Human Rights Council
Thirty-fourth session
27 February-24 March 2017
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Haiti

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

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-sixth session from 31 October to 11 November 2016. The review of Haiti was held at the 11th meeting, on 7 November 2016. The delegation of Haiti was headed by the Minister of Justice and Public Security, Camille Edouard Junior. At its 14th meeting, held on 9 November 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Haiti.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Haiti: Burundi, Cuba and Saudi Arabia.

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 Haiti:

   (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/HTI/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.6/26/HTI/2);

   (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/HTI/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Haiti through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Haiti expressed the willingness of the State to cooperate with the bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations system for the promotion and protection of human rights.

6. Following the universal periodic review of October 2011 and the acceptance of 122 of the 136 recommendations received, various measures had been adopted by the Government. Those measures were described in the national report for the second review, which had been prepared on the basis of consultations between key members of public institutions and representatives of civil society. The delegation reported on the main areas of progress set out in the national report.

7. The National Police had been strengthened. The total number of police officers had been increased, and efforts were being made to professionalize the service by training officers in human rights and child protection. The Office of the Inspectorate-General of the National Police had been strengthened in order to reduce the number of cases of impunity in the police force, and a telephone line had been set up so that violations could be reported.

8. Justice reforms had been carried out, taking into account a number of different objectives: to ensure the proper functioning of the Court of Cassation; to reform Haitian criminal law; to take action against prolonged pretrial detention; and to improve access to
justice. With regard to the reform of Haitian criminal law, a commission had been set up to revise the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Investigation. The work of the commission had been submitted to the Ministry of Justice and Public Security for further legal processing. In order to obtain a clearer picture of the problem of prolonged pretrial detention, a study had been carried out at the civilian prison of Port-au-Prince in July and August 2013. The recommendations made on the basis of that study had been implemented by the presiding judge of the Port-au-Prince Court of First Instance and had led to significant reductions in the number of detainees. A new commission on tackling prolonged pretrial detention had been established by presidential decree with the aim of identifying persons held in prolonged pretrial detention and making recommendations to the judicial authorities. The commission was due to submit a report to the Ministry of Justice.

9. New prisons and juvenile detention centres had been opened across the country. New penal establishments were also being built.


12. The Office of the Ombudsman, an independent institution established in 1987, had recently been strengthened by the appointment of a director general, an increase in its budget and the creation of the post of deputy ombudsman.

13. The national human rights plan, which had been drawn up in 2014, aimed to educate and inform the public about their rights and duties. It would be implemented once it had been approved by civil society.

14. The Strategic Development Plan for Haiti, which addressed the areas of education, health and housing and provided for measures for responding to natural disasters, had been drawn up in accordance with a rights-based approach. In particular, it aimed to provide the population with safe drinking water and sanitation services and to improve the management of solid waste.

15. In 2012, a programme to tackle food insecurity had been established. Before Hurricane Matthew struck, measures had been adopted to improve agricultural production. A new plan was being drawn up that took into account the damage caused by that natural disaster.

16. Haiti had taken various measures to ensure the provision of free schooling, benefiting one million children. Likewise, a literacy programme had been implemented by the Secretariat of State for Literacy. A campaign had been carried out to raise awareness among the parents of children with disabilities who were not yet enrolled in school. Head teachers were encouraged to accept such children.

17. With regard to the right to housing, the Government had implemented a national housing policy which had led to the construction of 1,682 housing units between 2013 and 2015. The Government had also sought to reduce the number of people living in camps by establishing grant schemes and return/resettlement programmes.

18. Various measures had been taken to tackle trafficking in persons: the Trafficking in Persons Act had been published in 2014; the 1974 Adoption Act had been revised in 2013;
the Committee against Trafficking in Persons had been established in 2015; the Brigade for the Protection of Minors had been strengthened; and officers had been posted at border crossings to ensure that the movements of minors could be monitored more effectively.

19. As part of its efforts to tackle violence against women and girls, the Government had established a directorate-general of legal affairs within the Ministry for the Status of Women that was responsible for raising awareness of violence against women and for supporting the victims of such violence. A second national plan to combat violence against women and girls (2012-2016) had been drawn up and an office to combat violence against women and girls had been established in 2013.

20. In 2013, in order to reduce the number of street children, the Government had opened a transit centre and a free emergency call centre to enable the public to report cases of child abuse, neglect and trafficking.


22. Measures had been taken to improve the process of issuing national identity cards at birth. Clerks had been appointed to visit sections communales and public hospitals in order to register births. Furthermore, a mechanism had been implemented by the National Archives in 2013 to make it easier for Haitians living abroad to obtain civil status records.

23. The delegation concluded its introductory statement by recalling the series of natural disasters, from the earthquake of 2010 to the recent passage of Hurricane Matthew, which had significantly undermined the Government’s efforts to implement the recommendations. However, the Government was determined to continue working for the promotion and respect of human rights.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

24. During the interactive dialogue, 81 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

25. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the implementation of the comprehensive strategy on social assistance, the National Housing Policy, the Humanitarian Response Plan and the Universal, Free and Compulsory Education Programme. It also welcomed the strengthening of the National Police, action to combat police impunity, reform of the justice system, action against prolonged detention and improvement of conditions in detention centres.

26. The United States of America looked forward to transparent and fair elections. It commended Haiti for its efforts to improve documentation for Haitian citizens in the Dominican Republic. It expressed concern at the large number of pretrial detainees, the lack of reliable anti-corruption enforcement mechanisms and the lack of investigations into trafficking cases and protection for trafficking victims.

27. Uruguay encouraged Haiti to implement the recommendations of the Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Haiti.

Families; and the implementation of the Universal, Free and Compulsory Education Programme.


30. Angola welcomed the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan but noted persistent challenges in the areas of nutrition, access to education, prison overcrowding, gender equality and displacement.


32. Armenia applauded the steps taken to combat human trafficking, violence against women and child domestic labour and to reduce the large number of street children. It welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture.

33. Australia expressed concern about widespread gender discrimination and mistreatment. It regretted electoral and institutional uncertainties and the lack of independence of the judiciary. It acknowledged the abolition of the death penalty.

34. Austria regretted that commendable policies to improve public education had not yet been implemented. It noted with concern the action taken against journalists and human rights defenders. It also expressed concern about child labour.

35. The Bahamas welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and the vigorous action taken to improve the situation of displaced persons who returned to the country.

36. Armenia applauded the steps taken to combat human trafficking, violence against women and child domestic labour and to reduce the large number of street children. It welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture.

37. Australia expressed concern about widespread gender discrimination and mistreatment. It regretted electoral and institutional uncertainties and the lack of independence of the judiciary. It acknowledged the abolition of the death penalty.

38. Austria regretted that commendable policies to improve public education had not yet been implemented. It noted with concern the action taken against journalists and human rights defenders. It also expressed concern about child labour.

39. The Bahamas welcomed the comprehensive strategy on social assistance, the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and Girls, the Strategic Development Plan and the strengthening of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system.

40. Belgium lamented the slow progress in improving prison conditions. It was concerned about gender-related violence and limited access to justice for victims.

41. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed measures taken to combat extreme poverty.


43. Brazil encouraged more vigorous action to prevent and punish trafficking in persons and provide redress for victims. It commended Haiti for the award of A status to the Ombudsman’s Office.

42. Canada noted the inclusion in police training courses of modules on human rights and support for women victims of violence.

43. Chile applauded the strengthening of the National Police, measures to professionalize their staff and the establishment of a commission on prolonged pretrial detention.


45. The Congo urged Haiti to continue cooperating with the treaty bodies to strengthen national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights.

46. Côte d'Ivoire commended the authorities for their cooperation with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti and urged them to focus on promoting and protecting human rights during the post-disaster reconstruction process.


48. Cuba made a recommendation.

49. Cyprus noted the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Minister for Human Rights and the Fight against Extreme Poverty and of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee. It encouraged more vigorous action to combat sexual violence against women, improve children’s access to education and address prison conditions.

50. Czechia made recommendations.

51. Denmark welcomed the signing of the Convention against Torture and encouraged Haiti to take further steps towards ratification. The Convention against Torture Initiative was willing to assist it in that regard.

52. Ecuador welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption. It encouraged Haiti to ratify the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which had been signed in 2013.

53. Egypt welcomed the drafting of the national human rights plan, reform of the justice system, the strengthening of the National Police, action to combat violence against women, the implementation of a food-security programme, the adoption of the Trafficking in Persons Act and ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

54. El Salvador welcomed the progress made, despite the lack of resources and natural disasters, in child protection and in the fight against hunger, disease, unemployment, illiteracy, trafficking in persons and inequality between women and men.

55. Italy welcomed the adoption of the second National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and Girls, the Gender Equality Action Plan, programmes to improve child health coverage and measures to combat child domestic labour and economic exploitation.

56. Georgia applauded efforts to cooperate with special procedures and encouraged the Government to issue a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders. It welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

57. Germany expressed concern about ongoing mass evictions, including from displacement camps, and underscored the need to ensure access to adequate housing on a non-discriminatory basis. It was also concerned about alleged mistrust of the justice system owing to the high rate of corruption.

58. Ghana welcomed efforts to increase the size of the police force, reform the justice system and build new prisons, and encouraged Haiti to expedite the establishment of a legal aid system. It welcomed action to eradicate illiteracy and gender inequality in education but expressed concern about allegations of widespread gender discrimination and ill-treatment.

59. Guatemala regretted the electoral uncertainty generated by allegations of electoral fraud. It hoped that the resumption of the electoral process would restore national stability. It was concerned about reports of persistent gender-based discrimination, violence and ill-treatment.

60. The Holy See welcomed the drafting of a national human rights plan. It noted the efforts to combat trafficking in persons and praised the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

61. The Philippines welcomed the training modules for police officers in human rights, particularly children’s rights, and support for women victims of violence. It also welcomed measures to address prolonged pretrial detention.

62. Iraq praised the care arrangements provided for street children under the Universal, Free and Compulsory Education Programme.

63. Ireland expressed concern about the prevalence and length of pretrial detention. It also expressed concern about widespread sexual and gender-based violence and delays in adoption of the necessary legislation.

64. France made recommendations.

65. Jamaica welcomed the reduction in the number of pretrial detainees and measures taken to monitor the adoption of Haitian children by foreigners. It shared the Government’s concern about the restavek system.

66. Japan welcomed the Government’s leading role in efforts to hold elections, which were essential for political stability and economic growth, and encouraged it to move steadily forward with the electoral process.

67. Libya made a recommendation.

68. Madagascar welcomed efforts to ensure that disadvantaged children in rural areas received free primary education. In view of the persistence of sexual violence, it encouraged Haiti to promote effective strategies to eradicate gender-based discrimination. It welcomed the Strategic Development Plan.

69. Maldives applauded investment in promoting the rights of children through the establishment of the Universal, Free and Compulsory Education Programme, the National Education Fund and other educational initiatives.

70. Mexico welcomed the strengthening of the Ombudsman’s Office, efforts to combat trafficking in persons and procedures aimed at improving conditions in detention facilities, reducing the length of pretrial detention and training judges. It encouraged Haiti to continue making efforts to achieve universal, free and compulsory primary education.

72. Montenegro welcomed programmes to provide free high-quality education to children, especially children with disabilities. It enquired about planned governmental action to ensure that women’s rights were fully promoted and protected.

73. Morocco welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, the signing of the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the acquisition of A status by the Ombudsman’s Office and the professionalization of the National Police.

74. Mozambique welcomed the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the signing of the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It took note of the national contingency plan to address natural disasters and the creation of a technical unit to provide assistance to the most vulnerable people.

75. Namibia encouraged the Government to pursue its efforts to reform the justice sector and to reinforce action to combat violence against women and girls, particularly in camps for displaced persons.

76. First, the delegation of Haiti thanked the delegations for the solidarity shown in the wake of the natural disasters that had recently struck the country.

77. The delegation recalled that the electoral process was ongoing. Hurricane Matthew had struck Haiti a few days before the elections, which had originally been scheduled for 9 October. As a result, the Provisional Electoral Council had been forced to postpone them to 20 November 2016. Despite the significant level of damage that had been caused, the Government had committed itself to taking all necessary measures to rebuild the voting centres and schools so that the elections could take place on the new date.

78. In that regard, the Government had undertaken to ensure that the elections organised by the Provisional Electoral Council were a neutral and impartial process. Consequently, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security had organized meetings with police forces and government commissioners to ensure that the administration did not interfere with the electoral process.

79. With regard to prolonged pretrial detention, the delegation stressed that it was a matter of great concern to the Government and reiterated that significant progress had been made in several departments, particularly in the west of the country.

80. The question of pretrial detention had been the subject of a policy statement presented by the Prime Minister and subsequently ratified by parliament, leading to the creation of the recently established presidential commission. The purpose of the commission was to draw up a definitive list of detainees, particularly those being held in prolonged pretrial detention, in order to plan and schedule dates for criminal court hearings with the presiding judges of the courts of first instance, chief prosecutors and government commissioners.

81. As a result, the delegation expected the number of detainees held in prolonged pretrial detention to fall by around half.
82. The Netherlands expressed concern about the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition. It was also concerned about the lack of legislation criminalizing rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women.


84. Nigeria welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee, the adoption of the Strategic Development Plan and action to eliminate discrimination and violence against women.

85. Norway encouraged Haiti to intensify efforts to implement human rights conventions. It noted persistent challenges relating to gender equality and the failure to ensure universal access to education.

86. Pakistan welcomed efforts to reform the justice system and to end prolonged pretrial detention. It also welcomed the increased socioeconomic participation of women and persons with disabilities and efforts to promote children’s rights.

87. Panama welcomed the ratification of important human rights instruments, the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and the adoption of the Paternity, Maternity and Filiation Act and the Adoption Act.

88. Paraguay made recommendations.

89. Peru welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Development Plan aimed at providing drinking water and sanitation services, eradicating illiteracy and improving access to housing and health care. It also welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman’s Office.

90. Indonesia welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and the acquisition of A status by the Ombudsman’s Office. It noted the strengthening of the National Police and reforms in criminal law, pretrial detention and access to justice.

91. Portugal expressed concern about widespread gender discrimination and ill-treatment. It was also concerned about the placement of children in domestic service, where many were subjected to slavery-like conditions and to physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

92. Qatar welcomed the drafting of the national human rights plan and the adoption of the Strategic Development Plan.

93. The Republic of Korea welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the adoption of the Anti-Corruption Act and the successful implementation of the Universal, Free and Compulsory Education Programme.

94. Rwanda welcomed the reform of the justice sector and improved access to justice, and encouraged Haiti to ratify the Convention against Torture. It welcomed efforts to combat gender-based violence and encouraged Haiti to step up measures to prevent violence against women in displacement camps.

95. Senegal welcomed the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Minister for Human Rights and the Fight against Extreme Poverty and the creation of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee.

96. Serbia welcomed efforts to include a definition of torture aligned with that contained in the Convention against Torture in the new Criminal Code and encouraged Haiti to align existing rules on pretrial detention with international standards.
97. Sierra Leone welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the adoption of the Trafficking in Persons Act. It encouraged the Government to work with international stakeholders to counter the impact of the natural disasters.

98. Singapore welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Development Plan, the expanded health coverage for children and the reconstruction of health facilities affected by previous natural disasters.

99. Slovenia welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments, the training of police officers in human rights and progress in ensuring free education at the primary- and middle-school level.

100. Spain expressed concern about the situation with respect to drinking water and sanitation, which exacerbated the cholera epidemic. It noted the serious risks of violence and trafficking faced by internally displaced children, children in domestic service and stateless children.

101. The Sudan welcomed the ratification and signing of several international human rights instruments, the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and the adoption of the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and Girls.

102. Switzerland noted that the issues of impunity and unduly slow legal proceedings remained a major challenge. It welcomed the proposals in the Strategic Development Plan to rehouse displaced persons, increase the amount of urbanized land and develop a housing finance system.

103. The Syrian Arab Republic made recommendations.

104. Timor-Leste welcomed the mandate given to the High Council of the Judiciary and the inclusion of human rights in the National Police training curriculum. It expressed concern about the slavery-like conditions to which many child domestic workers were subjected.

105. Togo noted the establishment of the Office of the Deputy Minister for Human Rights and the Fight against Extreme Poverty and the creation of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee. It commended Haiti for measures taken to improve detention conditions, reduce judicial delays and combat impunity.

106. Trinidad and Tobago welcomed efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and steps taken to improve the judicial system, food security and access to education. It also welcomed the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

107. Turkey welcomed the drafting of a national human rights plan and the A status earned by the Ombudsman’s Office.

108. Ukraine welcomed the strengthening of the National Police, the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, enforcement of the Anti-Corruption Act, adoption of the Strategic Development Plan and reform of the justice system.

109. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed particular concern about persistent gender-based violence, illegal detention and enslavement of children as restaveks.

110. Costa Rica welcomed the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It expressed concern about the low percentage of women involved in decision-making and the excessive use of
force by the police during peaceful demonstrations. It underscored the importance of political commitment to the electoral process.

111. Thailand welcomed the adoption of the Strategic Development Plan and the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

112. With regard to its commitment to international instruments, the delegation of Haiti stated that the State had made great progress towards universalising international human rights instruments by adopting and ratifying several such instruments.

113. By way of conclusion, the delegation stated that the Government would continue to strive to be a full party to the current international instruments and to those that would be ratified shortly. Furthermore, despite the exceptional difficulties caused by Hurricane Matthew, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to holding early, free and democratic elections in accordance with the recommendations made during the review.

114. With regard to the rights of women and minors, the Government acknowledged the current lack of female members of parliament and stated that it expected the representation of women to improve following the elections in November.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

115. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Haiti and enjoy the support of Haiti:

115.1 Adopt, in consultation with civil society, a plan of action to prioritise, ratify and implement key international human rights treaties (Australia);
115.2 Continue the process of ratification of the main international human rights instruments (Italy);
115.3 Continue to study and consider the ratification of more international human rights instruments (Syrian Arab Republic);
115.4 Carry out efforts to ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (El Salvador);
115.5 Speed up the process of ratification of the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Georgia);
115.6 Ratify the Convention against Torture (Botswana) (Montenegro) (Spain);
115.7 Ratify the Convention against Torture (Iraq);
115.8 Ratify the Convention against Torture (Senegal);
115.9 Take steps to ratify the Convention against Torture (Norway);
115.10 Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture (Denmark);
115.11 Ratify the Convention against Torture, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Paraguay);

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.
Strengthen its legal arsenal by ratifying the Convention against Torture and by acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France);

Finalise the procedures to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture (Egypt);

Complete ratification of the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Nicaragua);

Ratify and accede to the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);

Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, signed in 2013 (Bangladesh);

Take steps to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Togo);

Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);

Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Georgia);

Implement, strictly, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and accede to its Optional Protocol (Ghana);

Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and take all appropriate legislative measures (Netherlands);

Ratify the Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Belgium);

Ratify the Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Panama);

Continue to ensure the implementation of ratified human rights treaties (Pakistan);

Take further appropriate actions to promote effective implementation of the existing legal framework (Mongolia);

Prioritize law reform process (Ukraine);

Continue to strengthen the rule of law in the country by swiftly adopting the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Portugal);

Expedite the adoption of the Child Protection Code (Timor-Leste);
115.29 Adopt a Child Protection Code that includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse (Portugal);
115.30 Make all possible efforts to ensure and guarantee the full operational status of national government institutions, including the parliamentary and electoral systems (Paraguay);
115.31 Strengthen the inter-sectorial coordination mechanisms to achieve a concrete materialization of the international cooperation in the areas of internal security, human rights protection and democratic political stability (Chile);
115.32 Take into consideration the recommendations from the Office of the Ombudsman, as well as provide it with enough resources to operate (Guatemala);
115.33 Renew the mandate of the National Disabilities Council (Jamaica);
115.34 Strengthen the Minor’s Protection Unit (Timor-Leste);
115.35 Continue its efforts in order to provide full access to justice, health services and education for all (Holy See);
115.36 Maintain as a high priority, the steps to safeguard the human rights of women and persons with disabilities (Holy See);
115.37 Complete the vetting process of the police officers (Ukraine);
115.38 Continue to effectively coordinate international aid so that it is focused on the affected populations (El Salvador);
115.39 Strengthen its work to promote a human rights culture throughout the country and ensure rule of law and equal treatment before the law (Norway);
115.40 Implement a plan of action to promote human rights, in cooperation with civil society and the Office of the Ombudsman, with a special emphasis on the rights of women and vulnerable groups (Colombia);
115.41 Implement a plan of action to promote and protect human rights, in cooperation with civil society and the Ombudsman’s Office (Portugal);
115.42 Continue efforts for the finalization of National Human Rights Plan (Pakistan);
115.43 Launch and implement a National Human Rights Action Plan in order to improve the promotion and protection of human rights, with the participation of civil society (Indonesia);
115.44 Implement as soon as possible the 2014 National Human Rights Action Plan with easily measurable indicators (Spain);
115.45 Strengthen the human rights education training program and expand it to other governmental departments (Morocco);
115.46 Continue the implementation of the strategic development plan (Pakistan);
115.47 Continue its efforts towards implementing and enforcing the Haitian Strategy for Development (Sudan);
Implement the measures laid out in the Strategic Development Plan (Spain);

Continue its efforts in implementing the national strategic plan for development which will strengthen the economic, social and cultural rights, particularly by eliminating poverty and attaining education and access to health services (Libya);

Speed up implementation of the Strategic Development Plan for Haiti in order to prevent epidemics (Madagascar);

Consider the possibility of mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the reconstruction plans and programmes (Qatar);

Continue to open channels of cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and with the States, particularly in the area of education, ratification and implementation of international treaties, and the fight against impunity (Argentina);

Seek and avail itself of international cooperation to fully implement national action plans and strategies (Bahamas);

Continue to seek assistance and cooperation, as it deems appropriate, to support ongoing initiatives to fulfil its various international human rights obligations and implement those recommendations which will be accepted during the current universal periodic review cycle (Trinidad and Tobago);

Continue to engage its regional and international partners with the view of seeking technical and other assistance towards its full compliance with its human rights treaty obligations (Philippines);

Intensify its cooperation efforts, including with international organizations, with view to harmonize its human rights legislation (Morocco);

Seek technical assistance in order to improve human rights in the country (Nigeria);

Cooperate fully with the United Nations treaty bodies (Côte d’Ivoire);

Continue its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Cuba);

Continue its efforts to develop policies aimed at the protection of women rights (Syrian Arab Republic);

Tackle negative attitudes related to gender and discrimination against women through human rights training of law enforcement and judicial bodies’ agents (Colombia);

Put in place a strategy to combat discriminatory stereotypes and implement, in collaboration with civil society, awareness-raising programs to enhance non-stereotypical portrayals of women and girls (Portugal);

Continue to amend and update (criminal and civil) legal codes to protect women from sexual exploitation, gender-based violence and discrimination (Maldives);
115.64 Remove from its legislation and practice all civil and criminal provisions which constitute discrimination towards women and girls (Paraguay);

115.65 Intensify its efforts in protecting the rights of women and promote gender equality by revising legal framework, strengthening law enforcement and supporting victims of domestic violence in their legal process, rehabilitation and reintegration (Thailand);

115.66 Continue strengthening the participation of women in decision making processes (Iraq);

115.67 Establish effective measures to ensure access of women to decision-making positions (Costa Rica);

115.68 Establish and strengthen policies and legal provisions for the promotion of women’s rights, in particular the strengthening of their autonomy and participation in political, economic and social life, in recognition of their fundamental role in the development of a nation (Nicaragua);

115.69 Continue its efforts to promote gender equality, including by taking concrete measures to combat the high level of violence against women (Norway);

115.70 Implement programmes for human rights education and awareness-raising against discrimination, as well as for the promotion of the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups (Italy);

115.71 Investigate and sanction the acts of violence and discrimination committed on the ground of sexual orientation (Uruguay);

115.72 Implement measures to combat prison overcrowding (Angola);

115.73 Improve detention conditions of detainees, in particular minors (Algeria);

115.74 Reduce significantly the periods of pre-trial detention and ensure that minors have separate spaces in the detention centres and prisons (Spain);

115.75 Allocate additional resources to increase case processing and reduce the number of pre-trial detainees (United States of America);

115.76 Effectively address the situation of persons who have been in prolonged pre-trial detention in full accordance with the principle of proportionality (Republic of Korea);

115.77 Continue its efforts to strengthen its legal framework to combat prolonged pre-trial detention (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

115.78 Improve the incarceration conditions of prisoners, particularly by reducing overcrowding, malnutrition and the shortage of adequate medical care (Belgium);

115.79 Redouble efforts to improve the conditions of persons deprived of their liberty, in particular by reducing periods of pre-trial detention, facilitating access to justice, and improving the facilities of detention centres (Mexico);

115.80 Develop and put in place a strategy to improve, as soon as possible, detention conditions of minors separated from adults, and reduce the duration of police custody and pre-trial detention (Canada);
115.81 Take urgent measures to counter overcrowding, in particular by focusing on alternative measures to detention, and to guarantee the access of prisoners to basic health care and an adequate diet (Switzerland);

115.82 Continue its efforts to combat violence against women (Egypt);

115.83 Take additional measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities (Georgia);

115.84 Take further appropriate actions to combat gender based violence, discrimination and legalize domestic violence (Mongolia);

115.85 Amend all legislative provisions discriminatory against women and introduce a comprehensive law preventing and combating violence against women and girls, including a definition of rape in line with international standards and the criminalization of marital rape (Czechia);

115.86 Adopt and effectively implement comprehensive legislation criminalising rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment and other forms of violence (Australia);

115.87 Adopt a comprehensive legislative framework concerning violence against women that includes a definition of rape in line with international standards and criminalize marital rape (Belgium);

115.88 Continue strengthening the participation of women, and especially, ensure the adoption of the framework legislation on prevention, sanction and elimination of violence against women and girls (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

115.89 Remedy violence against women and girls, including gender and sexual violence, through the implementation of legislation that prevents and criminalises such acts (Canada);

115.90 Adopt and implement efficiently a comprehensive legislation on combating violence against women (Italy);

115.91 Adopt the existing draft law on combating violence against women to incorporate the criminalization of marital rape, incest, and sexual harassment (Ireland);

115.92 Continue its efforts in implementing the Strategy of combating violence against women and girls 2012-2016 (Sudan);

115.93 Deepen measures aimed at guaranteeing the fight against impunity of perpetrators of acts of gender violence and sexual abuse, in particular against women and girls living in the IDP camps (Argentina);

115.94 Ensure that the police and judiciary are trained to deal impartially with women reporting gender based violence, and that all such complaints are fully investigated and prosecuted (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

115.95 Establish a legal framework to better protect women and girls from sexual exploitation and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);

115.96 Raise awareness on the responsibility to investigate cases of human rights violations against women and girls in the IDP camps (Argentina);
115.97 Consider adopting further measures to enhance legal protection to vulnerable groups, including on the issues of gender violence and child labour (Brazil);

115.98 Continue giving special priority to the care of street children (United Republic of Tanzania);

115.99 Continue efforts to combat child domestic labour (United Republic of Tanzania);

115.100 Ensure the systematic enforcement of laws eliminating child-labour, including the establishment of a clear minimum age for domestic work (Austria);

115.101 Take further steps to combat child domestic labour and child abuse (Armenia);

115.102 Address the question of children in domesticity by strengthening the measures already adopted to prevent, combat and eliminate this problematic in line with the international commitments taken by the country (Canada);

115.103 Adopt a law against the placement of children in domesticity that are victims of several abuses (Congo);

115.104 Continue the actions to protect street children and provide them with food, health, education and housing basic services (Ecuador);

115.105 Adopt a holistic, long-term approach that involves phasing out “restaveks”; incorporating international best practices which could include increased inspections, sensitisation of parents, children and employers, and guaranteed schooling for child domestics (Jamaica);

115.106 Take further appropriate actions to eliminate child labour, trafficking and protect street children (Mongolia);

115.107 Eradicate domestic child labour and economic exploitation of children (Panama);

115.108 Make decisive efforts to criminalize the practice of placing children in domestic service (Slovenia);

115.109 Take strong measures to prevent child labour and make sure that children who are employed as domestic help, the so-called “restaveks”, can go to school (Norway);

115.110 Fully implement the Trafficking in Persons Act 2014 and ensure the continued work of the Committee against Trafficking in Persons (Bahamas);

115.111 Vigorously investigate, prosecute, convict and sentence traffickers, including those responsible for domestic servitude and child sex trafficking (United States of America);

115.112 Continue its efforts to implement the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons (Qatar);

115.113 Increase efforts to combat all forms of human trafficking, as previously recommended (Slovenia);
Facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the National Committee against Human Trafficking with concrete measures and avoid impunity (Spain);

Ensure sufficient resources for the effective implementation of the law on trafficking of persons (Timor-Leste);

Ensure that the Judiciary, including the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, has adequate resources and can function without political interferences (Uruguay);

Ensure sufficient human resources in the judicial system, including the Supreme Court of the Judiciary, to enable it to operate independently, to decrease the number of persons in preventive custody and to guarantee the right to a fair trial (Germany);

Ensure the judiciary, including the Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSPJ) is provided with adequate resources and able to operate free from political interference (Australia);

Strengthen the independence and professionalism of the judiciary and adopt a system of transparent appointment and removal of judges (Czechia);

Take steps to strengthen and reform the judiciary to reduce the numbers of pre-trial detainees, particularly minors (Ireland);

Ensure the rule of law, in particular through proper management of judicial structures and systems (Japan);

Further take appropriate actions to strengthen the judicial system and improve detention conditions (Mongolia);

Take the necessary measures to allow the judicial system to effectively fight against impunity, including through judicial processes that are carried out within reasonable deadlines (Switzerland);

Increase the number of magistrates to alleviate court proceedings, and take measures regarding their election to ensure their independence (Costa Rica);

Ensure accountability for human rights abuses, to strengthen the rule of law and break the pervasive cycle of impunity that hinders reconciliation and limits Haiti’s economic development (United States of America);

Continue its national efforts to combat corruption and impunity (Egypt);

Strengthen institutional capacities to investigate and prosecute all allegations of corruption and mismanagement of funds (Maldives);

Adopt and fully implement the draft Nationality Law (Bahamas);

Consider a reform of the civil registration system guaranteeing the rights of all Haitians, including those living abroad (France);

Continue the process of modernization of the civil registry and identification of persons and the efforts to register and provide documents to the persons living in camps and to Haitians living abroad; seek support from...
friendly governments and international agencies, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as appropriate (Nicaragua);

115.131 Improve the documentation process for citizens, which would help actual and effective realization of children’s rights in adoption processes (Spain);

115.132 Continue measures to close gaps in birth and civil registration (Bahamas);

115.133 Promote a full registration of children so as to confront the situation of food insecurity and malnutrition (Holy See);

115.134 Establish a minimum age of marriage of 18 for both girls and boys (Botswana);

115.135 Restore, as soon as possible, the constitutional order by organizing elections (Côte d’Ivoire);

115.136 Ensure free and fair elections held peacefully in regular intervals and at all levels in accordance with international standards, conduct impartial investigation into allegations of excessive use of force by the police and arbitrary arrests during the elections and bring perpetrators to justice (Czechia);

115.137 Intensify collective efforts to ensure that scheduled elections are conducted as smoothly as possible, in spite of ongoing recovery efforts utilizing its renowned resilience (Jamaica);

115.138 Move towards the conclusion of the electoral process to guarantee civil and political rights of all citizens (Mexico);

115.139 Take forward and complete, with political stakeholders, the electoral process as a matter of urgency (Namibia);

115.140 Take forward the electoral process (Ukraine);

115.141 Ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders, including through the implementation of the precautionary measures or interim measures of protection of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights where these have been granted (Austria);

115.142 Provide effective protection to lawyers, human rights defenders and journalists in order to guarantee a safe environment for the development of their work (Colombia);

115.143 Investigate and sanction the cases of attacks, threats, harassment or intimidation against journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders (Uruguay);

115.144 Guarantee that all allegations of attacks, threats and acts of harassment or intimidation targeting human rights defenders are subject to thorough investigations (France);

115.145 Strengthen the efforts to improve living standards of economically vulnerable population (Algeria);

115.146 Continue to take measures with a strong social impact to improve the economic situation of the Haitian people, by focusing on vulnerable groups, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities (Senegal);
Implement measures to guarantee the rights to adequate food, clean water and sanitation, in order to prevent the spread of diseases among the population, paying special attention to refugee camps (Mexico);

Put in place all the necessary measures to ensure that the population has access to adequate sanitation and clean drinking water (Portugal);

Work towards improving people’s basic rights such as the right to food and the right to the highest attainable standard of health (Thailand);

Strengthen programmes to combat food insecurity, improve nutrition and access to local food production through the development of the agricultural sector (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

Continue its four-year food safety program, foreseen in 2012, in order to continue improving nutrition and access to locally produced food for the most vulnerable households in Haiti (Ecuador);

Improve its citizen’s access to food by adopting a national strategy to protect its agriculture against the effects of climate change and natural disasters (Netherlands);

Further develop public health policy, with a focus on guaranteeing access to health for children and women (Cyprus);

Continue to strengthen its public healthcare system and improve access to healthcare services, particularly for women, children and older persons (Singapore);

Engage further efforts in protection of public health, namely to undertake systematic review of the health situation and to take all necessary measures in order to prevent and combat transmissible diseases, including cholera (Serbia);

Proceed with international cooperation and with the United Nations specialised agencies to enhance the government efforts in providing free education and eliminate illiteracy (Syrian Arab Republic);

Take the necessary measures to advance in the elimination of illiteracy and the basic education of women and men (Chile);

Continue strengthening its education policy, focusing on the most disadvantaged sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

Take necessary measures to put into practice free education for the first six years of primary education and eradicate all discrimination, including class, gender and between rural and urban populations in the education system (Austria);

Continue to adopt programmes that will ensure disadvantaged children, particularly in rural areas, enjoy the right to education (Nigeria);

Take additional steps to improve accessibility to education, including for children in domestic service and children with disabilities and ensure inclusive and quality education for all (Slovenia);

Continue to take steps to prevent disruption to education faced by children affected by Hurricane Matthew, and implement policies and programmes that promote access to education (Singapore);
115.163 Further take appropriate actions to improve access to social services for the people with disabilities (Mongolia);

115.164 Continue to implement measures to reduce the high rate of displaced people (Angola);

115.165 Promote a disaster risk awareness campaign throughout the country (Angola);

115.166 Work to apply a human rights approach to all initiatives related to disaster prevention and response to emergencies in its efforts to build national capacity and resilience to natural disasters (Brazil);

115.167 Spare no effort to face and mitigate the consequences of climate change and natural disasters (Holy See);

115.168 Provide food, water and health support not only in the direct aftermath of natural disasters, but also in the reconstruction phase, with special consideration given for women and children and other particularly vulnerable groups (Japan);

115.169 Prioritize implementation of a coordinated national and local disaster risk preparedness plan of action (Maldives);

115.170 Take all necessary measures to consolidate the system of protection of human rights of all persons prior to, during and in the aftermath of emergency situations (Serbia);

115.171 Establish coordinated disaster risk management strategies and action plan (Sierra Leone);

115.172 Strengthen its protection efforts to face the dangers of natural disasters and encourage the international community to provide the necessary assistance (Syrian Arab Republic);

115.173 Put in place a coordinated action plan for preparedness to the risks of natural catastrophes (Turkey);

115.174 Prioritize the development of disaster risk reduction and preparedness strategies which include promotion of forestation (Republic of Korea);

115.175 Conduct environmental impact studies when granting mining concessions and promote prior consultation and transparency measures during these concessions (Costa Rica).

116. The following recommendations will be examined by Haiti, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council:

116.1 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);

116.2 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as early as possible (Japan);

116.3 Step up efforts to systematically address exploitation of and violence against children, including by introducing and effectively implementing legislation criminalizing the practice of placing children from poor families in domestic services (so-called restavek) (Czechia);
116.4 Speed up the procedure to adopt the law against the high rate of pregnancy among adolescent girls (Congo);

116.5 Update the memorandum of understanding with the Dominican Republic on repatriation mechanisms in accordance with international standards and norms (Uruguay).

117. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Haiti and would thus be noted:

117.1 Accelerate the ratification of all international human rights instruments (Congo);

117.2 Formalize its commitment to the abolition of the death penalty by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

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

117.4 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);

117.5 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);

117.6 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Croatia);

117.7 When elected, the new President seeks early ratification of the Convention against Torture and ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

117.8 Accelerate the process of ratification of the Convention against Torture (Togo);

117.9 Finalize the procedure of ratification of Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol thereto (Serbia);

117.10 Accelerate the ratification process of the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burundi);

117.11 Redouble its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);

117.12 Ratify promptly the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol; and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);

117.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);
117.14 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Czechia);

117.15 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay);

117.16 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and align its national legislation (Cyprus);

117.17 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which was already signed in 1999 and guarantee its full implementation into national law (Germany);

117.18 Accede and bring into line its legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);

117.19 Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Timor-Leste);

117.20 Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);

117.21 Issue a standing invitation to all the United Nations human rights special procedures mandate holders (Mongolia) (Panama) (Rwanda);

117.22 Consider the possibility of extending a standing invitation to the human rights special procedures and facilitating an institutional channel to give an answer to their communications (Paraguay);

117.23 Strengthen the democratic institutions (Peru);\(^1\)

117.24 Design and implement a series of measures to combat discriminatory stereotypes, including stereotypes based on gender (Croatia);

117.25 Establish a strategy to combat discriminatory stereotypes (Guatemala);

117.26 Take measures to combat norms, practices and stereotypes that cause discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Colombia);

117.27 Eliminate violence against women in all its manifestations (Peru);\(^2\)

117.28 Provide, as soon as possible, documents to persons of Haitian origin living in the Dominican Republic to regularize their status and thus avoid deportations, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (Canada);

117.29 Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 for both boys and girls (Sierra Leone);

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\(^1\) The recommendation, as read during the interactive dialogue, was: “There are many challenges, among which we identify two central tasks that are pending: the strengthening of democratic institutions — in this regard, we welcome the upcoming presidential elections — and the elimination of violence against women in all its forms.”

\(^2\) See footnote 1.
117.30 Redouble its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, including by establishing the minimum marriage age of 18 for both men and women (Republic of Korea);

117.31 End all enforced evictions from displacement camps and establish an official moratorium on mass eviction until all legal and procedural safeguards compliant with international human rights standards are in place (Germany);

117.32 Take measures that guarantee access of IDPs to basic services, so that they can leave the camps (Argentina);

117.33 Implement policies to guarantee the rights of displaced persons, particularly following natural disasters, as well as of those persons expelled from a third country who risk statelessness (Switzerland).

118. The Haitian delegation could not accept the recommendations in paragraphs 23 and 27 because Peru did not follow standard practice in making the recommendations.

119. 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 Haiti was headed by the Minister of Justice and Public Security, H.E. Camille Edouard Junior, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Pierre André Dunbar, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Ambassador Laurence Pean Mevs, Deputy Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Denise Poulard, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic;
- Mr. Pierre Mary Guy St. Amour, Minister Counsellor, Haiti Permanent Mission, Geneva;
- Ms. Anita Dolma, Chargée de Mission, Legal Unit, Office of the Prime Minister;
- Mr. Frantz Dorfainville, Director of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship;
- Ms. Vénus Marie Myrthée Thebaud, Director of Political Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Interior and Territorial Communities;
- Ms. Charlotte Marie Tessy Romulus Gerbier, Director of Legal Affairs, Ministry Women’s Affairs and Women’s Rights;
- Mr. Jean Fallières Bazelais, Coordinator of the Legal Unit, Minister of Justice and Public Security;
- Mr. Nazaire Altemar, Counsellor, Haiti Permanent Mission, Geneva;
- Mr. Didier Georges, Haiti Permanent Mission, Geneva;
- Mr. André Ybreus, Assistant Director, Legal Directorate of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.