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

Gabon

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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 fourteenth session from 22 October to 5 November 2012. The review of Gabon was held at the 3rd meeting on 23 October 2012. The Delegation of Gabon was headed by. S. E. Mme Ida Reteno Assonouet, Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux, des Droits Humains et des Relations avec les Institutions Constitutionnelles. At its 10th meeting held on 29 October 2012, the Working Group adopted the report on Gabon.
2. On 3 May 2012, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Gabon: Czech Republic, Italy and Uganda.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1, the following documents were issued for the review of Gabon:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/14/GAB/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/14/GAB/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/14/GAB/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, the Netherlands and Mexico was transmitted to Gabon 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. Le Chef de la Délégation a signalé, à l'occasion de la présentation du rapport du Gabon de la deuxième phase de l'Examen Périodique Universel (EPU), que le Gabon s'engageait dans ce mécanisme d'évaluation rigoureux, contribuant ainsi au rendement des Nations Unies en matière de protection des droits humains.
6. La Délégation a indiqué que le Gabon avait préparé son rapport avec la participation aussi bien des organisations gouvernementales que la société civile, résultat d'un processus participatif et inclusif au niveau national. La participation de la Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (CNDH) a été significative. Des réunions préparatoires, avec l'appui du Centre des Nations Unies pour les droits de l'homme et de la démocratie en Afrique centrale, ont été organisées aux mois d'avril et mai en 2012. Les organisations nationales de la société civile, les syndicats, les mouvements religieux et de pensée ont eu l'opportunité de s'exprimer sur les recommandations adressées au Gabon en 2008 pour finaliser le rapport national, et leurs apports ont été pris en compte. Le Gabon s'est engagé à associer la société civile dans ses actions et à s'appuyer sur la CNDH, aussi bien pour l'élaboration des rapports nationaux que pour les autres activités liées à la promotion et à la protection des droits humains.
7. La Délégation a noté que les droits de l'Homme faisaient partie des valeurs du Gabon et leur respect était la clef de voûte de l'exercice démocratique. Outre les dispositions contenues dans la Constitution qui reconnaît et garantit les droits inviolables et imprescriptibles de l'Homme, le Gabon dispose de cadres juridiques et de plans d'action

dans le domaine relatifs à l'ensemble des droits fondamentaux reconnus universellement. Afin de mieux promouvoir et protéger les droits de l'homme, le Gabon a créé en 2012 le Ministère de la Justice, Garde de Sceaux, des Droits Humains et des Relations avec les Institutions Constitutionnelles. De même, la CNDH, opérationnelle en 2011, a une mission de vigilance, de sensibilisation et d'initiatives auprès des pouvoirs publics et des citoyens. Son indépendance est reconnue et ses règles de fonctionnement se sont améliorées progressivement.

8. La Délégation a souligné que le rapport national s'appesantissait sur les recommandations exprimées par 22 Etats en 2008. Des progrès ont été observés dans les catégories suivantes:

9. A propos des instruments juridiques internationaux des Nations Unies, relatifs aux droits de l'homme, cinq instruments ont été soit signés, ratifiés et/ou mis en œuvre, comme il est indiqué dans la section II du rapport.

10. Concernant les 5 recommandations liées à l'égalité et à la non-discrimination, le Gabon s'est engagé à leur mise en œuvre au travers de la révision de la loi, l'adoption de projets de loi. Avec la création de la Fondation Sylvia Bongo Odimba, le Gabon s'est honorablement fait remarquer par l'institutionnalisation de la Journée internationale de la veuve, célébrée chaque 23 juin.

11. Au sujet de la recommandation inhérente au droit à l'éducation, le Gabon a poursuivi ses efforts vers l'accroissement du taux de fréquentation scolaire.

12. Par rapport aux trois recommandations sur les droits de l'enfant, le Gabon est attaché à l'exercice de ces droits. En 2010, le Gabon a adopté une loi portant régime judiciaire de protection des mineurs. De plus, un projet de loi portant répression des agressions sexuelles est sur la table du Parlement.

13. Le Gabon préoccupé par les conditions de détention, notamment la surpopulation carcérale, a décidé de la construction de nouvelles prisons dans les provinces. La loi sur le régime judiciaire de protection des mineurs prévoit des organes judiciaires autonomes et des mesures de protection favorisant leur réhabilitation et leur réinsertion sociale. Le Code de procédure pénale, adopté en 2010, a permis de mettre en place une Commission nationale de l'Enseignement scolaire et professionnel en milieu carcérale.

14. Le Gabon a reçu 4 recommandations sur la liberté de presse, mentionnant particulièrement le problème de censure. En plus de la garantie de ce droit inscrit dans la Constitution, le Gouvernement pérennise la liberté et le pluralisme des médias. Par ailleurs, il a créé un Fonds national pour le Développement de la Presse et de l'Audiovisuel et chaque organe de presse reçoit annuellement, un appui financier de l'Etat.

15. En ce qui concerne les deux recommandations relatives aux droits des minorités, la Constitution condamne toutes formes de discrimination, y compris celles fondées sur la race et l'ethnie. Le Gabon a ratifié plusieurs instruments protégeant les droits des peuples autochtones et ne fait aucune distinction entre Bantous et Pygmées dans ses politiques publiques. Si la situation des Pygmées au Gabon reste encore à améliorer, elle n'est cependant pas déplorable. Le Gabon leur assure les mêmes droits que ceux des Bantous.

16. Concernant les trois recommandations sur les rapports nationaux aux organes conventionnels, le Gabon a mis en place le Comité national de rédaction des rapports sur les droits humains. Depuis 2010, quatre rapports nationaux ont été transmis au siège des Nations Unies, à Genève.

17. La Délégation a relevé que les efforts du Gabon en matière de politique sur les droits humains ne le plaçaient pas au-dessus des critiques et des observations. Celles-ci étaient plutôt à considérer comme une invitation à mieux faire car les droits de l'homme constitue

un idéal. Le Gabon reste engagé à cet idéal et a assuré l'ensemble de la communauté internationale qu'il allait poursuivre ses efforts en ce sens.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 60 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Belarus referred to a number of international commitments since Gabon joined a whole range of international human rights conventions, including the Palermo Protocol. It highlighted efforts aimed at incorporating international standards in domestic legislation. It called upon Gabon to ensure full compliance with its international obligations, to submit due reports to treaty bodies. Belarus referred to the problem of widespread poverty, trafficking in persons, corporal punishment and sexual exploitation of children. Belarus made recommendations.

20. Belgium welcomed the decision made by Gabon in 2010 to abolish the death penalty and for its vote in favour of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty. Belgium expressed concern about the increasing ritual killings, most often of children, and left unpunished. Belgium highlighted that domestic rape is not part of any legal domestic provisions. Belgium made recommendations.

21. Benin welcomed progress made in the strengthening of the rule of law, human rights and democracy. It noted with satisfaction the entry into force in 2010, of legislation abolishing the death penalty and encouraged Gabon to take the necessary measures towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR. Benin invited the international community to support Gabon in its efforts towards the promotion of human rights.

22. Brazil welcomed Gabon's progress in its human development index, the abolition of the death penalty, the inclusion in its Code of Criminal Procedure of a section on cooperation with the International Criminal Court. It also noted positively the accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) and to the Optional Protocols to CAT and to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Brazil made recommendations.

23. Burkina Faso noted positively efforts made towards the respect of the rights of migrants and encouraged Gabon to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). It congratulated Gabon for the adoption of a National Strategy on Gender Equality and the reinforcement of penalties related to sexual assault.

24. Burundi commended Gabon for the implementation of various recommendations from its first review in 2008, notably in the areas of the abolition of the death penalty, the improvement of conditions of persons deprived of their liberty, as well its efforts of law reform to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. Burundi made a recommendation.

25. Canada asked about measures undertaken by Gabon to improve the conditions for journalists to be able to exercise their functions freely, in conformity with their freedom of expression and the press. Canada commended Gabon for efforts aimed at improving the condition of women, including in particular the adoption of a national strategy on equality and gender. Canada remained concerned at reports on domestic violence and impunity in this regard. Canada made recommendations.

26. Cape Verde noted efforts made by Gabon to implement recommendations from its first review under the universal periodic review mechanism. It noted in particular efforts

made with regard to international human rights instruments and its legal framework, such as for example the abolition of the death penalty. Cape Verde remained convinced that the continuous increase in resources will allow the country to ensure the enjoyment of human rights by its population and the reduction of social disparities. Cape Verde made a recommendation.

27. Chad noted with satisfaction the inclusive and participative elaboration of the national report of Gabon, as well as the acceptance of Gabon of 30 recommendations from its first review under the universal periodic review mechanism. It further noted that Gabon is a party of the main international human rights instruments, reflecting the importance it provides to human rights. Chad made a recommendation.

28. Chile appreciated Gabon's disposition to implement the recommendations and voluntary commitments made during its first review under the universal periodic review mechanism. It highlighted in particular the process of political and socio-economic reforms, which have resulted in the adoption of a national strategy on equality and gender, as well as efforts to disseminate the various international conventions on the rights of women and children to which Gabon is a State Party. Chile made recommendations.

29. China commended Gabon on its achievements in human rights in the areas of gender equality, advancing women's social status and eliminating discrimination against women, improving access to education and promoting compulsory education for all, preventing the sale of children and protecting children's rights. Gabon still faced with a number of challenges. China made a recommendation.

30. Congo appreciated efforts made by Gabon, in particular to combat effectively discrimination against women. It also noted efforts made to reinforce the normative framework and procedures to address the problem of children victims of trafficking, efforts in the area of education as well as to provide free medical care to persons living with HIV/AIDS. Congo further praised Gabon for its actions towards the abolition of the death penalty, the adoption of legislation on the rights of minorities, the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

31. Costa Rica commended Gabon for its progress made, highlighting in particular the adherence of Gabon to the CPED, the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC and the ratification of the OP-CAT among other measures. It also welcomed Gabon's decision to abolish the death penalty, and progress made in the area of gender equality and reforms introduced to the National Human Rights Commission to harmonized its functioning with the Paris Principles, encouraging Gabon to seek the accreditation of the institution. Costa Rica made recommendations.

32. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the abolition of the death penalty and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and was confident that the implementation of the recommendations by the authorities and other stakeholders would help strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in Gabon. Côte d'Ivoire made recommendations.

33. Cuba commended Gabon for its spirit of cooperation with the Council, as well as for having put in practice, with encouraging results, the 30 recommendations from its first review under the universal periodic review mechanism that enjoyed its support. Cuba highlighted in particular, the functioning since September 2011 of the National Human Rights Commission, the establishment of networks of civil society organizations and the implementation of strategies to combat insecurity, among others. Cuba made a recommendation.

34. The Czech Republic appreciated the active participation of Gabon in the universal periodic review and welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol to CAT, as well as Gabon's new legal framework against child trafficking. It asked Gabon to elaborate further

on measures against cases of harassment of journalists. The Czech Republic made recommendations.

35. Egypt recognized the progress in the country's legal and institutional framework, namely strengthening of the national normative framework to incorporate international instruments into domestic law and the establishment of a National Commission of Human Rights in September 2011. It expressed support for Gabon's efforts to eliminate human trafficking and children's abuse. Egypt made recommendations.

36. Ethiopia commended the commitment of Gabon to the universal periodic review mechanism. It noted with satisfaction the implementation of a high number of recommendations. Ethiopia commended Gabon for putting in place a policy to protect persons with disabilities, widows and orphans, children and local communities for its work with NGOs. It encouraged Gabon to further develop its legal framework in line with its international human rights obligations.

37. Finland welcomed Gabon's abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. It appreciated the adoption of legislation to combat human trafficking of children and setting up of mechanisms. It raised concerns at the definition of trafficking in the current legislation, which does not cover all forms of exploitation including labour and sexual exploitation, slavery and removal of organs, as well as the limits to protection to victims under the age of 18. Finland made recommendations.

38. France applauded the abolition of the death penalty, efforts to promote press freedom and the ratification of international human rights instruments. It shared the concern of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons over the targeting of children. It asked what steps the State party envisaged to improve detention conditions. France made recommendations.

39. Germany commended the active role taken by Gabon to promote and fulfil their international human rights obligations. It referred to issues regarding discriminatory practices against women, ritual crimes and living conditions for prisoners. Germany made recommendations.

40. Hungary welcomed efforts to address the needs of persons with disabilities, for achieving high school enrolment rates and the enactment of a juvenile justice law. Hungary remained concerned about the high mortality rate of the Pygmy peoples in Gabon. Hungary made recommendations.

41. Indonesia appreciated the comprehensive view the report offers on the implementation of recommendations received by Gabon during its first round of the universal periodic review mechanism. It noted efforts made in the field of education, raising its enrolment rate and its net school enrolment. It commended for this achievement and encouraged it to keep its efforts. Indonesia made recommendations.

42. Iraq valued the report which reflects serious desire to enhance and protect human rights, in particular the ratification of various international instruments. Iraq paid tribute to all efforts made to increase school enrolment showing one of the highest levels in Africa and the efforts to setup the network for the protection of child rights. Iraq urged more efforts to support and protect children from all forms of violence and trafficking in persons and minority children. Iraq made recommendations.

43. Italy asked how the Government intended to address child trafficking in the light of the visit of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, and whether it had a specific strategy to combat child abduction. It also asked what progress had been made on the appeal to raise funds for juvenile detention and rehabilitation centres.

44. Latvia thanked Gabon for the comprehensive national report and their constructive engagement in the UPR process. It noted with appreciation that Gabon had extended invitations to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education to visit the country. Latvia made a recommendation.

45. Malaysia was encouraged to note progress made in the implementation of recommendations from the first review of Gabon, in particular in the areas of health, education, women and children, and social, political and human development. It was encouraged by the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments and the cooperation it has shown with international human rights mechanisms. It highlighted in particular the operationalization of its National Human Rights Commission in 2011. Malaysia made recommendations.

46. Mauritania commended Gabon for its engagement in the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as for its adhesion to various international human rights instruments. It appreciated political, legislative and administrative measures undertaken by Gabon to implement recommendations from their first review under the universal periodic review mechanism. Mauritania encouraged Gabon to pursue efforts for the promotion of human rights with the assistance of the international community.

47. Mexico recognized legislative measures undertaken to prevent the trafficking and sale of children, the promotion of the inclusion of diverse ethnic groups in decision-making positions and to abolish the death penalty. It commended recent progress and the implementation of recommendations from the first review, as well as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. Mexico made recommendations.

48. La Délégation a indiqué que le trafic des enfants ne pouvait pas être imputable au Gabon étant donné que, dans les traditions et la culture du pays, il n'y avait pas de traite d'enfants. Cependant, certains pays passaient par le Gabon pour le trafic d'enfants. Le Gabon considère la traite des personnes comme une violation des droits de l'homme et condamne fermement l'esclavage. Dans la perspective de poursuivre sa collaboration avec le Conseil des Droits de l'Homme, le Gabon a reçu la visite de la Rapporteuse spéciale sur la traite des personnes, en particulier les femmes et les enfants, du 14 au 18 mai 2012, afin de se rendre compte des mesures prises en matière de prévention, de coopération aux frontières, de sécurité, de contrôle des documents d'identification, de protection des victimes, de retour des victimes, d'enquêtes et de poursuites. La Délégation a rappelé que le Gabon demeurait une terre d'accueil et fustigeait la traite des enfants.

49. Au sujet de la liberté de la presse, le Gabon a assuré que la presse s'exprimait librement et qu'il était conscient que cette liberté était essentielle à toute démocratie. La démocratie pratiquée au Gabon est ouverte aux débats d'idées, à la confrontation des opinions et au pluralisme des points de vue. La Constitution protège la liberté de la presse qui est une garantie, sous réserve de l'ordre public.

50. Concernant les crimes rituels, le dispositif pénal ne reconnaît pas ces crimes. En une année, le Gabon a déployé des efforts considérables pour organiser des Audiences Foraines pour exhumer des dossiers qui dataient des années 1980, afin de juger tous les crimes de sang. Cet exercice se poursuivra au mois de novembre 2012.

51. En ce qui concerne le viol domestique, dont les femmes sont les premières à souffrir, le Gabon a renforcé le dispositif de répression de ce crime afin de décourager leurs auteurs.

52. Concernant le mariage forcé, le Gabon reconnaît que les mariages traditionnels n'avaient pas de valeur juridique. L'ensemble des recommandations adressées au Gabon en 2008 portait essentiellement sur la discrimination sexuelle. Le Gabon veille à l'interdiction des discriminations en général, et à celle liée au sexe en particulier et a pris des mesures

appropriées, y compris des dispositions législatives, afin de garantir aux femmes l'exercice et la jouissance des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales sur une base d'égalité avec les hommes. C'est dans cet esprit qu'avec la Fondation Sylvia Bongo Odimba pour la famille, le Gabon a initié un projet qui a consisté à légaliser le mariage traditionnel. Le projet a pour objectif de légiférer sur le mariage traditionnel afin que la femme, souvent délaissée par les traditions, puisse jouir de la plénitude de sa dignité.

53. En ce qui concerne les droits de l'homme en milieu carcéral, le Gabon garantit aux détenus, entre autres, des droits à la vie, à la santé et à l'éducation et toute violation des droits des détenus est vigoureusement sanctionnée.

54. Concernant les tribunaux pour mineurs, une loi portant régime judiciaire de protection des mineurs est en vigueur. La justice pénale pour mineurs est opérationnelle ainsi que des mesures de protection en vue de leur réhabilitation et leur insertion sociale. Par ailleurs, le Gabon, a commencée à donner une éducation aux détenus mineurs.

55. En conformité avec les règles des Nations Unies, des prisons seront construites prochainement et les mineurs qui sont séparés des adultes, le seront davantage; des tribunaux de mineurs sont créés; des formations sont données aux détenus; une Commission Nationale de l'enseignement scolaire et professionnelle en milieu carcéral est opérationnelle et des cycles de formation sur les normes interdisant et réprimant la torture sont organisés pour les agents de la sécurité.

56. Concernant les droits des minorités, le Gabon prend en compte les droits des Pygmées au même titre que les droits de toutes les autres populations. La population en question est attachée à son environnement. La Délégation a signalé que la lèpre n'existait plus au Gabon et que les Pygmées possédaient une connaissance des plantes qui les maintenait en bonne santé.

57. En ce qui concerne la santé, le Gabon a mis en place un mécanisme inédit, une caisse nationale de garantie sociale, symbole de solidarité de mutualisation nationale. Cette CNAMGS a sillonné le territoire afin que les indigents soient enregistrés. Ces personnes indigentes n'avaient pas les moyens d'accéder aux soins de santé, ainsi ceux qui ont plus des moyens cotissent actuellement pour soulager les plus démunies.

58. La Délégation a souligné que le Président de la République a fait de la préservation de l'environnement son cheval de bataille et a mis en place un Plan Climat. Le Gabon a 13 parcs nationaux qui constituent un tiers du territoire national. Des efforts considérables ont été consentis pour la préservation de l'environnement. De plus, des hauts fonctionnaires ont été incarcérés pour braconnage. Certains pays ont adressé leurs félicitations au Gabon pour les efforts qu'il déployait afin de préserver l'environnement.

59. La Délégation a relevé que le Gabon réitère que les observations faites au cours du dialogue devraient lui permettre d'avancer davantage dans la consolidation de l'Etat de droit. Les observations seront consignées pour que le nécessaire soit fait et, pour que lors du prochain examen le Gabon puisse présenter d'autres efforts déployés.

60. Morocco welcomed Gabon's ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It praised the Government's fight against women's discrimination and its commitment to increase schooling access.

61. The Netherlands commended Gabon on the abolition of the death penalty. It noted that mechanisms, policies and laws to prevent and combat trafficking exist in Gabon, both at national and provincial levels. Still, legislation is not regularly enforced and coordination has proven to be insufficient and improvements in this field needed to be made, as noted

also by the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, when she visited Gabon in 2012. Netherlands made a recommendation.

62. Nicaragua acknowledged progress made by Gabon since 2008. It highlighted the ratification of international human rights instruments, the cooperation with different mechanisms of the Council, as well as the implementation of national strategies to address discrimination and domestic violence against women and violence against children. It valued reforms in the justice system, particularly those regarding obsolete practices in the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty. Nicaragua made recommendations.

63. Nigeria noted with satisfaction policies put in place by the Government to improve the quality of citizens' lives and protect their fundamental freedoms and rights. It urged Gabon to do more to protect the rights of migrants and refugees following UNHCR reports of humiliating treatment meted out to some refugees.

64. Norway highlighted a number of areas for improvement such as freedom of expression, human trafficking, gender equality and protection mechanisms for victims of contemporary slavery, forced labour, sex trafficking and trafficking in organs and other body parts. It was concerned that children were being targeted in Gabon for human trafficking. Norway made recommendations.

65. Palestine welcomed the adoption of legislation on preventing child trafficking and the United Nations Plan of Action (2005-2009) for the World Programme on Human Rights Education. It commended Gabon on pursuing a more practical policy to combat discrimination against women trying to increase public awareness of the conventions it had ratified. Palestine made a recommendation.

66. Philippines commended Gabon on the ratification of international human rights instruments and the adoption of a national strategy on equality and gender. It was encouraged by Gabon's commitment to protecting the fundamental rights of migrant workers and their families and ensuring their fair treatment. Philippines made recommendations.

67. Portugal particularly welcomed the abolition of the death penalty, but acknowledged that there were a number of remaining challenges, not least addressing trafficking in persons. It asked what further steps would be taken to fully implement the recently-adopted legislation to combat the scourge. Portugal made recommendations.

68. Republic of Moldova saluted progress made on gender equality, especially in the areas of women's access to health, education and employment. It welcomed the development of new policies and legislation to protect children and improvements in legislation to help prevent the trafficking and financial exploitation of children. The Republic of Moldova made recommendations.

69. Rwanda commended Gabon on advances in human rights, particularly the abolition of the death penalty, improving access to education and school attendance, and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It recognized efforts to promote and protect women's rights, especially regarding health, education and career opportunities in politics and public administration. Rwanda made a recommendation.

70. Senegal noted Gabon's ongoing commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and its efforts to ensure greater protection for vulnerable persons, especially women and children, by improving access to health and education and ensuring women's participation in political life. The National Human Rights Commission would help strengthen the general human rights framework. Senegal made recommendations.

71. Singapore noted that Gabon had made good progress in several areas such as raising school attendance and reducing infant and maternal mortality. It considered education to be

the key to promoting economic and social development and the better enjoyment of human rights and welcomed the Government's emphasis on building its human capital. Singapore made recommendations.

72. Slovakia commended Gabon on the abolition of the death penalty and welcomed its ratification of key human rights instruments such as the OP-CAT, the OP-CRC-AC and the CPED. It also welcomed its accession to the new third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure. Slovakia made recommendations.

73. Slovenia commended Gabon for its accession to the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on communication procedure. It noted the positive developments made in the field of children's rights but raised concerns with the trafficking and economic exploitation of children's rights, the establishment of juvenile justice in prisons and the birth registration. Slovenia made recommendations.

74. South Africa welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Rome Statute of the ICC and the OPCAT. It commended the National Human Rights Commission being operational since September 2011 referring to the Paris Principles. South Africa made recommendations.

75. Spain commended Gabon for the abolition of the death penalty in 2010. It encouraged Gabon to continue its efforts to attain higher levels of well-being for their citizen's and to continue complying with the recommendations from their first review under the universal periodic review mechanism. Spain made recommendations.

76. Sri Lanka commended the efforts made by Gabon in combatting discrimination against women, protecting the rights of children, establishing conditions for controls of child trafficking. It also noted Gabon's commitment to implement public policies to provide persons with disabilities particularly children. It welcomed Gabon's education policy based on a 10-year agreement (2010-2020). Sri Lanka made a recommendation.

77. Sudan appreciated highlighting the developments and challenges in the field of promotion and promotion of human rights, and commended the efforts made in the advancement and promotion of the rights of women and creating the principles of gender equality at the legislative and executive levels. Sudan commended also efforts to establish and promote the enjoyment of the right to education and work, to implement the recommendation, to raise the enrolment rate. Sudan made a recommendation.

78. Thailand noted Gabon's strengthened national normative framework in 2010 to incorporate international instruments. It praised the National Health Development Plan for 2011 – 2015. It applauded the expansion of free care and anti-retro-viral drugs for HIV/AIDS patients. It encouraged Gabon to prevent and persecute all cases of violence against children. Thailand made recommendations.

79. Togo welcomed the ratification of the OPCAT and the abolishment of the death penalty. It noted Gabon's commitment to increase school attendance rate and promote equality between sexes in access to education. Togo remained concerned about the upsurge of ritual crimes. It invited the Government to improve its policies towards the vulnerable especially the disabled persons.

80. Tunisia noted the ratification of the Rome Statute and the OPCAT. It congratulated Gabon for its National Commission on Human Rights and encouraged its establishment in accordance with the Paris Principles. Tunisia noted Gabon's initiatives to implement the recommendations relating to the fight against discrimination, human trafficking and the promotion of the right to health and education. Tunisia made recommendations.

81. Uganda commended Gabon impressive achievements in the area of education especially the law that made education compulsory for all citizen children and foreign children up to the age of 16. Uganda lauded Gabon for submitting regularly its national reports to Treaty Bodies i.e. the ICESCR (2011) and the CAT (2006-2011). Uganda made a recommendation.

82. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the progress made since its first UPR particularly the abolition of the death penalty in 2010. It expressed concern with the self-censorship many journalists exercise for fear of retribution illustrated by the recent closure of two opposition newspapers without a transparent process. It made a recommendation.

83. United States of America applauded Gabon efforts to address human trafficking to ensure that victims of human trafficking receive access to necessary protective services. It was however concerned by the increased restrictions on the media and freedom of expression. It encouraged continued efforts towards even broader engagement with the civil society. It made recommendations.

84. Uruguay welcomed progress made by Gabon since their first review in 2008, notably the ratification of three main international human rights instruments, the abolition of the death penalty and the establishment of the crime on trafficking. It made reference to the problem of trafficking in persons, as noted by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking that visited the country in 2012, with the worst forms being in the domestic work for young girls, servitude and force and early marriage. Uruguay made recommendations.

85. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) noted that notwithstanding the economic challenges confronts Gabon, while coming to share its progress and challenges in the area of human rights at this review. It noted the functioning of the National Human Rights Commission, which has been subject of reforms to bring it in line with the Paris Principles. It noted progress made in the ratification of international human rights instruments, and it's commitment to abolish the death penalty. Venezuela made a recommendation.

86. Algeria was encouraged with the progress made in several areas in implementing recommendations particularly the one made by Algeria on the right to education such as raising school attendance and to achieve the objectives of the ten years pact for education. Gabon has taken significant steps protection of children and in health area. Those efforts need to be consolidated through international cooperation. Gabon made progress in other areas including the ratification of international instruments and the level of cooperate with human rights mechanisms and the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission. Algeria made recommendations.

87. Angola noted the ratification of several international instruments in the areas of human rights, and most importantly the abolition of the death penalty. This reflects the commitment of Gabon to ensure human dignity and to the promotion and protection of human rights and welcomed the legal reforms resulting from the first cycle. It noted measures taken such as free elementary and primary education mandatory for everyone. Angola made recommendations.

88. Argentina commended Gabon for the ratification of CPED, the Rome Statute of the ICC and the OP-CAT. It further welcomed the abolition of the death penalty. Argentina made recommendations.

89. Australia commended the abolition of the death penalty. It commended the Government for expanding free medical care and free anti-retroviral drugs to all persons testing HIV including refugees and pregnant HIV-positive women. It noted with concern reports that media laws are used to restrict political criticism and opposition support. Australia made recommendations.

90. Bangladesh noted the legal provisions guaranteeing the rights of migrant workers and their family members. Bangladesh praised the high school enrolment rate with almost full gender parity. It praised the high level of participation of women in senior posts in public administration, private sector and decision-making bodies. Bangladesh made a recommendation.

91. La Délégation a remercié l'intérêt porté au Gabon et surtout à la dignité humaine et, a souligné que les préoccupations présentées sont partagées par le Gouvernement gabonais.

92. La Délégation a noté que l'approche genre n'était pas négligée et qu'à titre d'exemple, quatre femmes occupaient le poste de «Général» des forces de sécurité et défense. Des efforts sont consentis pour l'égalité et la non-discrimination entre les genres. Ainsi, le Gabon a mis en place l'Observatoire de Droits de la femme et de la parité dont les objectifs étaient la défense des droits de la femme, de la famille et de l'enfant. Le Gabon s'est engagé depuis le 25 janvier 2010 dans le renforcement des capacités des femmes et la structuration des organisations dirigées par les femmes. Des formations sur le micro crédit ont été données à plusieurs femmes responsables d'association et de regroupements. Le Président de la République a récemment demandé au Gouvernement de fixer des mécanismes visant à rechercher systématiquement la performance comme mesure d'excellence des managers gabonais principalement des femmes.

93. La Délégation a indiqué que le rôle de la société civile au Gabon a un rôle dynamique, opérant, offensif. Elle déborde parfois de ses prérogatives pour se mêler de politique, mais elle serait aussi de thermomètre et d'aiguillon. Le porte-parole du Gouvernement reste à l'écoute de la société civile et le Gabon tient en compte les sonnettes d'alarmes de la société civile.

94. La liberté de la presse existe au Gabon. Liberté oui, liberticide non. L'injure et l'incitation à la haine ethnique n'étaient pas des droits humains. Le Gabon est un havre de paix, reconnu internationalement et dans la sous-région. Il n'a pas connu de guerre, et la paix est un don précieux que le Président de la République a hérité de ses prédécesseurs et voudrait pérenniser. Se servir des journalistes pour l'incitation à la haine ethnique, l'injure et la guerre débordait les droits humains et il n'y avait aucune censure de la presse au Gabon, si ce n'était que dans ces cas-là. La Délégation a noté que le Gabon a récemment revisité son code de communication qui intègre la dépénalisation des délits de presse.

95. Concernant les travailleurs migrants et les membres de leurs familles, la Convention Internationale sur la protection des travailleurs migrants et de leurs familles a été signée en décembre 2004 et sa ratification faisait l'objet de discussion au niveau national. Le Gabon, grâce à son cadre juridique nationale, garantit les droits fondamentaux à tous les travailleurs migrants, ainsi qu'aux membres de leurs familles. Concrètement, le Gabon accueille les peuples d'Afrique et le reste du monde sur son territoire. Il est par essence une terre hospitalière. Les conclusions des discussions nationales et des délibérations régionales sur la libre circulation des personnes et des biens au sein de la CEMAC font l'objet d'une attention particulière de la part du Gouvernement. Les conditions d'admission au Gabon, de séjour, des activités professionnelles, de regroupement familiale, de droit aux tribunaux, de droit à la santé, à l'éducation et au logement, sont assurés aux travailleurs migrants.

96. La Délégation a indiqué que les peuples autochtones représentent un pour cent de la population gabonaise. En conformité avec la Constitution, et en suivant le PIDC et PDESC, le Gabon s'est engagé à protéger les peuples autochtones qui sont une richesse culturelle et intellectuelle, et de les préserver. Le Gabon met tout en œuvre pour promouvoir l'intégration des Pygmées.

97. La Délégation a rappelé que le Gabon a adopté en matière d'éducation le plan d'action des Nations Unies pour le programme mondiale d'éducation dans le domaine des droits de l'homme. Ce plan mettait l'accent sur le système éducatif national. Au Gabon,

l'école est ouverte à tous les enfants sans distinction aucune et elle est obligatoire de 6 à 16 ans. A titre d'exemple, en 2010, le Gabon a enregistré dans les différents niveaux d'enseignement les points suivants: i) le pre-primaire avait une capacité d'accueil de 11230 étudiant, 445 salles de classe. Après les recommandations faites en 2008, le Gouvernement a lancé un projet de construction et d'équipement de 1500 salles de classe et de 14 écoles pre-primaires; ii) le primaire avait une capacité d'accueil de 1447 écoles; iii) le cycle secondaire avait une capacité de 148556 étudiants et de 128 établissements. Depuis peu, le Gouvernement a lancé un projet de construction de 8 écoles d'enseignement secondaire et 5 lycées; iv) l'enseignement supérieur avait une capacité de 20803 étudiants, 3 grandes universités publiques comprenant 3 facultés et 3 grandes écoles ainsi que 4 instituts. Le Gouvernement a aussi lancé un projet de renforcement des capacités d'accueil dans les 3 universités et 2 grandes écoles.

98. Concernant les conditions carcérales, la Délégation a noté qu'il existe un personnel médical offrant au minimum les premiers soins et le transport en ambulance des prisonniers vers les hôpitaux et que ce personnel demeurait insuffisant en qualité et en quantité. Au niveau de la sécurité pénitentiaire, un programme de renforcement des capacités des agents de la sécurité pénitentiaire pour améliorer la surveillance des détenus, s'étalait sur toute l'année. De plus, les détenus sont libres de pratiquer leur religion et les visites de famille sont autorisées. Les détenus peuvent également présenter des plaintes écrites aux autorités judiciaires sans censure ainsi que demander que des enquêtes soient menées sur des allégations sur leurs conditions de vie. Le Gouvernement a engagé une surveillance autonome des conditions carcérales par des organisations telles que le Comité International de la Croix Rouge et de l'Association Cri de Femme.

99. Par rapport à la traite des enfants, le Gabon a adopté un Manuel Nationale de procédure de prise en charge des enfants victimes de traite. En application de la loi 9/2004, le Gabon a accueilli en 2008 une conférence régionale sur la traite des enfants organisées par le HCDH en collaboration avec la Communauté des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale. A titre d'exemple, le Gabon a mis en place 4 centres d'accueil à Libreville et une à Port Gentille, afin de lutter contre les formes de violences faites aux enfants et afin de protéger les enfants victimes de traite transfrontalière, ainsi que ceux victimes de maltraitance domestique. Des mécanismes de prévention et de lutte contre la traite sont effectifs au niveau national à travers un comité national et des comités provinciaux.

100. Deux services spéciaux de la police sont chargés de protéger les enfants victimes de la traite, qui ne sont pas des enfants gabonais, et un observatoire national des droits de l'enfant a été mis en place. Le Gabon a ratifié le Protocole des Nations Unies contre la criminalité transfrontalière, en particulier des enfants et des femmes. Les services de sécurité et de la police judiciaire mènent des opérations ciblées contre le trafic et l'exploitation. De plus, un code de protection de l'enfance a été adopté et l'adoption d'une loi spécifique pénalisant les violences domestiques, scolaires ou institutionnelles est en cours d'adoption.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

101. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined and enjoy the support of Gabon:

101.1. Consider ratifying international human rights instruments that have not been ratified by Gabon yet (Nicaragua);

101.2. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);

- 101.3. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);
- 101.4. Follow-up on the commitment of abolishing death penalty by ratifying the second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights whose aim is to abolish the death penalty for all crimes in all circumstances (France);
- 101.5. Ratify the First and Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, the Optional Protocol to ICESCR, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);
- 101.6. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (Hungary);
- 101.7. Continue efforts to incorporate a human rights perspective in the ongoing processes of law and institutional reform (Nicaragua);
- 101.8. Review its legislation regarding discriminatory practices against women (Germany);
- 101.9. Bring its legislation in line with the principle of gender equality, and that the government effectively enforces the laws already in place, especially those pertaining to domestic violence and rape (Norway);
- 101.10. Adopt penal legislation in order to hold those responsible for marital rape criminally responsible (Belgium);
- 101.11. Move and speed up the amendment of the criminal code to punish sexual violence, and to adopt a comprehensive law to punish violence against women and children (Rwanda);
- 101.12. Reinforce the application of laws prohibiting the trafficking of persons, including the trafficking for forced marriages, among others by adopting measures aiming at protecting and assisting victims and prosecuting and punishing those that engage in trafficking, and raising awareness among the population (Canada);
- 101.13. Bring the national legislation on trafficking in persons in accordance with the Palermo Protocol and international human rights law by, inter alia, amending the definition of trafficking, expanding the scope of protection and assistance to all victims without discrimination, and including a human rights based approach in the combat against trafficking in persons (Finland);
- 101.14. Take necessary measures to enforce the legislation on trafficking and economic exploitation of children, and connected judicial protection of minors (Slovenia);
- 101.15. Amend the existing legislation in order to address the gaps in the protection of victims of contemporary slavery, as well as to criminalize child trafficking in accordance with international standards (Norway);
- 101.16. Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of children (Republic of Moldova);
- 101.17. Consider redrafting its media law to align it with the needs of media development and media freedom (Brazil);
- 101.18. Amend its sanction and regulation system (on freedom of press) so it falls within the purview of the judicial authority and not the administrative authority (France);

- 101.19. Intensify its efforts to align its national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute (Tunisia)
- 101.20. Increase its efforts to obtain the A status in conformity with the Paris principles for the National Commission of Human Rights created in September 2011 (Portugal);
- 101.21. Ensure that the composition and functions of the National Human Rights Commission and its work is in accordance with the Paris principles (Republic of Moldova);
- 101.22. Make available the necessary resources to the National Human Rights Commission to ensure it is able to operate effectively (South Africa);
- 101.23. Promptly establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Tunisia);
- 101.24. Better disseminate good practices, namely to disseminate the broad implementation of human rights public policies based on the collaboration between the State and civil society (Chile);
- 101.25. Continue implementing public policies that allow the enjoyment of human rights of the people of Gabon (Cuba);
- 101.26. Continue its national efforts, with the support and assistance of the international community, in the promotion and protection of human rights particularly in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights of the people of Gabon (Bangladesh);
- 101.27. Follow-up with a policy to combat trafficking in persons based on prevention, prosecution in accordance with the international law; (Egypt);
- 101.28. Adopt additional public policies aimed at eradicating discrimination against women in rural areas (Spain);
- 101.29. Strengthen the respect for human rights throughout the country especially in the area of health and education for everyone (Cote d'Ivoire);
- 101.30. Strengthen training and education programmes on human rights for law enforcement officials (Algeria);
- 101.31. Continue public awareness programmes against corporal punishment of children in schools (Angola);
- 101.32. Institutionalize consultation mechanisms with human rights organizations of the civil society (Mexico);
- 101.33. Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council and submit regular reports to the treaty bodies (Czech Republic);
- 101.34. Issue a standing and open invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Belgium);
- 101.35. Continue the cooperation with the international human rights protection system by extending an open standing invitation to the Human Rights Council Special Procedures (France);
- 101.36. Step up the cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and eventually consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);

- 101.37. Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Portugal);
- 101.38. Invite for visits to the country, the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (Belarus);
- 101.39. Continue the promotion of the rights of women (Senegal);
- 101.40. Continue its efforts to enhance the protection and empowerment of women (Singapore);
- 101.41. Ensure the implementation of the National Strategy on Equality and Gender (Indonesia);
- 101.42. Continue to implement its national equity and gender strategy (Republic of Moldova);
- 101.43. Adopt as a matter of priority, legislative and other measures to guarantee gender equality and strengthen efforts to eradicate customs and traditions that discriminate against women, in particular cases of early or forced marriage (Czech Republic);
- 101.44. Continue to implement appropriate measures and allocate necessary resources to ensure that the objectives of its national strategy on equality and gender are achieved (Philippines);
- 101.45. Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee easy and effective access to free birth registration, including to Pygmy children (Mexico);
- 101.46. Establish mechanisms to ensure easy and effective access to birth registration of all children and the effective and free provision of birth certificates (Uruguay);
- 101.47. Intensify the fight against the so called ritual crimes (Algeria);
- 101.48. Undertake intensive public awareness programmes of the population relating to ritual murders (Belgium);
- 101.49. Strengthen the fight against ritual crimes above all ritual murders (Germany);
- 101.50. Continue to fight the “Upsurge” in Ritual Crimes (Uganda);
101. 51. Exert efforts to improve prison conditions (Egypt);
- 101.52. Take all necessary measures to ensure that detention conditions be made compatible with international laws and standards, particular articles 9 and 10 of the ICCPR (France);
- 101.53. Improve conditions of detention and imprisonment among others by ensuring an adequate nutrition of detainees and by reducing overcrowding in prisons (Canada);
- 101.54. Improve the living conditions for prisoners (Germany);
- 101.55. Develop a strategy to improve living conditions of persons deprived of their liberty, to combat malnutrition, lack of hygiene and to end the detention of children with adults (Spain);
- 101.56. Implement UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the “Bangkok Rules” as part of its work on the prison system (Thailand);

- 101.57. Adopt all necessary measures to comprehensively implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (France);
- 101.58. Improve enforcement and coordination of national legislation and policies on the trafficking of persons, especially women and children, and to raise the awareness on this issue amongst the public (The Netherlands);
- 101.59. Continue its combat against child trafficking from any origin and use of child labor in all forms, especially in auto industry, and to strengthen its measures for rehabilitation and education for the child victims of trafficking (Thailand);
- 101.60. Step up efforts in the fight against trafficking in human beings, including the full implementation of the recommendations from the Special Rapporteur on trafficking, after her visit to Gabon in May 2012 (Belarus);
- 101.61. Study the possibility of adopting additional measures to fight against trafficking in persons (Argentina);
- 101.62. Implement a comprehensive policy to fight the trafficking in persons, with special focus on boys, girls and adolescents, with a view to give visibility to the problem and understand the trends, forms and manifestations of the problem of trafficking in the country with a view to ending it (Uruguay);
- 101.63. Strengthen measures and frameworks to combat trafficking in persons to enable the safe return and repatriation of victims of trafficking (Sri Lanka);
- 101.64. Reinforce efforts to eliminate trafficking and abuse of children including the conduct of efficient awareness-raising campaigns (Slovakia);
- 101.65. Redouble its efforts to combat more effectively and to eradicate trafficking and violence against children (Republic of Moldova);
- 101.66. Take measures to eradicate trafficking in persons, with particular attention to the trafficking of children (Spain);
- 101.67. Increase prosecutions and strengthen sentencing of human trafficking offenders, and fully implement the Palermo Protocol to prohibit and penalise all forms of trafficking (United States of America);
- 101.68. Comply with the recommendations of the Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children and send an invitation to the Rapporteurs' to perceive the human rights situation in the country (Iraq);
- 101.69. Develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to fight the worst forms of corporal punishment of children (Belarus);
- 101.70. Implement legislative and judicial level measures to ensure that there is no impunity in cases of ritual murders (Belgium);
- 101.71. Increase efforts to ensure accountability for trafficking in persons by investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating trafficking and by providing effective legal remedies for the victims (Finland);
- 101.72. Ensure effective implementation of the juvenile justice law by providing training to law enforcement officials and judges and by establishing separate detention facilities for minors (Hungary);
- 101.73. Ensure compliance with article 19 of the ICCPR and works towards an environment conducive to a free and open press (Norway);

- 101.74. Clarify and publicly document the processes and guidelines for dealing with complaints against the press, including who can make them, who they can make them to and which penalties are considered to be appropriate; as well as a rationale for these decisions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 101.75. Discontinue overly broad restrictions on the media and freedom of expression, and engage in regular dialogue with journalists to create an environment that encourages free expression without fear of censure (United States of America);
- 101.76. Adopt legislative and other measures to guarantee in law and practice protection of freedom of expression and independence of journalists (Czech Republic);
- 101.77. Take the necessary measures to ensure freedom of expression, the press and peaceful assembly, among which by ensuring that those responsible for acts of intimidation, harassment or violence against persons for having exercised their rights are held accountable (Canada);
- 101.78. Undertake further measures to ensure freedom of the press based on the decriminalization of press offences and respect for the legitimate rights of the press (Australia);
- 101.79. Respect the plurality and freedom of the press, particularly the application of neutral sanction measures by the regulatory organs, such as the National Communication Council (Spain);
- 101.80. Encourage functioning of its civil society; in particular human rights NGOs (Slovakia);
- 101.81. Foster increased dialogue with civil society, especially regarding strengthening electoral processes (United States of America);
- 101.82. Strengthen and enhance the role of women especially in the decision making area (Palestine);
- 101.83. Continue strengthening economic, social and cultural rights and improve the living conditions of the population, for which the support and solidarity of the international community is very important (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 101.84. Continue with its poverty reduction strategy and speed its economic and social development so it can better promote and protect the various human rights of its people (Chine);
- 101.85. Step up efforts in alleviating poverty and further improve wealth distribution in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1 on poverty reduction by 2015 (Malaysia);
- 101.86. Intensify its efforts to fight poverty and for the prosperity and welfare of all its citizens (Tunisia);
- 101.87. Improve access to health care for all and in this regard, provide adequate resources to its health care system, including by providing necessary training to improve its health services (Malaysia);
- 101.88. Take additional steps to fight different pandemics and ensure access of population to basic medical services, especially in rural areas (Belarus);

- 101.89. Take all necessary measures, using the expertise of the Rapporteur on education, to address the causes of the decreasing school attendance and the high wastage rate, including by making available the necessary funding to provide adequate training for teachers and improve the curricula (Hungary);
- 101.90. Establish specific programmes to prevent dropout from school and support the continuation of studies (Mexico);
- 101.91. Take steps to reduce school wastage rate, having in mind that today 25 percent of a given class did not complete primary school (Brazil);
- 101.92. In cooperation with UNESCO and relevant UN agencies continues to enhance its education system and improve access to quality education by all (Singapore);
- 101.93. Continue to engage its development partners like the African Development Bank and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to ensure it meets its aims in the education sector (South Africa);
- 101.94. Redouble its efforts to implement the outputs of the general conference of education, training and research held in May 2010 and to seek technical assistance from relevant United Nations organizations (Sudan);
- 101.95. Strengthen the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 101.96. Adopt effective measures to guarantee and protect the rights of minorities without discrimination and provide them with all rights (Iraq);
- 101.97. Continue efforts to combat the various forms of discrimination and strive for the respect of the rights of minority ethnic groups (Argentina);
- 101.98. Take additional measures to ensure the integration of indigenous peoples in public institutions (Burundi);
- 101.99. Pay attention to the rights of minorities and equality and non-discrimination of women (Cape Verde);
- 101.100. Encourage the participation of minorities, such as the Pygmies, in the political, economic and social life of the country (Costa Rica);
- 101.101. Adopt a specific plan to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and a strategy to make basic services more accessible to the Pygmy minority (Slovenia);
- 101.102. Strengthen its policies designed to better integrate the Pygmies in the society (Angola);
- 101.103. Ensure full and equal access to public health services for Pygmy peoples in all areas of the country in particular by increasing the number of health care facilities and ensure proper registration of children at birth (Hungary);
- 101.104. Protect the rights of Pygmy minority and elevate their health conditions and make all health services accessible to them, while facilitate their attainment of different health services in an easy way (Iraq);
- 101.105. Keep the necessary measures to combat continued deforestation in order to ensure the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (Egypt).
102. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Gabon:

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- 102.1. **Lift its reservations made during the ratification of the Convention against Torture (Chad);**
- 102.2. **Speed up the consideration of the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families (Chile);**
- 102.3. **Consider accepting the jurisdiction of the treaty bodies to receive allegations, conduct investigations and take urgent actions (Costa Rica);**
- 102.4. **Ratify international instruments in the area of human rights that have yet to be ratified by Gabon, such as the optional protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 102.5. **Speed up efforts in the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Indonesia);**
- 102.6. **Remain engaged in discussion on the human rights of migrants, irrespective of their status (Philippines);**
- 102.7. **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families (Philippines);**
- 102.8. **Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);**
- 102.9. **Fully align its national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, including by incorporating the provisions to cooperate fully and promptly with the ICC (Slovakia);**
- 102.10. **Continue with its efforts to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families (Argentina).**
103. **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 Gabon was headed by S. E. Mme Ida Reteno Assonouet, Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux, des Droits Humains et des Relations avec les Institutions Constitutionnelles, Porte-parole du Gouvernement and composed of the following members:

- S. E. M. Baudelaire Ndong Ella, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la République Gabonaise auprès de l'ONU à Genève;
 - Maître Homa Moussavou Bertrant, Président de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme;
 - Pr. Guy Rossatanga Rignault, Vice-président de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme;
 - Monseigneur Patrick Nguema Edou, Vice-président de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme.
 - M. M. Eric Dodo Bounguendza, Directeur Général des Droits Humains;
 - M. Landry Mboumba, Premier Conseiller à la Mission Permanente de la République Gabonaise auprès de l'ONU à Genève;
 - Mme. Edna Paola Biyogou ép. Minko, Directeur de la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme;
 - M. Anicet Gervais Ondo Nguema, Directeur de la Protection des Droits de l'Homme;
 - M. Didace Mayombo, Conseiller chargé des Affaires Juridiques et des Droits de l'Homme à la Mission Permanente de la République Gabonaise auprès de l'ONU à Genève;
 - M. Hervé Nze, Aide de camp de Madame le Ministre.
-