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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Afghanistan

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in French.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Afghanistan was held at the 2nd meeting, on 21 January 2019. The delegation of Afghanistan was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Suraya Dalil, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. At its 10th meeting, held on 25 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Afghanistan.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Afghanistan: Iceland, Nigeria and the Philippines.

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 Afghanistan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/AFG/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/AFG/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/AFG/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Belgium, Germany, Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF's, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Afghanistan through the troika. These 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 underscored that Afghanistan places great importance to the UPR, considering that the promotion and protection of human rights were core components of the nation-building efforts, emphasizing that the Constitution of Afghanistan enshrined a clear commitment to the human rights principles. She believed that effective and transparent governance has a profound impact on the promotion and protection of human rights. In 2017, Afghanistan adopted a comprehensive strategy to ensure transparency, effectiveness and accountability of the public institutions. The National Justice and Judicial Reform Program had been elaborated to combat impunity, ensure access to justice and fair trials.

6. Furthermore, the government had enacted a new Penal Code, envisaging to limit the extent of the death penalty and to protect against arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and honour killings. Additionally, the annex to the Criminal Procedure Code on Alternatives to Imprisonment and Alternatives to Detention was enforced.

7. Regarding the rights of women and girls, Afghanistan had executed the first phase of the National Action Plan for implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325, which resulted in the increase in women's representation in public institutions such as High Peace Council. Women's inclusion in the labour force had increased to 27%. The government had launched the Women's Economic Empowerment National Priority Program, which was one of the ten priority programs. To address the issue pertaining to violence and discrimination against women, Afghanistan had established the position of Deputy Attorney General for Elimination of Violence against Women and Children and anti-harassment committees in all ministries. The Supreme Court had created a special division to review

cases of violence against women. Additionally, special courts on violence against women were operating in more than 20 provinces.

8. She noted that the government was demonstrating the utmost precaution to protect the civilian population. In this regard, the National Board for Prevention of Civilian Casualties and a Technical Working Group were established. As a guiding tool, the government had been applying the National Policy on Prevention of Civilian Casualties. Afghanistan remained committed to fully implementing this document.

9. With respect to the use of torture, Afghanistan incorporated the provisions of the Convention against Torture in the new Penal Code; ratified its Optional Protocol and withdrawn its reservation. With the enactment of the law on Prohibition of Torture and the establishment of the Commission on this matter, Afghanistan had reduced concerns about the mistreatment of prisoners. Furthermore, the government was undertaking steps to improve prison infrastructure and to expand healthcare and rehabilitation services.

10. In collaboration with its international partners, Afghanistan had reached the point of zero-child recruitment in its defence and security forces by implementing the policy aimed to protect children in armed conflicts and by creating children protection centres. Furthermore, the Penal Code had prohibited the death penalty, imprisonment and punishment of children. It had criminalised the practice of Bacha Bazi. The orphanage facilities were reformed and child protection services had been provided for children at risk. Afghanistan had adopted a National Child Labour Prevention Strategy and Action Plan pursuant to its commitments to the ILO Convention 182. To strengthen a coordinated national response on child protection, a National Child Protection Secretariat was created under the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

11. The head of delegation emphasised that the notable improvements had been achieved in access to education and healthcare. The National Education Strategic Plan had contained indicators to monitor progress in the development of the education system. Afghanistan had embarked on a comprehensive review of the education curricula to incorporate human rights values. Afghanistan was aiming to both enrol children and to enable them to complete school. In terms of healthcare, 93% of the population had been living within a two-hour range from a public clinic. There was a decrease in infant, new-born and maternal mortality.

12. To ensure more dedicated service delivery and social inclusion, a National Agency for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities and Martyrs was established.

13. Afghanistan considered that freedom of expression was instrumental in contributing to the promotion of human rights, with no limitations or censorship were applied to media. The law on access to information had proved to be useful in ensuring the right to information. A number of measures had been taken to protect the rights of journalists and human rights defenders, including the creation of a Joint Coordination Committee of the Government and Media for Protection and Security of Journalists.

14. Afghanistan had experienced an unprecedented return of refugees and internally displaced persons. In this regard, the Migration Council led by the President and the Displacement and Return Executive Committee led by the Chief Executive were the decision-making mechanisms to ensure effective responses.

15. It was underscored that justice and equality were requisites to peace and development. Therefore, the National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017-2021 had affirmed Afghanistan's vision and commitments towards 2030 Development Agenda.

16. The government had launched the Citizens Charter program as a part of efforts to promote the right to decision-making and bolster development at the grassroots level.

17. The head of delegation highlighted that the upcoming elections would be an opportunity on a path for democracy and rule of law. The government would remain focused on ensuring proactive participation of its citizens in the electoral process.

18. It was noted that threats of terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crimes were major challenges impeding Afghanistan's achievements. Therefore, Afghanistan urged the international community to demonstrate a firm stand against terrorism. The head of

delegation committed that they would be taking further steps to improve security and to end conflict, including through the peace process.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. During the interactive dialogue, 94 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. Sweden acknowledged Afghanistan's commitment to human rights, commended ratifications and adoption of legislation, yet remained concerned over the human rights situation.

21. Switzerland welcomed ratifying OP-CAT and noted that despite some progress, women and girls continued to be victims of discrimination, domestic violence and forced marriage.

22. Thailand applauded efforts in pursuing peace and welcomed the legal reform, strengthening of human rights structures and the promotion of education.

23. Tunisia welcomed strengthening the human rights legislative framework and the promotion of the Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and laws on combatting terrorism.

24. Turkey acknowledged challenges resulting from conflict and terrorism and perseverance of human rights achievements, whilst providing electoral security and pursuing reconciliation with the Taliban.

25. Turkmenistan welcomed the eight development councils, particularly the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption councils to strengthen the judicial system.

26. Ukraine acknowledged the reform of the penal code and the adoption of legislation on the prevention of torture.

27. United Arab Emirates appreciated considering free education as a constitutional right and the focus on the awareness-raising initiatives for girls' education and efforts to increase literacy.

28. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed passing laws combatting violence against women and the growth of independence of media. It considered protection of minorities, safety of journalists and civilian casualties to be critical issues.

29. United States of America urged implementing the penal code, while concerned over sexual abuse by ANSF and women's access to justice, as mediation led to impunity and increasing violence against journalists.

30. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of human rights instruments, especially OP-CAT, and urged ratifying additional instruments. It was concerned about violation of women's rights.

31. Uzbekistan was satisfied with the ratification of OP-CAT, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property and incorporating provisions of human rights instruments into national legislation.

32. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the impact of invasion and urged ending violence and called for lasting peace. It acknowledged the impetus given to the right to health.

33. Yemen commended actions to modernise human rights laws, ratification of OP-CAT and training programs for law enforcement and the judiciary despite all challenges.

34. Albania welcomed efforts towards improving women's participation in governance and decision-making processes at various levels and ratifying OP-CAT.

35. Algeria was satisfied that Afghanistan continued to implement its national action plan for women, peace and security, despite limited financial resources.

36. Angola made recommendations to encourage more action to promote and protect human rights.

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37. Argentina welcomed the ratification of OP-CAT, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property and the visit of the SRSG on children in armed conflict.
38. Australia was encouraged with the peace talks, while concerned over the number of civilian casualties and acknowledged progress in strengthening women's rights.
39. Austria appreciated efforts undertaken to improve the human rights situation and implementing previous UPR recommendations, noting many challenges remained.
40. Azerbaijan welcomed the legal changes and steps taken to protect the rights of IDPs and providing effective mechanisms for addressing their needs. It urged the international community to provide assistance.
41. Bahrain welcomed the adaption of many legislation regardless difficult circumstances and noted the incorporation of human rights in the curricula.
42. Bangladesh commended the extensive legal and policy reforms undertaken pursuant to the second cycle recommendations and achievement in women rights.
43. Belarus welcomed efforts to improve the institutional and legislative framework, reform of the criminal justice system and human rights training for law enforcement officials.
44. Belgium congratulated Afghanistan for adopting its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and it publicised its financial contribution to UN Women country office.
45. Bhutan commended the establishment of the Council for the Rule of Law and Anti-corruption under the supervision of the President.
46. Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed and appreciated the process undertaken to expand the range of legal reforms, including ratification of instruments.
47. Bulgaria encouraged taking more tangible measures to eliminate violence against women and girls and improve access to education and work. It appreciated combatting trafficking.
48. Canada welcomed progress in protecting women rights, urged implementing legislation through public education, training of officials and ensuring access to justice.
49. Chile commended the legal reforms to criminalise torture and crimes against humanity, the prohibition of harassment against women and ratifying OP-CAT.
50. Afghanistan emphasised that the National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) were committed to respecting and protecting human rights. The military operations were not conducted if risks to harm the civilian population or property were high. Furthermore, the technical devices, including recorders were introduced for military personnel to avoid misconduct. The National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel had been undergoing training on human rights and international humanitarian law, which was also a part of curriculum at the NDS Academy.
51. The government would review its National Policy on Prevention of Civilian Casualties to raise awareness about national and international laws, to prevent establishing military bases in public places; take feasible precautions during counter-attacks; conduct risk assessments and investigating the incidents involving civilian casualties. An independent Human Rights Department was established within the NDS to monitor its detention facilities and personnel, including at the provincial level. The Department had based its work on the Istanbul Protocol, and it had been submitting its quarterly reports to the President of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.
52. According to the Human Rights Department, the cases of torture and human rights violations had dropped by 93% since 2014. The NDS assessments had demonstrated that most of the violations had happened during arrest operations due to suspects' negligence to warning and armed resistance. The NDS had developed a plan to strengthen its internal oversight and increase awareness on the prevention of torture in 2019.
53. On child protection, all juvenile detainees were sent to juvenile correction centres in their respective provinces following the arrest and debriefing.

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54. It was noted that the Centre for Protection of Journalists and Media Organisations and the Centre for Coordination were established to assess threats and provide protection.
55. To protect minorities and to ensure their security, a plan was elaborated, resulting in the decrease of attacks against minorities.
56. Regarding international cooperation, the NDS was actively cooperating with the UNAMA, ICRC and AIHRC. It led to visits to detention centres across the country by the representatives of the abovementioned organisations. Afghan national security institutions had signed a joint memorandum with the AIHRC.
57. Afghanistan emphasised that the ANDSF was prepared to take further steps; particularly a policy document to protect human rights and to prevent casualties during operations was elaborated and would come into force following the necessary consultations.
58. Significant progress had been achieved in the area of women empowerment, elimination of violence against women and improving access to justice. The Elimination of Violence against Women Law (EVAW) and the implementation strategy were put at place, whilst more than 27 Women Protection Centres and Family Protection Units were established. Additionally, the Law on Anti-Harassment against women and children was approved along with the relevant mechanisms to facilitate its implementation. The recently approved Criminal Code had forbidden the virginity test without consent. Within the Ministry of Women's Affairs two Directorates had been offering legal services to survivors of violence and their families. The Afghan Women Chamber of Commerce had been providing technical and marketing support. It was underscored that one of the biggest achievements was the increased women's participation in decision-making and high ranking positions, with 4 women Ministers, 12 deputies and 4 Ambassadors as a highlight. Women were better represented in peace negotiations.
59. The new Penal Code had reduced a number of crimes previously punishable by the death penalty. Additionally, a Special Committee was established to review those cases. Following fact findings of the commission they proposed to the president to change death penalty to life imprisonment.
60. Lao welcomed progress in promoting human rights by formulating national committees and implementing national programs, including strategies to reduce poverty.
61. Costa Rica noted the instability caused by the conflict and terrorism. It was concerned that death sentences, violence and discrimination against women and girls persisted despite legal reforms.
62. Croatia commended strengthening human rights legislation framework and ratifying OP-CAT. It remained concerned with the human rights violations arising from insecurity.
63. Cuba welcomed the legal framework reforms and highlighted actions undertaken to improve quality and access to education, particularly for girls.
64. Cyprus commended efforts to increase participation of women. Concerned that lack of security disproportionately affected women and children, and impunity impeding reconciliation.
65. Czechia welcomed ratifying OP-CAT. It recognised the significance of the first parliamentary elections and encouraged support to political and public affairs participation.
66. Denmark welcomed Afghanistan commitment to human rights, including launching judicial reforms. It highlighted the need to strengthen the implementation of the Law on EVAW.
67. Djibouti commended the normative and institutional framework to improve democracy and the rule of law. It appreciated efforts to reform the judiciary, and combating corruption.
68. Egypt commended adopting laws on criminal procedure, Prevention of Financing Terrorism, combating corruption and the special courts organigram. It welcomed improvements in health and women's welfare.

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69. Estonia commended progress through introducing the penal code and launching the National Plan on Women and measures taken to defend child rights, urging for more efforts.
 70. Finland commended efforts to improve human rights and noted that, as a member of the Human Rights Council, Afghanistan needed to prove its commitment completely.
 71. France congratulated Afghanistan for the presentation of its report.
 72. Georgia commended ratifying OP-CAT and the National Action Plan for UNSC Resolution 1325 and lauded commitment to fight corruption.
 73. Germany commended Afghanistan for having ratified OP-CAT.
 74. Greece commended adopting a new penal code and of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security, amongst others.
 75. Honduras welcomed efforts made to strengthen human rights system by reforming the judiciary.
 76. Hungary remained concerned about torture despite lifting CAT reservations and ratifying OP-CAT and encouraged allocating an inclusive budget for education to ensure equal access.
 77. Iceland noted efforts in combatting corruption and the Law on the Prevention and Prohibition of Harassment of Women and Children.
 78. India appreciated providing better health service, free education and poverty reduction and expressed concerns from terrorism to right to life.
 79. Indonesia appreciated efforts to consolidate the peace process, ratifying several instruments and establishing the council of rule of law and anti-corruption.
 80. China welcomed the adoption of the ANPDF and efforts to eradicate poverty and safeguarding women and children rights. It supported peace and reconciliation process.
 81. Iraq welcomed the adoption of several laws, efforts in combating terrorism and in the implementation of the SDGs.
 82. Ireland commended Afghanistan on the “A” status accreditation of its AIHRC and efforts to advance human rights.
 83. Italy welcomed efforts to promote and protect human rights and welcomed the ratification, urged implementing OP-CAT.
 84. Jordan commended efforts to implement previous cycle recommendations, and progress in gender equality and developing education despite existing challenges.
 85. Kazakhstan commended legal and institutional changes, reiterating its commitment to provide financial and technical support to Afghanistan for economically-sustainable and security development, and women empowerment.
 86. Kuwait commended progress to empower women and promote their political and economic participation and reforms to improve services and implementing ESC rights.
 87. Kyrgyzstan positively noted progress in strengthening the national legislative and institutional frameworks and welcomed ratifying OP-CAT.
 88. Iran expressed admiration for efforts to protect civil and political rights in implementing previous UPR recommendations, despite the ongoing war.
 89. Libya noted positive developments including adopting criminal procedural law, the penal code and removal of discriminatory elements that violated human rights.
 90. Afghanistan had recently proven its commitments towards democracy by holding the parliamentary elections. Having learnt lessons from this experience, it was working on a plan to strengthen security for upcoming presidential elections. As for the electoral reform, the legislative amendments were made and the biometric system was used for the first time.

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91. Afghanistan was enforcing the newly adopted access to information law through the commission of access to information. Furthermore, Afghanistan's measures had contributed to the reduction in violence against journalists.
92. The high council of rule of law and anti-corruption was established. It had been functioning as a policy-making body supervising the reforms in the judicial and law enforcement areas. Anti-corruption committee within the abovementioned high council was supervising the anti-corruption activities.
93. Pursuant to its international obligations, Afghanistan had created a platform to select human rights commissioners for its AIHRC.
94. Afghanistan was working to achieve self-reliance and the work was undergoing to align national development priorities to Afghanistan SDG targets and indicators.
95. As for access to education, the enrolment rates and improved access had been growing since 2011. It was noted that the post-enrolment attendance and lack of access to education for girls were of concern. Therefore, the government had been working to remedy these issues, including through policies to improve adult literacy rate and expand education services.
96. Access to health was improving along with the progress in data collection, monitoring and autonomy in healthcare service delivery. The gains were considerable in providing access to clean drinking water, sanitation and energy.
97. Afghanistan had prioritised issues related to returnees and internally displaced people. Several programs were approved to improve economic opportunities and to address the displacement crisis.
98. Afghanistan underscored that it had made significant strides to promote children's rights. Particularly, steps had been undertaken to improve the legal and policy framework and to build institutions. It had accelerated efforts to pass the Child Act, which would codify all provisions of CRC. Afghanistan was implementing the Policy on the Protection of Children in Armed Conflict pursuant to its commitments. Improved procedures had significantly prevented the recruitment of children. Law enforcement agencies had been working to rescue children from being recruited by terrorist groups. Additionally, a National Action Plan to End Child Marriage was developed and the work on a coordination and financing mechanism for this plan was underway. Afghanistan had launched the National Child Social Protection Program to transform the lives of vulnerable children.
99. Liechtenstein welcomed the adoption of the Law on EVAW, but expressed concern over the high prevalence of violence against women.
100. Lithuania wished Afghanistan success in implementing UPR recommendations.
101. Luxembourg welcomed progress in implementing the Action Plan on Women and Peace, and efforts on access to education. It urged strengthening the ongoing peace process, while concerned about the security and humanitarian challenges.
102. Malaysia commended national policy developments and efforts to foster human rights culture and measures taken to promote and empower women rights.
103. The Maldives welcomed ratifying key human rights instruments and efforts to promote human rights awareness among law enforcement and the judiciary.
104. Malta welcomed the law on religious minorities; steps to address discrimination against women and ratification of human rights instruments.
105. Mauritania appreciated the achievements and commitment to the SDGs and measures undertaken to protect citizens and combatting terrorism.
106. Mauritius welcomed ratifying OP-CAT and programmes to improve literacy rate, alleviate poverty, improve infrastructure and access to services.
107. Mexico acknowledged progress and Penal Code reform, concerning violence against women and hoped for implementation of the relevant strategy and action plan.

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108. Montenegro encouraged implementing the national strategy and action plan concerning violence against women and strengthening accountability for recruitment or use of children.
109. Myanmar welcomed positive achievements, but noted the need to improve the rights of women and children.
110. Nepal commended the resilience and perseverance of Afghan people and wished for expedited and sustainable conclusion to the peace process.
111. Netherlands acknowledged Afghanistan's commitment to human rights, but stressed the importance of a national mechanism for transitional justice and national reconciliation.
112. Nigeria commended Afghanistan's cooperation with human rights mechanisms and efforts in combatting terrorism and corruption.
113. Norway appreciated efforts to improve women's situation, but remained worried about quality of implementation. It commended follow-up to NHRI's recommendations.
114. Oman noted the establishment of development, rule of law and anti-corruption councils, together with high profile legislative reforms.
115. Pakistan commended for efforts towards poverty reduction by ensuring better access to economic means, food security and better policies.
116. Philippines recognized efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development and appreciated efforts to address drug trade.
117. Poland noted significant legal and practical achievements, including combating corruption, women empowerment, access to health and education, alarmed by allegations of torture, recruitment and abuse of children among others.
118. Portugal commended the work of the AIHRC.
119. Qatar welcomed strengthening rule of law; combating corruption. It commended efforts to implement ANPDF, to strengthening economic, social and cultural rights.
120. Republic of Korea acknowledged efforts to strengthen legal and institutional framework on human rights, especially the new Penal Code.
121. Republic of Moldova noted measures in implementing the Law on EVAW. It was concerned at the high number of prisoners on death row and execution of minor.
122. Romania noted efforts to improve human rights and stressed the importance of ensuring full exercise of human rights by all citizens.
123. Russian Federation supported efforts in addressing the human rights, but noted that women faced discrimination, violence, and forced early marriages.
124. Saudi Arabia applauded the integration of human rights in legal, judicial and security sectors, and the provision of training workshops.
125. Senegal commended lifting reservations to article 20 of CAT and progress achieved in legislative area and encouraged more efforts to eradicate poverty.
126. Serbia commended the efforts of the AIHRC and encouraged it to continue to exercise its vital functions.
127. Singapore acknowledged efforts to implement the SDGs and ensure children's access to education. It welcomed the draft national policy on girl's education.
128. Slovakia appreciated Afghanistan's efforts, but was concerned at threats, acts of intimidation, harassment and violence faced by women and civil society.
129. Slovenia commended the AIHRC for its independence. It was concerned that women and children disproportionately suffered from corruption despite commitment to combat corruption.
130. Spain noted efforts on human rights, especially on violence against women and the challenges concerning institutional capacity and limited resources.

131. Sri Lanka welcomed the withdrawal of CAT reservations; incorporating its Optional Protocol and the Terrorism convention into the legislation and implementing SC resolution 1325.

132. The State of Palestine commended providing mechanisms to respect the rights and needs of IDPs and returnees', and adopting the national action plan on SC resolution 1325.

133. Afghanistan stressed that it was among first Islamic countries to support the UDHR. Over the last years it had been strengthening cooperation with the UN system, including the OHCHR.

134. It was noted that global terror had targeted Afghanistan. However, Afghanistan had been fully contributing to protecting security in the region. The situation at the time of the review was characterised by high number of casualties due to the conflict. Regardless of the challenge posed by terrorist groups, Afghans were striving towards security, peace and justice. Afghanistan believed in the peace process and an inclusive, dignified and sustainable outcome.

135. The head of the delegation appreciated the constructive role of the AIHRC, civil society organisations and other stakeholders. She thanked all Member States who have sent their questions in advance and for their participation in the review. She also thanked the secretariat and the members of the Troika for their efforts in presenting the final list of recommendations.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

136. The following recommendations will be examined by Afghanistan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council:

136.1 Ratify the main instruments related to human rights, to which it is not yet a party (Senegal); Consider acceding to the international instruments that it is not a party (Honduras);

136.2 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);

136.3 Launch a process of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);

136.4 Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);

136.5 Consider acceding to the ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, amongst others (Honduras);

136.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Kyrgyzstan); (Croatia)/ Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal);

136.7 Sign the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

136.8 Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, as previously recommended (Portugal.1); / Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);

136.9 Ratify without reservation to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court and to establish national legislation regulating its cooperation with the Court (Switzerland);

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- 136.10 **Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute (Liechtenstein); (Estonia);**
- 136.11 **Ratify the first Optional Protocols of the ICCPR (Estonia);**
- 136.12 **Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);/Ratify the second Optional Protocols of the ICCPR (Estonia.1); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein) (Montenegro); Ratify Second Optional Protocol on the ICCPR for the complete abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg); Launch a process of accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);**
- 136.13 **Abolish the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);**
- 136.14 **Implement a moratorium on the use of capital punishment and sign the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**
- 136.15 **Intensify the process of submission of overdue reports to UN treaty bodies (Ukraine);**
- 136.16 **Engage with Special Procedures whose requests for a country visit are pending (Ukraine);**
- 136.17 **Take measures to further continue protection and promotion of human rights by strengthening and establishing human rights units within the power structures (Turkmenistan);**
- 136.18 **Maintain advancement of human rights as a priority (Turkey);**
- 136.19 **Continue further effort to promote awareness of human rights through educational curricula (Turkmenistan);**
- 136.20 **Continue arranging trainings and awareness raising campaigns to educate the public with human rights values, as it was the case during the reporting period (2014-2018) (Turkmenistan);**
- 136.21 **Coordinate activities of national and international human rights organisations working on different aspects of human rights in Afghanistan (Uzbekistan);**
- 136.22 **Continue efforts to strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the protection of human rights (Uzbekistan);**
- 136.23 **Ensure that constitutional human rights protections are a key component and objective of any peace negotiations (Australia);**
- 136.24 **Take continued steps to strengthen the AIHRC's capacity, including by ensuring its fiscal sustainability (Australia);**
- 136.25 **Prioritize the implementation of Afghanistan's National Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security, in particular by ensuring broad participation of civil society, especially women, at all stages of a peace process (Switzerland);**
- 136.26 **Continue governmental efforts in support of the work of the AIHRC and to enhance its financial independence in order to ensure that the Commission achieves the objectives for which it was established (Bahrain);**
- 136.27 **Continue supporting the work of the AIHRC, including their budgetary allocations and the application of their recommendations (Chile);**
- 136.28 **Continue its current approach to strengthening human rights institutions and confronting the enormous challenges facing the country, both**

security and economically, so as not to adversely affect the human rights situation (Kuwait);

136.29 Continue strengthening national human rights institutions in accordance with Paris Principles (Nepal);

136.30 Finalize adoption of a funding mechanism to implement the national plan of action for women, peace and security (Luxembourg);

136.31 Increase the budget of the Afghan Commission on Human Rights and designate its commissioners as soon as possible, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Mexico);

136.32 Continue its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country by strengthening its national policies and programmes to further improve the well-being of its people (Malaysia);

136.33 Implement the National Child Labour Strategy and Action Plan, investigating those suspected of being complicit in child exploitation and prosecuting those found responsible (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

136.34 Integrate the National Action Plan for the Security Council resolution 1325 in national programs through the regular budget (Sweden);

136.35 Fully implement and enforce its Elimination of Violence Against Women Law and its National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (Australia);

136.36 Take further steps to promote women's full and meaningful participation in activities, related to peace negotiations, peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the country (Bulgaria);

136.37 Implement National Action Plan 1325 with adequate resources in order to further promote equal rights for women and girls while expecting the same level of support and protection for boys (Czechia);

136.38 Ensure the active participation of women in the peace process (Iceland);

136.39 Ensure the meaningful participation of women in peace negotiations (Australia);

136.40 Strengthen efforts to address violence against women, provide greater access to justice to women and increase women's participation in peace-making process (Indonesia);

136.41 Enhances its efforts to effectively implement UN Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security and ensure women's full participation in peace process (Lithuania);

136.42 Allocate financial resources for efficient implementation of national action plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325 (Ukraine);

136.43 Continue the process of incorporating human rights in governmental and non-governmental educational curricula, including universities and military academies (United Arab Emirates);

136.44 Continued implementation of the National Policy on Civilian Casualty Mitigation and Prevention (Australia);

136.45 Undertake a review of the security challenges faced during parliamentary elections and apply the lessons learned to ensure the safety of Afghans during the upcoming Presidential election (Canada);

136.46 Address fully challenges related to ensuring the integrity, neutrality and transparency of the electoral process, as identified by the international community before the upcoming presidential election (Czechia);

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- 136.47 **Build on the positive elements of the recent electoral experiences in order to ensure the consolidation and the viability of the electoral system (Romania);**
- 136.48 **Continue capacity development of Afghan youth (India);**
- 136.49 **Strengthen human rights training for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials (Qatar);**
- 136.50 **Strengthen efforts to ensure that all officers and soldiers of the Afghani National Security and Defense Forces, as well as the officials in judiciary and law enforcement, are fully trained on the international humanitarian and human rights law (Slovenia);**
- 136.51 **Continue efforts to combat terrorism, to improve the level of security in the country, to prevent and to reduce the number of victims among the civilian population (Belarus);**
- 136.52 **Continue its efforts to combat terrorism and its funding (India);**
- 136.53 **Adopt further measures to counter terrorism and extremism and safeguard people's life and property (China);**
- 136.54 **Continue with its efforts in combatting terrorism and its funding (Nigeria);**
- 136.55 **Improving the skills of the poor and enabling them to have better economic opportunities (Oman);**
- 136.56 **Continue to promote gender strategy in order to ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and enable them to play a more effective role at the national level (Bahrain);**
- 136.57 **Continue the admirable progress made in promoting the rights of women by fully implementing its Gender Strategy, as well as continue the efforts in promoting and protecting human rights of children and disabled persons (Bhutan);**
- 136.58 **Develop campaigns, trainings and educational programs aimed at combating gender stereotypes and discrimination from an early age, and eradicate rooted violent practises, arguing "moral crimes", such as "honour" killings, mutilation, stoning, forced self-immolation, child marriage and exchanges using marriage in order to settle disputes (Costa Rica);**
- 136.59 **Fight gender-based discrimination; Promote effective participation by women in the peace process, according to 1325 UNSC resolution, and guarantee the rights of women (France);**
- 136.60 **Continue its efforts towards achieving gender equality, including by promptly implementing the National Action Plan to end child marriage (Greece);**
- 136.61 **Exercise fair treatment of women and girls before the law and effective enforcement of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (Slovakia);**
- 136.62 **Continue efforts to further enhance gender equality and women's empowerment in line with the SDGs (Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic);**
- 136.63 **Intensify measures to achieve SDGs (Uzbekistan);**
- 136.64 **Continue implementing policy aimed at creating the necessary national frameworks for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (Belarus);**
- 136.65 **Continue engaging the international community and development actors for mobilization of resources to fully implement its development plans (Philippines);**
- 136.66 **Scale up its efforts in fighting corruption (Nigeria);**

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- 136.67 Provide all necessary requirements to ensure the successful implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy (Qatar);
- 136.68 Guarantee the protection of civilians, given the sensitive security environment. (France);
- 136.69 Take all necessary measures to minimize civilian casualties, considering that Afghan civilians, especially women and children, continue to suffer the devastating impact of the armed conflict (Republic of Korea);
- 136.70 Deepen its measures in order to repeal the death penalty of its national legislation (Argentina);
- 136.71 Commute all existing death sentences for offenders who committed the crime for which they were sentenced while under the age of 18 (Belgium);
- 136.72 Further progress in streamlining and implementing the new legislation in the fields of combatting torture and access to information to take place (Turkey);
- 136.73 Commute all death sentences for offenders who had committed crimes while under the age of 18 (Portugal);
- 136.74 Implement a moratorium on executions, aiming at complete abolition, and to commute existing sentences of capital punishment to other forms (Sweden);
- 136.75 Consider instituting a moratorium on executions and commuting death sentences of minors (Albania);
- 136.76 Reinstate its moratorium on executions, remove the death penalty from all criminal laws, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);
- 136.77 Introduce a moratorium as a first step towards the full abolition of the death penalty (Austria);
- 136.78 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolish it, and immediately reduce the number of crimes subjects to death penalty (France)
- 136.79 Provide official figures regarding death sentences and executions and consider the adoption of a moratorium on the death penalty; (Italy);
- 136.80 Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to the complete abolishment of the death penalty and to commute all existing death sentences (Liechtenstein);
- 136.81 Further reduces number of crimes carrying capital punishment and considers the re-establishment of moratorium of death penalty (Lithuania);
- 136.82 Consider an immediate moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition and to commute all existing death sentences for persons below 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the crime (Republic of Moldova);
- 136.83 Ensure thorough implementation of Afghanistan's Anti-Torture Law (Slovakia);
- 136.84 Take effective measures to strictly enforce the national prohibition of torture and to ensure that no person is subjected to unlawful treatment, that all allegations of such treatment are duly investigated by the proper criminal authorities and perpetrators held to account (Sweden);
- 136.85 Continue to advance its fight against and prevention of torture and ill-treatment, with special emphasis on human rights defenders (Spain);
- 136.86 Build on achievements in prevention of torture by prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment (Ukraine);

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- 136.87 **Intensify measures to improve the work of the penitentiary system and continue integrating the Convention against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the national legislation (Russian Federation);**
- 136.88 **Improve conditions of detention (Poland);**
- 136.89 **Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment (Portugal);**
- 136.90 **Take measures to guarantee the protection of human rights and international humanitarian law, through the investigation and punishment of the perpetrators of serious human rights violations, in particular the perpetrators of aerial attacks against the civilian population (Argentina);**
- 136.91 **Ensure the protection of civilians and that all incidents of civilian casualties are thoroughly investigated, that those responsible are prosecuted and that remedies and reparations are provided to the victims (Austria);**
- 136.92 **Take necessary measures to prosecute those responsible, belonging to armed groups or security forces, for having committed crimes against the civilian population during the conflict, as well as of having recruited or used children (Costa Rica);**
- 136.93 **Hold accountable individuals responsible, including government officials, for threats and violence against journalists (United States of America);**
- 136.94 **Investigate and punish the perpetrators of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, intimidation and threats against the population, in particular against human rights defenders and journalists (Argentina);**
- 136.95 **Take steps to protect against, and prosecute those who attack and obstruct the work of journalists and human rights defenders (Canada);**
- 136.96 **Ensure prompt investigations of violence against women and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice in accordance with the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law (Canada);**
- 136.97 **Comply in a more effective way with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women and to create policies and practices to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, as well as to increase accountability and promptly investigate and prosecute all cases of violence against women and girls (Finland);**
- 136.98 **Work towards the establishment of a fair and independent judiciary system that is equipped with adequate resources (Germany);**
- 136.99 **Promptly investigate all allegations of torture of detainees, enforced disappearances, and summary executions, and prosecute those responsible (Germany);**
- 136.100 **Further enforce existing legal prohibitions on the use of coerced confessions in judicial proceedings and take appropriate disciplinary action against prosecutors and judges who permit the use of such information (Germany);**
- 136.101 **Promptly and impartially investigate all attacks on journalists, and ensure that appropriate measures are taken against any person found responsible for them (Greece);**
- 136.102 **Guarantee the safety of journalists and media workers operating throughout the country and end the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against them (Albania);**
- 136.103 **Promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of torture of detainees and prosecute all those responsible for committing and ordering these crimes (Hungary);**

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- 136.104 Promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of torture of detainees, enforced disappearances and summary executions, and prosecute those responsible in line with international human rights standards (Norway);
- 136.105 Refer cases of violence against women to the criminal justice system, not to mediation or traditional dispute resolution mechanisms (Iceland);
- 136.106 Strengthen the position and the number of women in the security sector and to implement awareness campaigns on human rights, especially with regard to women's access to justice (Netherlands);
- 136.107 Promptly investigate and prosecute cases of violence against women in line with international human rights standards, including so-called honor killings (Norway);
- 136.108 Guarantee access to justice to persons with disabilities, especially with regard to access to inclusive education and health (Spain);
- 136.109 Increase efforts to effectively combat impunity related to acts of violence against women, as well as prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish acts of discrimination perpetrated against women (Uruguay);
- 136.110 Exert all efforts to end impunity by strengthening the implementation of the Penal Code and enforcement of prosecutions (Cyprus);
- 136.111 Strengthen access to justice for victims and fight impunity (France);
- 136.112 Implement effective measures to fight impunity, including through continued full cooperation with the International Criminal Court (Netherlands);
- 136.113 Undertake necessary measures to eradicate the culture of impunity related to war crimes or serious human rights violations by holding perpetrators accountable, and to ensure that all candidates to public offices are persons with no record of such crimes or abuses (Poland);
- 136.114 End impunity for threats, acts of intimidation, harassment and violence faced by women and civil society actors, and ensure their prompt and thorough investigation (Slovakia);
- 136.115 Continue enforcing its constitutional provisions on freedom of religion and belief, including by duly protecting individuals and property from religiously motivated violence (Czechia);
- 136.116 Continue efforts to ensure that all religious communities are free to practice their religion or belief and that this right is adequately protected (Malta);
- 136.117 Continue efforts aimed at mitigating ethnic, tribal and sectarian tensions among Afghans and prohibit by law any call for national, racial and religious hatred (Senegal);
- 136.118 Adopt specific measures to effectively protect freedom of belief for practitioners of minority religions (Angola);
- 136.119 Take steps to ensure a safe working environment for human rights defenders (Estonia);
- 136.120 Promote additional measures to maintain a favourable environment and protect the work of civil society and the human rights defenders, including journalists (Chile);
- 136.121 Ensure freedom of expression, offline as well as online, and improve the work concerning prevention and investigation of the attacks against journalists, media workers and media offices (Estonia);
- 136.122 Guarantee the safety and security of journalists and human rights advocates (France);

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- 136.123 **Take all measures to protect and support journalists, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and civil society organizations; investigate all attacks against them; and bring the perpetrators to justice (Iceland);**
- 136.124 **Adopt effective measures to ensure adequate protection of journalists; (Italy);**
- 136.125 **Adopt specific measures to protect and support journalists, human rights defenders and other actors of civil society, enabling them to work freely without fear of reprisals and attacks (Lithuania);**
- 136.126 **Take further concrete measures to improve conditions for journalists and human rights defenders (Norway);**
- 136.127 **Make further efforts to protect civil society organizations, human rights defenders and journalists from attacks and threats, and to ensure a safe and secure environment for their work (Republic of Korea);**
- 136.128 **Implement an effective policy to protect human rights defenders in coordination with civil society (Luxembourg);**
- 136.129 **Continue taking steps in the field of women empowerment by expanding women's participation in political, economic and social processes in Afghanistan (Kazakhstan);**
- 136.130 **Continue the progress towards the empowerment of women and increase their representation in government institutions (Egypt);**
- 136.131 **Ensure that women can fully and meaningfully participate in decision-making in all initiatives related to national and local level peace processes (State of Palestine);**
- 136.132 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Egypt);**
- 136.133 **Intensify measures to combat drug trafficking and opium production (Philippines);**
- 136.134 **Expedite the adoption of the Child Protection Law, Family Protection Law and Migration Law (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 136.135 **Adopt the draft law on protection of the family in order to bring the provisions of the Civil Code, on the part concerning the marriage age, in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Russian Federation);**
- 136.136 **Continue to strengthen its social programs in favor of its people, especially the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 136.137 **Further continue administrative and institutional reforms aiming at improving public services delivery (Azerbaijan);**
- 136.138 **Continue to provide programs to help the poor and other vulnerable groups, including in rural society, to improve their skills and have better access to economic opportunities as well as basic services (Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic);**
- 136.139 **Continue efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights of the people, in particular vulnerable social groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, returnees and IDPs who have suffered a lot from the internal wars (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 136.140 **Ensure provision of alternative livelihood for people dependent on opium farming in order to provide them with legitimate sources of income for realization of their economic and social rights (Pakistan);**

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- 136.141 **Ensure effective implementation of land allocation policies and provision of housing for the returning refugees leading to durable solutions and allowing for their regular and sustained return (Pakistan);**
- 136.142 **Adopt and implement effective policies to reduce poverty and unemployment through, inter alia, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Algeria);**
- 136.143 **Continue strengthening its national programs in reducing poverty (Bhutan);**
- 136.144 **Continue the Development Program of Rural Enterprises in Afghanistan to economically empower women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 136.145 **Strengthen the Poverty Reduction Strategy in its two approaches, as foreseen in the National Framework for Peace and Development and with the improvement of food security to reduce poverty (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 136.146 **Continue efforts to reduce the increasing incidence of poverty (Libya);**
- 136.147 **Continue the on-going poverty reduction measures (India);**
- 136.148 **Continue efforts to implement effective policies on reducing poverty and unemployment (Indonesia);**
- 136.149 **Continue the ongoing national development in accordance with the National Peace and Development Framework 2017-2021, focusing on improving people's livelihood and eradicating poverty (China);**
- 136.150 **Develop plans to alleviate poverty (Iraq);**
- 136.151 **Adopt effective measures to counter the spread of poverty (Jordan);**
- 136.152 **Develop a robust mechanism to address poverty in the country (Malaysia);**
- 136.153 **Continue its efforts to develop effective and sustainable health systems for its citizens' better access to quality healthcare services (Bangladesh);**
- 136.154 **Continue working on the effective implementation of the National Health Strategy until 2020, in order for citizens to have better access to healthcare services (Cuba);**
- 136.155 **Enhance efforts to provide greater access to essential health-care services as well as to ensure the right to education for children and youth and to prevent any disruption to education process (Indonesia);**
- 136.156 **Continue to step up efforts to improve access to healthcare to all, including to persons with disabilities (Maldives);**
- 136.157 **Continue to promote and develop effective and sustainable practices in the health system so that all citizens have access to quality health care (Oman);**
- 136.158 **Provide the necessary medical immunization, particularly the polio vaccination, and use its maximum available resources to ensure the availability and accessibility of health care for all Afghan people, particularly the vulnerable groups affected by the conflict (Saudi Arabia);**
- 136.159 **Ensure that sufficient healthcare centers are built in the provinces and remote areas outside Kabul to support the effective implementation of its health policies (Singapore);**
- 136.160 **Ensure access to immunization, particularly the polio vaccination, and use its maximum available resources to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality health care for all (Sri Lanka);**
- 136.161 **Guarantee equal access to education for women and girls, and combat harmful practices such as forced and early marriage (Uruguay);**

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- 136.162 **Implement all necessary actions in order to provide girls with education (Cyprus);**
- 136.163 **Continue its efforts to provide education and care for children with disabilities (Yemen);**
- 136.164 **Increase the resources allocated to education and introduce the culture of teaching human rights during each school cycle (Angola);**
- 136.165 **Take the necessary measures to protect schools and other educational establishments in accordance with the Safe Schools Declaration (Argentina);**
- 136.166 **Continue the effective implementation of the National Education Strategic Plan until 2021, in order to improve schooling levels, in particular enhancing literacy programs (Cuba);**
- 136.167 **Take concrete steps to realize the right to education for girls by ending discriminatory practices (Hungary);**
- 136.168 **Pursue and strengthen measures to ensure equal access to quality education for all, especially for girls in rural areas and to combat barriers to education due to insecurity (Djibouti);**
- 136.169 **Continue efforts towards a free and compulsory education (Tunisia);**
- 136.170 **Adopt targeted measures to ensure that education is truly compulsory through the effective implementation of legislation restricting child labour and by ensuring access to education for all in a safe environment (Greece);**
- 136.171 **Continue its efforts towards achieving equal opportunities in the right to education particularly for women and girls (Tunisia);**
- 136.172 **Ensure quality education for all children, including improving access to education for girls in all regions of the country (Estonia);**
- 136.173 **Take further steps to ensure access to education for all in a safe environment, with particular focus on girls and women, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities (Georgia);**
- 136.174 **Take concrete steps to realize the right to primary and secondary education for girls by ending discriminatory practices, recruiting more female teachers, and ensuring that all schools have adequate boundary walls, toilets and access to safe water (Iceland);**
- 136.175 **Continue the on-going measures towards access to better health care and affordable education (India);**
- 136.176 **Take specific measures to improve access to education, and give a special attention to the challenges faced by the vulnerable segments including girls, women and persons with disabilities to complete their education (Mauritius);**
- 136.177 **Strengthen programs for literacy and access to education in a safe environment, with particular attention to girls, boys and women, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities (Mexico);**
- 136.178 **Address challenges to increase girls' access to education (Myanmar);**
- 136.179 **Ensure protection of schools, education and pupils in accordance with Afghanistan's commitment as a signatory of the Safe School Declaration (Norway);**
- 136.180 **Step up efforts in addressing barriers to education especially of women and girls (Philippines);**
- 136.181 **Continue efforts in promoting a culture of human rights through education and training programs and activities (Philippines);**

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- 136.182 Set up a mechanism to follow up the implementation of the declared objectives of the third national strategic plan for education for the period 2017-2021 (United Arab Emirates);
- 136.183 Guarantee that education for all children is not a privilege but a right (Portugal);
- 136.184 Invest more efforts, despite all the different circumstances, in order to provide education for all children in all areas of the country (Serbia);
- 136.185 Ensure that the Ministry of Education intensify its public awareness campaigns, in particular in the provinces, to promote the importance of education for girls (Singapore);
- 136.186 Uphold the right to education ensuring access to education for women and girls and ensure accountability for perpetrators of attacks on education institutions (Sri Lanka);
- 136.187 Continue efforts in child and women's rights protection and improving their conditions, especially in the education and healthcare sectors (Croatia);
- 136.188 Ensure the full implementation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law and the 2018 Penal Code's provisions related to violence against women and girls (United States of America);
- 136.189 Take the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (Albania);
- 136.190 Increase, where possible, the number of shelters for women and girls victims of gender based violence and strengthen the care service provided (Angola);
- 136.191 Deepen measures to investigate and sanction discriminatory and degrading customs and traditions towards women and girls, such as the virginity test (Argentina);
- 136.192 Take further measures to prevent violence and eliminate discrimination against women, guarantee their full participation in public and political life, including in the peace and reconciliation process and ensure the full implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security by allocating sufficient human, technical and financial resources (Austria);
- 136.193 Ensure the effective implementation of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women, including by raising awareness and increasing knowledge of the law among the population, police forces and the judiciary (Belgium);
- 136.194 Further promote the empowerment of women and the protection of their rights, through the effective enforcement of the Penal Code and the Elimination of Violence against Women Law, the prosecution of perpetrators of violence against women and the further promotion of women's participation in peace process and all spheres of society (Thailand);
- 136.195 Strengthen the measures to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and ethnic, religious or linguistic minority groups, as well as to protect their rights (Chile);
- 136.196 Ensure the Elimination of Violence Against Women Law is effectively implemented and uniformly enforced; and that all cases of violence against women, including so-called "honour killings," are promptly investigated and prosecuted under the criminal justice system and not referred to traditional dispute resolution mechanisms (Ireland);
- 136.197 Prosecute violence against women, notably the so-called honour killings (Cyprus);

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- 136.198 **Push for the National Assembly’s approval of The Law on Elimination of Violence Against Women and ensure that the Law is fully enforced (Denmark);**
- 136.199 **Continue to strengthen the promotion and the protection of women’s rights through the effective implementation of national strategies and action plans for the elimination of violence against women (Djibouti);**
- 136.200 **Continue its efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence through the full implementation of the national strategy adopted in this context and related national programmes in this area (Tunisia);**
- 136.201 **Accelerate progress regarding tackling gender-based violence, including domestic violence against women and girls (Estonia);**
- 136.202 **Continue measures aimed at effective implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law (Georgia);**
- 136.203 **Promptly investigate and prosecute cases of violence against women (Hungary);**
- 136.204 **Develop special programs to reduce violence against women (Iraq);**
- 136.205 **Take further steps to ensure full implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women law and the provisions regarding protection of women’s rights included in the new Penal Code and in the National Action Plans for the Women and on Women, Peace and Security; (Italy);**
- 136.206 **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the content of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women and encourage women to report all cases of violence (Liechtenstein);**
- 136.207 **Introduces effective measures to eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls including abolishing referral of such crimes to mediation, to ensure prompt investigation of violence and ensure effective redress for victims (Lithuania);**
- 136.208 **Combat violence against women and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Luxembourg);**
- 136.209 **Continue to strengthen efforts aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (Maldives);**
- 136.210 **Strengthen efforts aimed at eliminating discrimination and violence against women (Malta);**
- 136.211 **Take all the necessary steps aimed at combatting violence against women, including ensuring accountability for perpetrators (Ukraine);**
- 136.212 **Ensure addressing factors of violence against women including the lack of awareness of people of the law and human rights adequately (Myanmar);**
- 136.213 **Continue legislative and administrative reforms to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Nepal);**
- 136.214 **Implement fully the national strategy and action plan on the elimination of violence against women, as previously recommended (Portugal);**
- 136.215 **Ensure the effective implementation of the Elimination of Violence against Women Law and make continued efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls (Republic of Korea);**
- 136.216 **Continue taking measures to improve the situation of women, in particular with regard to their access to justice and participation in the state administration and decision-making institutions (Serbia);**
- 136.217 **Fully implement the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women, and the 2018 penal code, by ensuring that cases of violence against women and girls are appropriately investigated and prosecuted through the criminal justice**

system, and that judges and prosecutors are sufficiently resourced to do their jobs (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

136.218 Eliminate discrimination and violence against women and children, also through education on human rights and by raising awareness of the general public (Slovenia);

136.219 Adopt all necessary legal and regulatory measures to eliminate violence and discrimination against girls and women (Sri Lanka);

136.220 Take extra measures to prevent and combat domestic violence, and the care of abandoned children (Algeria);

136.221 Continue measures for women's empowerment (India);

136.222 Continue efforts to integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women in society (Libya);

136.223 Provide further support for the empowerment of women in the economic sphere (Oman);

136.224 Continue efforts aimed at empowering women (Poland);

136.225 Continue the steps undertaken in order to achieve the empowerment of women, especially in the economic field (Romania);

136.226 Allocate sufficient economic and human resources for coordination of departments involved in human rights, in particular those which are responsible for safeguarding the empowerment of women in the Afghan society (Spain);

136.227 Continue to take the necessary measures to strengthen the rights of children, including with regard to access to education (Albania);

136.228 Effectively promote and promptly implement the 2017 National Action Plan to eliminate Early and Child Marriage in full consultation with civil society (Austria);

136.229 Set the legal age for girls to marry at 18 years and ensure that the law is effectively enforced, including by investigating and prosecuting cases of child marriage (Belgium);

136.230 Abide by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Afghan Child Protection Policy, notably by ending the unlawful recruitment and use of children in armed conflict (Canada);

136.231 Take appropriate measures to ensure birth registration of all children born in the country, in order to reduce the risk of statelessness (Thailand);

136.232 Continue setting up adequate strategies to protect the rights of children (Tunisia);

136.233 Protect the rights of the child including girls, notably in the area of access to education and protection against all types of violence (France);

136.234 Adopt measures to prevent and combat violence against women and girls in all sectors (Honduras);

136.235 Take further steps to ensure a framework policy for the protection of the rights of the child in line with international standards (Malta);

136.236 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);

136.237 Implement safeguards to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of boys, known as bacha baazi, including by Afghan National Security Forces, and hold those responsible accountable, including through prosecution (United States of America);

136.238 Ensure that forced and early marriages of girls are prohibited, those responsible prosecuted and punished and the victims rehabilitated (Denmark);

136.239 Continue taking necessary measures to criminalize the so-called practice of “bacha bazi” and make all efforts in terms of prevention and justice in order to eradicate the practice (Mexico);

136.240 Take measures to strengthen child rights, by promptly and thoroughly investigating all allegations of forced marriage, the practice of “bacha bazi”, or any other form of sexual exploitation of children, and appropriately prosecuting all those found responsible (Germany);

136.241 Intensify efforts to prevent and combat child, early and forced marriage and take appropriate measures to fight all forms of violence against children and to promote their rights, including the right to education (Italy);

136.242 Take measurable steps to prevent and end the recruitment of children and to ensure the accountability for all perpetrators (Lithuania);

136.243 Accelerate the process of making the law on family protection that will amend the age of marriage in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Myanmar);

136.244 Ensure the protection of rights of all children without discrimination and take steps for bringing an end to child marriage by promptly implementing the National Action Plan for child marriages (Pakistan);

136.245 Combat effectively the recruitment of children soldiers (Poland);

136.246 Adopt and implement a national action plan to end child marriage and to adopt the necessary legal and regulatory measures to ensure a consistent implementation at central and local levels of the laws on violence against women (Republic of Moldova);

136.247 Take concrete measures in order to ensure the protection of the rights of the child, including through the access to education for all and the prevention of sexual abuses and child recruitment (Romania);

136.248 Take measures towards rehabilitation and reintegration rather than detention of children formerly associated with armed groups (Portugal);

136.249 Take all measures to protect the civilian population in full respect of international humanitarian law and human rights, in particular specific measures for the protection of ethnic and religious minorities (Switzerland);

136.250 Double efforts on legislation to protect ethnic and religious communities (Honduras);

136.251 Intensify efforts to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief and the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities. (Italy);

136.252 Establish an independent mechanism to assess how religious and ethnic minorities can be better protected against violent attacks (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

136.253 Establish a system to identify and assess the educational needs of children with disabilities and build institutionalized capacity to assist and provide them inclusive education (Bulgaria);

136.254 Improve and strengthen rights of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, economically, politically and socially by establishing policies and concrete actions at central and local levels (Finland);

136.255 Guarantee the return of Afghan refugees and to ensure their enjoyment of their rights and reintegration (Jordan);

136.256 Continue its efforts in the field of protecting the rights of IDPs and providing effective mechanisms for addressing their specific needs (Azerbaijan);

136.257 Create an enabling environment for regular and sustained return of refugees through provision of livelihood opportunities for decent employment and equitable access to quality education and health care services (Pakistan);

136.258 Increase their efforts and prioritize the implementation of the IDP Policy to ensure that the most urgent needs of those displaced are met and sufficient resources are allocated (State of Palestine).

137. 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.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Afghanistan was headed by S.E. Mme Suraya DALIL, Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent d’Afghanistan auprès de l’Office des Nations Unies et Chef de la delegation and composed of the following members:

- Monsieur Ghulam Haidar ALLAMA, Adjoint du Procureur Général d’Afghanistan;
 - Madame Nabila MUSLEH, Vice-Ministre des Affaires de la Femme;
 - Monsieur Mohd. Ismail RAHIMI, Vice –Ministre des Affaires Economiques;
 - Monsieur Ajmal Obaid ABIDY, Sous-Directeur Général à la Direction de la Sécurité Nationale;
 - Monsieur Abdullah ATTAI, Membre du Haut Conseil à la Cour suprême d’Afghanistan;
 - Monsieur Mohammad Haroon MUTASEM, Directeur des Affaires juridiques auprès de la Présidence de la République;
 - Monsieur Ahmad Massih HAMI, Directeur du Département du Droit international au Ministère de la Justice;
 - Monsieur Abdul Hameed AKBAR, Directeur de la Planification au Ministère du Travail;
 - Monsieur Sayed Sameer BEDRUD, Conseiller à la Mission Permanente d’Afghanistan;
 - Monsieur Mohibullah TAIB, Adjoint Directeur Général au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères;
 - Monsieur Safiullah DELAWAR, Membre du Cabinet du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères;
 - Monsieur Suhrab WALI, Fonctionnaire au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères;
 - Monsieur Hamed Abdulhai FORMULI, Premier Secrétaire à la Mission d’Afghanistan;
 - Monsieur Mirwais QADERI, Troisième Secrétaire à la Mission Permanente d’Afghanistan;
 - Monsieur Sher Alam ABASI, Troisième Secrétaire à la Mission Permanente d’Afghanistan.
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