, particularly the younger generations, through education and public trainings (Turkmenistan);
- 124.45 Expand human rights education and awareness-raising programmes to target more public servants (Algeria);
- 124.46 Continue developing laws and improving procedures and practices to guarantee human rights, in accordance with the recommendations of the

**Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry and in accordance with the reform approach taken by Bahrain (Oman);**

**124.47 Ensure the effective implementation of the national action plan and the recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies (Uzbekistan);**

**124.48 Continue efforts to strengthen the role of national human rights mechanisms and to implement the projects contained in the national human rights plan, which aim to maintain and respect human rights at all levels in Bahrain (Yemen);**

**124.49 Speedily and effectively implement the 10 voluntary commitments made in its national human rights plan for the period 2022–2026 (Austria);**

**124.50 Implement the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, effectively, which includes cross-cutting human rights issues, in order to achieve the main objectives set therein (Azerbaijan);**

**124.51 Continue implementing the policies and programmes contained in the Bahrain economic vision 2030, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the national human rights plan, 2022–2026 (Somalia);**

**124.52 Continue advancing in the effective implementation of the national human rights plan, 2022–2026, prioritizing the axes of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as attention to groups in situations of vulnerability (Cuba);**

**124.53 Continue the implementation of the national human rights plan, in order to further improve the human rights protection system (Belarus);**

**124.54 Strengthen the right to freedom of expression and take measures to implement the commitments contained in the national action plan for human rights, 2022–2026 (France);**

**124.55 Continue to implement its national human rights plan (Singapore);**

**124.56 Consider further strengthening the national human rights institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (India);**

**124.57 Support and strengthen the independence of its national human rights institution to ensure compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Gambia);**

**124.58 Exert more efforts to ensure that the national human rights institution complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and enable it to carry out its tasks effectively and independently (State of Palestine);**

**124.59 Take all necessary measures to strengthen the national human rights institution within the framework of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Uzbekistan);**

**124.60 Take further measures to strengthen the independence and capacity of the national human rights institution and achieve its full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Bulgaria);**

**124.61 While noting the existence of a national human rights institution partially compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), establish an independent national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Finland);**

- 124.62 Strengthen the special investigations unit and the Ombudsman of the Ministry of the Interior to allow these institutions to fulfil their mandates in an effective, independent and impartial manner (Canada);
- 124.63 Consider establishing a national ombudsman mechanism for reporting and follow-up on the rights of the child (Poland);
- 124.64 Advance comprehensive legislation against discrimination in all areas, defining the grounds for discrimination and providing effective remedies for victims of discrimination (Chile);
- 124.65 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and a policy framework to ensure full and effective protection from discrimination in all spheres and to provide remedies for victims of discrimination (Bulgaria);
- 124.66 Put in place anti-discrimination legislation covering all grounds of discrimination, including those based on religion, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation (Luxembourg);
- 124.67 End the targeted discrimination, arbitrary arrests and deprivation of citizenship of Shia Muslims (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.68 Ensure that everyone is able to exercise their right to take part in cultural and religious life without discrimination or undue restrictions (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.69 Include in national legislation a provision that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and repeal provisions that criminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex, in particular articles 326, 346 and 350 of the Penal Code (Mexico);
- 124.70 Abolish the death penalty (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 124.71 Abolish the use of death penalty and, as a first step, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions (Finland);
- 124.72 Abolish or adopt an official moratorium on the application of the death penalty and replace it with other punishment measures, in line with international human rights obligations (Brazil);
- 124.73 Immediately implement a formal moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view of its abolition (Australia);
- 124.74 Make efforts to restore the de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Chile);
- 124.75 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Costa Rica);
- 124.76 Abolish the death penalty and reinstate an immediate moratorium on executions (Iceland);
- 124.77 Return to a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Germany);
- 124.78 Reinstate the moratorium on the application of the death penalty (Poland); Reinstate the moratorium on the application of the death penalty and consider pardoning those currently on a death row (Montenegro); Reinstate the de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty and commute all death sentences (Namibia);
- 124.79 Reinstate immediately a full moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as recommended by its own National Institute for Human Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 124.80 Consider reinstating a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);

- 124.81 Consider adopting a de jure moratorium on capital executions, with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty for all crimes (Italy);
- 124.82 Commute all death sentences, declare a moratorium on the use of death penalty and move towards the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);
- 124.83 Take steps to abolish the death penalty, including by reinstating the moratorium (Czechia);
- 124.84 Declare an immediate official moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Canada);
- 124.85 Promptly restore a moratorium on the application of the death penalty and consider pardoning all those on death row and suspending and commuting their sentences (Argentina);
- 124.86 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, which has not been applied for three years, with a view to abolishing the death penalty for all offences (France);
- 124.87 Abolish the death penalty for drug crimes, treason and high treason (Sierra Leone);
- 124.88 Ensure that the death penalty is not, under any circumstances, imposed, in violation of the guarantees provided for in article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 124.89 Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and limit them to the most serious crimes, in accordance with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);
- 124.90 Implement a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, refraining from its application for pending cases, as a preliminary step towards its full abolition (Spain);
- 124.91 Comply with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including by ensuring that all detainees are fully protected against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (Australia);
- 124.92 Implement recommendations on the use of torture, the fight against impunity and judiciary safeguards for fair trial rights (Slovenia);
- 124.93 Continue efforts in improving prison conditions and the treatment of people in detention, possibly also involving bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);
- 124.94 Release all arbitrarily detained persons in Bahrain, including Danish-Bahraini citizen, Abdulhadi Al-Khawaja, imprisoned for more than 11 years and a victim of torture who needs treatment and rehabilitation (Denmark);
- 124.95 Implement fully the recommendations made by the United Nations mandate holders regarding the immediate release of all political prisoners (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.96 Pursue the changes initiated with regard to the situation in prisons, particularly those concerning minors and those aimed at facilitating and improving access to care for all prisoners, and generalize the use of alternative penalties to imprisonment (France);
- 124.97 Continue the process of capacity-building in terms of law enforcement, the rule of law and restorative justice (Mauritania);
- 124.98 Continuing to build the capacities of law enforcement personnel of both sexes on how to deal with accused and convicted persons (Tunisia);
- 124.99 Harmonize fully its legislation and practices to combat terrorism and extremism with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

**including by amending the Act on the Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts and ensuring that all criminal proceedings for terrorist acts respect the rights to a fair trial and access to justice (Panama);**

**124.100 Review the Law for the Protection of Society against Terrorist Acts to ensure that it complies with international human rights obligations and that no provision contravenes the exercise of fundamental freedoms to the detriment of the work of human rights defenders (Mexico);**

**124.101 Stop the persecution under extensive anti-terrorism laws of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organizations for exercising their fundamental rights (Czechia);**

**124.102 Further strengthen efforts to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations (Somalia);**

**124.103 Engage in a genuine national dialogue in an open and inclusive manner with all stakeholders (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

**124.104 Investigate all allegations of torture and ensure the prosecution of those responsible (Norway);**

**124.105 Investigate all allegations of acts of torture and ill-treatment committed in the context of criminal investigations to obtain confessions and take measures to prevent these acts and end impunity therefor (Luxembourg);**

**124.106 Investigate all cases of torture and ill-treatment in detention by public officials and strengthen measures to prevent those acts (Poland);**

**124.107 Ensure that perpetrators identified in the course of fully impartial and effective investigations into torture and ill-treatment are prosecuted (Austria);**

**124.108 Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against civil society activists, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers (Estonia);**

**124.109 Scale up efforts and commitments in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);**

**124.110 Continue to enhance the promotion of interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance (Indonesia);**

**124.111 Ensure the equal rights of all persons to freedom of religion (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

**124.112 Expedite the formulation of a national plan to consolidate the values and principles of religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence among religions to enhance national unity (Botswana);**

**124.113 Continue to take measures to restore damaged religious sites (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

**124.114 Amend legislation with a view to lifting restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly (Canada);**

**124.115 Remove restrictions on peaceful assembly and association, by eliminating the continuing prohibition on public demonstrations and allowing political societies to engage in meetings without restrictions (United States of America);**

**124.116 Continue to promote freedom of opinion and expression by working to make appropriate amendments to the Press and Electronic Media Law, in line with international standards and conventions ratified or acceded to by Bahrain (Morocco);**

**124.117 Uphold the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by ending the detention of people for expressing views critical of the Government and ending the ban on protests (Australia);**



- 124.118 Fully respect the freedoms of expression, association, religion or belief for all people, without discrimination (Costa Rica);
- 124.119 Allow all citizens to freely exercise their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly without restrictions (Czechia);
- 124.120 Amend the provisions in Decree Law No. 47 that criminalize defamation, blasphemy and criticizing public officials and promulgate a new media law that fully enshrines the right to freedom of expression (Belgium);
- 124.121 Continue to consolidate the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and continue to promote national harmony and unity (United Arab Emirates);
- 124.122 Continue to consolidate the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and to enhance national harmony and unity, by reviewing laws and decisions related to freedom of religion and belief and proposing appropriate amendments to develop them (Morocco);
- 124.123 Reduce restrictions on peaceful assembly and association and protect the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, as well as freedom of assembly, in accordance with international obligations (Germany);
- 124.124 Release all persons detained solely for the exercise of their right to freedom of expression and their right to peaceful assembly and repeal all legislative provisions criminalizing the exercise of these rights (United States of America);
- 124.125 Immediately release all opposition activists, journalists, human rights defenders and other individuals arbitrarily arrested, including for exercising their right to freedom of expression or association (Ireland);
- 124.126 Release all individuals, including human rights defenders, who have been imprisoned for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and reinstate Bahraini citizenship to all individuals whose citizenship has been revoked as a reprisal for human rights activities (Norway);
- 124.127 Continue efforts aimed at creating a safer and enabling environment for increasing levels of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Italy);
- 124.128 Promote and protect the right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression and media freedom, as well as the safety of journalists (Latvia);
- 124.129 Investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially all allegations against human rights defenders and journalists imprisoned due to the exercise of their rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Lithuania);
- 124.130 Guarantee all citizens and political parties the right to participate in public affairs and in political life (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.131 Reinstatement political associations and create equal opportunities for political participation, allowing for the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Netherlands);
- 124.132 Design effective mechanisms to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders, non-governmental organizations and journalists so that they can carry out their functions without fear of acts of intimidation or reprisal (Uruguay);
- 124.133 Reform laws that regulate publishing, both print and online, in order to ensure freedom of expression for the independent media and all citizens (Norway);

- 124.134 **Revise the Press, Printing and Publication Act to ensure the protection of freedom of expression, online and offline, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals and article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**
- 124.135 **Move quickly to pass the much-delayed journalism and e-media law, to ensure stronger protections for journalists and to enhance wider media freedoms (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 124.136 **Take the upcoming elections as an opportunity to further enhance the human rights of all segments of society (Türkiye);**
- 124.137 **Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents against acts of intimidation and reprisal (Luxembourg);**
- 124.138 **Strengthen its efforts to combat, prevent, eradicate and punish practices of human trafficking and forced labour against all persons (Gambia);**
- 124.139 **Strengthen further efforts to combat, prevent and eradicate forced labour and trafficking in persons (Sri Lanka);**
- 124.140 **Strengthening efforts to combat human trafficking and ensuring that all cases are investigated (State of Palestine);**
- 124.141 **Continue strengthening its efforts at addressing the crime of trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 124.142 **Pursue the efforts undertaken in the fight against human trafficking and the effective protection of workers, including migrants (France);**
- 124.143 **Amend the labour law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or age (Iceland);**
- 124.144 **Review the labour law to ensure equal protection for domestic workers and fully integrate them into the Private Sector Labour Code (Act No. 36 of 2012), as well as into the Decree No. 59 of 2018 on discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace (Switzerland);**
- 124.145 **Continue to take the necessary measures to protect vulnerable groups in the labour market and to provide them with adequate care (Tunisia);**
- 124.146 **Continue strengthening its social programmes in favour of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 124.147 **Continue to strengthen the social security system (China);**
- 124.148 **Continue to implement the Bahrain economic vision 2030 and promote sustainable economic and social development, so as to provide a more solid foundation for people to enjoy all human rights (China);**
- 124.149 **Implement more measures, including the allocation of more human, technical and financial resources to the health sector, for the further promotion of the right to health of the people (Viet Nam);**
- 124.150 **Continue with policy and legislative measures for promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence, including by ensuring access to safe reproductive health services (India);**
- 124.151 **Decriminalize abortion and ensure protection and services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Iceland);**
- 124.152 **Develop and implement a national programme to provide access for persons most at risk of or affected by HIV, including migrant and domestic workers, to quality, affordable and rights-based prevention, testing, treatment and support services and to combat stigma and discrimination in this regard (Portugal);**

- 124.153 Continue to strengthen its efforts to support its society in pandemic recovery (Singapore);
- 124.154 Strengthen its efforts to promote full access to education (Georgia);
- 124.155 Ensure the continuity of the right to basic education for all (Kyrgyzstan);
- 124.156 Continue to advance the right to education, including non-discriminatory access to education, through appropriate laws, policies and programmes (Sri Lanka);
- 124.157 Further strengthen strategies for the achievement of greater access to higher education, especially for persons with disabilities (Brunei Darussalam);
- 124.158 Ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools and continue to give priority to measures facilitating their full inclusion (Gambia);
- 124.159 Redouble efforts to develop and promote vocational training to enhance the skills of children, especially those who drop out of school in rural areas (South Sudan);
- 124.160 Organize campaigns and education programmes to raise awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in all its diversity (Cyprus);
- 124.161 Integrate a rights-based approach into climate mitigation policy and disaster risk reduction plans (Cyprus);
- 124.162 Continue reinforcing its successful policies in the field of gender equality (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 124.163 Continue its efforts to promote the principle of equality of opportunity and gender balance in work, society and the public sector (Singapore);
- 124.164 Strengthen measures to ensure gender equality and repeal all discriminatory provisions against women and girls (Czechia);
- 124.165 Strengthen the processes of the empowerment and autonomy of women and girls through a normative framework that allows them to enjoy all their human rights, including to education, the right to health in all its dimensions, the safe exercise of freedom of expression, a life free from violence of any kind and their participation in the various decision-making processes in the political, civil, economic, social and environmental spheres (Costa Rica);
- 124.166 Incorporate into their plans and policies measures that aim to achieve gender equity in the public and private spheres, including the participation of women in leadership positions (Chile);
- 124.167 Step up its efforts to strengthen policies and programmes for the empowerment of women, in accordance with its sociocultural ethos (Bangladesh);
- 124.168 Strengthen the policy of access for girls and women to education at all levels (Algeria);
- 124.169 Improve further national legislation, in order to ensure gender balance, guarantee equal opportunities and take into account the needs of women in all areas of activity, including within the framework of the next national plan for the advancement of women, for the period 2023–2030, which is planned to be developed (Belarus);
- 124.170 Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women in legislation, including on the freedom of movement and on the right to transmit nationality, to divorce and to inherit, in order to ensure gender equality (Belgium);
- 124.171 Continue enhancing programmes on the economic participation of women and youth (Brunei Darussalam);

- 124.172 **Build on the results achieved in implementing the national plan for the advancement of women for the period 2013–2022, in order to prepare a new plan for the coming period (Lebanon);**
- 124.173 **Develop the next phase of the national plan, for the period 2023–2030, to ensure that the needs of women are integrated into the development programmes and thereby promote the advancement of women (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 124.174 **Continue taking measures to enhance women’s participation in public life and align programmes with the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women and the strategies, frameworks, programmes and initiatives emanating from it (United Arab Emirates);**
- 124.175 **Consider taking additional steps to increase women’s representation at decision-making levels (Cambodia);**
- 124.176 **Raise awareness about the importance of the equal participation of women and men in public and political life and undertake apt steps towards this end (Cyprus);**
- 124.177 **Continue its efforts to finalize the implementation of the national plan for the advancement of women (Gabon);**
- 124.178 **Redouble efforts to achieve the equitable representation of women in the public and political spheres, particularly in decision-making positions (Gabon);**
- 124.179 **Continue to take measures to enhance the participation of women in political and public life (Iraq);**
- 124.180 **Continue efforts to enhance the participation of women in political and public life (Nepal);**
- 124.181 **Redouble efforts to enhance gender equality and women’s representation in the public and political spheres (Indonesia);**
- 124.182 **Increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas and promote women in leadership positions (Kazakhstan);**
- 124.183 **Pursue efforts to promote the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life (Djibouti);**
- 124.184 **Reform and unify the family law to ensure equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in law and in practice (Iceland);**
- 124.185 **Continue to follow up on the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women to ensure the achievement of its objective of empowering women (Jordan);**
- 124.186 **Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to ensure gender equality and eliminate any form of discrimination against women, including by ensuring equal rights between spouses (Latvia);**
- 124.187 **Work to strengthen gender equality procedures in access to adequate housing (Malaysia);**
- 124.188 **Continue to empower women in the labour market, economically, politically and socially, and to allow them to effectively participate in the various work sectors (South Sudan);**
- 124.189 **Expand women’s development portfolio for commercial activities, especially in small and medium-sized enterprises (Pakistan);**
- 124.190 **Continue to implement legislation that protects women in their workplace and at home and provide effective tools to overcome the obstacles that still exist for their full legal integration (Spain);**

- 124.191 Repeal articles 334 and 353 of the Penal Code, which perpetuate violence and discrimination against women, and criminalize sexual violence and marital rape as specific crimes, establishing adequate sanctions and guaranteeing that no exception or mediation is applied in such cases (Mexico);
- 124.192 Repeal article 353 of the Penal Code and criminalize marital rape (Iceland);
- 124.193 Criminalize marital rape (Latvia);
- 124.194 Define sexual violence and marital rape as criminal offenses in the Criminal Code (Sierra Leone);
- 124.195 Criminalize all forms of violence against women and include domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape, as a specific crime in its Penal Code, assigning appropriate sanctions (Argentina);
- 124.196 Criminalize all forms of violence against women and include domestic violence, sexual violence and marital rape as specific criminal offences in its Criminal Code, assigning appropriate sanctions (Panama);
- 124.197 Continue intensifying efforts to eliminate violence against women (Cambodia);
- 124.198 Continue its work in order to combat violence against women (Georgia);
- 124.199 Improve further policies and measures to better protect the rights of women and children (China);
- 124.200 Continue to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard the rights of children (Pakistan);
- 124.201 Criminalize child marriage and raise the marital age for girls to 18 years of age (Iceland);
- 124.202 Continue to support initiatives for developing children's abilities and skills (India);
- 124.203 Continue to support projects related to children and the development of their capabilities (Libya);
- 124.204 Continue to support projects related to childhood and the development of the abilities and skills in children (Malaysia);
- 124.205 Continue to support the National Committee for Childhood to carry out its work aimed at developing childhood at all stages of life, educationally, culturally and psychologically (Oman);
- 124.206 Strengthen the rights of children, by the effective implementation of the newly adopted law on Restorative Justice for Children and their Protection from Ill-Treatment (Türkiye);
- 124.207 Continue implementing initiatives that improve the services for the elderly (Kyrgyzstan);
- 124.208 Continue efforts to promote a human rights-based approach to disability (Maldives);
- 124.209 Continue strengthening the legal framework and public policies to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities, including their access to food, medical care and social security (Cuba);
- 124.210 Continue to strengthen the policies and regulations concerned with ensuring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Saudi Arabia);
- 124.211 Pursue the efforts exerted in the framework of protecting people with special needs and ensuring their integration into society (Lebanon);

- 124.212 Continue the efforts to protect persons with disabilities, especially those related to their inclusion in schools (Algeria);
- 124.213 Promote the training of public sector personnel in the field of human rights and strengthen national bodies responsible for guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities (Djibouti);
- 124.214 Intensify its efforts to enhance the enjoyment of human rights by women, children and persons with disabilities, by implementing relevant legislative and policy measures (Azerbaijan);
- 124.215 Continue to promote the integration of persons with disabilities who seek employment into diverse sectors of the labour market (Bulgaria);
- 124.216 Continue the efforts to integrate people with disabilities into the labour market and provide them with the necessary skills (Libya);
- 124.217 Continue the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market and provide them with appropriate job opportunities (Tunisia);
- 124.218 Sustain and expand programmes that aim to protect children, especially those with special needs and disabilities, from all forms of abuse and ill-treatment (Philippines);
- 124.219 Increase the human and financial resources allocated to the High Committee for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities to enable it to carry out optimally the tasks entrusted to it (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 124.220 Strengthen measures to protect and ensure the rights of migrant workers (Indonesia);
- 124.221 Strengthen measures to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers, including domestic workers (Nepal);
- 124.222 Further strengthen protection for and the rights of migrant workers (Pakistan);
- 124.223 Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers, particularly women migrant workers, with a view to protecting them from all forms of exploitation and ill-treatment (Viet Nam);
- 124.224 Continue efforts to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, including contractual workers (Oman);
- 124.225 Continue to protect the rights of foreign workers, particularly female migrant workers, to ensure equal treatment for them (Bangladesh);
- 124.226 Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation to ensure that foreign nationals, particularly migrant workers, are treated equally before the law (Germany);
- 124.227 Continue to strengthen labour law protection for migrant workers and provide enhanced access to effective legal remedies (Sri Lanka);
- 124.228 Continue the efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers (Egypt);
- 124.229 Continue the efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers (Iraq);
- 124.230 Continue strengthening protection for migrant workers, including by establishing a non-discriminatory national minimum wage and through the enforcement of labour laws and regulations to prevent exploitation and abuse (Thailand);
- 124.231 Promote further the development of children at all ages, with special attention given to children of migrant workers, stateless children and children of Bahraini women married to foreigners, by ensuring their access to primary and secondary education, health care and other necessary social services (Thailand);

- 124.232 Enable women to transfer nationality to their children without restriction and on equal basis with men (Lithuania);
- 124.233 Take steps to end discrimination against women, including by allowing Bahraini women to transfer their Bahraini citizenship to their children (Norway);
- 124.234 Amend legislation to allow Bahraini women to pass on their nationality to their children (Cyprus);
- 124.235 Amend the Citizenship Law prohibiting the passage of citizenship from a woman to her child (Sierra Leone);
- 124.236 Amend the Citizenship Law, by allowing the passage of citizenship from a woman to her child, while introducing legislation to protect and guarantee the rights of stateless children (Brazil);
- 124.237 Amend the Citizenship Law to grant citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to non-Bahraini men (United States of America);
- 124.238 Amend and harmonize laws and policies to ensure Bahraini women the right to pass citizenship to their children (Slovenia);
- 124.239 Amend the Citizenship Law and other relevant legislation to allow women to transfer Bahraini nationality to their children without restriction and on an equal basis with men (Canada);
- 124.240 Amend its nationality laws so that Bahraini women married to foreigners can transmit Bahraini citizenship to their children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 124.241 Implement all necessary legislative and administrative measures to allow Bahraini women married to foreigners to transfer their nationality to their children without restriction (Uruguay);
- 124.242 Provide legal guarantees to stateless persons to obtain Bahraini nationality, including through the adoption of laws that allow women to transmit nationality to their children (Costa Rica);
- 124.243 Amend its legislation and adopt all necessary legal and practical measures to prevent and reduce the statelessness of citizens (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.244 Put in place and strengthen mechanisms combating and preventing discrimination against girls, children with disabilities, children born to foreign or stateless fathers and all the vulnerable children from minority groups to avoid marginalization (Gambia);
- 124.245 Recognize in law the right to education and guarantee free-of-charge and non-discriminatory access to primary and secondary education, including to girls, to children of migrant and domestic workers and to stateless children (Portugal).

125. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

### III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

126. Bahrain has pledged to work on completing the implementation of the projects of the national human rights plan for the period 2022–2026, which includes 102 projects that further develop ongoing human rights efforts at all levels in the country.

127. Bahrain has made the commitment to submit voluntary reports every two years to benefit from observations as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance its human rights system.

## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bahrain was headed by His Excellency Dr. Abdullatif Rashed Alzayani, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Dr. Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
- Mr. Ahmed Mahdi Al-Haddad, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Shura Council (Head of International and Arab Relations);
- Dr. Waleed Khalifa Almana, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health;
- Ms. Ghada Hamid Habib, Ombudsman General;
- Brigadier General Hamoud Saad Hamoud, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs – Ministry Of Interior;
- H.E. Ambassador Talal Abdulsalam Al Ansari, Director General – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Hamad Ali Al-Mannai, Advisor of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs;
- Chancellor Sheikha Mariam bint Abdulwahab Al Khalifa, Vice Chairman of the Authority – Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission;
- Dr. Arwa Hassan Al-Sayed, Head of Human Rights Sector-Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Al Mutawa, Director of the Department of Ministerial Committee Affairs – Ministry Of Interior;
- Mr. Saeed Abdulkhalik Saeed, Director of the Minister office – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Ezzedine Khalil Moayad, Advisor for the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Women;
- Mr. Abdullah Issa Al-Dosari – Chief Prosecutor, Head of the Office of International Cooperation and Human Rights – Public Prosecution;
- Mr. Mohammed Khalid Al-Hazza – Chief Prosecutor, Acting Attorney General Head of the Special Investigation Unit;
- Ms. Shirin Khalil Al-Saati, Director of Grievances and Protection Department – Labour Market Regulatory Authority;
- Sheikha Dr. Noura bint Khalifa Al Khalifa, Adviser – Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf;
- Mrs. Noura Abdulaziz Al-Rifai, Head of Local and International Cooperation-Supreme Council for Women;
- Mr. Hasan Moussa Shafaei, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
- Mrs. Maryam Adel Al Mannaei, Acting Chief of Communications – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Fatima Ebrahim Aldosari, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
- Ms. Noora Isa Mubarak, Legal Consultant – Labour Market Regulatory Authority;
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- Mrs. Sara Ahmad Alahjeri, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
  - Mrs. Noora Adnnan Almannaei, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of The Kingdom of Bahrain to The United Nations – Geneva;
  - Sheikha Latifah Ahmed Mohamed Hamad Al Khalifa, Third Secretary, Department of GCC Affairs – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Ms. Hessa Malalla Alhammadi, Diplomatic Attache, Department of Human Rights – Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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