



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
19 November 2015

Original: English

## UNEDITED VERSION

### Human Rights Council

Thirty first session

Agenda item 6

Universal Periodic Review

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

### Rwanda

---

\* The annex to the present report is circulated as received

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	1–4	3
I Summary of the proceedings of the review process.....	5–132	3
A. Presentation by the State under review.....	5–25	3
B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review .....	26–132	6
II. Conclusions and/or recommendations .....	133–136	13
Annex		
Composition of the delegation .....		27

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Rwanda was held at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on 4 November 2015. The delegation of Rwanda was headed by Mr. Johnston Busingye. At its 10th meeting held on 6 November 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Rwanda.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Rwanda: Nigeria, Plurinational State of Bolivia and the United Arab Emirates.

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

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/RWA/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.6/23/RWA/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/23/RWA/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Czech Republic, German, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to Rwanda through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Rwanda had implemented 63 of 67 recommendations that had been received in the 2011 Review and that implementation of the remaining recommendations was in progress. Rwanda was now a State Party to 8 core United Nations Human Rights Instruments. Since the last review, Rwanda had ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture and to the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Rwanda was up to date in reporting to the relevant Treaty Bodies. Rwanda issued a standing invitation to all UN Special Procedures and since the last review three special rapporteurs visited Rwanda. Rwanda looked forward to welcoming others.

6. Rwanda's current dispensation was based on a political culture that values diversity and consensus building. Rwandans were at the centre of planning processes and were active participants in the implementation of programmes that impacted their lives, finding home-grown solutions to the specific challenges faced.

7. The delegation recalled that between 1990 and 1994, Rwanda had a GDP growth rate of - 11.4 percent with Government revenue sustaining less than 20 percent of the national budget and most Rwandans lived in poverty or extreme poverty. GDP growth rate now stood at 7 percent and Government revenue was able to sustain 66 percent of the

national budget. Extreme poverty has been nearly eradicated and poverty has also been substantially reduced.

8. The majority of Rwandans had some form of health insurance. Free 12-year basic education was guaranteed for all children. Rwanda had the highest representation of women in Parliament in the world.

9. Since the brutal murder of over one million people 21 years ago, the Government has worked deliberately to mend the fabric of society and create a national identity. Today, the people were proud Rwandans, focused on entrenching their “Rwandaness” over narrow and artificial ethnic divisions. The Government has invested in creating the legal and institutional structures to support this new dispensation.

10. Since 2011, key institutions for the protection of human rights have been created such as the National Commission for Children, the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Rwanda Governance Board which is responsible for promoting good governance and for creating an enabling environment for civil society organisations and media.

11. The Constitution underscores the central role of human rights and dedicates forty-one Articles to the guarantee of fundamental human freedoms including all of the human rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Various enabling laws have been developed over the last twenty-one years. In particular, the landscape for the guarantee of freedom of expression, access to information, freedom of association and assembly have perhaps experienced the most dynamic changes over the last four and half years.

12. The delegation elaborated on key achievements in the implementation of the recommendations from the review and responded to advance questions. On the issues of access to Justice and rule of law, the delegation stated that the Ministry of Justice was now decentralised. All 30 districts have access to justice officers. The main ethos of the justice system was the need to promote reconciliation and arbitration over conflict and not an over dependence on the formal justice system. It has been demonstrated that this model works with the remarkable success of the Gacaca courts. Mediation committees, known locally as “Abunzi”, have been established to resolve disputes arising in communities, thereby reducing the need to approach the formal justice system.

13. The delegation stated that the Judiciary is under the High Council of the Judiciary, a constitutional body presided over by the Chief Justice. The Judiciary also enjoyed administrative and financial autonomy. Significant resources have been invested in the development of the Judiciary in relation to the quality and impartiality of the Judgements issued, and improvements in the infrastructure of the courts.

14. With regard to allegations of disappearance, investigations have shown that in the cases of many individuals, relevant information had not been shared with the police or any other Government agency that might have been able to effectively respond. Rwanda was better equipped to investigate and verify claims through electronic national identification systems. The names were also checked in the data base of the Prisons System. Some individuals reported missing was found to be serving prison sentences. Of the 175 alleged disappearances that had been brought to the Government’s attention by the Diplomatic Corps, 158 cases were never reported to the police, the names of 89 persons could not be matched to the National Identification database and several others were found in prison serving lawfully imposed sentences.

15. In relation to the conditions of detention facilities, The Rwanda Correctional Services was recently recognised by the International Corrections and Prisons Association

for its efforts at improving the health and well-being of prisoners and for the use of environmentally sound practices in prisons.

16. Rwanda's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Convention against Torture, were taken very seriously. A national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture was in the process of being established. All security forces including the military and police were required to uphold the tenets of these important international standards in the conduct of their work, and failing to do so would result in disciplinary as well as legal action. Allegations of misconduct can be reported directly to the department of legal affairs of the Rwanda National Police, even anonymously. Complaints may also be addressed to the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Commission of Human Rights or the two Parliamentary Committees on Human Rights.

17. All detention facilities in Rwanda were legally provided for and documented in accordance with established National and International standards. In addition, all places of detention were regularly inspected by public institutions such as the National Public Prosecution Authority and independent institutions such as the National Commission for Human Rights as well as various independent organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

18. However, a clear distinction must be drawn between places of detention and transition or rehabilitation centres such as Gikondo, Gitagata, Iwawa and Nyagatare. In rehabilitation centres the focus is on rehabilitation and reintegration. Each person is assessed and supported to reunite with family or undergo rehabilitation and learn a trade to prevent relapse.

19. Since the first review, the Government has initiated and implemented reforms, primarily aimed at expanding media freedoms, creating a media that is citizen centred, boosting the media industry and investing and bringing in self-regulation. The impact of the reforms has brought about growth in the media sector. Since 2011, radio stations increased by from 23 to 35; television stations have increased 1 to 6, with 5 stations being private; websites from 0 to 80; newspapers have increased from 15 to 57; and the number of accredited journalists have more than doubled. Also, Rwanda has moved from an analogue to a digital platform.

20. Rwanda was one of the only 11 African countries to have introduced an Access to information Law. The satisfaction of citizen with access to information as measured by the Rwanda Governance scorecard has grown from 52 percent in 2012 to 76 in 2014.

21. Between 1962 and 2012 there were 350 registered civil society organisations in Rwanda. As of 2012 there were over 1600 registered civil society organizations. Before 2011, an organisation seeking registration would have to approach several different agencies to complete the process. Currently, all local civil society organizations, political parties and faith based organisations were registered by the Rwanda Governance Board. International non-governmental organisations were registered by a specific department in the national Immigration Service. There were currently 174 international organisations registered and in operation. The Directorate of Immigration was currently overhauling its registration process to make the process completely accessible online.

22. In relation to the concern relating to malnutrition among children, especially in children below the age of 5, several programs have been initiated by the Ministry of Health in partnership with other stakeholders. However, this remained a specific challenge relating to awareness and education on nutrition and efforts will continue to be made to address this knowledge gap.

23. The new family law was in the final stages of promulgation. The law will go a long way to ensuring women have equal rights as men in the administration of the family.

24. The term ‘historically marginalised people’ was a unique Rwandan construct, and constituted of those who were in a situation below the national standard because of particular events in history. This categorisation was created to draw the attention of Government and civil society to a specific social-economic situation that needed to be addressed. Anyone can be marginalised but this can be remedied by affirmative action such as government policies and programs.

25. In response to concerns regarding the security of Burundian Refugees and maintaining their civilian character in the camps where they reside, the Government has investigated the concerns and have found them to be without substance.

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

26. During the interactive dialogue, 88 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue appear in Section II of this report.

27. Holy See acknowledged the efforts made to protect children and persons with disabilities with the creation of the National Commission for Children and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

28. Hungary noted with regret that unfair trials were reported in a number of politically sensitive judicial cases and that human rights defender continue to face reprisals.

29. Indonesia welcomed the implementation of the Rwanda’s Vision 2020 and Economic Development Reduction Strategy II and acknowledged the establishment of a regulatory media policy.

30. Ireland was disturbed by continuing reports of intimidation and harassment of journalists, civil society organizations and human rights defenders. It also noted the concerns of CRC regarding high level of malnutrition.

31. Israel congratulated Rwanda for the establishment of multiple independent Human Rights institutions. It also commended the achievements in the area of access to education, such as the guarantee of universal and free education for the first 12 years.

32. Italy commended Rwanda for the high percentage of previous UPR recommendations implemented. It also noted with appreciation the efforts made to integrate the human rights dimension in Constitution and national laws.

33. Japan noted with concern reports regarding ruling party’s oppression of opposition parties and the reported enforced disappearance of 30 persons in the north west of Rwanda.

34. Kenya commended the institutionalization of progressive social policies and noted the provision of free, universal primary education. It also welcomed the building of new prison facilities and other efforts to reduce overcrowding.

35. Latvia welcomed Rwanda’s engagement with UN human rights mechanisms and the positive steps taken to promote and safeguard an independent and professional media.

36. Lithuania expressed its disappointment that the National Report of Rwanda was not submitted in time and welcomed efforts aimed at eliminating corruption

37. Luxembourg welcomed the progress made by Rwanda in terms of legislation and fundamental freedoms. It remained concerned at the unfavourable environment for the flourishing of civil society and at regional inequalities and discriminations which hinders the effective enjoyment of economic and social rights.

38. Madagascar welcomed the ratification of several international human rights instruments. It also welcomed the revision of the law on the ideology of genocide and other national laws concerning access to justice.
39. Mali noted with satisfaction the adoption of the Criminal Code and of the Law n. 54 concerning the Rights and Protection of the Child. It also welcomed measures taken to reduce prison overcrowding and the reform of the judicial system.
40. Mauritius commended Rwanda for ensuring access to education for all and for the measures taken with regards to health care services, which contributed to decrease malaria death related cases.
41. Mexico noted the progress made by Rwanda and the adoption of laws and policies aimed at promoting human rights. It also welcomed the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Education Sector.
42. Montenegro asked the delegation about the lack of definition of child labor, the high prevalence of violence against children, discrimination of children with disabilities and HIV/AIDS and child trafficking.
43. Tunisia noted the progress made since the first UPR cycle. It encouraged Rwanda to strengthen legislation and policies to protect children against exploitation and abuse.
44. Mozambique congratulated Rwanda for having implemented 63, out of 67 accepted recommendations during the previous UPR cycle. It urged Rwanda to conclude the implementation of the remaining recommendations.
45. Namibia encouraged Rwanda to follow the path of focusing on the rights and freedoms of its people. It also commended the efforts taken to protect the rights of orphans and vulnerable children.
46. The Netherlands appreciated the progress made since the last UPR review, particularly in amending the 2009 media law.
47. Nicaragua congratulated Rwanda for the creation of public institution and national programs aimed at the most vulnerable in society. It welcomed progress in the areas of children, women, public health and education.
48. The Niger commended Rwanda for the strengthening of the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.
49. Nigeria noted with satisfaction the creation of Rwanda National Human Rights Commission for the fight against Genocide and the continuing steps taken to foster gender equality.
50. Norway welcomed progress made by Rwanda in terms of policies and legislation on areas such as freedom of expression, association, media and protection of human rights defenders. It expressed concerns about their interpretation and implementation.
51. Panama welcomed the inclusion of civil society stakeholders in the preparation of the report and the law creating the Ombudsman. It expressed solidarity with all victims and urged Rwanda to continue its efforts towards reconciliation.
52. Paraguay took positive note of efforts to reduce rates of infant and maternal mortality. It called for more information on the investigations of reported cases of enforced disappearances and on the law of genocide ideology.
53. The Philippines appreciated the reaffirmation of the independence of the NHRI and lauded the establishment of the Gender Monitoring Office.

54. Portugal acknowledged the standing invitation to the Council's special procedures and the ratification of OP-CAT.
55. The Republic of Korea appreciated the issuance of a standing invitation to the special procedures and the success with MDGs, such as in the area of gender equality.
56. Senegal noted the ratification of OP-CAT and the standing invitation to the special procedures as recommended in the 2011 review.
57. Sierra Leone noted the high percentage of women in decision-making positions and states it is a good example of post-conflict recovery and development.
58. Singapore noted the decentralised access to justice for all Rwandans and the zero-tolerance policy towards domestic and other types of gender-based violence.
59. Slovakia acknowledged the improvements in human rights such as the revision of genocide law, adoption of media laws, and efforts to further enhance access to justice.
60. Slovenia welcomed the enactment of several new laws aiming to implement some of the past UPR recommendations, such as ratification of OP-CAT.
61. South Africa noted efforts of implementation of previous recommendations, such as the adoption of Law No. 54 relating to the Rights and Protection of the Child.
62. South Sudan recognized the achievements in the empowerment of women by increasing their representation at various levels of government and including women in the development process.
63. Spain recognized improvements which stem from the acceptance of previous recommendations, such as reformation of the justice system however they note pending challenges.
64. Sri Lanka took positive note of the cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, progress with regards to children rights and education, as well as in the health sector.
65. The Sudan appreciated the steps taken to promote and protect the rights of its citizens, particularly in relation to the laws on access to information, children, persons with disabilities, and labour.
66. Sweden expressed concerns about freedom of opinion and expression and women's rights, particularly the violence against women.
67. Switzerland welcomed the adoption of the media law, but remained worried about the persistent restriction on freedom of expression and the challenging registration procedures for NGOs.
68. Togo noted that Rwanda had accorded a special status for human rights through the initiation or revision of a number of laws including the Penal Code, civil society laws, and the law on the rights of children.
69. Morocco welcomed the adoption of the law on the National Commission on Human Rights, the reforms of decentralization of justice and of the educational system, and programmes to combat corruption.
70. Turkey welcomed the ratification of OP-CAT and urged Rwanda to continue to adapt the national legislation to international human rights instruments.
71. Uganda commends Rwanda for the efforts to increase access to justice for all Rwandans, including minority groups.



72. Ukraine acknowledged positive achievements in promoting affordable education and protecting the right to education for all; eradicating gender-based violence and fostering gender equality; and strengthening civil society.

73. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized Rwanda's contribution to regional peace and security. It expressed concern over allegations of government interference and other constraints encountered by NGOs, as well as reports of recruitment of refugees into armed groups, reports of enforced disappearances, irregular detention and mistreatment of individuals in custody.

74. The United States of America commended Rwanda for the progress made in combating people trafficking and preventing violence against women. It expressed concern about ongoing restrictions on freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

75. The delegation of Rwanda reiterated the reforms in the Media sector which brought about tangible results. The establishment of a self-regulatory body has improved the quality, ethnics and professionalism in the Media sector, and has brought about an increase in journalistic freedoms and a reduction in the prosecution of journalists.

76. Prior to the 1994 genocide, political parties were formed on basis of ethnicity, race and religion. Against that background, a legal framework has been introduced to promote national based political parties, and not on an ethnic, race or religious identity.

77. The delegation reiterated the significant increase in civil society organisations, which served as an indication that the legal framework and policy practice introduced by the Government was conducive to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms of civil society organisations.

78. The Gender Development Forum, a mechanism to facilitate the participation of civil society organisations in policy debates and formulation at local level, was in line with the Government's decentralization policy to ensure active participation of national development at the district level.

79. Through the economic development strategy, remote areas also have access to economic and development opportunities. There was a focus on gender equality. The Government has ensured that gender equality was not just rhetoric and that in all institutions adhered to gender equality.

80. A few years ago, Rwanda had put in place free basic education for 9 years, which has since been scaled up to 12 years.

81. On the issue of the International Criminal Court (ICC), the delegation stated that Rwanda supported international justice. However, concerns have existed about the independence and impartiality of the ICC.

82. As regards the independence of the Judiciary, 20 years ago there was no justice to talk about. Rwanda now has a judicial system which has been trusted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Also, the United States of America, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands and Uganda were among the countries that have transferred persons to stand trial in Rwanda, having been satisfied that all such persons will receive a fair trial.

83. The Government appreciated the value of human rights defenders and they were free to report any cases of harassment, which will be promptly investigated. As regards trafficking in persons, the Government will continue to work with partners and international organisations to address this problem. On the issue of discrimination, the delegation stated that any signs of discrimination in the political, economic or social discourse will be promptly addressed.

84. Rwanda has put a lot of focus and resources to ensure the rights of vulnerable people with the support of the United Kingdom, Netherlands, and Sweden. The Government was working to ensure health insurance for all. The delegations stated that the human rights action plan existed in draft and should be adopted and published by the end of the year.

85. The Batwa were Rwandans as are all other ethnic groups in Rwanda. Rwanda has decided that the nationality of Rwanda is more important than the narrow ethnic groups. Issues relating to child labour, child trafficking, quality of education for children, were all high priorities for the Government and will be addressed.

86. Uruguay welcomed the efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced disappearances, and requested that Rwanda redouble efforts towards this objective.

87. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Rwanda for the progress made in education, particularly access to universal primary education for the first 12 years of schooling, and welcomed the National Policy for gender equality.

88. Albania commended Rwanda for the progress made in the national legislation in relation to the rights to information, the freedoms of expression and association, the law on genocide ideology, and to the access to justice.

89. Algeria noted the progress in the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, and the advances in the areas of empowerment of women, the protection of children, the right to education and the right to health.

90. Angola noted the strengthening of the capacity of the National Human Rights commission and independent agencies. It welcomed the legislative reform to update laws in line with the constitution and international standards.

91. Argentina congratulated Rwanda for the approval of law 54/2011 regarding the rights and protection of children. It noted the adoption of laws to promote gender equality.

92. Armenia welcomed initiatives protecting the rights of the child, and the progress made in combating sexual violence. It appreciated the efforts to prevent genocide, and the initiatives taken to combat corruption.

93. Australia commended Rwanda for development in the area of gender equality. It expressed concern over the restrictions on fundamental political freedoms. It urged Rwanda to ensure peaceful, timely, credible and transparent elections.

94. Austria commended the positive steps taken in particular the reforms of the media law. It expressed concern over the narrow legal definition of journalists, the lack of adequate safeguards, and inadequate protection of the confidentiality of journalistic sources.

95. Bangladesh commended efforts in the areas of poverty eradication, administration of justice, equality and non-discrimination. It highlighted that support and technical assistance from the United Nations and the international community was of utmost importance.

96. Belgium noted with satisfaction a number of accomplishments, including in the area of gender equality. It asked what efforts had been made to guarantee the independence of the Rwandan media commission, following the legislative reforms.

97. Benin appreciated legislative reforms on the right to information and freedom of expression and association. It encouraged Rwanda to continue efforts to effectively deal with the commitments undertaken on human rights.

98. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized the progress that Rwanda had made since the first UPR cycle, and the constructive spirit that characterized the current review.

99. Botswana noted positively legislative measures undertaken to protect human rights and steps to address prison overcrowding. It noted reports of child trafficking. Benin encouraged Rwanda to address concerns regarding the judiciary.

100. Brazil noted the standing invitation issued to special procedures, the high participation of women in political positions and Rwanda's contribution to important issues such as prevention of genocide.

101. Cabo Verde noted the creation since its last UPR, of institutions and the adoption of laws and policies on the rights of women and children, the justice system and access to water.

102. Canada indicated that a functioning opposition, a vibrant civil society and independent media were essential to maintain the remarkable gains achieved in economic and social development in the post Genocide era.

103. Chad noted measures to strengthen the protection of human rights. It encouraged Rwanda to continue to move forward and requested that its partners assist it in honouring its commitments.

104. Chile noted the efforts made to promote human rights particularly the ratification of international instruments such as OP-CAT.

105. China recognized active efforts made to implement recommendations accepted during the first cycle, to enhance human rights mechanisms and the rule of law and cooperate with UN human rights bodies.

106. Colombia highlighted Rwanda's commitment to implement recommendations received during the first cycle and recognized progress in ensuring freedom of peaceful assembly and association and participation in public and political life.

107. The Congo commended efforts to implement recommendations accepted during the first UPR cycle. It encouraged Rwanda to continue its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and treaty bodies.

108. Costa Rica is interested to see the ratification of international instruments, particularly the OP2 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

109. Côte d'Ivoire noted legislative reforms on the right to information, freedom of expression and association. It encouraged Rwanda to request the support of the international community in the implementation of recommendations.

110. Cuba acknowledges the progress made in the area of human rights, such as the establishment of the Gender Monitoring Office and the National Council for People with Disabilities.

111. Cyprus welcomed the increased funding of the National Commission for Human Rights and the enhancement of the Ombudsman. It encouraged Rwanda to adopt similar measures for the Gender Monitoring Office.

112. The Czech Republic welcomed the recent ratification of OP-CAT.

113. Denmark commended Rwanda for its constructive engagement with the UPR process. It congratulated the government for honouring its commitment made during the first UPR to ratify OP-CAT.

114. Djibouti welcomed progress in the implementation of recommendations from the first cycle. It encouraged the authorities to mobilise in favour of the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

115. Egypt noted efforts to improve human rights, reflected in the implementation of 63 out of the 67 recommendations which had been accepted. It commended reforms on legislation on human rights.

116. Estonia noted positive action relating to women's rights, including the One Stop Centres for Gender Based Violence. It encouraged Rwanda to continue to pursue effective implementation of gender equality legislation.

117. Ethiopia noted with appreciation Rwanda's cooperation with the UN human rights system, improvements in access to justice and the rule of law and implementation of the right to education.

118. France welcomed positive measures taken by Rwanda since its last UPR review, particularly initiatives in favour of gender equality and recent ratification of OP-CAT.

119. Gabon welcomed the review of the genocide ideology law and laws on access to justice. It encouraged Rwanda to continue its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights.

120. Georgia welcomed the standing invitation issued to special procedures and legislative reforms concerning the right to information and freedom of expression and association. It commended the government for building new prisons.

121. Germany welcomed the establishment of the Rwanda Media Commission for self-regulation of the media but was concerned that no final version of the Prime Minister's Order on its competencies had been circulated.

122. Ghana noted with appreciation the adoption of various pieces of legislation and policies aimed at promoting freedom of speech, association, media and the protection of human rights defenders.

123. Greece congratulated Rwanda for the development of a Justice for Children Policy which promoted the best interest of the child first and the participation of children in all legal procedures.

124. Guatemala recognizes the progress made in promotion of human rights, exemplified in the improvement of the law on the rights and protection of children.

125. Haiti warmly welcomed the Rwandan delegation to the UPR.

126. The delegation of Rwanda stated with regard to civil and political rights, that the legal framework and policy practises were informed by its context and aspirations as a nation. The Government in its national building and development agenda has moved away from confrontational politics towards one of consensus. The aspirations of the Government were to maximize respect for the rights and freedoms of the people. There have been tremendous reforms in the media sector, and an expansion of the rights and freedoms of association and assembly.

127. The delegation thanked all delegations that have participated in the review. The delegation appreciated that there was always room for improvement and that it was Rwanda's intention to continue working with partners to improve. The modest social and the economic growth Rwanda has achieved after the 1994 genocide would only be possible in an environment where civil and economic rights were being promoted and defended. Rwanda has been ranked one of the safest countries in the world, Rwandan people has been ranked some of the happiest in the world. Economic and environmental rights have been highly observed. The cities are some of the cleanest in the world.

128. The Government will continue to be open to engage with human rights rapporteurs. Also, the Government will be open to engaging on freedom of assembly. In this context, the delegation recalled that role of the media in the 1994 genocide and stated that while the

Government continued to expand media rights, it remained cautious of the line that could easily be crossed.

129. The law on genocide ideology which has been perceived to prevent free expression, was amended. The law was a necessary safeguard to ensure that history did not repeat itself.

130. Having an official distinction of indigenous people has led to problems in the past, and Rwanda has chosen the path of non-indigenous Rwandans.

131. With regard to the upcoming elections in 2017, the delegation stated that in Rwanda elections were conducted peacefully, openly and freely. Rwanda would be happy to host some delegations as monitors.

132. Rwanda took all recommendations seriously and will respond to each of them.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

133. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Rwanda and enjoy the support of Rwanda:**

133.1. **Continue strengthening its legislation to eliminate all provisions that undermine freedom of expression (Chile);**

133.2. **Strengthen the National Human Rights Commission of Rwanda by granting it the power to consider human rights complaints (Slovenia);**

133.3. **Strengthen the capacity of the office of the Ombudsman (Haiti);**

133.4. **Consider formulating a National Human Rights Action Plan (Indonesia);**

133.5. **Accelerate efforts in the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan (Mauritius);**

133.6. **Establish swiftly a robust national preventive mechanism in accordance with OP-CAT (Czech Republic);**

133.7. **Continue efforts for the prevention of genocide (Armenia);**

133.8. **Strengthen the legislative provisions to promote unity and national reconciliation and continue to assist victims of genocide (Angola);**

133.9. **Continue enhancing the process of combating different forms of discrimination, particularly by facilitating access to justice for all Rwandan people (Egypt);**

133.10. **Ensure effective application of gender equality legislation and the implementation of policy measures to achieve equality between men and women (South Africa);**

133.11. **Continue efforts for the emancipation and empowerment women (Algeria);**

133.12. **Continue the implementation of positive measures in favor of gender equalities to facilitate their access to justice and education (Angola);**

133.13. **Continue its efforts in the area of gender equality to eradicate the traditional patriarchal stereotypes and gender inequality (Argentina);**

---

\*\*Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 133.14. Strengthen the measures to eradicate the patriarchal stereotypes against women, including education and awareness programs (Chile);
- 133.15. Implement urgent measures to guarantee the birth registration for all children born on your territory (Mexico);
- 133.16. Take necessary measures to guarantee all children an immediate registration at birth by simplifying administrative procedures, while increasing awareness raising activities on the subject (Turkey);
- 133.17. Ensure due process and conduct effective and objective investigations regarding cases of alleged arbitrary arrest and detention, including those which may constitute enforced disappearances (Sweden);
- 133.18. Take all appropriate measures to ensure that all reported cases of enforced disappearance are thoroughly investigated (Cyprus);
- 133.19. Scale up the Isange One Stop Centres to care for Victims of GBV and Human Trafficking (Israel);
- 133.20. Adopt a comprehensive policy to address the root causes of child trafficking (South Africa);
- 133.21. Ensure the protection of rights of children, particularly those in vulnerable situations, and ensure their perpetrators of sexual violence and trafficking are held to account (Botswana);
- 133.22. Continue efforts to provide protection for children living in difficult circumstances such as poor children and street children (Egypt);
- 133.23. Continue to pay particular attention to children, incorporating into the social programs measures to eradicate all forms of violence girls, boys and adolescents (Nicaragua);
- 133.24. Consider further strengthening policies and laws to put in place an effective and holistic system towards combating violence against women and ensuring justice for victims (Singapore);
- 133.25. Build institutional capacity for effectiveness in the prevention and response to gender based violence (Uganda);
- 133.26. Continue efforts to improve the conditions of those in the detention facilities including prisons and actively address the issue of prison overcrowding, with a view to ensuring that detention facilities in Rwanda meet international standards (Republic of Korea);
- 133.27. Comply with existing laws on detention and implement further legislation to regulate 'transit' and 'rehabilitation' centers (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 133.28. Further strengthen efforts to ensure full and unhindered access to justice for all Rwandans, particularly through policies and laws designed to combat corrupt practices at all levels (Singapore);
- 133.29. Strengthen national capacities in order to ensure respect for due process and access to justice for all, including through the application of custody hearings and the provision of affordable access to legal counselling (Brazil);

- 133.30. Strengthen efforts in implementing the regulatory media policy to ensure access to information and freedom of opinion and expression, including through capacity building of relevant parties (Indonesia);
- 133.31. Strengthen policies aimed at protecting the work of human rights defenders (Madagascar);
- 133.32. Adopt best practices on freedom of assembly (Namibia);
- 133.33. Continue its efforts to increase the participation of women in leadership at the local government level (Israel);
- 133.34. Continue with the impressive process of granting access to the internet to its population, in particular to underprivileged communities (Haiti);
- 133.35. Vigorously develop the economy, reduce unemployment, guarantee employment of its people, especially young people, and improve work conditions (China);
- 133.36. Further strengthen its successful social plans and programs in favour of its people, with special emphasis on the areas of education, nutrition and health (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 133.37. Take measures to ensure the protection of the right to an adequate standard of living for children in vulnerable situations, in particular the rights of children affected by HIV/AIDS and boys and girls with disabilities (Paraguay);
- 133.38. Persevere with efforts to better protect the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and children (Senegal);
- 133.39. Develop a lasting protection mechanism for small children against food insecurity, through strategies aimed at facilitating access to food through fair agricultural policies (Turkey);
- 133.40. Continue working for the full realization of the human right to water and sanitation (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 133.41. Continue to invest in the development of the health system, which results in further progress of the right to health for the entire population (Cuba);
- 133.42. Redouble efforts to facilitate access to urgent obstetrical care (Djibouti);
- 133.43. Increase funding in order to create an education system that upholds the right to free, universal, and quality education for all children without discrimination (Namibia);
- 133.44. Continue to increase inputs in education so as to improve the quality and coverage of the education system (China);
- 133.45. Strengthen efforts to guarantee the rights of children, and particularly those of children with disabilities, observing at all moments the best interests of the child (Colombia);
- 133.46. Redouble efforts to protect and improve the rights of disabled children (Djibouti);
- 133.47. Continue the current practice of hosting asylum seekers and refugees and consider steps to improve their basic human rights and living conditions (Republic of Korea);

133.48. Further continue enhancing the support for the new refugees from its neighbours (Ethiopia);

133.49. Further intensify efforts to expedite development through the designed poverty reduction strategies (Ethiopia);

133.50. Continue its efforts to realize the national development goals as stipulated in Country's vision 20/20 and in the Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy 2 (Israel);

134. The recommendations listed below enjoy the support of Rwanda, which Rwanda considers to be implemented or in the process of being implemented:

134.1. Ratification and implementation of international human rights treaties, in particular International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Netherlands);

134.2. Accelerate the process of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances (Togo);

134.3. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Italy);

134.4. Ratify early International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Japan);

134.5. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Madagascar); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Mali); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro);

134.6. Ratify International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as previously recommended (Panama);

134.7. Ratify the ICPPED (Sierra Leone);

134.8. Ratify ICPPED, as recommended and accepted by the country in the first cycle (Argentina);

134.9. Accede, as accepted during the previous UPR, to ICPPED (France);

134.10. Consider ratifying the ICPPED (Cabo Verde);

134.11. Move towards ratification of ICPPED (Chile);

134.12. Adopt a roadmap for the ratification of ICPPED (Costa Rica);

134.13. Encourage the ratification of ICPPED, as well and the ratification of OP-CRC-IC (Greece);

134.14. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

134.15. Take steps to ratify the ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);

134.16. Accede to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Uruguay);

134.17. Implement the provisions of the OP-CAT (Georgia);



- 134.18. **Bring national legislation in compliance with the Optional Protocol to CRC (Guatemala);**
- 134.19. **Reduce the registration period and procedures of national and international NGOs. (Belgium);**
- 134.20. **Intensify efforts to ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is consistent with the Paris Principles (Niger);**
- 134.21. **Expedite the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan. (Israel);**
- 134.22. **Expedite the development of the National Human Rights Action Plan (South Sudan);**
- 134.23. **Accelerate the development of a national human rights action plan (Georgia);**
- 134.24. **Proceed with the adoption of the national action plan on human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 134.25. **Consider the possibility of establishing a national system for monitoring international recommendations (Paraguay);**
- 134.26. **Establish a National Preventive Mechanism in line with OP-CAT requirements (Denmark);**
- 134.27. **Continue the process of national reconciliation, so that all citizens, independent of ethnic background, may be able to contribute to development of the country in harmony with the principles of fundamental human rights (Holy See);**
- 134.28. **Continue with initiatives to promote national reconciliation (Senegal);**
- 134.29. **Provide compulsory human rights training in police academies (Italy);**
- 134.30. **Provide adequate training in human rights for administrative officials and law enforcement personnel (Egypt);**
- 134.31. **Adopt further measures for the protection of political and civil rights (Japan);**
- 134.32. **Continue to engage its regional and bilateral partners with the view to building capacity and mobilizing resources in support of efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations (Philippines);**
- 134.33. **Continue to pay close attention to the full realization of the rights of the child, including the right to education (Portugal);**
- 134.34. **Extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers to visit Rwanda (Canada);**
- 134.35. **Continue to regularly invite mandate holders of the Special Procedures (Congo);**
- 134.36. **Investigate reports and allegations of arbitrary arrest, unlawful detention and forced disappearances of opposition political figures and members of civil society and prosecute perpetrators (Canada);**

- 134.37. **Adopt a comprehensive policy against human trafficking and establish a mechanism to provide support to victims, in particular to children exploited in the commercial sex industry and trafficked for prostitution (Italy);**
- 134.38. **Implement effective strategies which address child trafficking and thoroughly investigate all cases of disappearances of child refugees (Sierra Leone);**
- 134.39. **Put in place mechanisms for support to victims of human trafficking (Uganda);**
- 134.40. **Take measures improving the security of citizens and enhancing protection of children (Ukraine);**
- 134.41. **Effectively prevent and prosecute those responsible for sexual violence against children and fully protect children in vulnerable situations (Portugal);**
- 134.42. **Explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment, including in the home, and repeal the “right of correction” in the Civil Code (Estonia);**
- 134.43. **Redouble efforts to address the challenges arising in the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, including by enhancing the function of the Isange One Stop Centres (Republic of Korea);**
- 134.44. **Expand the so-called "Isange One Step Centres" to respond and prevent gender-based violence and provide care for victims (Cuba);**
- 134.45. **Continue to implement the law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-based Violence and encourage zero-tolerance among law enforcing agencies for gender-based violence. Eliminate, as a first step, judicial and administrative barriers that prevent women from accessing safe and legal abortions, and protect women from being reported and arrested or going to jail for unsafe abortion as well as to review the penal code in order to decriminalize abortion (Sweden);**
- 134.46. **Effectively combat child prostitution and sexual exploitation of children for commercial ends (Djibouti);**
- 134.47. **Strengthen measures for the protection of vulnerable persons (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 134.48. **Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment during interrogations in some detention facilities by the police and security forces (Italy);**
- 134.49. **Ensure that international obligations concerning due process and fair trial rights are respected and fulfilled at all times (Germany);**
- 134.50. **Establish independent children’s courts and review the role and functioning of the Child Protection Committees in order to enhance their effectiveness (Italy);**
- 134.51. **Take the necessary measures to create independent courts for minors (Greece);**
- 134.52. **Adopt further measures with the aim of guaranteeing the freedom of speech and the independence of the media (Cyprus);**
- 134.53. **Take all necessary measures to protect journalists from harassment and attacks and to ensure that all allegations of violence and intimidation of**

journalists are promptly and impartially investigated and perpetrators brought to justice (Latvia);

134.54. Take measures to protect journalists from harassment and attacks and ensure independent, credible investigations of alleged cases and the prosecution of offenders (Austria);

134.55. Step up efforts towards ensuring freedom of expression and the protection of journalists, and seek the assistance, as required, of special procedures, the OHCHR and UNESCO, in order to achieve that end (Brazil);

134.56. Ensure the prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of all violations against Human Rights Defenders, the prosecution of perpetrators, and access to effective remedies for victims (Austria);

134.57. Take measures to protect journalists from harassment (Norway);

134.58. Increase the space for civil society in Rwanda. A first step should be to simplify regulations for NGOs, making it easier to register, in order to support a thriving civil society which will contribute to Rwanda's progress and prosperity (Netherlands);

134.59. Simplify the registration process for civil society organizations (Switzerland);

134.60. Guarantee a vibrant civil society and the independence of NGOs by revising laws affecting their registration and operations (Norway);

134.61. Modify the 2012 law regulating NGO's to harmonize it with its human rights obligations (Spain);

134.62. Establish legal means and practices allowing civil society to develop its activities (Spain);

134.63. Take measures to increase space for peaceful dissent, discussion and dialogue and ensure a conducive and safe environment for everyone exercising or seeking to exercise his or her rights to freedom of association including ensuring that CSOs and political parties can carry out their activities without hindrances and a less cumbersome registration process (Sweden);

134.64. Continue advancing measures to ensure the right to freedom of association and expression for all Rwandans, guaranteeing an adequate environment for the activities of opposition sectors or parties (Colombia);

134.65. Guarantee equal access of all political parties to all stages of the electoral process, from registration to election campaigning (Czech Republic);

134.66. Implement the June 2014 recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to allow for peaceful political opposition, and for civil society and journalists to register and participate in civic life freely (United States of America);

134.67. Ensure no one is subject to criminal processes for exercising rights to peaceful assembly and of association, nor subject to violence, harassment, persecution, intimidation or reprisals (Australia);

134.68. Continue efforts to increase the participation of women in leadership at the local government level (South Sudan);

- 134.69. Provide clear definition of child labour and extend coverage of the Labour Code to include the informal sector where children are mostly employed (Uganda);
- 134.70. Promote access to property for women in rural areas (Haiti);
- 134.71. Continue efforts to empower rural and peasant women as part of the development programs, including the Green Revolution and Transformation of Agriculture, which aims to ensure food security and reduction of poverty (Nicaragua);
- 134.72. Continue to take appropriate steps and allocate sufficient resources to social economical rights for vulnerable groups (Madagascar);
- 134.73. Continue with measures already put in place to ensure the integration and welfare of marginalized and vulnerable members of the society through adult literacy, community health insurance, and provision of decent shelter to the poor and disadvantaged population (Nigeria);
- 134.74. Ensure that its agriculture policies do not undermine the food security or land rights of the most vulnerable and consider applying the “Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality of children under 5 years age” (A/HRC/27/31) (Ireland);
- 134.75. Implement and strengthen measures aimed at combating poverty, with particular attention to women and persons living in rural areas (Luxembourg);
- 134.76. Reinforce the socio-economic development policies, with particular focus on poverty reduction and food security (Sri Lanka);
- 134.77. Increase investment in rural development so as to continue reducing poverty (Ukraine);
- 134.78. Continue to implement health policies that guarantee the right to health for all (Mauritius);
- 134.79. Ensure access to safe abortion services and remove punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo abortions (Slovenia);
- 134.80. Simplify the procedures for abortions envisaged by the penal code (Switzerland);
- 134.81. Reinforce and improve the education system, reducing the disparity between urban and rural areas, with special attention to children with disabilities (Holy See);
- 134.82. Recommended greater investment in the education sector and improvement of the quality and coverage of Rwanda’s early childhood care and education (Hungary);
- 134.83. Continue making efforts in raising the quality of education and to ensure that secondary education is fully free and accessible to all children (Lithuania);
- 134.84. Follow-up on the recommendations of the Committee on Rights of the Child to devote greater resources to the improvement of the quality of the educational system (Luxembourg);

- 134.85. Take necessary measures to ensure quality education by providing sufficient training for teachers, ensuring the presence of quality school materials, books and appropriate infrastructure in all schools and available to all children, especially the most vulnerable children (Slovakia);
- 134.86. Increase budget allocation to the education sector to ensure fully free and an inclusive education for all children (Slovakia);
- 134.87. Continue to strengthen its ongoing efforts in the education system, to ensure quality universal primary and secondary education for all children (Sri Lanka);
- 134.88. Continue efforts to ensure access to education for all Rwandan children (Sudan);
- 134.89. Raise public awareness and include human rights in the school curricula (Sudan);
- 134.90. Establish programmes of training and education for human rights at various school levels (Morocco);
- 134.91. Develop programmes based on employability, entrepreneurship and microfinance in order to enable the young people to get better access to the labour market (Morocco);
- 134.92. Devote more resources to eliminating disparities in the educational system by ensuring access to education without discrimination and eliminating hidden education fees (Turkey);
- 134.93. Continue efforts to ensure the right to education (Algeria);
- 134.94. Continue to undertake steps to ensure access to quality education for all children (Armenia);
- 134.95. Overcome stereotypes and stigmas against people living with disabilities, and fully integrate them into society and guarantee the full enjoyment of their rights (Mexico);
- 134.96. Ensure asylum-seekers' rights and family reunification without discrimination (Holy See);
- 134.97. Continue efforts to address the remaining gaps in migrant workers' rights protection (Philippines);
- 134.98. Grant migrants facing expulsion procedures the right to have their cases examined by a competent authority (Benin);
- 134.99. Facilitate the return to Rwanda of Rwandan migrant workers who are not in possession of valid travel documents (Benin);
- 134.100. Guarantee the right to non-refoulement and the right to family reunification without distinction based on their legal status (Benin);
- 134.101. Continue efforts to realize the national development goals as stipulated in Vision 20/20 and Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (South Sudan);
- 134.102. Promote land use management for better safeguarding of property rights (Ukraine).
135. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Rwanda and would thus be noted:

- 135.1. Ratify all the human rights conventions of which it is not yet a party (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 135.2. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Italy);
- 135.3. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia); Ratify Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Montenegro); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Switzerland); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Botswana); Ratify the Rome statute of the ICC (Austria);
- 135.4. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Luxembourg);
- 135.5. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at national level, and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);
- 135.6. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ensure that it is able to meet obligations to cooperate with the Court under that Statute (Australia);
- 135.7. Accede to the Rome Statute and fully align national legislation with the provisions of the Statute (Mexico);
- 135.8. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully harmonize its national legislation to comply with it (Guatemala);
- 135.9. Accede to and fully align national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) (Cyprus);
- 135.10. Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Lithuania);
- 135.11. Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to accede to the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (APIC) (Estonia);
- 135.12. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (Uruguay);
- 135.13. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Denmark);
- 135.14. Accede to the Rome Statute creating the International Criminal Court (France);
- 135.15. Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the ICC, the ICPPED and the First Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Ghana);
- 135.16. Review national legislation so as to reduce the high levels of female mortality caused by illegal abortion in the country, as well as the imprisonment of women for this reason (Uruguay);
- 135.17. Reform the penal code in line with international standards for freedom of expression, including by revising national security provisions (Austria);
- 135.18. Take legal and institutional measures to ensure that the reform of the security sector guarantees the strengthening of the civil, institutional and legal control of the security forces, as well as their operation within the framework of international human rights obligations (Costa Rica);

- 135.19. Keep working on the legislative framework for the recognition of the indigenous peoples in the country (Guatemala);
- 135.20. Enact specific laws and policies recognizing and protecting the work of human rights defenders and enabling safe and unhindered access to international human rights mechanisms (Hungary);
- 135.21. Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment, in which human rights defenders, journalists and civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 22/6, 27/5 and 27/31 (Ireland);
- 135.22. Develop and implement specific laws and policies to recognize and protect the work of human rights defenders (Austria);
- 135.23. Review its national legislation in order to strengthen media pluralism, provide for safety of journalists and human rights defenders and facilitate the functioning of NGOs so that these important actors can pursue their activities freely without undue interference, attacks or intimidation (Czech Republic);
- 135.24. Set up a new forum (type Joint Governance Assessment) that would allow the government to address the governance issues (including human rights) with development partners (Belgium);
- 135.25. Take the necessary measures to effectively regulate the acquisition, possession and use of firearms by civilians, in order to protect the human rights of all persons (Uruguay);
- 135.26. Adopt a comprehensive code against discrimination in all its forms (Turkey);
- 135.27. Adopt legislative and public policy measures to combat discrimination against ethnic minorities, and guarantee the respect of their civil and political rights (Colombia);
- 135.28. Conduct a thorough, transparent investigation into reports of missing persons related to the extensive 2014 security operation, holding accountable the individuals responsible (United States of America);
- 135.29. Adopt a comprehensive policy to avert the trafficking of children, in particular the disappearance of adolescent girls from refugee camps, and to protect them against exploitation, and especially child labour (Holy See);
- 135.30. Approve a comprehensive policy with specific measures aimed at addressing the deep rooted causes of trafficking in children and investigate the alleged disappearances of adolescent girls in the refugee camps (Panama);
- 135.31. Effectively enforce existing legislation in order to prevent and prohibit the practice of early marriages (Portugal);
- 135.32. Ensure the full application of the law in order to prevent child, early and forced marriage and to bring perpetrators of sexual violence perpetuated against children to justice (Sierra Leone);
- 135.33. Investigate allegations of arbitrary arrests and maltreatment of detained persons at the Gikondo Transit Centre, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Ghana);

- 135.34. Ensure that the military or administrative detention meet the requirements of Rwandan law and international law, in particular as concerns the right to a fair trial (Belgium);
- 135.35. Ensure that no person is detained in secret or in unofficial facilities and to close such facilities (Lithuania);
- 135.36. Ensure that no person is detained in unofficial facilities and investigate and prosecute all cases of enforced disappearances (Slovenia);
- 135.37. Strengthen the independence of the justice system and prevent and refrain from political interference in prosecutions and trials (Hungary);
- 135.38. Strengthen the independence of the judiciary and the justice system (Kenya);
- 135.39. Strengthen the independence of the judiciary (France);
- 135.40. Strengthen the Justice system, safeguarding the independence of the judges and magistrates and ensure access of all people (including Batwas and asylum seekers) to justice without discrimination (Mexico);
- 135.41. Further eliminate corruption, to strengthen the independence of the justice system and to prevent political interference in prosecution and trials (Lithuania);
- 135.42. Strengthen the independence of the justice system in order to prevent political interference in prosecutions and trials (Namibia);
- 135.43. Ensure that human rights violations by law enforcement personnel, notably in cases of non-respect of delays of detention in police custody, arbitrary arrests and detention, and forced disappearances and torture, are investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice (France);
- 135.44. Take the necessary measures to ensure due process, and independence of witnesses, judges and prosecutors (Spain);
- 135.45. Ensure freedoms of expression, association and peaceful demonstration, in accordance with the Rwandan Constitution and international law with a view to the electoral cycle (Belgium);
- 135.46. Take steps to ensure that all individuals can fully exercise their rights to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression, without intimidation or harassment. This includes revising laws to facilitate NGO registration and operations, sanctioning excessive interference by State officials, and reforming the Penal Code and national security laws to ensure that provisions related to criminal defamation, libel and insult are consistent with international human rights obligations (Canada);
- 135.47. Respect and protect the freedom of expression online and offline, and the freedom of assembly and association, including by lifting obstacles regarding the registration and work of NGOs, and by acceding to the first optional protocol to the ICCPR (Estonia);
- 135.48. Support and facilitate the legal establishment of the Commission in charge of the self-regulation of the Media in Rwanda and provide adequate and sufficient resources so that it carries out its mandate freely and independently (Switzerland);



- 135.49. Take further steps to promote greater media freedoms, including by ensuring that the Rwanda Media Commission becomes a more independent self-regulatory body (Ghana);
- 135.50. Protect freedom and self-regulation of the press by clarifying and strengthening the competencies of the Rwanda Media Commission (Germany);
- 135.51. Provide full support to the Rwanda Media Commission and cease government interference with its work and the work of the media in general (Austria);
- 135.52. Take effective steps to ensure the implementation of the 2013 media reform legislation including the independence of Rwanda Media Commission, review legal provisions unduly restricting freedom of expression and the press and ensure that journalists are not harassed or intimidated (Sweden);
- 135.53. Fully guarantee the freedom of expression, particularly by ensuring that journalists can carry out their activities unhindered (France);
- 135.54. Take measures to ensure that the media works freely and prevent any intimidation of journalists (Spain);
- 135.55. Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents against acts of aggression and intimidation (Luxembourg);
- 135.56. Intensify the process of translating its commitments into progress on democratization, broadening political space and the protection of human rights defenders (Norway);
- 135.57. Fully guarantee the freedom of association, including for non-governmental organizations working on human rights, notably by simplifying the registration process for NGOs (France);
- 135.58. Create an environment conducive to unhindered work of all political parties free from intimidation and harassment of those critical of the government, release all those imprisoned for their political views and foster the culture of political dialogue and political pluralism (Czech Republic);
- 135.59. Consider reducing the administrative processes for the registration of political parties (Paraguay);
- 135.60. Simplify procedures for registration and creation of political parties (Slovenia);
- 135.61. Allow opposition parties to carry out their activities without intimidation or hindrance; and release individuals prosecuted solely for the peaceful and legitimate expression of their views (Australia);
- 135.62. Do not to use the genocide ideology law to impede the activities of opposition parties, opposition and civil society (Norway);
- 135.63. Eliminate discrimination against women in law and in practice and take action to promote their participation in public life (Mexico);
- 135.64. Intensify measures to reduce chronic malnutrition of children (Germany);
- 135.65. Fulfil its obligations under ICESCR by taking pragmatic steps to address the problem of the high malnutrition of children (Ghana);

- 135.66. Take measures to reduce the high rate of maternal mortality and improve access to maternal health information and services, including ante-natal, delivery, and post-natal care (South Africa);
- 135.67. Reduce the high rate of maternal mortality and improve access to maternal health information and services (Albania);
- 135.68. Implement effective strategies and provide adequate funds to improve the quality of education and ensure inclusive and equal access to primary and secondary education for all children in Rwanda, including girls, children with disabilities and children belonging to minority groups and indigenous peoples (Latvia);
- 135.69. Ensure the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants and other people working in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 135.70. Consider intensifying Government efforts towards the effective and successful integration of historically marginalized Rwandans (Cabo Verde);
- 135.71. Strengthen the measures aimed at accessing health, education and other social services for the Batwa minority in conditions of equality (Spain);
- 135.72. Adopt measures to promote and protect the traditional and indigenous knowledge of Batwa (Albania);
- 135.73. Strengthen the measures to promote the social and economic inclusion of the Batwa community (Chile);
- 135.74. Accelerate the repeal of discriminatory legislative provisions and adopt measures to protect and promote the traditional knowledge of the Batwa minority in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Congo);
- 135.75. Guarantee the rights of the Batwa to the enjoyment of natural resources and provide them with adequate compensation in cases of expropriation (Haiti);
- 135.76. Uphold its responsibility to ensure the civilian nature of campus by implementing its humanitarian obligations in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 135.77. Investigate reports that Burundian refugees have been recruited from camps in Rwanda into armed groups, and ensure that the civilian nature of refugee camps is fully respected (United States of America).
136. 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 Rwanda was headed by His Excellency Mr. Johnston Busingye, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Dr. Francois Xavier Ngarambe, Ambassador, Permanent Representative;
  - Prof. Anastase Shyaka, CEO Rwanda Government Board;
  - Ms. Olivia Mulerwa, Ministry of Justice;
  - Mr. Moses Rugema, First Counsellor;
  - Mr. James Ngango, First Counsellor;
  - Mr. Gratien Dusingizimana, Office of the Prime Minister;
  - Ms. Providence Umurungi, Access to Justice Project Coordinator, Ministry of Justice.
-