



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
22 May 2015

Original: English

## UNEDITED VERSION

**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-second session**  
Geneva, 4-15 May 2015

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

#### **Belarus**

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

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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 twenty-second session from 4 to 15 May 2015. The review of Belarus was held at the 1st meeting on 4 May 2015. The delegation of Belarus was headed by Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. At its 10th meeting held on 8 May 2015 the Working Group adopted the report on Belarus
2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Belarus: Algeria, Pakistan and Paraguay.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Belarus:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/BLR/1);
  - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/ BLR/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/22/ BLR/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Belarus through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Head of the Delegation emphasized the importance of the UPR to Belarus as a mechanism for the objective assessment of the situation of human rights in every country. Belarus had worked constantly on the implementation of the recommendations from the first cycle. Progress had been regularly monitored, involving all branches of government, the academic community, civil society and the United Nations and a mid-term progress report on implementation had been submitted.
6. Belarus stated that its national report had been prepared in partnership with civil society through four rounds of national consultation. The consultations had, for example, resulted in measures such as the equipping of polling stations with braille materials from 2015.
7. The delegation noted that human rights and freedoms were guaranteed in the Constitution and widely-recognized principles of international law had been transposed into national legislation. As a relatively new State, Belarus had set itself ambitious tasks in protecting the rights of its citizens. In a complex geopolitical situation, Belarus remained an island of peace, tranquillity and order. That had been possible due to strong state power and effective state policy.

8. In the last five years Belarus had climbed 15 places in the Human Development Index; almost all of the Millennium Development Goals had been achieved, five of them ahead of the target years. The delegation enumerated other positive indicators, inter alia, in the fields of education, gender equality, improving the quality of drinking water and immunization of children.

9. Belarus had acceded to six international instruments in the last five years and was preparing to sign the CRPD. The delegation mentioned the numerous legislative changes which had been adopted as part of the accessions. In 2013 a judicial reform programme had commenced with the aim of strengthening judicial independence and making other improvements to the system. Numerous laws were in preparation in other fields and in the current year a National Strategy on Sustainable Socio-Economic Growth to 2030 had been prepared. There were institutions for the protection and promotion of various human rights and, although not perfect, they were generally effective.

10. The delegation stated that discrimination was forbidden under the Constitution and criminally punishable, as was hate-speech and mentioned the 2013 concluding observations of CERD which referred to the country's protection of freedom of religion and belief. The delegation also described Belarus' measures in the field of gender equality and noted that women composed 30 percent of the Parliamentarians.

11. The death penalty was retained in Belarus as a temporary measure and applicable only to the most serious crimes. The delegation noted the specific restrictions on its use, compliance with the ICCPR and the continuous public focus on the issue. The Parliamentary Group to study the issue had been renewed in 2012. The creation of public opinion in favour of a moratorium and gradual abolition was important, but current opinion polls indicated that 70 percent of respondents favoured its retention. In 2015 the possibility of substitution of a death sentence with life imprisonment by agreement with the prosecution had been introduced.

12. The delegation described the situation of detainees and noted that the increasing numbers of appeals to the courts indicated confidence in the system. There was public oversight of the penitentiaries and civil society organizations had access. In 2015 the definition of torture in compliance with the CAT had been introduced into the Criminal Code. Six prisons were being reconstructed subject to the country's financial constraints.

13. Since the 2012 the National Plan of Action for the Improvement of the Situation of Children and the Protection of their Rights was being implemented; it included many measures recommended by the CRC. The delegation noted developments in juvenile justice and measure to improve child protection, including increased rates of adoption.

14. The delegation mentioned Belarus' significant progress in addressing domestic violence, including the introduction of the concept of into legislation. A draft law on the issue was also in preparation and a series of measures on the issue were in place.

15. The Law on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings had been adopted in 2012 and the delegation described the related measures which had been taken, including in the field of victim support.

16. Turning to the written questions, Belarus noted that it had accepted the competence of the Human Rights Committee and CEDAW to receive individual complaints. In relation to CESCR, the delegation noted that only 20 countries worldwide had accepted the committee's competence in this respect. Belarus had repeatedly made clear that it did not recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus and its concerns about how the mandate had been created. Presidential elections would be held in the current year, OSCE principles would be respected and the elections

would be transparent with national, regional and international oversight secured. There were no reports to the treaty bodies overdue.

17. Turning to judicial reform, the delegation highlighted the creation of a unified judicial system and the abolition of the military courts. In January 2014 the executive had given up all competences in relation to judicial administration. Work continued on the creation of a professional corps of judges; 40 percent were currently under the age of 40 years and more than half were currently women. The practices in the appointment of judges were consistent with those across the world. More than half were now on lifetime appointments. Belarus was moving towards an appellate system for appeals in both criminal and civil law. Other developments included the use of modern technology and the introduction of mediation to settle civil disputes.

18. The delegation highlighted developments in the development of civil society. As of January 2015, more than 2,500 civil society organizations were registered and the trend in increasing registrations was being sustained. The process of registration of organizations was carried out strictly in accordance with the law and all possible had been done to ensure that the process was not burdensome. Some persons had knowingly submitted false information which had prevented the registration of their organizations and there had been cases where groups had used their unregistered status for political ends. In February 2014 new legislation had had simplified the process for registration, regulation of statutes and liquidation of political parties and civil society organizations.

19. Turning to the legal profession the delegation outlined the principles applied in its regulation and mentioned the new Law on the Legal Profession which had entered into force in 2013.

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

20. During the interactive dialogue 95 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Sweden was deeply concerned about continued use of the death penalty and noted new legislation which increased state control over the Internet.

22. Switzerland deplored the intimidation of civil society and expressed concern at impunity for perpetrators of torture.

23. Syria commended Belarus steps to improve national legislation and ensure its compatibility with its human rights commitments as well as efforts to guarantee the right to education.

24. Tajikistan noted that the practical steps undertaken by Belarus bore witness to the country's willingness to fulfil its international obligations.

25. Thailand encouraged the establishment of a national human rights institution and the adoption of measures on persons with disabilities.

26. Turkmenistan welcomed amendments to the national legislation aimed, inter alia, at strengthening democratic reforms and the formation of civil society.

27. The United Arab Emirates noted Belarus' efforts in combating human trafficking; adopting national legislation; training law enforcement officials and acceding to treaties.

28. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Belarus to improve democratic standards for the upcoming elections.

29. Welcoming the release of Ales Bialiatski, the United States of America called on Belarus to release all political prisoners.

30. Uruguay welcomed Belarus' signing of the CRPD.
31. Argentina welcomed the action plan on children rights 2012-2016. It urged Belarus to establish a moratorium on use of the death penalty.
32. Uzbekistan noted Belarus' achievements in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and its efforts in combatting trafficking in persons.
33. Viet Nam highlighted endeavours ensuring social security, health services, education, decent work conditions and protection of vulnerable groups.
34. Zimbabwe noted the social welfare policies for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, as well as human rights educational awareness programme.
35. Algeria welcomed Belarus's accession to the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its efforts towards accession to CRPD.
36. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged the implementation of UPR recommendations and the MDGs as well as Belarus' social protection policies.
37. Austria commended Belarus' more constructive engagement with European partners.
38. Azerbaijan noted the strengthening of the legal human rights framework, the better understanding between religions and Belarus cooperation with human rights mechanisms.
39. Bahrain commended the measures which implemented previous UPR recommendations and measures taken on improving minorities' rights, combating xenophobia and racial discrimination.
40. Bangladesh noted Belarus' achievements in implementing free and compulsory education; women's high level of education and reductions in maternal and infant mortality.
41. Belgium welcomed Belarus' submission of a progress report on the implementation of its UPR recommendations.
42. Nicaragua commended legislative reforms based on UPR recommendations; fulfilment of the MDGs; and the national plan on international technical cooperation.
43. Bosnia and Herzegovina commended ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and Belarus' efforts to establish a national human rights institution.
44. Brazil welcomed the gender equality national plan.
45. Botswana noted legislative and policy measures since the last review. It was concerned about mass arrests of demonstrators.
46. Brunei Darussalam commended efforts in improving and adopting national legislation to fulfil Belarus' international obligations.
47. Canada was deeply concerned by the ongoing detention of political prisoners and by continuing restrictions on civil society.
48. Chile urged strengthened cooperation with human rights mechanisms, especially Special Procedures.
49. China welcomed the comprehensive measures to enhance social protection and to provide adequate standard of living to the elderly and others.
50. The Congo was concerned that conventions protecting the rights of migrant workers had yet to be incorporated into national legislation.
51. Costa Rica noted the progress made.

52. Croatia identified the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression as the most urgent issue.
53. Singapore noted the adoption of legislation such as the Trafficking in Persons Act in 2012 and the implementation of related policies.
54. The Czech Republic made recommendations.
55. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea mentioned the considerable progress made in the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR.
56. Belarus outlined the priorities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The operation of the police in detaining persons, using physical force, firearms and other means was strictly regulated in law. Detained persons had the right to judicial examination of the legality of their detention. The law also allowed persons to submit to complaints about the behaviour of police officers; 6,000 complaints were received in 2014, which represented a 10 percent reduction from 2013. One in ten of such complaints had been found to be justified after investigation and appropriate measures were taken. Only five complaints of the unlawful use of force were received. The same trends in the statistics had been seen from the start of 2015.
57. Belarus emphasized that the public prosecutors focussed on preventing violations of the constitutional rights of citizens as the best method of preventing human rights violations and the indicators showed increased public confidence in the prosecutorial system. In cases of mass gatherings the prosecutors worked to ensure public maintenance of public order and protect the rights of all citizens; not just the participants. The delegation highlighted the prosecutors' role in protecting the borders from illegal immigration in light of the threat of terrorism. The prosecutors were also engaged in monitoring the Internet to gather evidence on issues such as trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking and threats to public order. The prosecutors also thoroughly investigated all complains of torture or inhumane treatment.
58. The delegation outlined Belarus' policies on the execution of sanctions, including the legal framework and noted that the compulsory labour for prisoners did not constitute forced labour under the ILO conventions. Prison management was open to cooperation with civil society organizations, including international NGOs, and there was a state system for oversight of the institution which also included judicial oversight. NGOs could participate in the commissions for oversight and also have access to the institutions outside of the commission, as could religious organizations. NGOs could further participate in rehabilitation activities.
59. The delegation highlighted Belarus' cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. The Special Procedures had been invited, but responses had not yet been received. However, Belarus did not support the mandate of the Special Procedures which violated the Human Rights Council's resolutions on institution building. The political engagement of certain mandate-holders was not conducive to respectful dialogue and they had thus not been invited. Belarus had cooperated actively with OHCHR and in 2011 the High Commissioner had been invited to visit. The delegation described the technical cooperation activities, noting that consultations on the possible creation of an Ombudsman had also included international experts, the Council of Europe and civil society, including with organizations which did not support the Government's policies. It was important to note that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action gave the right to states to decide upon the appropriate national structures.
60. Belarus mentioned the equality enjoyed by LGBT persons, including the availability of free sex-change surgery.

61. Denmark welcomed the release of Ales Bialiatski, but remained concerned at the situation regarding freedom of expression and assembly and remaining political prisoners.
62. Ecuador acknowledged the implementation of UPR recommendations on free education and the national action plan on gender equality.
63. Egypt welcomed steps in combating human trafficking, prevention of torture, and legal reforms, particularly amendments to the labour and criminal procedure codes.
64. El Salvador commended efforts to implement UPR recommendations and the priority given to implementation of the MDGs.
65. Estonia noted increased engagement in discussing human rights but regretted Belarus' denial of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus.
66. Ethiopia commended the wide coverage of social services such as access to medical services and elementary and secondary education.
67. Finland was concerned about reports of discrimination and profiling of members of the Roma community, but noted positive practices in ensuring their access to primary education.
68. France made recommendations.
69. Germany appreciated positive signals from Belarus on human rights, but was concerned that the overall human rights situation remained dire.
70. Ghana commended the inclusion of "torture" in the criminal code as well as other changes relating to ICCPR.
71. Greece was concerned about violations of the rights to freedom of assembly, restrictions on Internet freedom and other issues.
72. Guatemala welcomed accession to CRPD and adoption of the Law on International Labour Migration.
73. The Holy See welcomed the 2012 Trafficking in Persons Act and commended measures to support families with children.
74. Hungary noted endeavours to establish an NHRI and efforts to eliminate domestic violence and protect women's rights.
75. India commended the clearance of the backlog of reports to the treaty bodies and noted cooperation with the Special Procedures. It appreciated Belarus' achievements on the MDGs and encouraged it to strengthen its capacities in pursuit of gender parity.
76. Indonesia appreciated the comparative analysis of national legislation with the CRPD and noted the study conducted on establishing a NHRI.
77. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended measures on: children rights, healthcare; the elimination of domestic violence; persons with disabilities; and ethnic minorities.
78. Iraq noted adoption of legislation on education and migrants and submission of reports to treaty bodies, including the common core document.
79. Ireland urged wider use of the Belarussian language in all areas of life, including education and culture.
80. Italy welcomed the ratification of the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking Human Beings.
81. Japan appreciated steps taken to implement the National Action Plan for Gender Equality.



82. Kazakhstan welcomed Belarus' efforts in the areas of protection of child and women's rights, counter-trafficking, education, and the judiciary.
83. Kuwait commended the adoption of legislation promoting human rights which was aimed at achieving equality among its citizens.
84. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed Belarus accession to international conventions; progress on improving medical services, and measures on the MDGs, human trafficking and gender equality.
85. Latvia remained concerned about the human rights situation in Belarus, in particular with regard to freedom of assembly, association and expression.
86. Lithuania noted progress in certain areas of its recommendations from the first UPR.
87. Luxembourg was concerned about restrictions on human rights defenders and journalists and urged cooperation with Special Procedures.
88. Malaysia noted the efforts and progress made in the establishment of a national human rights institution, poverty alleviation, women rights and the promotion of children's rights.
89. Mexico commended progress concerning MDGs and education. It urged that Roma persons have access to education without discrimination.
90. Montenegro encouraged Belarus to fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur for Belarus and to abolish the death penalty.
91. Morocco noted Belarus' willingness to eradicate poverty, reduce unemployment and maternal and infant mortality and its measures to combat human trafficking.
92. Myanmar noted progress in the implementation of the UPR recommendations.
93. Namibia commended amendments to various legislations including the education code and the Presidential Decree on Improving the Judicial System.
94. Belarus stated that it was among the world leaders in access to healthcare and had fully integrated the WHO Health 2020 policy into national policies. Access was equal for all regardless of age, sex, place of residence, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or social status. It detailed developments since the first UPR in the field of combatting tuberculosis, sexual and reproductive health; its cooperation with UNICEF and UNFPA in the latter fields and provided information on other health issues.
95. The delegation highlighted the damage caused by the Chernobyl disaster and how it had been able to cope with its own resources. Belarus' experience had meant it was one of the top ten countries in the world in the treatment of childhood leukaemia.
96. Belarus emphasized the high level of employment in the country and low level of unemployment. The country had programmes to support persons who were less competitive in the labour market and had seen a consistent increase in the standard of living and quality of life. Pay, pensions and family allowances had increased in the last four years. The poverty index for Belarus had reduced by a factor of 8.7 in the last 14 years. Despite the aging population the pension age had been maintained at 55 and 60 years for women and men respectively.
97. Protection of children and the family was a priority for the Government and the delegation mentioned the allowances payable and recent increases in them. Women enjoyed equal access to education and training and in other spheres. The slight gender pay gap could be explained by greater employment of men in industry, construction and dangerous professions, which provided higher remuneration; there was parity when the men and women undertook the same work. Recent legislation and Government programmes had

ensure unhindered access for persons with disabilities to social infrastructure, an increased quality of life and integration into society.

98. Belarus stated that monopolisation of the mass media and censorship were forbidden and the Law on the Mass Media also guaranteed freedom of thought and convictions and their free expression. The delegation provided statistics on the registered media and noted that the population enjoyed free access to information as did journalists and regular Government press conferences assisted in this. The information space in Belarus was open and there were foreign media among the 7,000 registered media organizations and 193 registered foreign TV stations. 1,573 print media publications were registered including those in Russian, Belorussian and foreign languages. Amendments to the media law in January 2015 aimed at social protection as well as national security had broadened electronic access to information. No registration was necessary for Internet access, but the legislation addressed the threats and challenges arising from pornography, drug promotion and extremism on the Internet. A state Commission worked to identify extremist materials.

99. The Netherlands appreciated cooperation with the EU on human rights. It remained concerned about the state of democracy and human rights.

100. The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledged progress in the implementation of human rights in Belarus.

101. Nigeria commended Belarus for improvements to its legislation in the implementation of certain UPR recommendations.

102. Norway regretted that Belarus had made little effort since the last review to address its systematic denial of human rights.

103. Oman was pleased with the methodology in dealing with the second cycle. It noted Belarus efforts, particularly on the independence of the judiciary.

104. Pakistan commended the decision to ratify CRPD and adoption of legislation against trafficking and on improving the judicial system and Belarus' constructive engagement with OHCHR.

105. Paraguay asked about progress regarding the Parliamentary working group on the death penalty and the criminalization of torture and encouraged further cooperation with Special Procedures.

106. Peru expressed concern about the lack of a national human rights institution; lack of independence of the judiciary; and government control of the media.

107. The Philippines was pleased with the increased participation of women in political and social life and encouraged Belarus to continue efforts in combatting trafficking in persons.

108. Poland expressed concern at continued human rights violations which were of a systemic and systematic nature.

109. Portugal was concerned at systematic violations of human rights and noted that Belarus remained the sole country in Europe which applied the death penalty.

110. The Republic of Korea appreciated Belarus' adoption of legislation on equal education, preventing human trafficking, improving the judicial system and supporting families with children.

111. Romania commended the steps taken since the last review, while noting challenges hindering the full enjoyment of human rights.

112. The Russian Federation welcomed Belarus' consistent co-operation with the UPR and measures taken to strengthen human rights protection.

113. Rwanda commended the adoption of laws and regulations aimed at improving national legislation and noted the significant reduction in infant mortality.
114. Senegal welcomed the accession to human rights conventions and Belarus' legislative measures to guarantee quality education and better functioning of the judiciary.
115. Serbia commended Belarus' efforts in the UPR process and its engagement with non-government stakeholders.
116. Sierra Leone acknowledged progress since the first UPR and urged Belarus to consistently prosecute acts of violence against women.
117. Cuba stated that Belarus' progress on human rights was undeniable.
118. Slovakia invited Belarus to accede to CPRD and expressed concerns about the independence and impartiality of the justice system.
119. Slovenia noted Belarus' commitment to the international trend towards the gradual abolition of the death penalty. It remained concerned about continuing human rights violations.
120. Spain was concerned that Belarus continued to be the last country in Europe which applied the death penalty.
121. Sri Lanka recognized Belarus' efforts in safeguarding the socio-economic rights of its people, as reflected in the realization of the MDGs.
122. The State of Palestine acknowledged efforts in promoting and protecting human rights since the first review and welcomed various measures to ensure education of children.
123. Sudan noted with satisfaction the legislative and judicial reforms related to education, copyright protection, trafficking, and the achievement of five of the MDGs.
124. Uganda noted Belarus' accession to the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the amendments to the Marriage and Family Codes and the Labour Code.
125. Australia remained deeply concerned by continuing violations of human rights in Belarus, particularly in relation to political prisoners and the death penalty.
126. In conclusion, Belarus stated that it would continue to develop and perfect its system of human rights protection and promotion. The Government's interaction with international organizations, including the current meeting, would strengthen its achievements. The delegation thanked the delegations for their participation in the dialogue.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\*

127. **The recommendations listed below have been examined by Belarus and enjoy the support of Belarus:**

- 127.1. **Carry out public campaigns explaining the arguments for the abolition of the death penalty with the aim to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Estonia);**

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\*\*Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 127.2. Consider ratifying the international Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and the members of their Families (Algeria) (Ecuador) (Peru) (Rwanda);
- 127.3. Continue its review efforts with the view of ratifying the ICRMW in the future (Philippines);
- 127.4. Reconsider its conclusion not to accede to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families as contained in Recommendation 1 (Nigeria);
- 127.5. Consider ratifying CRPD and ICRMW (Egypt);
- 127.6. Continue taking measures with a view to ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a priority (Indonesia);
- 127.7. Speed-up the procedures to complete the process of the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);
- 127.8. Finalize the acceding process for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its earliest (Kazakhstan);
- 127.9. Conclude domestic processes relating to signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Zimbabwe);
- 127.10. Accede to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as soon as possible. In the interim continue to do what it can to counter discrimination against people with disabilities and to promote their inclusion in society (Singapore);
- 127.11. Continue efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional basis of the national system for the protection of human rights (Uzbekistan);
- 127.12. Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with international human rights norms (Morocco);
- 127.13. Observe all human rights principles, international conventions and raise awareness among the population regarding human rights values (Turkmenistan);
- 127.14. Pursue fulfilling its obligations under international human rights mechanisms in the future (Kazakhstan);
- 127.15. Study the possibility of creating a follow up system on international recommendations which includes UPR accepted recommendations (Paraguay);
- 127.16. Continue its efforts for the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution (Sudan);
- 127.17. Facilitate the necessary process for establishing a national human rights institution, which should ensure the enjoyment of basic human rights for all citizens (Republic of Korea);
- 127.18. Redouble efforts aimed at establishing an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile);
- 127.19. Take further steps aimed at strengthening its national institution in the area of protection and promotion of the rights of the child (Egypt);
- 127.20. Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as previously recommended (Malaysia);

- 127.21. Consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Zimbabwe);
- 127.22. Consider the appropriateness of establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Nicaragua);
- 127.23. Strengthen government cooperation with civil society organizations in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights (Uzbekistan);
- 127.24. Strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations (Russian Federation);
- 127.25. Enhance its interaction with human rights organizations, as well as continue working on mechanisms of consultation between the government and civil society, including enabling more effective involvement of civil society in preparation of legal acts (Serbia);
- 127.26. Strengthen further the links of cooperation and coordination with civil society as regards the promotion and protection of human rights (Morocco);
- 127.27. Continue constructive cooperation with the universal mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and also the practice of cooperation with civil society (Tajikistan);
- 127.28. Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);
- 127.29. Further engage with relevant international stakeholders, including UN human rights mechanisms (Viet Nam);
- 127.30. Continue its cooperation with the UN, other International Organizations and human rights mechanisms to overcome remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 127.31. Submit its overdue report to the HR Committee (Ghana);
- 127.32. Deploy necessary human, legal and financial measures in order to effectively implement the recommendations issued by the United Nations Treaty Bodies (Senegal);
- 127.33. Strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular by permitting visits by special procedures mandate holders (Hungary);
- 127.34. Cooperate fully and effectively with the UN treaty bodies and special procedures and ensure that reports are submitted without delay (Slovakia);
- 127.35. Continue strengthening the cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, through joint activities to improve national capacities in the field of human rights (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 127.36. Continue efforts to combat discrimination in judicial practices and law enforcement (Oman);
- 127.37. Develop national mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable groups in the population (Tajikistan);
- 127.38. Continue its efforts in promotion of wellbeing of people with the emphasis on the most vulnerable ones (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

- 127.39. Continue the efforts to support the most vulnerable groups of population, including those efforts that guarantee the social inclusion of persons with disabilities (Cuba);
- 127.40. Make further investment in the protection and promotion of women's and children's rights (Viet Nam);
- 127.41. Continue to implement its plan to combat discrimination against women (Bahrain);
- 127.42. Continue working so that women's rights are fully respected (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 127.43. Adequately resource the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Plan of Action on Gender Equality and promptly adopt the draft law on prevention of domestic violence (Lithuania);
- 127.44. Continue to implement national gender equality policy framework developed in 2012 (Pakistan);
- 127.45. Strengthen the capacity and enhance the resources of the National Commission on Gender Policy to ensure the full enjoyment of gender equality (Namibia);
- 127.46. Continue its efforts in ensuring gender equality and to diversify academic and vocational choices for women and men and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and careers (State of Palestine);
- 127.47. Further abolish any discriminatory practices against women in accessing higher education, diversify academic disciplines for men and women, and take additional measures to encourage men and women to choose non-traditional career choices (Thailand);
- 127.48. Continue its efforts to remedy the wage gap between men and women (Philippines);
- 127.49. Continue current efforts to protect and promote women workers' rights (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 127.50. Strengthen the measures aimed at reducing cases of racial discrimination, both direct and indirect and investigate speech inciting racial hatred and speech inciting racial violence (Argentina);
- 127.51. Strictly implement its international obligations on addressing the impunity of perpetrators of torture, notably article 4 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);
- 127.52. Combat torture committed in particular by law enforcement and in prisons and ensure that such acts not remain unpunished (France);
- 127.53. Develop a legislative package for the prevention of and combatting of gender-based violence and provide greater financial and human resources to the National Council on Gender Policy (Spain);
- 127.54. Actively combat domestic violence and violence against children (Tajikistan);
- 127.55. Continue its efforts aimed at combatting domestic violence (Algeria);

- 127.56. Continue developing systematic actions, including legislative ones, to combat domestic violence (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 127.57. Continue its efforts in improving protection of women's rights, including combating domestic violence (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 127.58. Continue the national efforts to combat domestic violence (Kuwait);
- 127.59. Intensify efforts in combating domestic violence and violence against women including through effective implementation of its Principles of Crime Prevention Act (Malaysia);
- 127.60. Further enhance efforts to address the issue of domestic violence and victim assistance (Myanmar);
- 127.61. Intensify efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence against women as recommended by CEDAW (Rwanda);
- 127.62. Continue efforts in the prevention of violence against children (Russian Federation);
- 127.63. Continue to provide protection for the victims of trafficking in persons and to strengthen its national laws and to foster cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of combating trafficking in persons (United Arab Emirates);
- 127.64. Take additional measures to combat trafficking in persons (Bahrain);
- 127.65. Take necessary steps for prevention of violence against children and promotion and protection of women's rights especially combating trafficking in women (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 127.66. Continue to ensure the effective implementation of its legislation and policies to prevent and combat human trafficking (Singapore);
- 127.67. Take further steps to ensure practical realization of the improved national legislation, in particular in the areas of child and women's rights protection, counter-trafficking, education and judiciary (Kazakhstan);
- 127.68. Continue working to fight against human trafficking and share its best practices in that regard (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 127.69. Continue to strive towards the consolidation of international efforts in the combatting trafficking in human beings, including through educational courses based on the Minsk Centre (Russian Federation);
- 127.70. Build upon the existing structures and strengthen the protection of victims of human trafficking, but also address the root causes of this phenomenon and involve preventative measures (Serbia);
- 127.71. Continue the efforts to promote in the international agenda the issue of the fight against trafficking in persons (Cuba);
- 127.72. Strengthen its work towards combating trafficking in persons with assistance from the relevant UN agencies and the international community, as deemed necessary (Sri Lanka);
- 127.73. Enhance job opportunities at home for the population susceptible to human trafficking, especially those from disadvantage background who seek employment overseas (Thailand);

- 127.74. Ensure that the judiciary is free from any interference from other branches of Government (Switzerland);
- 127.75. Continue promoting, by all appropriate means, the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Senegal);
- 127.76. Support the institution of the traditional family and the preservation of family values (Russian Federation);
- 127.77. Continue the efforts to promote and protect traditional family values (Kuwait);
- 127.78. Continue strengthening its efforts in ensuring the well-being of children, particularly those living in foster care, so that they could enjoy living in a healthy family environment (Malaysia);
- 127.79. Improve the overall situation of media freedom (Slovenia);
- 127.80. Take the steps necessary to ensure that its upcoming presidential elections are free, fair and in line with international standards, in full respect of Article 25 of the ICCPR, including by allowing opposition parties to freely participate (Canada);
- 127.81. Create an environment conducive for free, fair and peaceful elections and ensure personal safety and equal treatment of all candidates and voters throughout the electoral process in the upcoming Presidential elections and beyond (Czech Republic);
- 127.82. Take measures aimed at ensuring transparency, justice and non-repression in the presidential election process of 2015, including by inviting international observers (Mexico);
- 127.83. Continue promoting women's rights in order to encourage their participation in decision-making processes (Nicaragua);
- 127.84. Continue plans to increase employment in the country, especially for its vulnerable groups (Brunei Darussalam);
- 127.85. Continue to take effective measures ensuring the realization of the right to work for its citizens including through national programs to promote decent work and full and productive employment especially for women and young people (Egypt);
- 127.86. Follow up on the recommendation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding the elimination of all forms of forced labour (Luxembourg);
- 127.87. Continue the practice of implementing programmes aimed at further improving the welfare of the population (Turkmenistan);
- 127.88. Continue consolidating its excellent social protection system for the benefit of its population (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 127.89. Based on the level of the economic and social development, further improve social security of the vulnerable groups including the elderly, women, children and disabled (China);
- 127.90. Continue implementing the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights for the benefit of all its population (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));



- 127.91. Continue to eradicate poverty and improve in particular the standard of living of rural populations (China);
- 127.92. Continue its efforts to eliminate poverty, paying particular attention to the situation of children, single parents and the rural population (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 127.93. Take measures aimed at guaranteeing a targeted support for persons living under the poverty line, paying particular attention to the situation of children, single-parent families and the rural population (Luxembourg);
- 127.94. Take further steps to raise the living standards of the people in the rural areas (Myanmar);
- 127.95. Strengthen promotion of healthy lifestyles of adolescents and prevention of harmful habits (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 127.96. Continue the result-orientated policy in the field of the fight against infectious diseases, primarily tuberculosis and HIV/AIDs (Cuba);
- 127.97. Improve the health situation of all children irrespective of status (Bangladesh);
- 127.98. Continue the efforts to improve reproductive health, through the introduction of new and up-to-date technologies (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 127.99. Continue implementing access for all women to reproductive health services and improving the quality of care given (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));
- 127.100. Continue its national plans and programs to improve the quality of education (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 127.101. Continue its initiatives in ensuring the provision of quality education for all its people (Brunei Darussalam);
- 127.102. Continue to further improve the quality of school education for children (Pakistan);
- 127.103. Increase the availability of pre-school facilities in rural areas (Bangladesh);
- 127.104. Continue efforts in expanding educational facilities to rural areas and advance the educational and vocational training facilities for men and women equally (Sri Lanka);
- 127.105. Increase the availability of preschool facilities in rural areas and ensure that members of the Roma community are not discriminated against and that they have equal access to education (State of Palestine);
- 127.106. Take the necessary measures to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Bahrain);
- 127.107. Continue its measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 127.108. Take appropriate legislative measures towards the ratification of the CRPD and towards improvement of living conditions, employment opportunities and access of persons with disabilities (Japan);

- 127.109. Take appropriate legislative and regulatory measures to fight against discrimination and strengthen the protection and integration of persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 127.110. Raise public awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities (Sudan);
- 127.111. Move forward to make necessary arrangements for the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on persons with disabilities (Uganda);
- 127.112. Implement policies which guarantee better protection for asylum seekers and refugees (Sierra Leone);
- 127.113. Continue to be on the track to achieve Millennium Development Goals (Ethiopia).
128. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Belarus which considers that they are already implemented:
- 128.1. Step up its efforts to combat and prevent discrimination faced by persons belonging to Roma communities, including ensuring the right to education on a non-discriminatory basis for all Roma children (Finland);
- 128.2. Reform the judiciary so it can operate free from direct influence, oversight, pressure or interference of the executive branch of the Government (Czech Republic).
129. The following recommendations will be examined by Belarus which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in September 2015:
- 129.1. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);
- 129.2. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Congo);
- 129.3. Ratify the ICPPED and the ICRMW (Sierra Leone);
- 129.4. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as the main international instruments in the field of human rights, to which it is not yet a party (Argentina);
- 129.5. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and conduct an in-depth independent investigation into the disappearances of public figures that occurred in 1999 and 2000 with a view to bringing the authors of those crimes to justice (France);
- 129.6. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Paraguay);
- 129.7. Consider expediting the ratification of the core human rights treaties, including CRPD, OP-CAT and ICRMW (Republic of Korea);
- 129.8. Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Ghana);
- 129.9. Enact a law on comprehensive protection of the rights of the child and adolescence, which guarantees greater stability in the promotion and protection of these rights (El Salvador);

- 129.10. **Set up an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**
- 129.11. **Set up an independent National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**
- 129.12. **Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Guatemala);**
- 129.13. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**
- 129.14. **Establish an NHRI in full compliance with the UN Paris Principles (Portugal);**
- 129.15. **Establish an effective and independent national human rights institute in 2015 (Australia);**
- 129.16. **Put in place a national human rights institution which is in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**
- 129.17. **Promote the completion of the existing initiative to establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Peru);**
- 129.18. **Provide the legal framework for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and in consultation with civil society (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 129.19. **Positively consider the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**
- 129.20. **Do more in providing the enabling environment for the institution responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights and by particularly establishing a national human rights commission (Nigeria);**
- 129.21. **Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and allow visits by Special Procedures mandate-holders (Costa Rica);**
- 129.22. **Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly the Special Procedures mandate-holders (El Salvador);**
- 129.23. **Issue an invitation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights so that he carries out a technical mission in Belarus, pursuant to Resolution 17/24 (Peru);**
- 129.24. **Adopt specific and comprehensive legislation against direct and indirect discrimination, as well as on harassment based on sexual orientation (Uruguay);**
- 129.25. **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law which would prohibit discrimination on any ground and establish mechanisms to ensure the principles of equality and non-discrimination; and remedies at law in cases of discrimination (Slovakia);**
- 129.26. **Enact comprehensive legislation against discrimination to avoid any kind of discrimination on the grounds of religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, political conviction or physical or mental disability (Chile);**

- 129.27. Further efforts toward adoption of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, concerning, in particular, institutive actions to tackle the issue of violence against women (Serbia);
- 129.28. Ensure respect for the principal of non-discrimination on the basis of gender includes LGBTI persons and adopt specific anti-discrimination legislation for this group (Spain);
- 129.29. Do everything necessary to revitalize the discussions within the Parliamentary working group on the death penalty and ensure that the minimum standards are applied pending an eventual moratorium (Belgium);
- 129.30. Consider abolishing the death penalty (Ecuador);
- 129.31. Declare a moratorium on the death penalty with a view of its final abolition (Uruguay);
- 129.32. Abolish the capital punishment, and as an interim measure, introduce a moratorium to the death penalty (Sweden);
- 129.33. Consider abolishing death penalty (Rwanda);
- 129.34. Declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and, to that end, support the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty, particularly with a view to amending the criminal code and to adhering to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR (Brazil);
- 129.35. Introduce an immediate moratorium on the death penalty aimed at its permanent abolition and implement the CAT recommendations on arbitrary and secret executions (Costa Rica);
- 129.36. Establish as quickly as possible a moratorium on executions with a view to a definitive abolition of the death penalty, and ensure the respect for the fundamental rights of those persons convicted and their families (France);
- 129.37. Consider the introduction of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in the national criminal system (Guatemala);
- 129.38. Consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See);
- 129.39. Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty, including the imposition of an immediate moratorium on its use (Ireland);
- 129.40. Advance the work of the parliamentary working group on death penalty and introduce an immediate moratorium (Lithuania);
- 129.41. Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Montenegro);
- 129.42. Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Norway);
- 129.43. In accordance with relevant UN General Assembly resolution, establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards global abolition (Netherlands);
- 129.44. Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Portugal);

- 129.45. Place a moratorium on the death penalty with a view of eradicating it (Sierra Leone);
- 129.46. Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards its abolition (Spain);
- 129.47. Introduce a moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy);
- 129.48. Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Slovenia);
- 129.49. Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view of ratifying the ICCPR 2<sup>nd</sup> Optional Protocol (Australia);
- 129.50. Introduce amendments to the code on the penitentiaries which guarantee that the families of condemned persons have the opportunity to say goodbye and bury the corpses in accordance with international standards (Spain);
- 129.51. Reform the judiciary to ensure its independence and the respect of international norms such as the respect of the right of the defence and the right to a fair trial. Review regulations on the appointment, dismissal and disciplinary procedures against judges as well as the length of their mandates (France);
- 129.52. Strengthen further the impartiality and independence of the judiciary by implementing the recent decrees on judicial procedures and by promptly and thoroughly investigating any allegation or complaint of ill-treatment in national detention facilities (Holy See);
- 129.53. Take all the necessary legislative and other measures in order to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary in line with the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary (endorsed by General Assembly resolutions), including by establishing an independent body responsible for the appointment, promotion, suspension and removal of judges (Poland);
- 129.54. Ensure the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by devolving all the functions in terms of the appointment, suspension and removal of judges, from the executive bodies to the judges' self-government bodies (Slovakia);
- 129.55. Ensure that no restrictions are imposed on the right to freedom of religion and belief, and guarantee greater respect for the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association (Holy See);
- 129.56. Amend its legislation to guarantee that freedom of expression on the internet cannot be limited by the arbitrary decision of authorities (Sweden);
- 129.57. Bring its law on Mass Media in line with international standards on press freedom and ensure that civil society and human rights defenders can peacefully and without fear of arbitrary arrest exercise their right to freedom of expression, assembly and association, in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);
- 129.58. Amend the law on mass media to ensure it does not unduly restrict freedom of expression, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (Norway);

- 129.59. Bring the legislative framework in line with the recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media in order to ensure that it does not restrict freedom of expression and pluralism of media (Poland);
- 129.60. Better guarantee freedom of press and expression, as well as the right to plural information (Senegal);
- 129.61. Ensure that human rights defenders are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association (Slovenia);
- 129.62. Take measures to guarantee freedom of expression as well as to respect peaceful protests (Costa Rica);
- 129.63. Ensure conditions for the opposition and human rights activists to freely work and express their views without fear of unsubstantiated prosecution (Croatia);
- 129.64. Amend the law on public association and mass gathering as well as media legislation to comply with international standards, including by decriminalizing defamation (Estonia);
- 129.65. Remove all obstacles to freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and the press, ensuring that journalists and civil society can carry out their activities freely and safely; put an end to the harassment of journalists and remove the accreditation requirement for journalists (France);
- 129.66. Simplify the registration procedure for political parties and other public associations and foundations (Germany);
- 129.67. Promptly and effectively investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment against prisoners and acts of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);
- 129.68. Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and association, and reform the existing legislation on freedom of information in accordance with international standards (Italy);
- 129.69. Fully guarantee the freedom of expression and to refrain from arbitrary arrest of journalists (Romania);
- 129.70. Implement its commitment to guarantee freedom of association and expression (Australia);
- 129.71. Guarantee freedoms of assembly and association and repeal Article 193.1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes civil activity of non-registered organizations, and the Law on Mass Events (United States of America);
- 129.72. Facilitate the registration of NGOs and decriminalize the organization and participation in activities of unregistered associations by repealing article 193-1 of the Criminal Code (Czech Republic);
- 129.73. Urgently abolish article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes activities by non-registered organizations and generally end the pattern of obstruction, harassment and intimidation of civil society organizations promoting and defending human rights, including trade unions, environmental groups, LGBTI groups and human rights groups (Denmark);
- 129.74. Initiate legislation to repeal article 193.1 of the Criminal Code, which imposes criminal penalties for participation in unregistered organisations (Lithuania);

- 129.75. Promote and uphold the freedom of the media and the right to freedom of expression and ensure that legislation and practice are brought in line with Article 19 of ICCPR as well as conduct impartial investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation and bring perpetrators to justice (Austria);
- 129.76. Take measures aimed at preventing threats and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, as well as against opponents of the Government (Uruguay);
- 129.77. Cease the intimidation, harassment and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, NGO groups, and journalists and provide guarantees for the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, as well as to end its restrictions and surveillance of the Internet, namely by amending its legislation in order to remove extrajudicial procedures for blocking websites, in line with recommendations made by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, whose authorized visit by the Belarussian authorities in 2013 was a step in the right direction (Greece);
- 129.78. Comply with all the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on human rights Defenders, ensuring that those who engage in human rights work are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and movement without obstruction (Hungary);
- 129.79. Ensure the safety of human rights defenders and journalists, as well as their human rights, particularly freedom of expression and the press; and undertake swift and transparent investigation in response to the reports of intimidation, reprisal, threats and violence (Japan);
- 129.80. Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment in which civil society can operate free from hindrance and insecurity, and can participate fully in democratic processes (Ireland);
- 129.81. Protect the right to freedom of assembly and association of human rights defenders, in particular those campaigning against discrimination based on sexual orientation (Canada);
- 129.82. Revise the “Law on public associations” in order to guarantee the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of association in conformity with international rights and standards (Luxembourg);
- 129.83. Abolish criminal responsibility for organization and participation in the activity of non-registered organizations, as well as lift the ban on activity of non-registered organizations (Poland);
- 129.84. Adapt its own domestic legislation on associations in order to remove any hindrances to the full realization of the freedom of association by its citizens (Romania);
- 129.85. Abandon the practice of arbitrary detention of journalists and decriminalize defamation (Lithuania);
- 129.86. Decriminalize the activities of non-registered NGOs and put an end to all forms of administrative or judicial harassment towards independent civil society actors (Switzerland);
- 129.87. Significantly simplify the procedures for the registration of civil society associations, organizations and foundations and ensure that the legal and political framework is in line with international standards (Belgium);

- 129.88. Remove restrictions on civil society, including the prohibition on NGOs receiving foreign funds, restrictions on volunteer work outside business hours, and obstacles to official registration of NGOs, in line with the rights to freedom of association and of expression (Canada);
- 129.89. Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities, and take appropriate measures to bring perpetrators to justice (Botswana);
- 129.90. Ensure that peaceful demonstrators are not imprisoned, harassed or ill-treated by police for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been detained solely for exercising these rights (Denmark);
- 129.91. Take measures to align the legislation on massive events to international standards in order to protect freedom of association, including through the elimination of the requirement of a license request previous to the organization of assemblies and public demonstrations (Mexico);
- 129.92. Amend the Law on Mass Events in order to enable the right to peaceful assembly to be exercised more easily (Croatia);
- 129.93. Bring the mass event legislation into line with the international standards on freedom of assembly, including by abolishing the licensing principle of the conduct of events and by abolishing the requirement for the applicants to pay for maintenance of public order and for providing medical service as an indispensable condition for carrying out the event (Germany);
- 129.94. Amend its electoral laws to bring them in line with OSCE/ODIHR recommendations for electoral reform to demonstrate respect for democratic political processes, freedom of association, and freedom of expression ahead of the 2015 presidential election (United States of America);
- 129.95. Bring the electoral system in line with its OSCE commitments and principles for democratic elections, in close cooperation with ODIHR (Austria);
- 129.96. Take measures to improve working conditions in line with recommendations issued by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including through the abolition of any kind of forced labour, elimination of fines for labour inactivity, and the abandonment of the widespread use of short-term working contracts (Mexico).
130. The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Belarus and would thus be noted:
- 130.1. Consider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and introduce a de facto moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty with the view to total abolishment (Namibia);
- 130.2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);
- 130.3. Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Sweden);
- 130.4. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);
- 130.5. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Protocols to the European



**Convention on Human Rights with the aim to abolish the death penalty (Finland);**

130.6. **Establish without delay a moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Luxembourg);**

130.7. **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step to abolition; produce a national plan to accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR; and immediately change the process of carrying out executions by notifying the family of the date of execution and burial site (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

130.8. **Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a short term objective and to consider the full abolition of the death penalty and the accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Austria);**

130.9. **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, create a national preventive mechanism in line with the OP and acknowledge the competence of the Committee against Torture to consider allegations of breach of obligations under article 21 and 22 of the CAT (Germany);**

130.10. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

130.11. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (El Salvador);**

130.12. **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**

130.13. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR and opt into the inquiry and inter-state mechanisms (Greece);**

130.14. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CAT (Uruguay) (Denmark) (Ghana);**

130.15. **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Congo);**

130.16. **Ratify the OPCAT and bring detention conditions in places of deprivation of liberty in line with international standards (Greece);**

130.17. **Take effective legislative, administrative and other measures to prevent, investigate and punish acts of torture or ill-treatment and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (Portugal);**

130.18. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) (Ghana);**

130.19. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

130.20. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the ICC and its Agreement on Privileges and Immunities (Botswana);**

- 130.21. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it into national law (Italy);**
- 130.22. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it in the national legislation, including by incorporating provisions on prompt and full cooperation with the ICC (Hungary);**
- 130.23. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**
- 130.24. **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Montenegro);**
- 130.25. **Grant unfettered access to Belarus for international human rights monitors (Austria);**
- 130.26. **Increase cooperation with the UN treaty bodies, including issuing standing invitation, and permit the SR on Belarus to visit the country (Lithuania);**
- 130.27. **Cooperate with United Nations follow up mechanisms, notably by issuing a standing invitation to all the special procedures, and accepting all their visits, in particular that of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (France);**
- 130.28. **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures (Ghana);**
- 130.29. **Issue an open invitation to the United Nations Special Procedures (Guatemala);**
- 130.30. **Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council (Peru);**
- 130.31. **Put forward extensive efforts to strengthen cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, particularly by permitting standing invitation of the special procedures and recognizing the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Republic of Korea);**
- 130.32. **Take appropriate measures to consider and implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Latvia);**
- 130.33. **Co-operate with the UN mechanisms including with the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights and the situation in Belarus (Romania);**
- 130.34. **Cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on Belarus and heed his recommendations (Slovenia);**
- 130.35. **Invite the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus to visit the country to demonstrate the Government's commitment to respecting human rights (United States of America);**
- 130.36. **Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Belarus and open a standing invitation to special procedures or, if this is not agreeable, accept the special rapporteurs who have requested a visit (Belgium);**
- 130.37. **Take appropriate measures to grant unfettered access to the Special Rapporteur as well as respond positively to pending visit requests of other**

special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and eventually consider extending a standing invitation (Latvia);

130.38. Grant unfettered access to Belarus for the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and other special procedures mandate holders, comply with the recommendations of the Rapporteur's reports without delay and resume cooperation with all international organizations (Norway);

130.39. Release immediately all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Lithuania);

130.40. Proceed to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners (Luxembourg);

130.41. Immediately and unconditionally release all those who have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and assembly (Estonia);

130.42. Immediately release the remaining political prisoners (Slovenia);

130.43. End the detention of political activists and release all political prisoners without delay (Australia);

130.44. Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Poland);

130.45. Review the cases of detention of individuals found to be deprived of their liberty for reasons which might be associated with the peaceful exercise of human rights and freedoms (Brazil);

130.46. Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners – members of the opposition, human rights defenders and activists, ensure their full rehabilitation, and lift travel and other restrictions imposed on political prisoners who have been pardoned (Norway);

130.47. Immediately release its remaining political prisoners, investigate reports of mistreatment and take action against those allegedly responsible in accordance with domestic and international law (Canada);

130.48. Take concrete steps to eliminate arbitrary detention as a form of persecution of political and civic dissent and release and fully rehabilitate all those sentenced directly or indirectly for their political and civic activities (Czech Republic).

131. 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 Belarus was headed by Mr. Valentin Rybakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Mikhail Khvostov – Ambassador, Permanent Representative in Geneva;
  - Ms. Alena Bohdan – Head of Main Department of the Organization of Medical Assistance, Ministry of Health;
  - Ms. Inna Vasilevskaya – Counsellor, Permanent Mission in Geneva;
  - Ms. Irina Velichko – Deputy Head, Department of Global Policy and Humanitarian Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Aliaksandr Dranitsa – Adviser to the Prosecutor General;
  - Mr. Valery Kalinkovich – First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court;
  - Mr. Uladzislau Mandryk – Deputy Head, Department for the Execution of Judgments, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
  - Ms. Valentina Maslovskaya – Head, Legal Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
  - Ms. Viktoria Meleshko – Head, Legal and Personnel Management Department, Ministry of Information;
  - Mr. Raman Melnik – Head, Main Department of Law Enforcement, Public Safety Police and Crime Prevention, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
  - Ms. Anna Shpak – Head, Main Rule-Making Department in the Sphere of State Capacity-Building, Ministry of Justice.
-