

## 2RP: Responses to Recommendations & Voluntary Pledges

# BELIZE

## Second Review Session 17

Review in the Working Group: 28 October 2013  
Adoption in the Plenary: 20 March 2014

### Belize's responses to recommendations (as of 10.07.2014):

In the Report of the Working Group:	In the Addendum:	During the plenary:	Summary:
59 recs accepted , (26 of which were considered in the process of implementation) and 44 left pending	Out of the 44 recs left pending, 6 were accepted <sup>1</sup> , 11 "rejected" (99.3, 99.18-25, 99.40, and 99.41 -> noted), and 29 noted	The HRC President stated that 63 recs were accepted and the rest noted, but as 2 recs could clearly be split, the total amounts to 65 accepted and 40 noted.	Accepted: 65 Noted: 40 Total: 105

*Paragraph headers are as in the Report of the Working Group, but the nature of responses to recommendations may have subsequently been changed.*

### List of recommendations contained in Section II of the Report of the Working Group A/HRC/25/13:

97. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue, listed below, enjoy the support of Belize:

A - 97.1. Endeavour to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nigeria);

A - 97.2. Step up efforts in seeking assistance towards the establishment of a national human rights institution that is in line with the Paris Principles (Philippines);

<sup>1</sup> Two recommendations were split into two parts. The total number of recommendations is now 105.



A - 97.3. Accelerate, with the cooperation of OHCHR, the internal studies and procedures necessary to establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);

A - 97.4. Continue strengthening its efforts to provide the office of the Ombudsman with sufficient resources to enable it to effectively carry out its tasks (Slovenia);

A - 97.5. Provide the Ombudsperson with sufficient resources it needs, as a critical institution to monitor and oversee the respect for human rights (Turkey);

A - 97.6. Increase the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office, the Belize Police Department's Professional Standards Board, and other human rights-related institutions through internal efforts and by seeking assistance in these areas from international development partners (United States of America);

A - 97.7. Guarantee the right of everyone to equality before the law, equal protection of the law, and non-discrimination, in conformity with the international commitments undertaken by Belize (France);

A - 97.8. Inform the ILO about progress made by Belize in the implementation of its National Policy on Gender (Paraguay);

A - 97.9. Adopt legislation and policy measures prohibiting racial discrimination (Norway);

A - 97.10. Investigate all cases of violence against women, punish the perpetrators and ensure that victims receive the necessary support and compensation (Ireland);

A - 97.11. Investigate the cases of domestic violence that continue to be reported and ensure perpetrators are punished (Maldives);

A - 97.12. That the Unit on Family Violence and other competent bodies improve search and data collection systems, in order to accurately quantify the magnitude of the problem, its causes and consequences (Spain);

A - 97.13. Redouble efforts to combat violence against women and the worst forms of child labour, and provide shelter services to victims of these crimes (Peru);

A - 97.14. Strengthen measures aimed at eradicating child labour (Ecuador);

A - 97.15. Redouble efforts to protect young people under 18 years, especially young women, against the worst forms of labour, including trafficking, sexual exploitation and hazardous work (Honduras);

A - 97.16. Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking (Nigeria);

A - 97.17. Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons in legislation and in practice (Costa Rica);

A - 97.18. Strengthen measures against trafficking in persons by effectively implementing the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act, and investigating, prosecuting and punishing those responsible, as well as ensuring respect for victims' right to asylum (Ireland);

A - 97.19. Implement a system of administration of juvenile justice that fully integrates in its legislation, policies and practices the provisions and principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (in particular articles 37, 39 and 49) as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules), United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines), United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and the Vienna Guidelines for Action on Children in the Criminal Justice System (Uruguay);

A - 97.20. Consider further expanding its birth registration programme towards achieving universal birth registration coverage (Philippines);

A - 97.21. Ensure the effective implementation of inclusive policies on the issue of gender to foster the participation of women in the economic and political life of the country, with concrete measures and an adequate timetable for compliance (Spain);

A - 97.22. Strengthen mechanisms to promote the full and effective participation of women in different spheres, thus guaranteeing their effective incorporation into public life (Ecuador);

A - 97.23. Make efforts to support a system of quotas to promote the participation of women in political and public life and in decision-making posts in all spheres of life. Additionally, make efforts to reduce or eliminate wage differences between men and women (Honduras);

A - 97.24. Re-double its efforts in reducing and eliminating the incidence of poverty, particularly in the impoverished areas, in line with its revised National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action (Malaysia);

A - 97.25. Widely expand access to health services for all, especially for marginalized groups and indigenous peoples (Thailand);

A - 97.26. Step up efforts to provide information and education on sexually transmitted diseases to its population, as well as to combat stigma against people living with HIV/AIDS (Thailand);

A - 97.27. Increase efforts to avoid school drop out by pregnant adolescents, through the creation of programmes that would allow for their return to school in optimal conditions for their development and that of their children (Spain);

A - 97.28. Strengthen its efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Trinidad and Tobago);

A - 97.29. Assign a government department the mandate of promoting and protecting the rights of disabled persons (Nigeria);

A - 97.30. Incorporate in its legislation and take positive measures to implement the rights contained in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Maldives);

A - 97.31. Implement legislative provisions to prevent the criminalization of irregular migration and to encourage the use of alternative measures to deprivation of liberty, so that the detention of asylum seekers is established as a measure of last resort, while re-establishing the mechanism to determine refugee status (Uruguay);

A - 97.32. Strengthen measures aimed at ensuring development in a manner that is resistant to risks (Cuba);

A - 97.33. Step up the implementation of the current national strategies and action plans, with more priorities to address the challenges of poverty reduction, food security, education, health care, gender equality and social welfare (Viet Nam).

**98. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Belize, which considers that they are in the process of implementation:**

A - 98.1. Adjust national legislation with a view to incorporating domestically international and regional treaties ratified by the country (Colombia);

A - 98.2. Provide with financial resources the Office of the Ombudsman created last year (Paraguay);

A - 98.3. Include human rights as a subject in the curriculum of educational institutions as well as in plans for training aimed at the security forces (Paraguay);

A - 98.4. Expand education and human rights training programmes so that these are included as well in the training for magistrates, judges, lawyers, and eventually in education and in general (Costa Rica);

A - 98.5. Strengthen the capacities of its reporting system in order to tackle its backlog in reporting to treaty bodies (Slovenia);

A - 98.6. Continue its efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination through education and awareness raising campaigns (Indonesia);

A - 98.7. Continue its efforts aimed at implementing the national policy of gender equality adopted by the Government in March 2013 (Algeria);

A - 98.8. Continue efforts to combat discrimination suffered by the most vulnerable groups of the population, such as persons with disabilities, with HIV/AIDS or indigenous peoples (Argentina);

A - 98.9. Address the excessive use of force by law-enforcement officers by ensuring public agents are held to account for allegations of misconduct, abuse and violence (Australia);

A - 98.10. Continue to work to combat violence against women (France);

A - 98.11. Ensure the implementation of the National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan and put a halt on gender-based violence (Indonesia);

A - 98.12. Take measures to actively track the implementation and results of the Domestic Violence Act and the National Gender-based Violence Action Plan and to publicly report on these efforts to reduce violence, especially against women and girls (Canada);

A - 98.13. Adopt protocols on domestic and sexual violence for police agents (Paraguay);

A - 98.14. Continue to strengthen norms, programmes and administrative measures aimed at combating all forms of violence against women and children, including educational and prevention plans (Chile);

A - 98.15. Continue its efforts to protect and promote the enjoyment of human rights of the older persons (Singapore);

A - 98.16. Continue developing current projects aimed at reducing poverty (Cuba);

A - 98.17. Continue to implement its poverty reduction strategy and improve its maternal and infantile health care (China);

A - 98.18. Continue its efforts in tackling HIV/AIDS (Singapore);

A - 98.19. Continue its efforts in improving the quality of education at all levels as well as in increasing the student's enrolment in secondary education (Malaysia);

A - 98.20. Continue implementing programmes aimed at guaranteeing quality education to all the population, with an emphasis on access, school enrolment and decreasing school drop outs (Cuba);

A - 98.21. Ensure that persons with disabilities have the right to enrol in the electoral census and vote (Honduras);

A - 98.22. Continue in its endeavours in consistently addressing the issues affecting indigenous peoples (Trinidad and Tobago);

A - 98.23. Monitor continuously the extractive activities of oil companies in Mayan territory, which must always respect human rights (Spain);

A - 98.24. Continue mainstreaming of promotion and protection of human rights in its development plans (Philippines);

A - 98.25. Continue promoting its successful programmes and social policies, with international assistance and cooperation, to advance social development and achieve greater well-being of its population (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

A - 98.26. Continue its momentum on legislations and judiciary reforms toward strengthening the rule of law state, good governance and broader participation of people in socio-economic decision-making processes and human rights protection and promotion in the country (Viet Nam).

**99. The following recommendations will be examined by Belize, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014:**

A - 99.1. Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Brazil) (Paraguay);

A - 99.2. Proceed with ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);

N - 99.3. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);

A - 99.4. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT and ICESCR (Maldives);

99.5. Consider the possibility of ratifying

A - CPED and

N - ILO Convention No. 169 (Ecuador);

A - 99.6. Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Paraguay);

N - 99.7. Consider carrying out the relevant legislative reforms in order that the Constitution and secondary legislation clearly and unequivocally safeguard the rights listed in article 4 of the ICCPR in cases of states of exception or national emergency (Mexico);

N - 99.8. Ensure that the Constitution and legislation include clear provisions on states of emergency, so as to ensure that none of the rights protected under article 4 of ICCPR are suspended in such circumstances, and that the requirements of such suspension are compatible with the above-mentioned Covenant (Uruguay);

N - 99.9. Adjust immigration laws to international standards to which Belize is a party, to avoid discrimination against vulnerable groups in particular persons with cognitive disabilities and LGBT (Colombia);

N - 99.10. Establish a National Human Rights Institution (Paraguay);

99.11. Consider

A - ratifying the ICESCR and

N - creating a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nicaragua);

N - 99.12. Take measures for the establishment of a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles, in particular with regard to its Constitutional protection (Mexico);

N - 99.13. Establish a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles and set out a detailed roadmap to this effect so that the Institute may commence its work at the earliest possible opportunity (Germany);

N - 99.14. Develop a comprehensive policy for the development of human rights that includes a national human rights institution that allows for the articulation, coordination and implementation of policy in practice (Colombia);

N - 99.15. Ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman is in line with the Paris Principles related to the National Institutions for promotion of human rights (France);

N - 99.16. Ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman continues to operate at full capacity and is brought into conformity with the Paris Principles (Australia);

N - 99.17. Provide state authorities, including law enforcement and judicial officials, with human rights training for the protection of women and members of minority groups, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons (United States of America);

N - 99.18. Strengthen efforts to finalize and present pending reports to corresponding treaty bodies and consider extending a standing invitation to the thematic special procedures as part of its comprehensive cooperation with the international system for the protection and promotion of human rights (Mexico);

N - 99.19. Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures (Montenegro);

N - 99.20. Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (France);

N - 99.21. Extend an open invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council to visit the country, particularly those who are in a position to offer assistance to strengthen measures for the promotion and protection of human rights in Belize (Peru);

N - 99.22. Take steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);

N - 99.23. Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);

N - 99.24. Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);

N - 99.25. Undertake a public consultation on the complete abolition of the death penalty (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

N - 99.26. Amend the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code in order to achieve the full prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment, including at home (Slovenia);

N - 99.27. Raise the age of criminal responsibility so that it is in line with the international commitments undertaken by Belize (France);

N - 99.28. Ensure the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Netherlands);

N - 99.29. Take all necessary measures to guarantee the human rights of LGBT individuals and that they do not face persecution of any kind (Brazil);

N - 99.30. Consider the possibility of adopting the necessary measures to eliminate all discriminatory treatment and criminalization based on sexual orientation (Argentina);

N - 99.31. Review the Constitution and legislation, in order to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay);

N - 99.32. Review and adapt its Constitution and laws to ensure that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited (Germany);

N - 99.33. Review its Constitution and legislation to ensure that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited (Norway);

N - 99.34. Ensure its Criminal Code provisions do not criminalize individuals based on sexual orientation (Canada);

N - 99.35. Amend legislation in order to combat discrimination and hostility toward LGBT groups (Spain);

N - 99.36. Repeal all provisions that may lead to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity and respect fundamental freedoms of all the citizens (France);

N - 99.37. Eliminate provisions that favour discriminatory practices against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);

N - 99.38. Take steps to remove domestic legislation that outlaws same-sex activity between consenting adults, and develop policies to address discrimination against LGBT people (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

N - 99.39. Reform existing laws that can be used to discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, including the provision of “unnatural crime” laws prohibiting “carnal intercourse against the order of nature” (United States of America);

N - 99.40. Take timely and concrete measures such as raising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years in order to prevent children from becoming victims of child early and forced marriage (Netherlands);

N - 99.41. Take steps to reduce the incidence of child, early and forced marriage, including by amending legislation where necessary to bring it into conformity with international obligations (Canada);

N - 99.42. Adopt concrete measures, including special measures, such as acceding to ILO Convention No. 169, so that the Mayan indigenous peoples and certain persons of African decent have access to the labour market, housing and health care as well as combating poverty, exclusion and the discrimination they suffer from. Design intercultural and bilingual educational programmes to promote the integration of these ethnic groups (Honduras);



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N - 99.43. Encourage greater participation of indigenous peoples through the elaboration of a law regulating the right of these peoples to prior consultation (Peru);

N - 99.44. Refrain from issuing new concessions for projects in Mayan territories without the free, prior and informed consent of the relevant Mayan community (Norway).

*Disclaimer: This classification was made by UPR Info based on United Nations documents and webcast. For more information about this document, consult the "Methodology" on our website: [www.upr-info.org](http://www.upr-info.org). For questions, comments and/or corrections, please write to [info@upr-info.org](mailto:info@upr-info.org)*