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Universal periodic review

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

### Rwanda

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\* The annex is being circulated 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-third session from 2 to 13 November 2015. The review of Rwanda was held at the 5th meeting, on 4 November 2015. The delegation of Rwanda was headed by 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 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 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 the Czech Republic, Germany, 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 Working Group.

## 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 eight core United Nations human rights instruments. Since the previous review, Rwanda had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Rwanda was up to date in reporting to the relevant treaty bodies. Rwanda had issued a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders and, since the previous review, three special rapporteurs had visited Rwanda. Rwanda looked forward to welcoming others.

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

7. The delegation recalled that, between 1990 and 1994, Rwanda had a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of -11.4 per cent, with Government revenue sustaining less than 20 per cent of the national budget and most Rwandans living in poverty or extreme poverty. The GDP growth rate currently stood at 7 per cent, and Government revenue was able to

sustain 66 per cent of the national budget. Extreme poverty had been nearly eradicated and poverty had also been substantially reduced.

8. The majority of Rwandans had some form of health insurance. Twelve years of free 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 1 million people 21 years ago, the Government had worked deliberately to mend the fabric of society and create a national identity. Today, the people were proud Rwandans, focused on entrenching their “Rwandan-ness” over narrow and artificial ethnic divisions. The Government had invested in creating the legal and institutional structures to support this new dispensation.

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

11. The Constitution underscored the central role of human rights and dedicated 41 articles to the guarantee of fundamental human freedoms, including all of the human rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Various enabling laws had been developed over the past 21 years. In particular, the landscape with regard to the guarantee of freedom of expression, access to information, and freedom of association and assembly had perhaps experienced the most dynamic changes during the past four and a half years.

12. The delegation elaborated on key achievements in the implementation of the recommendations from the previous 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 decentralized. All 30 districts had access to justice officers. The main ethos of the justice system was the need to promote reconciliation and arbitration over conflict, and to prevent an overdependence on the formal justice system. It had been demonstrated that the model worked, with the remarkable success of the gacaca courts. Mediation committees, known locally as “Abunzi”, had 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 was 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 had 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 had 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. Names were also checked in the database of the prisons system. Some individuals reported missing had been 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 had never been reported to the police, the names of 89 persons could not be matched to the national identification database and several others had been found in prison serving lawfully imposed sentences.

15. In relation to the conditions of detention facilities, the Rwanda Correctional Services had recently been recognized by the International Corrections and Prisons Association for

its efforts to improve the health and well-being of prisoners and the use of environmentally sound practices in prisons.

16. The obligations of Rwanda 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 those 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 could be reported directly to the department of legal affairs of the Rwanda National Police, even anonymously. Complaints could also be addressed to the Office of the Ombudsman, the National Commission for 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 organizations, 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 was on rehabilitation and reintegration. Each person was assessed and supported to reunite with family or undergo rehabilitation and learn a trade to prevent relapse.

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

20. Rwanda was one of only 11 African countries to have introduced a law on access to information. The satisfaction of citizens with access to information, as measured by the Rwanda governance scorecard, had grown from 52 per cent in 2012 to 76 per cent in 2014.

21. Between 1962 and 2012, 350 civil society organizations had been registered in Rwanda. As of 2012, there were over 1,600 registered civil society organizations. Before 2011, an organization seeking registration would have had to approach several different agencies to complete the process. Currently, all local civil society organizations, political parties and faith-based organizations were registered by the Rwanda Governance Board. International non-governmental organizations were registered by a specific department in the national immigration service. There were currently 174 international organizations registered and in operation. The Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration was currently overhauling its registration process to make the process completely accessible online.

22. In relation to concern about malnutrition among children, especially in children below the age of 5, several programmes had been initiated by the Ministry of Health in partnership with other stakeholders. However, there remained specific challenges relating to awareness and education regarding nutrition. Efforts would continue to be made to address that knowledge gap.

23. The new family law was in the final stages of promulgation. The law would go a long way towards ensuring that women had equal rights to those of men in the running of the family.

24. The term “historically marginalized people” was a unique Rwandan construct, and constituted those who were in a situation below the national standard because of particular events in history. That categorization had been created to draw the attention of Government and civil society to a specific social-economic situation that needed to be addressed. Anyone could be marginalized, but that could be remedied by affirmative action such as government policies and programmes.

25. In response to concerns regarding the security of Burundian refugees and maintaining the civilian character of the camps where they resided, the Government had investigated the concerns and 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 are to be found in section II of the present report.

27. The 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 of Persons with Disabilities.

28. Hungary noted with regret that unfair trials had been reported in a number of politically sensitive judicial cases and that human rights defenders continued to face reprisals.

29. Indonesia welcomed the implementation of Vision 2020 and the Economic Development and Poverty 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 the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the 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 of schooling.

32. Italy commended Rwanda for the high percentage of previous universal periodic review recommendations that had been implemented. It noted with appreciation the efforts made to integrate a human rights dimension into the Constitution and national laws.

33. Japan noted with concern reports regarding the 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 welcomed the building of new prison facilities and other efforts to reduce prison overcrowding.

35. Latvia welcomed the engagement of Rwanda with United Nations 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 had not been 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 discrimination which hindered 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 law No. 54/2011 relating to the rights and protection of the child. It also welcomed measures taken to reduce prison overcrowding and reform the judicial system.
40. Mauritius commended Rwanda for ensuring access to education for all and for the measures taken with regard to health-care services, which had contributed to a decrease in malaria-related deaths.
41. Mexico noted the progress made by Rwanda and the adoption of laws and policies aimed at promoting human rights. It welcomed the implementation of the strategic plan for the education sector.
42. Montenegro asked the delegation about the lack of a definition of child labour, and the high prevalence of violence against children, discrimination against children with disabilities and HIV/AIDS, and child trafficking.
43. Tunisia noted the progress made since the first review 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 universal periodic review 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 commended the efforts taken to protect the rights of orphans and vulnerable children.
46. The Netherlands appreciated the progress made since the previous review, particularly in amending the 2009 media law.
47. Nicaragua congratulated Rwanda for the creation of public institutions and national programmes 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 strengthening the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.
49. Nigeria noted with satisfaction the creation of the National 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 in areas such as freedom of expression and association, media and the protection of human rights defenders. It expressed concern about the interpretation and implementation of such policies and legislation.
51. Panama welcomed the inclusion of civil society stakeholders in the preparation of the report. It also welcomed 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 the rates of infant and maternal mortality. It called for more information on the investigation of reported cases of enforced disappearance and on the law on genocide ideology.

53. The Philippines appreciated the reaffirmation of the independence of the national human rights institution and lauded the establishment of the Gender Monitoring Office.
54. Portugal acknowledged the standing invitation to the Council's special procedure mandate holders and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
55. The Republic of Korea appreciated the issuance of a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders and the success with regard to the Millennium Development Goals, such as in the area of gender equality.
56. Senegal noted the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders, as recommended in the 2011 review.
57. Sierra Leone noted the high percentage of women in decision-making positions and stated that it was a good example of post-conflict recovery and development.
58. Singapore noted the decentralized nature of 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 relating to human rights, such as the revision of the genocide law, the adoption of media laws and efforts to further enhance access to justice.
60. Slovenia welcomed the enactment of several new laws aimed at implementing some of the previous recommendations, while noting challenges to freedom of expression and access to safe abortion.
61. South Africa noted efforts with regard to the implementation of previous recommendations, such as the adoption of law No. 54/2011 relating to the rights and protection of the child.
62. South Sudan recognized the achievements related to the empowerment of women by increasing their representation at various levels of government and including women in the development process.
63. Spain recognized improvements stemming from the acceptance of previous recommendations, such as reformation of the justice system, which still faced many challenges.
64. Sri Lanka took positive note of the cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, and of progress with regard to children's rights and education, as well as in the health sector.
65. The Sudan appreciated the steps taken by Rwanda 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 concern about freedom of opinion and expression and women's rights, particularly violence against women.
67. Switzerland welcomed the adoption of the media law, but remained worried about the persistent restrictions on freedom of expression and the challenging registration procedures for non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
68. Togo noted that Rwanda had accorded special status to human rights through the creation 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 for Human Rights, the reforms relating to the decentralization of justice and to the educational system, and programmes to combat corruption.
70. Turkey welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and urged Rwanda to continue to adapt national legislation to international human rights instruments.
71. Uganda commended 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 the contribution of Rwanda 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, enforced disappearance, irregular detention and mistreatment of individuals in custody.
74. The United States of America commended Rwanda for progress in combating human trafficking and preventing violence against women. It expressed concern about restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, those reported missing during a 2014 operation by Rwandan security forces, and the recruitment of Burundian refugees into armed groups.
75. The delegation of Rwanda reiterated the reforms in the media sector that had brought about tangible results. The establishment of a self-regulatory body had improved quality, ethics and professionalism in the media sector, and had brought about an increase in journalistic freedom and a reduction in the prosecution of journalists.
76. Prior to the 1994 genocide, political parties had been formed on basis of ethnicity, race and religion. Against that background, a legal framework had been introduced to promote nationally based political parties, rather than political parties based on an ethnic, racial or religious identity.
77. The delegation reiterated the significant increase in the number of civil society organizations, 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 organizations.
78. The Gender Development Forum, a mechanism to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in debates on and the formulation of policy at the local level, was in line with the Government's decentralization policy to ensure active participation at the district level in national development.
79. Through the economic development strategy, remote areas also had access to economic and development opportunities. There was a focus on gender equality. The Government had ensured that gender equality was not just rhetoric and that all institutions adhered to the principle of gender equality.
80. A few years ago, Rwanda had put in place free basic education for 9 years, which had since been scaled up to 12 years.
81. On the issue of the International Criminal Court, the delegation stated that Rwanda supported international justice. However, concerns existed about the independence and impartiality of Court.

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

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

84. Rwanda had put a lot of focus and resources into ensuring the rights of vulnerable people, with the support of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden. The Government was working to ensure health insurance for all. The delegation stated that the human rights action plan existed in draft form, and that it should be adopted and published by the end of the year.

85. The Batwa were Rwandans, as were all other ethnic groups in Rwanda. Rwanda had decided that the nationality of "Rwandan" was more important than having narrowly defined ethnic groups. Issues relating to child labour, child trafficking and the quality of education for children were all high priorities for the Government and would be addressed.

86. Uruguay welcomed the efforts made to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and requested that Rwanda redouble efforts towards that 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 national legislation in relation to the rights to information and freedom of expression and association; the law on genocide ideology; and access to justice.

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

90. Angola noted the strengthening of the capacity of the National Commission for Human Rights 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 No. 54/2011 relating to the rights and protection of the child. 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 were 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 concerning the right to information and freedom of expression and association. It encouraged Rwanda to continue its 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 review cycle, and the constructive spirit that had characterized the current review.

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

100. Brazil noted the standing invitation issued to special procedure mandate holders, the high number of women in political positions and the contribution of Rwanda to important issues such as the prevention of genocide.

101. Cabo Verde noted the creation, since the previous review, 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 an independent media were essential to maintain the remarkable gains achieved in economic and social development in the post-genocide era.

103. Chad noted measures taken 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 the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

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 to cooperate with United Nations human rights bodies.

106. Colombia highlighted the commitment of Rwanda to implementing recommendations received during the first cycle and recognized progress made 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 cycle. It encouraged Rwanda to continue its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and treaty bodies.

108. Costa Rica noted that Rwanda had ratified international instruments, particularly the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

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

110. Cuba acknowledged the progress made in the area of human rights, such as the establishment of the Gender Monitoring Office and the National Council of Persons with Disabilities.
111. Cyprus welcomed the increased funding of the National Commission for Human Rights and the enhancement of the Office of the Ombudsman. It encouraged Rwanda to adopt similar measures for the Gender Monitoring Office.
112. The Czech Republic welcomed the recent ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
113. Denmark commended Rwanda for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review process. It congratulated the Government for honouring its commitment made during the first cycle to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
114. Djibouti welcomed progress in the implementation of recommendations from the first cycle. It encouraged the authorities to mobilize 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 that had been accepted. It commended reforms to 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 the effective implementation of gender equality legislation.
117. Ethiopia noted with appreciation the cooperation of Rwanda with the United Nations 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 previous review, particularly initiatives in favour of gender equality and the recent ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
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 rights to information and freedom of expression and association. It commended the Government for building new prisons.
121. Germany welcomed the establishment of the 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 and the media, as well as the protection of human rights defenders.
123. Greece congratulated Rwanda for the development of a policy on justice for children which promoted the best interests of the child first and the participation of children in all legal procedures.
124. Guatemala recognized the progress made in the promotion of human rights, exemplified by the improvement of the law on the rights and protection of children.
125. Haiti warmly welcomed the Rwandan delegation to the universal periodic review.

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

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

128. The Government would continue to be open to engaging with human rights rapporteurs. Also, the Government would be open to engaging on the subject of freedom of assembly. In that context, the delegation recalled the role of the media in the 1994 genocide and stated that, while the Government continued to expand media rights, it remained cautious of a line that could easily be crossed.

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

130. Defining indigenous people as a distinct category of people had led to problems in the past, and Rwanda had chosen the path of not making such distinctions among 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 would 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);**

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\*\* The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 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 the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (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 of women (Algeria);
- 133.12 Continue the implementation of positive measures in favor of gender equality to facilitate their access to justice and education (Angola);
- 133.13 Continue its efforts in the area of gender equality to eradicate traditional patriarchal stereotypes and gender inequality (Argentina);
- 133.14 Strengthen measures to eradicate patriarchal stereotypes against women, including through education and awareness programs (Chile);
- 133.15 Implement urgent measures to guarantee birth registration for all children born on its territory (Mexico);
- 133.16 Take necessary measures to guarantee all children 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 disappearance (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 gender-based violence 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 the 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 social programs measures to eradicate all forms of violence against 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 of and response to gender-based violence (Uganda);
- 133.26 Continue efforts to improve the conditions of those in 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” centres (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 the 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 a special emphasis on the areas of education, nutrition and health (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 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 (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 133.41 Continue to invest in the development of the health system, which results in further progress on 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 support for 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 the country's Vision 2020 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 the 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 from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);
- 134.3 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Italy);
- 134.4 Ratify early the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);
- 134.5 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Madagascar); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mali); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro);
- 134.6 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as previously recommended (Panama);



- 134.7 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**
- 134.8 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as recommended and accepted by the country in the first cycle (Argentina);**
- 134.9 **Accede, as accepted during the previous cycle, to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 134.10 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Cabo Verde);**
- 134.11 **Move towards ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**
- 134.12 **Adopt a roadmap for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Costa Rica);**
- 134.13 **Encourage the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (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 Covenant 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 International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 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 Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Georgia);**
- 134.18 **Bring national legislation into compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Guatemala);**
- 134.19 **Reduce the registration period and procedures for national and international NGOs. (Belgium);**
- 134.20 **Intensify efforts to ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is consistent with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (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 the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture 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 a 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 disappearance 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 disappearance 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-Stop Centres” to respond to 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 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, OHCHR and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 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 NGOs 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 civil society organizations 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 a 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 development programs, including the Green Revolution and Transformation of Agriculture, which aim to ensure food security and reduction of poverty (Nicaragua);**

**134.72 Continue to take appropriate steps and allocate sufficient resources to socioeconomic 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 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 socioeconomic 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 **Recommend 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 a fully free and 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 school curricula (Sudan);**
- 134.90 **Establish programmes on 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 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 legal status (Benin);**
- 134.101 **Continue efforts to realize the national development goals as stipulated in Vision 2020 and the 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 to which it is not yet a party (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 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 the 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 International Criminal Court (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 the national level, and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal 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 (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, to accede to the Rome Statute and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**
- 135.12 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (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 International Criminal Court, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (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 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 the 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 disappearance (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 judges and magistrates and ensure access by 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 prosecutions 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 freedom of expression online and offline, and 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 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (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 freedom, 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 the 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 freedom of expression, particularly by ensuring that journalists can carry out their activities unhindered (France);

135.54 Take measures to ensure that the media work 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, the broadening of political space and the protection of human rights defenders (Norway);

135.57 Fully guarantee 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 the 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 a 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 the 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 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 the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by taking pragmatic steps to address the problem of 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 (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 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 the 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 camps 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.
-