



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
5 February 2016

Original: English

UNEDITED VERSION

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 18-29 January 2016

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

Solomon Islands

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

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction	x
I Summary of the proceedings of the review process	x
A. Presentation by the State under review	x
B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review	x
II. Conclusions and/or recommendations.....	x
Annex	
Composition of the delegation	x

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 29 January 2016. The review of Solomon Islands was held at the 12th meeting on 25 January 2016. The delegation of Solomon Islands was headed by Minister, Hon. Milner TOZAKA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade. At its 17th meeting held on 28 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Solomon Islands.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Solomon Islands: Mongolia, Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

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

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Liechtenstein, Mexico, Slovenia, Spain and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Solomon Islands through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

5. During the interactive dialogue, 47 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

A. Presentation by the State under review

6. Given the distances between Geneva and the South Pacific Islands, the delegation of Solomon Islands emphasized that its presence showed the State's commitment to the universal periodic review.

7. The delegation explained that the National Development Strategy of the Solomon Islands was the national framework for government priorities. It was indicated that the implementation of the recommendations from the universal periodic review was aligned to the key priority areas of the National Development Strategy, such as building better lives for all through taking care of the people, improving livelihoods, creating and maintaining an enabling environment and strengthening links for effective implementation. The Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals had also been addressed under the country's National Development Strategy.

8. The delegation reported that the integration of two important features of the National Development Strategy, namely the Development Partnership Framework and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, was currently under review. Those features were

reportedly vital to monitor progress on the recommendations of the universal periodic review and ensure the support of development partners in that process.

9. Solomon Islands had a population of almost 600,000 with 80 per cent located in the rural areas. The delegation highlighted that there were challenges to be faced as a Small Island Developing State, particularly in reaching the rural populace with service delivery, from the frequency of natural disasters as well as transportation and communication difficulties. Other challenges in implementing the first cycle recommendations included the short time span of successive governments of the Solomon Islands with shifting priorities and budgetary issues and a high turnover of staff. As a result, consistency and continuity in the area of the implementation human rights and other development issues were affected. Resource, capacity and financial constraints for stakeholders' consultations with the rural populace remained a key challenge to addressing human rights issues.

10. The delegation pointed to other equally important challenges, such as the lack of understanding and sensitivity to human rights issues, which resulted in delays in making progress in the implementation of recommendations.

11. The delegation proceeded to highlight significant achievements made since the last universal periodic review. Recognition was given to the achievements and contribution of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in restoring law and order and the delivery of basic economic and social services. The delegation reminded participants that the Solomon Islands experienced civil unrest between 1998-2003, which affected the rule of law, service delivery, development and economic activities to name a few areas affecting basic human rights. Normalcy of livelihoods, business ventures and investment had returned to the country following the deployment of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) in 2003.

12. The delegation explained that the current Government had taken office about 18 months ago and taken on extensive law reform. It had already achieved the enactment of the Family Protection Act 2014, the Political Parties Integrity Act, the Police Act and the Correctional Service Act. Additionally, the Government planned to present eight Bills to Parliament in its first sessional sitting of 2016, especially the Child and Family Welfare Bill; the Whistle Blower Bill and an Anti-Corruption Bill that might lead to the establishment of an independent commission against corruption.

13. The delegation provided information on actions taken to strengthen capacity for courts and on access to justice in the rural areas, including with the provision of housing for lawyers in four of the furthest Provinces from the capital, with new and refurbished court houses and with magistrates helping out in regular court sittings. A new juvenile and family court in Honiara currently refurbished was reportedly user-friendly for young persons and family members during court hearings. The delegation referred to the appointment in 2014 of a permanent chairperson to the Law Reform Commission that assured Government to progress law review references on to the next process of the drafting of legislation. The Government acknowledged support received from Australia and the Commonwealth Secretariat in legal drafting that contributed to the development of many legislative bills in the past.

14. The delegation reported that the latest 2014 draft federal Constitution might soon be submitted to Parliament and that it covered a broader range of human rights and proposed that a human rights commission be established.

15. On the issue of a national human rights institution, the delegation reported that the Government was currently exploring an expansion of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman so that human rights complaints or issues might be brought before it. Discussions were continuing on the human resources capacity of the existing institution to

deal with human rights complaints, whilst also looking at the provision for a human rights commission under the proposed federal Constitution.

16. The delegation referred to other mechanisms already in place to assist successive Governments with reporting under human rights treaties such as the Solomon Islands National Advisory Committee on CEDAW, the National Advisory and Action Committee on Children as well as the National UPR Working Committee having oversight for the universal periodic review cycles.

17. On the independence of the judiciary, the delegation stated that the Solomon Islands strived to maintain a vibrant justice system by upholding the rule of law and promoting and providing access to justice to those who sought it. The delegation referred to training and in-service support to the judiciary and the magistracy offered through the Law and Justice Sector programmes. Solomon Islands stated that it continued to maintain court tours to the provinces to consider higher court cases for the convenience of the rural populace. The Government acknowledged the assistance provided to the judiciary and magistracy by the Commonwealth and bilateral partners and welcomed further assistance in that regard.

18. The delegation referred to the strategic plan on Rural Wash, Sanitation and Hygiene (R-WASH 2015-2020) with its vision for all, in both rural and urban areas, to have easy access to sufficient quality and safe water and appropriate sanitation in a safe and hygiene environment by 2024. At present only 35% - 40% of the needed R-WASH infrastructure was available in the rural areas and the plan was to roll out further access to reach 100% R-WASH access by 2024. Solomon Islands expressed gratitude to both Japan and the European Union for their continuous assistance in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene.

19. The delegation stated that fast population growth and urban drift had placed pressure on resources such as land and housing for the working populace in urban Honiara. Temporary Occupancy Licenses had been reviewed to cater for the expanding urban population.

20. Regarding the health sector, the delegation indicated that the Government was in the process of completing its second Health Demographic Survey, which would form the basis for improving the delivery of health services. The delegation stated that the Solomon Islands was committed to improving inclusive access to health for all. Infant mortality had reportedly been reduced due to increased access to health facilities and with skilled attendance at 95 per cent of births. There were 187 nurse aid posts, 102 Rural heal clinics, 38 Area Health care centres and 7 Provincial Hospitals. There was increased immunization, although challenges remained to reduce child mortality. There was reportedly improvement in access to sexual and reproductive health services including pre and post-natal care with more than 80% of deliveries in health facilities with the services of skilled personnel. The delegation stated that, malaria, the leading cause of death, had been dramatically reduced as a result of scaled-up prevention and control interventions.

21. On education, the delegation referred to the Government's aims to achieve universal education for all for which an Education Bill had been developed. The Government had also developed an Inclusive Education Policy to address equal opportunities for children with disabilities to access education, to provide opportunities for pregnant students to return to the classroom after giving birth, to abolish corporal punishment and to emphasize more the fee-free policy for schools. There were currently four schools for children with special needs, catering for both primary and secondary levels, that received grant assistance from the Government and faith-based organizations.

22. The delegation stated that the Government through the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was working on a concept framework to enable the Government to monitor, report and follow-up on international treaty obligations, which

would help in fast tracking its commitments to meet its reporting obligations. A Common Core document was in draft form and needed updating before it could be submitted to the treaty bodies sometime in 2016.

23. With regards to cooperation with special procedures, the Government had made a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. To date there had been two special procedures visits to the Solomon Islands, from the Independent Expert on the effects of Foreign Debt and the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. The delegation stated that the Government wished to extend an invitation to the special procedure dealing with water and sanitation to visit the Solomon Islands.

24. The delegation stated that the Solomon Islands did not have stand-alone non-discrimination legislation. Rather, Governments had taken piece-meal steps to advocate for specific areas of rights: for women, children and persons with a disability. According to the delegation, the bill of rights provisions under the new proposed federal constitution, was comparably more progressive in accordance with human rights standards.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 47 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

26. Portugal welcomed the on-going efforts to ratify a number of international human rights treaties. However, Portugal noted that Solomon Islands had signed but still not ratified the Rome Statute, despite accepting to do so during the first cycle. Portugal noted that the Solomon Islands was particularly vulnerable to climate change and encouraged all efforts aimed at mitigating that threat.

27. Republic of Korea appreciated the progress achieved by the Solomon Islands, despite difficult challenges faced, particularly the ratification of a number of fundamental ILO conventions, the extension of a standing invitation to the mandate holders of all special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as well as the adoption of the Family Protection Act of 2014, which criminalized domestic violence in all of its forms and sought to protect victims.

28. Sierra Leone commended the adoption of the Family Protection Act, the establishment of a UPR National Working Committee and the implementation of policies criminalizing trafficking in persons. Noting that many challenges faced by a Small Island Development State impeded its capacity to implement the needed change, Sierra Leone encouraged Solomon Islands to continue working with regional and international partners to bring laws and customs into line with international norms. Sierra Leone encouraged the development of strategies and policies to promote gender equality and to address discrimination against women and to expedite the enactment of the Child and Family Welfare Bill.

29. Slovenia appreciated enactment of the Family Protection Act, criminalizing domestic violence and the adoption of the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls as well as the Child and Family Welfare Bill. Slovenia considered that its previous recommendation 80.8 had been implemented and its recommendation 80.14 to be mostly implemented. Slovenia remained concerned at the prevalence and social acceptance of sexual violence and the discriminatory customary practices such as the “bride price”. Slovenia hoped that the planned National Policy on Disability Inclusive Development would be put into action.

30. Spain acknowledged the work undertaken by the Solomon Islands to establish a national policy aimed at fulfilling the human rights to drinking water and sanitation. Spain

congratulated the Solomon Islands for having incorporated in its Family Protection Law the combatting of gender violence. Spain also welcomed the efforts made to implement the “Education for all” initiative.

31. Switzerland welcomed progress to combat violence against women, especially adoption of the Family Protection Act. Switzerland stressed the importance of dealing with the past, rehabilitating the victims, combatting impunity and re-establishing the rule of law to achieve reconciliation and durable peace. Switzerland expressed concern at human rights violations committed by some corporations active in the forest industry. Switzerland encouraged the Solomon Islands to continue ratifying international instruments to protect and respect human rights.

32. Trinidad and Tobago noted steps taken to increase awareness and implement training in relation to incidences of domestic violence as well as the criminalization of domestic violence through the Family Protection Act. It also noted measures to improve the participation of women in political and public life. It welcomed the creation of gender focal points within ministries and focal points on disability at the provincial level to assist with the mainstreaming of those issues. Despite external shocks particularly natural disasters faced by the Solomon Islands, Trinidad and Tobago applauded the continued engagement with special procedures and the ratification of key ILO Conventions and the development of policy and legislation to address such matters as immigration, education, justice and climate change.

33. The delegation reported that following the adoption of the Family Protection Act, the next stage was to ensure its operationalization and implementation through the work of the Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs and the Ministry of justice and Legal Affairs. The delegation highlighted that the Solomon Islands was a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and that one of the fifty members of Parliament was a woman and that the Government was working with the afore-mentioned Ministries to achieve the goals of the United Nations Convention and the objective of gender equality.

34. The delegation called attention to the information contained in the national report for the Government’s position on climate change.

35. The delegation stated that the Government was still assessing information being received from different Ministries on the priority to be given to the ratification of various international instruments. The delegation emphasized that the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had been completed. Members of Parliament had received a copy of the report. The delegation stated that the report and its recommendations were being considered by an appointed consultant within the office of the Prime Minister and planned proposals for follow-up action would be presented to the Government.

36. Responding to comments made by Slovenia, the delegation clarified that, while the Police Act prohibited the use of corporal punishment by the police, the draft federal Constitution permitted reasonable chastisement so long as it did not amount to torture or inhuman treatment. The delegation stated that it was important to raise awareness in communities and in the home that the use of corporal punishment was a violation of human rights.

37. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland commended the consultative and inclusive process to take forward accepted recommendations. It welcomed the recent Police, Immigration and Family Protection Acts and the criminalization of smuggling and human trafficking. It urged action to address the continuing and disturbingly high instances of violence against women. It was concerned that there had been no evident progress towards the decriminalisation of same sex relationships.

38. The United States of America commended the Solomon Islands for its commitment to democracy and free and fair national elections in 2014. It applauded recent initiatives to reduce domestic violence and support survivors, including through the creation of the SAFENET network and enactment of the Family Protection Act. However, it was concerned at the persistence of government corruption and lengthy pre-trial detentions, the high levels of gender-based violence, particularly the sexual abuse, and that local children and foreign women were often subjected to trafficking, including forced prostitution and domestic servitude. It regretted that women continued to face discrimination across all sectors of society and there was only one women member of Parliament

39. Uruguay welcomed adoption of the 2014 Act which criminalized domestic violence and protected its victims. Uruguay noted that such measures needed to be accompanied by education and awareness-raising campaigns. Uruguay encouraged Solomon Islands to ensure that all the population benefitted from this Act, particularly in ensuring access to justice. Uruguay encouraged Solomon Islands to interact with the different stakeholders at the national and international levels to move forward with the accession of international human rights instruments and the presentation of reports, some of which were overdue. Uruguay was concerned at the lack of legislation to protect persons with disabilities from any form of discrimination, despite the accepted recommendations from the first cycle, and encouraged the adoption of holistic legislation and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

40. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted progress made to guarantee access to basic services, in particular in the areas of health and education. It welcomed the preparation of the National Development Strategy aiming at mitigating poverty, as well as gender policies and the education action plan and, inter alia, measures to combat violence and discrimination against women.

41. Algeria congratulated Solomon Islands for the progress made since their first review. It noted in particular, progress in the areas of immigration and combatting human trafficking, the transparency in the management of public funding, gender equality and the protection of the family and children. It further welcomed the adoption of national policies, in the areas of development and the rights of persons with disabilities.

42. Argentina valued the efforts of the Solomon Islands to implement recommendations from the first review, in particular those aimed at guaranteeing access to education through the adoption of the National University Act. It noted challenges and limitations identified by the country in the national report, mentioning some traditional practices that could still affect the equal participation of members of the society, in particular of women.

43. Armenia, while welcoming measures taken to ratify international human rights treaties, encouraged the Solomon Islands to step up efforts regarding the core treaties that remained to be ratified. Armenia further welcomed the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls and steps to promote education for all. It noted that there were still challenges to be addressed, such as the inadequate education infrastructure, particularly as it affected girls.

44. On the issue of trafficking, the delegation responded that the Solomon Islands was committed to strengthening its border security by reviewing the Immigration Act so that it also covered transnational crimes.

45. The delegation explained that the Political Parties Integrity Act required political parties to have 10 per cent of women as candidates. Weaknesses in the Act were being reviewed by the Electoral Commission and relevant government institutions. The delegation stated that elections had been held successfully in 2014 under a new biometric system of voting, following assistance from the United Kingdom, the United Nations and Australia.

46. The delegation stated that the Child and Family Welfare Bill would be presented at the first sitting of Parliament in 2016 and that legislation against corruption was currently being drafted. The delegation explained that the anti-corruption legislation and the legislation to protect whistleblowers were expected to be presented to Parliament within its next two sittings.

47. The delegation was pleased to report that the overdue periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of the Child had received Cabinet approval and would soon be submitted to the Committee. The process for ratifying the Optional Protocols on children the sale of children and on armed conflict was gaining momentum.

48. Regarding the strengthening of the gender equality framework, a new economic empowerment strategy was launched to increase women's access to economic opportunities. The gender policy and the elimination of violence against women policy were currently under review in the Solomon Islands. committed to strengthening its border security by reviewing the Immigration Act so that it also cover transnational crimes.

49. Australia appreciated efforts since the previous universal periodic review, including reforms ensuring voter confidence and participation in the 2014 election. It welcomed outreach efforts of the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force which have increased reporting of sexual and gender-based violence to the police. Australia remained concerned that Solomon Islands was a source and destination country for people trafficking, while recognizing its long standing abolition of the death penalty.

50. Benin appreciated progress made by Solomon Islands in the implementation of various recommendations from the previous review, including the use of the biometric voter registration for the 2014 election, the constitutional reform process and the drafting of legislation for the protection of children. It encouraged Solomon Islands to pursue efforts to harmonise national legislation with international human rights instruments and in the sustainable management of natural resources.

51. Brazil appreciated the adoption of the Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy. Brazil encouraged the stepping up of efforts to further promote the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the rights to adequate housing, to safe drinking water and sanitation, including through international cooperation. Brazil welcomed adoption of the Family Protection Act but remained concerned about the high rate of violence, including sexual violence against women and girls. Brazil encouraged the promotion of women's human rights, particularly through human rights education and awareness-raising.

52. Canada acknowledged Solomon Islands' renewed commitment to passing the Child and Welfare Bill and encouraged consultations with all stakeholders for its prompt adoption and implementation. Canada recognized steps taken towards establishing an independent national human rights institution, including through a provision in the 2014 draft federal constitution and encouraged the establishment of such an institution.

53. Chile welcomed the delegation and valued the content of the national report which sets out progress made in the area of human rights.

54. Cuba highlighted the adoption of legislation to combat domestic violence as an important achievement for the protection of women and children. Cuba recognized improvements made in the norms and standards of the Correctional Services of the Solomon Islands and efforts made to address climate change. It recognized progress made in the area of the right to health, efforts to which Cuba had contributed to. Cuba urged the international community to continue supporting Solomon Islands.

55. Cyprus commended the measures taken by the Solomon Islands had taken to implement its international human rights obligations. In particular, Cyprus welcomed the

enactment of the Immigration Act of 2012 and Immigration Regulations of 2013, criminalizing people smuggling and the trafficking of human beings.

56. Solomon Islands stated that the draft federal Constitution contained provisions to protect many human rights. The delegation reiterated that the electoral law needed serious consideration as it was still weak in ensuring the participation of women.

57. The delegation agreed that new legislation was needed to address the issues of the management and exploitation of forests in the Solomon Islands. The Solomon Islands had 800 islands and 10 provinces with 90 per cent of land owned by customary landowners and the rest owned by Government through the Land Commissioner. The delegation explained that the present Government would like to see such percentages reversed with 90 per cent of the land registered and a modern land tenure system established, and thus, the Lands Title Act 1969 would need to be reviewed.

58. The delegation reported on the paucity of permanent housing in the villages of the Solomon Islands and that the Government had committed to budgeting for housing, especially in areas prone to natural disasters, and for the supply of water, particularly to provide water tanks to remote areas.

59. Denmark was pleased that Solomon Islands had accepted recommendations during the first universal periodic review to ratify the Convention against Torture. Denmark asked about the concrete steps being taken in that regard. Denmark referred to the Convention against Torture, which worked through government to government exchange and cooperation, and stood ready to assist the Solomon Islands if deemed helpful.

60. Djibouti welcomed progress made in terms of access to justice, health and education services and for gender equality. Djibouti highlighted efforts to create an independent national human rights institution and encouraged the pursuit of those efforts. Djibouti referred to the impact of climate change, in particular with regard to population that might be forced to migrate from their ancestral territories to other areas, which could result in tensions and conflicts with host communities. It encouraged the promotion of understanding among decision makers of the consequences of the exploitation of forest resources and expressed concern about the rights of indigenous peoples.

61. Egypt commended the efforts of Solomon Islands in implementing 112 out of 115 recommendations received from the first review. Egypt recognized measures adopted for the protection of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and minority groups. It was encouraged, inter alia, by the development of a National Action Plan against Human Trafficking and the establishment of the Community Based Rehabilitation unit to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

62. Estonia encouraged Solomon Islands to continue its efforts to become party to all core international human rights instruments, and to cooperate fully with the United Nations special procedures and treaty bodies. Estonia encouraged the taking of further steps for the full implementation of ratified treaties and their incorporation into domestic law. Estonia welcomed new legislation, including the Child and Family Welfare Bill and the Family Protection Act and encouraged the implementation of such policies as the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls. Estonia hoped that stakeholders' consultations will lead to a better reflection of international human rights principles in the Federal Constitution, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

63. Fiji understood the difficulties faced by archipelagic states in ensuring the implementation of legislation and policies across the country particularly when they affected long-held attitudes and behaviour regarded by some as culturally acceptable. Fiji noted the significant steps taken to review legislation which currently did not prohibit corporal punishment of children in school and the home. Fiji further commended the

passing of the Family Protection Act 2014 and for taking steps to implement its provisions in relation to sexual abuse and domestic violence. Fiji noted the barriers to its effective implementation from traditional attitudes in the police force and judiciary which sometimes encouraged reconciliation under pressure and without putting in place measures to protect against further violence.

64. France welcomed the efforts made by Solomon Islands since the last review in 2011, notably the measures taken to prevent and combat domestic violence, in particular the establishment of shelters for victims. It encouraged Solomon Islands to continue those efforts.

65. Germany noted the positive developments in the Solomon Islands in the fields of social cohesion, governance and human trafficking and encouraged it to take further steps to strengthen the national human rights situation. Germany welcomed the passing of the Family Protection Act 2014, which criminalized domestic violence.

66. Solomon Islands noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the lead Ministry on ratifications for 2016-2017. The delegation stated that consideration might be given to sharing the task of coordination for ratifications of human rights instruments with the Ombudsman's office: as the Ombudsman's office was open to receiving representations from civil society.

67. The delegation explained that a review of the policy on the rights of persons with disabilities had been prepared by the Ministry of Health and would be presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval.

68. Ghana noted that Solomon Islands had enacted legislation aimed at upholding human rights, including the Police Act and the Immigration Act. Ghana was concerned about on-going land disputes between tribes and encouraged Solomon Islands to consider publishing the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to implement recommendations addressing the root causes of land ownership.

69. Indonesia supported the efforts of the Solomon Islands in enacting specific legislation which criminalized all forms of violence against women, promoted greater participation and representation of women in public life and promoted gender equality in the school curricula. Indonesia noted the situation of migrant workers, welcomed the efforts towards establishing a national human rights institution and encouraged the involvement of civil society as a partner of the Government.

70. Iraq welcomed the continued efforts made by Solomon Islands in the fields of public health services, gender equality and education since the last UPR. It also welcomed the enactment of the Immigration Act, prohibiting human trafficking, and of the Family Protection Act, which criminalize domestic violence.

71. Israel commended Solomon Islands for the creation of a UPR National Working Committee and a National Risk Resilient Development Working Group and for the endorsement of a National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls. It also commended Solomon Islands for the recent adoption of such laws as the Immigration Act, the Immigration Regulations, the National University Act, the Police Act and the Family Protection Act.

72. Italy welcomed the progress achieved by Solomon Islands since the last UPR cycle and the priority assigned to poverty alleviation and climate change through the National Development Strategy 2011-2020 and the Climate Change Policy 2012-2017. It encouraged the authorities to continue prioritizing the issue of combating human trafficking and appreciated steps taken to also welcomed measures taken to combat human trafficking and took note of the steps taken to combat violence and discrimination against women.

73. Jamaica commended Solomon Islands for the creation of the UPR Working Committee and urged continued collaboration with the United Nations in improving the submission of human rights reports. Jamaica positively noted the strides made in combating domestic violence and of the importance of young mothers returning to school in helping to break the cycle of poverty, teenage pregnancy and domestic abuse. Jamaica commended Solomon Islands for its fortitude in the wake of an economy beset by recent natural disasters.

74. Maldives welcomed the adoption of a number of laws and the ratification of a number of ILO fundamental conventions. Maldives encouraged Solomon Islands to continue reaching out to international partners, including OHCHR, for financial, technical and other assistance towards the promotion and protection of human rights. Maldives commended efforts to highlight the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States and national action taken to combat the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

75. The delegation indicated that the Government was taking concrete steps towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and had established a national and provincial coordinating committee with field offices and coordinators on disability located in nearly all major provinces. The delegation reported that a national disability inclusive policy existed and that disability was a key priority issue under the National Health Strategy.

76. The delegation referred to challenges in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women due to capacity and budget constraints and a lack of understanding about the Conventions.

77. Regarding the advancement of women's rights, the delegation stated that there needed to be greater support from Government sectors, civil society and development partners to ensure the effective implementation of the new Family Protection Act.

78. The delegation stated that the Immigration Act had provisions relating to trafficking in persons. A National Action Plan and enforcement unit for human trafficking were in place as well as a trafficking in persons advisory committee in the Department of Immigration and Border Security. The delegation indicated that consideration was being given to drafting a standalone law against human trafficking.

79. The delegation referred to the collective position of the Small Island Developing States on the issue of climate change at the international conference held in Paris, France in December 2015 and to the implementation of the outcome of that meeting. The delegation referred to the challenges faced by persons living in coastal areas and for the Solomon Islands in providing safer settlements inland with a water supply and other services. Solomon Islands would welcome international assistance in that regard.

80. The delegation stated that the delays in implementation of the Family Protection Act were due to the need to train police and raise public awareness about that Act. 75. The delegation indicated that the Government was taking concrete steps towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and had established a national and provincial coordinating committee, field offices and coordinators on disability were located in nearly all provinces. The delegation reported that a national disability inclusive policy existed and that disability was a key priority issue under the National Health Strategy.

81. Mexico welcomed the setting up by Solomon Islands of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System and the legislative measures taken to criminalize domestic violence. It also welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls and the Solomon Islands National Council of Women Elections

Campaign Strategy 2014-2015. Mexico acknowledged efforts to guarantee universal education and the development of a national plan on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

82. Montenegro recognized the efforts undertaken by Solomon Islands to improve the protection of human rights, despite a backdrop of limited capacities and resource constraints. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of the Family Protection Act which criminalized domestic violence and efforts to establish an Anti-corruption Commission. Montenegro encouraged the Solomon Islands to seek and use technical assistance from OHCHR and relevant United Nations agencies in the country to strengthen its national capacities and fulfil its reporting obligations.

83. Morocco welcomed in particular the ratification of the ILO Conventions concerning child labour and discrimination and the cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms. Morocco noted particular laws and policies adopted by Solomon Islands in relation to the right to an adequate standard of living, the status of women and children, non-discrimination and gender equality, education, environment and climate change.

84. Myanmar positively noted the adoption of the National Development Strategy 2011-2020, which reflected Solomon Islands' commitment to reform in such sectors as poverty alleviation, health, educations and climate change. Myanmar also took note of the Climate Change Policy 2012-2017 to address climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management.

85. Namibia acknowledged the challenges faced by Solomon Islands in fulfilling the needs of its citizens as a consequence of its small economy, limited market opportunities and topography. Namibia commended the Immigration Act and encouraged Solomon Islands to continue its efforts to enhance the legislation to combat internal trafficking activities. Namibia took note of the National Development Strategy for the period 2011-2020 and its core objectives.

86. The Netherlands, while commending human rights progress made within the legislative and policy frameworks, was particularly concerned about discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Netherlands echoed the concerns of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women over the implementation of legislation on violence against women. It noted that the Rome Statue had not yet been ratified.

87. New Zealand recognized the commitment that Small Island Developing States demonstrated in engaging in the Human Rights Council and universal periodic review. It acknowledged the commitment to streamline human rights reporting and improve interagency coordination. New Zealand noted that Solomon Islands continued to have one of world's highest rates of violence against women and encouraged engagement with communities, villages, families, churches and all levels of Government to ensure that violence against women and children be considered culturally unacceptable.

88. Regarding the exploitation of migrant workers, the delegation indicated that current legislation, including the Labour Act, provided sufficient protection. The delegation reported that the Labour Act was under review and that consideration was being given to the review of other legislation in relation to their conformity with ILO principles.

89. The delegation highlighted that a feasibility study was being carried out on the establishment of a children's commission to consider rights of the child related complaints.

90. The delegation stated that the Education Bill, which would be presented to Parliament, provided for the abolition of the use of corporal punishment in schools.

91. The delegation reported on the Government's plans on report writing for all treaties not yet signed, such as the Convention against Torture, and to undertake a holistic approach to a stakeholders' consultation on that matter, during the tenure of the current Government.

92. The delegation indicated that discussions within Government were on-going regarding the ratification of the Rome Statute.

93. Nigeria noted with satisfaction the enactment of the Immigration Act and Immigration Regulations, aimed at tackling human trafficking. Nigeria also noted the establishment of the National University Act in providing quality education; the enactment of the Public Finance Management Act to build transparency in the management of public finance; and that the draft federal Constitution proposed the establishment of a national human rights institution.

94. Pakistan commended the Family Protection Act, the Land of Titles Act and the National Strategy for the Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls, National Education Action Plan and the National Policy on Disability Inclusive Development. It also appreciated the efforts made in alleviating poverty, supporting vulnerable members of society, in protecting from natural disasters and in improving governance to achieve sustainable development goals.

95. Panama welcomed the steps forward made by Solomon Islands in promoting the rights to education and health, in reducing youth unemployment, and in combating domestic violence and human trafficking. It also highlighted the adoption of the Immigration Act, the Family Protection Act, the National Development Strategy and other measures aimed at eradicating poverty and providing support to vulnerable groups. Panama expressed concern over practices that discriminated against women and were socially acceptable.

96. Paraguay welcomed the ratification of several fundamental ILO conventions and invited Solomon Islands to ratify the main international human rights conventions. Paraguay also took note of the use of the MDGs as indicators for the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2011-2020. Paraguay welcomed the establishment of a follow-up committee on universal periodic review recommendations. Paraguay requested additional information, including on measures taken to combat the practice of the bride price.

97. The Philippines acknowledged the progress made, including the ratification of ILO fundamental conventions and the development of a 10 year National Development Strategy. Philippines recognized improvements to strengthen the democratic system, enhance correctional facilities and combatting the negative impact of climate change. Philippines noted remaining challenges regarding gender inequality and violence against women and children and encouraged endeavours to increase the participation of women in rural areas.

98. In its closing remarks, the delegation referred not only to the significant achievements made so far but also to the recognition that much still remained to be achieved, which would take time, resources and commitment.

99. With respect to sexual orientation and gender identity, the delegation stated that the Government maintained the same position. The delegation thanked all the speakers that participated in the dialogue. It also acknowledged its development partners, national non-government organisations and civil society in working together with the Solomon Islands in the universal periodic review process and looked forward to continuing such work in the future.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

100. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Solomon Islands and enjoy the support of Solomon Islands:

100.1. Ratify and/or accede promptly to, as appropriate, the three optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Switzerland); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Panama);

100.2. Ensure that the rights of children are protected by codifying the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the national legislation and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Germany);

100.3. Progress domestic child protection legislation and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Australia);

100.4. Carry out training activities and exchange of experiences on human rights with other countries of the Pacific Islands (Cuba);

100.5. Seek the required technical assistance in order to meet its various human rights obligations (Sierra Leone);

100.6. Implement those measures that the Government of Solomon Islands committed to promoting, in line with paragraph 125 of your national report (Panama);

100.7. Continue to work closely with international human rights institutions (Pakistan);

100.8. Submit its overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);

100.9. Present, before the next UPR, the combined report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay);

100.10. Adopt a national plan of action against sexual exploitation of children and against child labour. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to internationally accepted standards and ensure that juvenile justice protection is accorded to all children up to the age of 18 years, as previously recommended (Slovenia);

100.11. Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of children's rights, in line with international obligations of the Solomon Islands, particularly by putting in place a juvenile justice system (France);

100.12. Continue efforts to guarantee access to girls, boys, women and persons with disabilities to health services, education services, drinking water and sanitation (Mexico);

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 100.13. Enhance the protection of children from abuse, including prostitution, child pornography, and forced marriages (United States of America);
- 100.14. Provide a Constitutional and legal protection for children against all forms of violence at home and at school (Fiji);
- 100.15. Legislative protection for children includes criminal sanctions for all forms of violence against children (Fiji);
- 100.16. Combat stereotypes regarding the role of women, in particular by sensitizing the population in rural areas (Argentina);
- 100.17. Promote a culture of equality through equal participation of all members of society, and particularly the participation of women in rural areas (Morocco);
- 100.18. Do not discriminate against women in different political economic and social areas (Iraq);
- 100.19. Continue to implement laws and regulations for protection and socio-economic growth of women and rights of children (Pakistan);
- 100.20. Increase gender equality (Cyprus);
- 100.21. Strengthen strategies that are aimed at increasing gender equality and economic empowerment of women (Nigeria);
- 100.22. Take steps towards the effective implementation of the National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development and the National Policy on Ending Violence against Women through coordination, advocacy, awareness-raising and resource allocation (Canada);
- 100.23. Develop a concrete action plan to encourage and support women's active involvement in economic and political life, including effective measures to increase women's involvement in the economy and formal political institutions by addressing existing legal, social, and cultural barriers (United States of America);
- 100.24. Take measures to ensure non-discrimination against women within all sectors of society particularly with regards to access to education and employment and to amend and align all existing laws in this regard (Namibia);
- 100.25. Use the advantage of its matrilineal society to improve women's access to power especially in relation to land issues; raise the social standing of women and girls; increase access to safe sanitary facilities and encourage the rearing of confident boys and men (Jamaica);
- 100.26. Take effective measures to increase women's participation in public and political life as well as the labour market, in particular considering temporary special measures such as statutory quotas or incentives (Republic of Korea);
- 100.27. Intensify efforts to facilitate the participation of women in political and public affairs (Argentina);
- 100.28. Continue its efforts to facilitate a greater participation and representation of women in public offices and in higher levels of decision-making positions (Israel);

- 100.29. **Take further steps to increase participation by women in parliament, and in government leadership positions, including through further consideration of temporary special measures (New Zealand);**
- 100.30. **Conduct awareness raising and sensitization programmes to empower women, advance women's rights, and ensure gender equality (Maldives);**
- 100.31. **Consider taking all necessary measures to eliminate violence and discrimination against women in all areas of public and private life (Mexico);**
- 100.32. **Strengthen, through adequate sanctions and awareness-raising campaigns, the fight against gender violence. In this regard, consider the adoption of measures, such as quotas, incentives and/or preferential treatment, that promote the incorporation of women into education and the economy, both in the public and private spheres (Chile);**
- 100.33. **Step up measures aimed at eliminating violence against women and establish clear monitoring objectives for the implementation of policies against violence against women (Slovenia);**
- 100.34. **Take stronger measures to combat domestic violence and protect its victims (Maldives);**
- 100.35. **Ensure the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act of 2014 (Italy);**
- 100.36. **Establish appropriate policies to account for and remedy any deficiencies in the application of the Family Protection Act of 2014, and adopt a strategy involving civil society in combating and elimination of domestic violence, sexual abuse and any other form violence against women (Uruguay);¹**
- 100.37. **Take measures to ensure that the police respond to and investigate complaints regarding violence against women and the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and collect data on the number of prosecutions and convictions, including at the provincial level (Netherlands);**
- 100.38. **Strengthen the role of the Family Violence Support Unit of the Police and to provide all police forces with adequate training on how to treat cases of violence against women and domestic violence and how to provide support to victims (Italy);**
- 100.39. **Give more budgetary allocation to the training of police officers and the judiciary to ensure that women have equal and substantive access to justice under the Family Protection Act (Fiji);**
- 100.40. **Strengthen the SAFENET Referral Network system for women who are victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse, and consider establishing, in all provinces, shelters accessible to all women, including those with disabilities (Republic of Korea);**
- 100.41. **Strengthen the SAFENET referral system for women who are victims of violence, establish shelters for women in all provinces of the Solomon**

¹ The recommendation as read: "Establish appropriate policies to account for and remedy any deficiencies in the application of the Act of 2014, and adopt a 'strategy involving civil society in combating and elimination of domestic violence, sexual abuse and any other form violence against women'".

Islands, and ensure that they are accessible without discrimination, including to women with disabilities (Canada);

100.42. Take measures to combat violence against women and children and to ensure effective complaint mechanisms for victims (Namibia);

100.43. Increase its efforts to address violence against women and children as an urgent priority. This includes fully implementing the Family Protection Act and providing necessary resourcing to ensure that vulnerable women and children have access to both safe dwellings and to mechanisms of justice (New Zealand);

100.44. Create and strengthen, where appropriate, legislative and other measures to address the sexual exploitation of women and girls (Trinidad and Tobago);

100.45. Establish an independent body to monitor and promote human rights including progress made on the Truth and Reconciliation Committee's recommendations with regard to abuses committed during the Tensions (Australia);

100.46. Increase the access of the rural population to the formal justice system (Trinidad and Tobago);

100.47. Pursue efforts to guarantee the effective functioning of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (France);

100.48. Continue making progress in eradicating poverty, through the application of their social policies aiming at increasing the living standards of its people, in particular of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

100.49. Allocate the same attention and resources to both the human rights to water and to sanitation (Spain);

100.50. Improve access to health services (Trinidad and Tobago);

100.51. Strengthen the education system to reduce gender disparity and improve the education standard throughout the country (Maldives);

100.52. Take the necessary steps to improve education infrastructure with the aim of ensuring girls' access to school (Armenia);

100.53. Permit and encourage female students to return to formal education after giving birth, in keeping with the recommendation made during the review of the Education Act (Jamaica);

100.54. Increase support for families to facilitate the pursuance by children of primary and secondary education (Trinidad and Tobago);

100.55. Further strengthen the necessary measures to address climate change, environmental degradation and disaster management (Myanmar).

101. The following recommendations will be examined by Solomon Islands which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016:

101.1. Continue efforts taken towards the ratification of international human rights instruments and harmonization of national legislation (Morocco);

101.2. Consider signing and ratifying those international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party to (Argentina);

- 101.3. **Ratify and implement all major international human rights treaties (Slovenia);**
- 101.4. **Ratify and accede to the international treaties to which it is not yet a party (Iraq);**
- 101.5. **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in line with recommendation accepted in the first UPR cycle (Brazil);**
- 101.6. **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols (Ghana);**
- 101.7. **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy, Republic of Korea, Philippines);**
- 101.8. **Continue and step up its efforts in the ratification or accession of ICCPR (Indonesia); Redouble its efforts for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile);**
- 101.9. **Complete its international commitments by ratifying on a priority basis the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);**
- 101.10. **Continue its efforts to complete the accession to the relevant instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mexico);**
- 101.11. **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal, Algeria, Montenegro);**
- 101.12. **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**
- 101.13. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal, Australia);**
- 101.14. **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Republic of Korea, Ghana, Philippines);**
- 101.15. **Continue and step up its efforts in the ratification or accession of the Convention against Torture (Indonesia);**
- 101.16. **Continue its efforts to complete the accession to the relevant instruments such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mexico);**
- 101.17. **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark); Redouble its efforts for the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**
- 101.18. **Ratify the Convention against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal, Montenegro);**
- 101.19. **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, that it has already signed (France); Ratify the core human rights instruments, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);**

- 101.20. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana, Philippines);
- 101.21. Continue its efforts to improve measures to promote and protect the rights of migrant workers in the country, including to consider accession of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their families (Indonesia);
- 101.22. Continue its efforts to complete the accession to the relevant instruments such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mexico); Redouble its efforts for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);
- 101.23. Ratify the core human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);
- 101.24. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Republic of Korea, Philippines) and its Optional Protocol (Ghana);
- 101.25. Continue its efforts to complete the accession to the relevant instruments such as the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol (Mexico);
- 101.26. Take further measures to ensure persons with disabilities enjoy their rights in particular by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Algeria);
- 101.27. Sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (France);
- 101.28. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Slovenia, Panama); Ratify more human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Israel);
- 101.29. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ghana);
- 101.30. Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);
- 101.31. Ratify the core human rights instruments, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone); Redouble its efforts for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);
- 101.32. Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 101.33. Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ghana); Take concrete steps towards acceding/ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus);
- 101.34. Ratify the Rome Statute and fully align its national legislation with its provisions (Portugal);

- 101.35. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Canada, New Zealand);**
- 101.36. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);**
- 101.37. **Sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (New Zealand);**
- 101.38. **Ratify the Palermo Protocol (Panama);**
- 101.39. **Ratify the ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 (Benin);**
- 101.40. **Accelerate the process of adopting a new federal Constitution (Philippines);**
- 101.41. **Include in the new Federal Constitution provisions on equality and non-discrimination between man and woman, in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Paraguay);**
- 101.42. **Repeal all legislation incompatible with the principle of equality and non-discrimination, including provisions of customary law, as recommended by CEDAW (Slovenia);**
- 101.43. **Ensure that those laws related to acquisition, transmission, conserving and loss of nationality are in line with the principle of non-discrimination (Paraguay);**
- 101.44. **Ensure that national laws are in line with international human rights standards (Philippines);**
- 101.45. **Continue to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens (Nigeria);**
- 101.46. **Take steps to establish an independent national human rights institution (New Zealand);**
- 101.47. **Hasten the process of establishing the National Human Rights Commission in line with the proposal of 2014 draft Constitution (Nigeria);**
- 101.48. **Take all the necessary measures to establish an Independent National Human Rights Institution with “A” status in accordance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);**
- 101.49. **Mandate the Office of the Ombudsman or another entity to receive and address complaints by women about discrimination (Canada);**
- 101.50. **Establish and set up a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Chile);**
- 101.51. **Increase the mandates of existing institutions such as the Ombudsman’s Office and the Leadership Code Commission, to address human rights issues (Jamaica);**
- 101.52. **Incorporate human rights and the needs for their implementation and funding in its National Development Strategy (Cuba);**
- 101.53. **Further enhance its measures in the promotion and protection of human rights through, among others, developing a comprehensive human rights national action plan (Indonesia);**
- 101.54. **Strengthen the national follow-up systems for monitoring international recommendations, taking necessary measures for coordinating such systems**

and provide them with the necessary financial resources in order to fulfil their objectives (Paraguay);

101.55. Consider developing a broad programme on human rights which includes training and capacity-building for the public sector (Egypt);

101.56. Step up policies to protect children in order to eliminate violence against girls and boys, as well as combating child labour (Mexico);

101.57. End all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home and in schools, by enforcing its prohibition, as previously recommended (Slovenia);

101.58. Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Estonia);

101.59. Abolish customary laws and practices that establish child marriage and also the payment of a bride price (Panama);

101.60. Combat early marriage and the practice of bride price in line with what was said by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women (Spain);

101.61. Reform the Penal Code with a provision encompassing the definition and criminalisation of all forms of sexual violence, including rape (Sierra Leone);

101.62. Allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources to the police services, both at local and national level so that they can address all complaints of violence against women (Switzerland);

101.63. Implement measures to punish traffickers and prevent child prostitution and forced marriage (Australia);

101.64. Enforce fully recently introduced legislation to protect women and girls from gender based violence, including prosecutions for individuals suspected of human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

101.65. Pass a law to criminalize all forms of human trafficking and ratify the 2000 United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol (United States of America);

101.66. Further strengthen its measures to combat all forms of trafficking in persons and protecting and rehabilitating its victims (Egypt);

101.67. Punish sex tourism and particularly prosecute the sexual exploitation of girls through pornography, sexual abuse and rape (Spain);

101.68. Disseminate publically the report of its Truth and Reconciliation Commission and implement the recommendations it proposed (Switzerland);

101.69. Introduce freedom of information legislation in compliance with international standards (Estonia);

101.70. Step up efforts to ensure that primary education should be compulsory as well as free of charge, and improve the capacity of all educational institutions, importantly through the increase of budget allocations towards education (Republic of Korea);

101.71. Make primary education compulsory, ensuring particularly the inclusion of girls and persons with disabilities in the educational system (Spain);

- 101.72. **Ratify the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Djibouti);**
- 101.73. **Continue with its efforts to develop a national policy for the benefit of persons with disabilities, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Germany);**
- 101.74. **Work on improving the physical access for persons with disabilities (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 101.75. **Implement measures to ensure the full enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities, especially regarding inclusive education and development (Israel);**
- 101.76. **Ensure that corporations, particularly those active in the forest industry, respect human and environmental rights, based on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Switzerland);**
- 101.77. **Create a permanent national protection group responsible for addressing displacements caused by climate change or natural disasters (Djibouti);**
- 101.78. **Approve the roadmap on the reduction of emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, on the role of conservation and sustainable forest management and on the reinforcement of forest carbon stocks (Benin).**
102. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Solomon Islands and would thus be noted:**
- 102.1. **Take measures to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by decriminalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Brazil);**
- 102.2. **Adopt measures to ensure full enjoyment of rights and equality to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Inter-sex (LGBTI) people, both in terms of legislation as well as on policies and practices (Israel);**
- 102.3. **Extend the scope of the Penal Code (Sexual Offences) (Amendment) Bill of 2015 to clarify existing and create new legislation to protect the human rights of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Inter-sex community (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 102.4. **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and repeal any laws which result in, or are likely to result in, the discrimination, prosecution and punishment of people solely for their sexual orientation or gender identity (Netherlands);**
- 102.5. **Decriminalize sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**
- 102.6. **Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Chile).**
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 Solomon Islands was headed by Mr. Milner TOZAKA, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Joseph MA'AHANUA – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Mrs. Ethel SIGIMANU – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youths, Children and Family Affairs;
 - Mr. Karl KUPER - Under-Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs;
 - Mrs. Elsie TALOAFIRI – Coordinator, Community Based Rehabilitation (Disabilities Division), Ministry of Health and Medical Services;
 - Mrs. Mirriam LIDIMANI – Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Ms. Jolina TAUSINGA – Senior Desk Officer, UN & Americas Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
 - Mr. Barrett SALATO - Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands in Geneva.
-