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

#### **Finland**

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

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Introduction .....	3
I Summary of the proceedings of the review process .....	3
A. Presentation by the State under review .....	3
B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review .....	5
II. Conclusions and/or recommendations.....	12
Annex	
Composition of the delegation .....	23

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of Finland was held at the 6th meeting on 3 May 2017. The delegation of Finland was headed by Ms. Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland. At its 10th meeting held on 5 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Finland.
2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Finland: Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.
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 Finland:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/FIN/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.6/27/FIN/2 and Corr.1);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/FIN/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Finland 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. In her opening statement, the Head of Delegation of Finland, Ms. Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health emphasized the importance of the UPR and the active role played by civil society in this process. She informed about the significant changes that the Government has recently made in the national monitoring and implementation of human rights, including the establishment of the independent Human Rights Centre and the Government Network of Contact Persons for Fundamental and Human Rights. The Centre, its Human Rights Delegation and the Parliamentary Ombudsman together form the National Human Rights Institution, which was granted A-status in 2015. The UPR report was drafted simultaneously with the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. She also referred to the Government's Human Rights Report from 2014. She drew attention to the long standing priorities of Finland's human rights policy, namely the importance of free and active participation of civil society in all spheres of life, non-discrimination, openness and inclusion of all people and the particular attention on the rights of women and girls, indigenous peoples, minorities and persons with disabilities. Finland continues to systematically promote economic, social and cultural rights. These priorities form a strong basis for Finland when standing for membership in the 2021 HRC election. She reaffirmed Finland's strong support for freedom of speech and freedom of expression. She mentioned Finland's centenary celebration year 2017 and further elaborated on major structural reforms that are being planned for social welfare and health

care, and local and regional government. She reaffirmed the Government's commitment to promoting work-related migration and to granting international protection to those in need as well as, to zero tolerance of racist speech and other hate speech. Finland has created a new government anti-trafficking co-ordination structure. Finland will continue to actively promote and protect everyone's freedom of religion or belief and to support the work of human rights defenders. With respect to the 2030 Agenda, Finland is committed to human rights-based approach to development commitments and focuses on the rights of women and girls, as well as, e.g., the strengthening of developing countries' own economies and democratic societies. The UPR report contains two voluntary commitments regarding Finland's development budget and funding to the LDCs as well as submitting a voluntary interim report in 2019. On the second cycle, Finland accepted 71 of the 78 recommendations received and also four in part and, in 2014, Finland submitted a voluntary interim implementation report to the HRC.

6. The Minister continued by responding to advance written questions. On violence against women, she elaborated on the results of the first national action plan to prevent violence against women, the number and financing of shelters, and other services for victims of violence such as a 24/7 helpline, crime victim support services such as legal advice, witness support and online services, and a variety of social services, and on police reporting procedures. She also mentioned the 2016 guidelines to create a unified chain for victims of sexual violence and a pilot project for publicly funded crisis canterers. Other measures will be laid out in a four year plan on the implementation of the so called Istanbul Convention. Action to prevent violence against women is further strengthened by the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality. Further on the rights of the Sámi, their participation and the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169, the Government's goal is to strengthen the participation of the Sámi and other local actors in the use and management of renewable natural resources in the Sámi Homeland. The new Act on the State Forest Enterprise includes measures to ensure the rights of the Sámi to participate in land use management planning on state-owned land in the Sámi Homeland. The Government will decide later this year whether it will further the ratification of the ILO Convention No. 169. On the right to self-determination in the care of older persons and how the provisions of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights promote their rights, Finland is currently in the process of preparing extensive legislation on the strengthening of the right to self-determination of social welfare and health care clients and on reducing the use of measures restricting that right. On the definition of rape, the legislation as a whole shows that the provisions are applied in cases where the victim has not given consent. On the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life, Finland ratified the UN CRPD in 2016 and a related co-ordination mechanism was set up in 2017. The new Advisory Board for the rights of persons with disabilities consists of 18 members, of which eight are persons with disabilities. Further, a human rights committee of persons with disabilities was established as a permanent division under the Human Rights Delegation. She also gave details on the right to vote and stand for election of persons with disabilities. On the Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Government has decided not to ratify the Convention. On Finland's initiatives to restrict the outbreaks of racism and xenophobia, particularly on the Internet, the Government has recently decided to allocate more resources for internet police activities preventing hate speech and for the investigation of related offences. On intersex children, the study on their rights and experiences will be initiated in 2017 after which the Government will decide on relevant measures. On remand prisoners in police establishments, according to a recent Government Proposal the present maximum duration for keeping remand prisoners in police facilities would be shortened to seven days and the conditions for placement would be tightened. On the National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal and its possibilities to award compensation to victims, she noted that the Non-discrimination Act of 2015 provides for sanctions and remedies in a comprehensive

manner. On the Government's measures to prevent hate crimes and tackle bullying, the Non-discrimination Act places a legal obligation upon authorities, schools and employers to promote equality and to take active steps to prevent discrimination and harassment. On migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, particularly unaccompanied minors and their integration, the Minister elaborated on legislative changes taken to ensure the management of the increased number of asylum seekers and on the measures set out in the Government's Integration Programme for 2016-2019 to support the immigrant's ability to gain a secure income which is a requirement for granting a residence permit to other family members. Such a requirement may limit the possibilities for family reunification and thus the integration of an unaccompanied minor. However, an exception may be made to this e.g. if the interest of the child demand it.

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

7. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

8. Lebanon noted the presentation of the National Report. It expressed appreciation for efforts made by the government to fight discrimination, racism, and xenophobia by the adoption of legislation and policies.

9. Libya expressed appreciation with the fact that Finland's report monitored progress achieved since the last cycle. It was concerned about cases of violence against women and children mentioned in the report.

10. Lithuania congratulated Finland for its efforts across a wide range of human rights issues. It commended the adoption of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017-2019 and supported efforts to combat violence against women.

11. The Maldives commended Finland on the creation of a Non-Discrimination Ombudsman and National Non-Discrimination and Equality Tribunal as a measure to ensure the rights of its citizens are not infringed.

12. Mexico welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017-2019, in particular the inclusion of projects on human rights education. It thanked Finland for sharing lessons learned on the prevention of domestic violence against women and children.

13. Mongolia congratulated Finland for implementing most of the recommendations on ratifying human rights treaties. It appreciated efforts made to further protect the rights of children and persons with disabilities. It noted, however, that violence against women remained the main human rights issue.

14. Montenegro asked what policies had been developed to address all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence. It also asked Finland to provide information on results achieved in implementing the Action Plan to prevent hate speech and racism, as well as to foster social inclusion.

15. Mozambique commended Finland for the implementation of recommendations from the previous cycle, which informed the preparation of its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights for 2017-2019. It appreciated Finland's ratification of nearly all of the main United Nations and Council of Europe human rights treaties.

16. Namibia noted that Finland was an example on issues such as access to information and free press, and that it was ranked by Reporters Without Borders as one of the world's top achievers. It applauded initiatives and achievements in strengthening equality between men and women.

17. The Netherlands commended Finland for ratifying the Istanbul Convention and establishing a Committee that will prepare a plan for its implementation. It appreciated steps taken to legalize same-sex marriage as of March 2017.
18. Norway congratulated Finland for its commitment to complying with international obligations and promoting human rights and transparency. With regards to the rights of indigenous people, it commended Finland for the Government commission study, published in 2017, in support of the discussion on Sami rights.
19. Pakistan expressed appreciation for Finland's efforts to implement the recommendations received during the previous UPR. It considered the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights to be an important milestone. It commended Finland's aim to increase the development budget in the long term to 0.7% of the gross national income.
20. Peru expressed appreciation for progress made, in particular with regards to the rights of the Sami people and Finland's strong commitment to international cooperation in the area of support for development.
21. The Philippines welcomed ratification by Finland of several human rights conventions, including ILO Convention 189 and appreciated efforts to align the country's domestic legal framework with its human rights obligations. It regretted that Finland would not ratify ICRMW. It commended efforts to combat hate speech, extremist movements and violent extremism.
22. Portugal commended Finland's efforts to improve the rights of women such as the adoption of the Government Action Plan Gender for Equality.
23. Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of the Second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2017-2019, which includes recommendations made by human rights mechanisms and the results of the evaluation of the previous action plan. It noted concerns by certain human rights mechanisms regarding violence against women.
24. Romania expressed appreciation for the participation of Finland in the UPR and commended measures adopted to comply with accepted recommendations in the current cycle.
25. The Russian Federation was concerned about the high indicators of human trafficking in Finland and the joint detention of juvenile and adult offenders in correctional facilities.
26. Rwanda welcomed Finland's continued efforts to promote and protect human rights including through the implementation of its second National Action Plan on Human Rights and its efforts to combat discrimination, hate speech and related intolerance.
27. Serbia welcomed the latest institutional development with regard to the promotion of equality and fighting discrimination and encouraged Finland to ensure accountability for all expressions of racism, xenophobia, hate speech and for extremist rhetoric in the public sphere.
28. Sierra Leone commended Finland on establishing its second National Action Plan and on the enactment into national law of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and noted the implementation in 2016 of the National Action Plan against human trafficking.
29. Slovenia welcomed the drafting of a new National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, the ratifications by Finland as well as the services available to older persons in Finland.

30. South Africa noted with appreciation the efforts made by Finland towards the implementation of recommendations accepted during its previous reviews, in particular efforts aimed at combating racism and xenophobia and remained concerned of the continuing gender-based wage gap in Finland.
31. Spain congratulated Finland on the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and was concerned that although Finland ratified the Istanbul Convention, gender violence remains a problem in the country.
32. Sri Lanka commended Finland for the high percentage of women's participation in the State legislature and recognized the efforts to strengthen gender equality including through the adoption of Action Plans for Gender Equality and an Act on Equality between women and men.
33. The State of Palestine welcomed the steps taken by Finland towards implementing the previous recommendations and its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, as well as the efforts made in combating discrimination, including the National Action Plan to combat discrimination and to promote equality.
34. Sweden was concerned that although Finland is ranked as one of the most gender equal countries in the world, domestic violence and sexual abuse against women remains widespread and that transgender persons and intersex children continue to face discrimination.
35. Timor-Leste welcomed the establishment of National Human Rights Institutions, the government Action Plan for Gender Equality and the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Timor-Leste also wished to highlight Finland's new project to collect information about forced marriage.
36. Turkey welcomed the adoption of the Action Plan for Gender Equality, the adoption of the National Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and drafting of a national action plan against human trafficking. Turkey was concerned that discriminatory and xenophobic comments have become more common.
37. Ukraine commended the significant improvements to the national legislative framework provided by the adoption of laws and programmes for the protection of rights of children, vulnerable persons, persons with disabilities, prevention of human trafficking and combating violence against women.
38. The United Kingdom welcomed Finland's ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention and the adoption of the 2016-2017 National Plan of Action.
39. The United States of America congratulated Finland's efforts in combating discrimination and trafficking in persons and encouraged Finland to take steps to reduce the number of religiously motivated hate crimes and ensure equal access for persons with disabilities.
40. Uruguay praised the progress achieved in connection to the commitments taken by Finland to look at alternatives for the detention of asylum seekers and regular migrants.
41. Uzbekistan noted with satisfaction the legislative and administrative measures to promote and protect human rights adopted by Finland over the past few years.
42. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed concerns about challenges related to the rising and propagation of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia increasingly extreme, especially against Roma, Somalis and in the Internet. It also expressed concerns about the rise of hate speech regarding immigration and asylum seekers.

43. Albania welcomed progress made in the promotion of human rights, in particular the establishment of the Second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights with a focus on education, equality and non-discrimination. It also welcomed major structural reforms in social welfare and healthcare.

44. Algeria congratulated Finland of the adoption of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism aimed to combat hate speech and prevent hate crimes. It also congratulated the establishment of the Government's Plan of Action for people with disabilities.

45. Angola noted with appreciation progress accomplished in the legislation of social protection of people with disabilities. Nonetheless, Angola also noted with concern the high number of cases of violence against women and children, especially from minorities.

46. Argentina congratulated the adoption of the Second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights 2012-2015.

47. Armenia welcomed the establishment of the Non Discrimination Ombudsman. It encouraged Finland to take further steps to strengthen the human dignity of children and mutual respect between children and their parents in order to prevent violence against children.

48. Australia commended progress on the field of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. However, it is concerned that the Act of Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals still includes a requirement of infertility or sterilisation before gender reassignment can be legally recognized.

49. The Head of Delegation of Finland then took the floor and elaborated on the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights emphasizing that it focuses on fundamental and human rights education, equality and non-discrimination, the right of individuals and groups to self-determination, and fundamental rights and digitalisation. She further expanded on measures taken to prevent and combat violence against women and mentioned in particular that the purpose is to ensure the implementation of the so called Istanbul Convention and to provide specific social and health services for victims of violence.

50. A member of the delegation explained that the new non-discrimination law widened protection against discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and included protection against discrimination in all areas of life. Following the introduction of gender-neutral marriage – a bill which was put forward as a citizens' initiative in Finland, the Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals was amended. The abolition of the infertility requirement is not included in the current Government's legislative plan. Further, a preliminary understanding on a Nordic Sámi Convention has been reached and underlined the participation and self-determination of the Sámi. She further briefed on Government's measures to create communities free from racism and discrimination placing emphasis on open dialogue, e.g. through the Advisory Board for Ethnic Relations and mentioned the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech, published by certain IT Companies and the European Commission.

51. The delegation elaborated on the definition of rape stating that it is compatible with the Istanbul Convention and does not require violence or use of force. Finland has a comprehensive legal framework on hate crime and hate speech and these are regulated mainly in the Criminal Code. According to current law on prisons, juveniles under 18 years shall be detained separately from adults if this is not against their interest. Provisions on gender-based violence and violence against children have been under constant revision. Finland has inter alia criminalized sexual harassment, stalking and enhanced the protection of victims.

52. A member of the delegation noted that the first national Roma policy programme showed progress especially on education of the Roma and that preparations of a new programme will start in 2017. A survey on health and wellbeing of the Roma and their services is currently under way. There is an earmarked state appropriation for providing culturally sensitive social and health services in Sámi in the Sámi Homeland. With respect to the Government's key projects, 40 million Euros have been allocated to children and families, while 30 million Euros have been allocated for developing services for the elderly.

53. The measures to prohibit and reduce corporal and other violence against children were described. With regard to the best interest of intersex infants, an increasing attention has been paid to the information provided to parents on the child's development and the right to self-determination. Discussion on this topic is ongoing. On child protection measures, the Finnish Child Welfare Act stresses that the best interest of the child must be taken into consideration in all social welfare actions. Taking a child into custody is a last resort.

54. A member of the delegation elaborated on Police activities with respect to violence against women and support for the victims. With respect to countering hate crimes, racism and xenophobia the Government allocated 10 million Euros in 2016 to the Police. Further, a new National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism was prepared in 2016. With respect to activities against trafficking in human beings, he referred to the national Anti-trafficking Action Plan and emphasized the importance of the creation and further development of a National Referral Mechanism and anti-trafficking training.

55. The delegation of Finland elaborated on the Government action plan on asylum policy and legislative and other procedural changes in the field of asylum. All asylum applications are assessed individually and by taking into account all aspects of the case and relevant country of origin information. The law on detention of asylum seekers and other foreigners issues strict preconditions for the detention of minors: an unaccompanied child needs to be more than 15 years old and issued with an enforceable removal decision. Since 2017 the law provides for a new precautionary measure, namely the obligation of an alien to stay in a certain reception center, which further reduces the need to detain minors.

56. A member of the delegation maintained that human rights have been included since 2014 in the new primary school curriculum with the aim of teaching, respecting, protecting, promoting and implementing human rights at all levels. Furthermore, the recommendations of a study conducted in 2014 on democracy and human rights in teacher education have been implemented in 2015, in-service training started in 2016 and an evaluation will take place in 2017.

57. A working group was set up in 2017 to review the system of representatives for unaccompanied minors, while the Integration Act is being rewritten due to a regional reform. In this context, the Government will review the governance of the housing and the support for those unaccompanied minors that have a residence permit, while taking into account the best interest of the child and the possibility for the minor to stay in the same region before and after granting the residence permit. She also elaborated on the gender pay gap and measures to increase transparency on this. As to business and human rights, Finland has ratified the UN Guiding Principles in 2014 and focuses on studies, capacity building, dialogue and remedies.

58. A member of the delegation explained that the Government is drafting a proposal to Parliament to accept the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for Finland to recognise the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances in full. Finland monitors actively reservations made to international human rights treaties and objects to reservations deemed to be incompatible with the purpose and objective of the treaty. As regards the Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights, Finland has valid reservations, while the necessity of these reservations and the possibility of withdrawing them are reviewed periodically.

59. Azerbaijan applauded special legislative and institutional measures taken by the Government in response to the UPR recommendations on enhancing anti-discrimination action.

60. Bangladesh appreciated the central values and goals of equality and non-discrimination in Finnish society and the project "TRUST", intended for an inclusive society. It commended the legislative amendments, action plans and various projects with regard to combatting violence against women.

61. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed steps taken for the purpose of further enhancing a strong foundation for protection of human rights, in particular the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

62. Botswana welcomed the Action Plan on Gender Equality as well as amendments on sexual offence. However, it noted concerns on notable issues, including high incidents of domestic violence, challenges in combating trafficking and the persistence of discrimination of people with disabilities, immigrants and minority groups.

63. Brazil commended Finland and highlighted the Non-discrimination Act and the designation of the Parliamentary Ombudsman as the national preventive mechanism against torture. It noted that the Criminal Code continues to define rape according to the degree of violence of the perpetrator.

64. Bulgaria commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitutions and child pornography as well as the Council of Europe Convention on prevention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

65. Canada commended Finland for its continued commitment to improve respect for human rights and its efforts to strive for the principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunities and transparency.

66. Chile valued the Human Rights Strategy of the Foreign Service of Finland (2013). It noted concerns about the lack of progress for the ratification the ILO Convention n° 169. Chile further asked if this adhesion is being considered and how the Sami people participate.

67. China welcomed commitment to meet its targets for development assistance. It noted with concern that Roma and Sami minorities are still facing discrimination in education, employment and housing by racism, xenophobia and anti-immigrant settlements on the rise.

68. Colombia highlighted the high percentage of women present in the Parliament, the Government and between its representatives in the European Parliament and the revision of the Aliens Act, which affected unaccompanied minors and family reunification.

69. Côte d'Ivoire noted the legislative provisions entered in Finland regarding gender equality and disabled people's care. Côte d'Ivoire invited the government to strengthen efforts aimed to guarantee the universal nature of human rights in the country, particularly for minorities, migrants and asylum seekers.

70. Cuba highlighted actions deployed to comply with the recommendation related to human rights' treaties as the Convention on rights of persons with disabilities. It congratulated Finland for its commitment to exceed the budget for development, including the funding target of 0,2% of GNI to the least developed countries.

71. Egypt expressed concern regarding the spreading in Finland of hate speech, xenophobia, islamophobia and racist and aggressive acts, especially against migrants and asylum seekers. It also noted an increased number of hate crimes that may jeopardize social relations.
72. Estonia welcomed Finland's ratification of several UN human rights instruments and of the Istanbul Convention on violence against women, as well as its efforts in tackling discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes. It acknowledged Finland contribution to international development policy.
73. France welcomed the importance given by Finland to human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the elaboration of a National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights in line with the UPR.
74. Georgia noted with appreciation that Finland was a signatory to most international conventions. It welcomed the ratification of several human rights instruments since the last UPR and the adoption of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights.
75. Germany welcomed Finland's positive steps with respect to the recommendations made during the previous UPR as well as its commitment to the protection of human rights at both national and international level and the ratification of several conventions.
76. Greece congratulated Finland on its significant progress in the field of human rights since its second review and encouraged it to continue its efforts regarding addressing violence against women and assisting women victims of violence.
77. Guatemala took note of the significant progresses achieved by Finland. It was however concerned at the reports indicating that the new Finnish Forestry Act suppressed provisions on the protection of the rights of the Sami people.
78. Honduras welcomed Finland's actions to implement the recommendations from previous UPR. However, it was concerned that Finland was not yet part of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
79. Hungary commended Finland for the preparation of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights. It was concerned that persons belonging to certain ethnic and religious minorities and persons with disabilities continued to face discrimination.
80. Iceland congratulated Finland for the inclusive preparation process of the national report and welcomed the 2015 revision of the Act on Equality between Women and Men. It noted that Finland had a high percentage of women victims of violence.
81. India welcomed Finland's National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and appreciated its acknowledgement of growing socio-political polarization. India encouraged Finland to address the issue of discrimination against persons with disabilities, especially disabled women and girls.
82. Indonesia welcomed Finland's launch of the Second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and commended it for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the new Non-Discrimination Act.
83. The Islamic Republic of Iran regretted that Finland had not taken effective measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and children, in particular from ethnic and religious minorities, and noted with concern the legislative changes affecting refugees and migrants.

84. Iraq commended Finland's high representation of women in parliament and in the government as well as among its representatives in the European Parliament. Iraq also commended Finland for the establishment of a national human rights institution.

85. Ireland commended Finland for its progress on human rights since its last review and for its consistent backing of international human rights institutions, including through significant financial support. Ireland welcomed the amendment of sexual offences legislation since the last cycle.

86. Italy commended Finland for its second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, its commitment to zero tolerance of hate speech and hate crimes and the measures adopted to prevent and combat violence against women and children.

87. Kazakhstan commended Finland for its commitment to human rights and noted the recent ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, the adoption of the second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights, and Finland's efforts to enhance its antidiscrimination action.

88. In the concluding remarks, a member of the delegation of Finland elaborated on countering hate speech and hate crime noting that the Police have also established a new specialist unit to investigate hate crimes in the internet and in other networks.

89. Finland emphasized that the Act on Equality between Women and Men prohibits gender based discrimination, including based on pregnancy or family leave. The Government has appointed a working group in 2017 to address inequality issues. She elaborated on the Government's basic income experiment, health and social care reform, key projects and the Government's programme for young people not in employment, education or training.

90. A member of the delegation explained that Finland respects the principle of non refoulement and provides international protection to those in need. As to the asylum process, the case officers are trained to conduct interviews in a child sensitive manner and follow specific guidelines to this effect. The asylum authority has also designated a case officer who is specialized in the assessment of the best interest of the child.

91. The delegation elaborated on the stipulations concerning accessibility of public and private buildings and transport for persons with disabilities, namely the Land Use and Building Act, which states that a building and its surroundings must, in so far as its use requires, be suitable also for people whose capacity to move or function is limited, and the Government Decree concerning accessibility of buildings. One of the objectives of Finnish transport policy is to mainstream accessibility into different forms of transport.

92. The Head of Delegation concluded by expressing gratitude for the frank and open debate and explained that the Government's Network for Fundamental and Human Rights will review recommendations received, respond to them and follow-up to their implementation. The Finnish civil society will be invited to engage in the process, including in identifying prioritised recommendations and in the follow-up. As a conclusion, she reiterated Finland's strong support and commitment to the UPR process.

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

93. The following recommendations will be examined by Finland which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2017:

93.1. **Withdraw its reservation on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (South Africa, Portugal);**

93.2. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines, Egypt, Honduras);**

93.3. **Promptly ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples No. 169 of the ILO (Guatemala);**

93.4. **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mozambique, Chile);**

93.5. **Consider ways forward for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

93.6. **Continue to consider acceding to the Convention of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families and recognize the competence of its committee (Uruguay);**

93.7. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, recognising in full the competence of the associated Committee (Portugal);**

93.8. **Speed up the process of accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mozambique);**

93.9. **Continue with its efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

93.10. **Ratify the Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Montenegro, Italy);**

93.11. **Finalise efforts aimed at acceding to the ICPPED and thus the full recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Ukraine);**

93.12. **According to the compromise acquired after the UPR of 2012, ratify the International Convention on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances; ILO Convention n° 169 on the indigenous and tribal people; and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

93.13. **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity (Armenia);**

93.14. **Ratify International Labour Organization Convention No.169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Mexico);**

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

- 93.15. Engage the Sami people in the ratification process of ILO Convention No 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (Norway);
- 93.16. Consider ratifying International Labour Organization Convention No.169 (Peru);
- 93.17. Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Bodies elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 93.18. Continue its efforts in the implementation of accepted recommendations from the second cycle and consider sharing good practices in that regard (Ireland);
- 93.19. Continue its efforts to further improve its relevant legal and administrative frameworks and policies, in conformity with its international commitments (Hungary);
- 93.20. Consider defining rape as a sexual violation in the Penal Code irrespective of the degree of violence used or threatened by the perpetrator (Namibia);
- 93.21. Amend the Criminal Code to no longer define rape according to the degree of violence used by the perpetrator but rather on the lack of consent of the victim (Portugal);
- 93.22. Penal Code reform to define rape as a sexual violation, irrespective of the degree of violence used or threatened by the perpetrator (Australia);
- 93.23. Continue strengthening national laws on offences related to violence against women and girls (Botswana);
- 93.24. Amend the appropriate legislation in order to endure that the definition of rape covers all cases of non-consensual sexual acts (Brazil);
- 93.25. Provide its existing and new national institutions and bodies for the advancement of women and gender equality with adequate human technical and budgetary resources (Timor-Leste);
- 93.26. Establish a national institution for the advancement of women in accordance with the provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action (Honduras);
- 93.27. Further strengthen its national human rights institutions especially in the form of greater resource allocation (Pakistan);
- 93.28. Provide the National Human Rights Institution with sufficient resources to carry out its mandate effectively and independently, including the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights (Guatemala);
- 93.29. Ensure that the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman has the necessary information and resources to make decisions related to mandatory deportations, and can ensure that these are carried out respecting the rights of those concerned (Mexico);
- 93.30. Further assist the efforts carried out by the new Non-Discrimination Ombudsman in providing legal protection and remedies against all forms of discrimination (Indonesia);
- 93.31. Continue allocating adequate financial and human resources to effectively implement its national action plan on human rights (Philippines);

- 93.32. Mobilize adequate resources to complete its Second National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights (Canada);
- 93.33. Sustain and create new platforms for human rights education (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 93.34. Provide sufficient resources to continue with systematic human rights education and training of teachers at all levels of national education (Slovenia);
- 93.35. Strengthen and enhance existing laws countering different forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Lebanon);
- 93.36. Enhance efforts aimed at the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by adopting a long-term systematic response to these scourges (South Africa);
- 93.37. Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and promote equality (Azerbaijan);
- 93.38. Continue its efforts and improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination by ensuring the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination (State of Palestine);
- 93.39. Consider to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination by ensuring the same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination (Albania);
- 93.40. Step up efforts to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination (Bulgaria);
- 93.41. Make further efforts to ensure equal protection from discrimination (Hungary);
- 93.42. Adopt a long-term and comprehensive framework to tackle discrimination, racism and xenophobia, focusing both on prevention and on combating human rights violations (Brazil);
- 93.43. Improve access to effective legal remedies for victims of discrimination (Slovenia);
- 93.44. Ensure implementation of comprehensive legislative reform that guaranteed same level of protection for all grounds of discrimination, in particular discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Montenegro);
- 93.45. Continue its efforts in the field of combating and eliminating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, *inter alia*, by implementing comprehensive legislative reform that guarantees equal protection from discrimination on all grounds (Albania);
- 93.46. Eliminate, in the case of transsexuals, the requirement of sterilization, medical treatments and mental health diagnoses, in order to complete the process of legal recognition of gender identity (Mexico);
- 93.47. Amend the current Act on Legal Recognition of the Gender of Transsexuals by abolishing the need for sterilization or infertility as requirement for a person's legal recognition of their gender identity (Netherlands);
- 93.48. Eliminate sterilisation as a necessary criterion for the recognition of gender of transgender persons (Portugal);

- 93.49. Remove the current norm for mandatory sterility to officially register the gender reassignment (Spain);
- 93.50. Revise the Trans Act by abolishing the need for sterilization, other medical treatment, and a mental health diagnosis, as requirements for a person's legal recognition of their gender identity and ensure that medical procedures performed on intersex infants and children take into account the best interest of the child (Sweden);
- 93.51. Legislative reform to remove the requirement of infertility or sterilisation as a condition for the legal recognition of gender reassignment (Australia);
- 93.52. Remove the requirement of infertility or sterilisation before an individual may change their gender on legal documents (Canada);
- 93.53. Amend its laws to remove the requirement for sterilisation or infertility before recognition of the gender of transsexual persons and further, to consider moving to a process allowing persons to self-declare their gender identity (Ireland);
- 93.54. Strengthen prevention and awareness raising programmes to address xenophobia and violent extremism at the national and sub-regional levels (Philippines);
- 93.55. Take measures against xenophobia and Islamophobia. Improve the implementation of the existing legal framework for combating racism (Turkey);
- 93.56. Take further steps to eliminate discrimination, racism and xenophobia in the country (Uzbekistan);
- 93.57. Continue strengthening measures against racism, xenophobia and islamophobia, as well as the migrants' discrimination (Chile);
- 93.58. Further combat racial discrimination and xenophobia, and effectively reducing the number of cases of hate crime (China);
- 93.59. Take effective and rapid steps through the enactment of legislation to combat hate speech, Islamophobia, and aggressive racist acts, which are increasingly prevalent in society, and ensure to address their effects in the long term. (Egypt);
- 93.60. Consider improving the implementation of the legal framework for combating racism (Namibia);
- 93.61. Adopt appropriate legislative and policy measures to adjust its legal system and combat and eradicate all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Honduras);
- 93.62. Continue to introduce effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, hate speech and hate crime, both online and offline, and ensure that such crimes are effectively investigated (Estonia);
- 93.63. Enhance efforts to curb hate crimes against certain religious communities, ethnic groups and other minorities including indigenous people (India);
- 93.64. Strengthen measures to prevent hate speech and harassments towards minority groups and persons with disabilities, in line with the National

**Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Extremism (Indonesia);**

93.65. Ensure that the law enforcement, security and judicial authorities have the necessary knowledge and skills to address hate crimes against immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees by providing mandatory training and guidelines, and to amend laws specific to hate crime and hate speech (Islamic Republic of Iran);

93.66. Intensify efforts to prevent and combat the discrimination against persons with immigration backgrounds (Turkey);

93.67. Continue to reinforce the measures of fight against xenophobia, racism and intolerance regarding to migrants and asylum seekers (Angola);

93.68. Strengthen measures aimed to fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia in the country, especially on migrants and asylum seekers (Côte d'Ivoire);

93.69. Strengthen efforts to restrict the outbreaks of racism and xenophobia, especially the manifestations of racism on the Internet (Italy);

93.70. Strengthen fight against xenophobia in social networks and internet (Algeria);

93.71. Take more effective measures in order to fight even to eradicate crimes and hate messages against minorities, insisting on prevention and following-up these acts (Côte d'Ivoire);

93.72. Prevent hate speech on the internet and intensify the combat against hate crime through the implementation of the National Action Plan on Fundamental and Human Rights and other measures (Cuba);

93.73. Take an effective stand against hate speech and aggressive attitudes that are becoming increasingly mainstream (Islamic Republic of Iran);

93.74. Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serves to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);

93.75. Consider including in its next UPR report, information on measures it has taken to analyse potential risk factors of atrocity crimes including through utilisation of the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes (Rwanda);

93.76. Increase state funding for shelter services for victims of violence and especially minorities and vulnerable groups (Islamic Republic of Iran);

93.77. Develop a comprehensive and coordinated program to fight human trafficking, adopt effective measures to prevent and eradicate human trafficking and organize specialised training for law enforcement and immigration officials and other state officials who enter into contact with victims of human trafficking on issues relating to the identification of victims, the conduct of investigations, the criminal prosecutions and punishment of perpetrators (Russian Federation);

93.78. Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and take effective measures to prevent and eradicate human trafficking and adopt

procedures for the determination of the best interests of child victims of trafficking (Turkey);

93.79. Develop clear guidelines on how to identify and protect victims of trafficking in persons (United States of America);

93.80. Effectively monitor and evaluate the 2016-2017 National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and an update in a subsequent UPR report (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

93.81. Ensure the full implementation of the national action plan on human rights trafficking as a means to ensuring the promotion and protection of victims of trafficking (Botswana);

93.82. Continue strengthening measures of fight against domestic violence and human trafficking, including the increase of the number and geographic coverage of reception of the centres for families and victims (Chile);

93.83. Seek to adopt procedures for the determination of the best interests of child victims of trafficking and children of victims, including in view of strengthening the identification of victims of trafficking, especially women and children (Bulgaria);

93.84. Release prisoners detained as conscientious objectors to military service and ensure that civilian alternatives to military service are not punitive or discriminatory and remain under civilian control (Uruguay);

93.85. Continue efforts to guarantee the representation in political and public life of women belonging to disadvantaged groups like women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, Roma people and migrants (Colombia);

93.86. Provide protection for the family as a natural and basic unit of society (Egypt);

93.87. Continue with its structural reforms in the social welfare and health care with a focus on protecting the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups (Pakistan);

93.88. Redouble its efforts to implement the principle of equal pay for work or equal value, including through the further development of the Equal Pay Programme (South Africa);

93.89. Eliminate the persistent wage gap for labour between women and men by eliminating the significant segregation amongst the genders on the labour market (Russian Federation);

93.90. Continue to narrow wage disparities between men and women in line with the country's Equal Pay Programme for 2016-2019 (Sri Lanka);

93.91. Effectively provide for the application of laws prohibiting wage discrimination for equal work between men and women (Uzbekistan);

93.92. Adopt suitable legislation for the combat and the punishment of discrimination for pregnancy and family licence in the labour market, where reparation for victims will be established (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

93.93. Take further measures to address discrimination of non-native Finnish citizens in the area of employment, particularly in reducing the wage gap between immigrants and native Finns (Serbia);

- 93.94. Undertake efforts to strengthen the education system through the provision of mandatory training on human rights education (Maldives);
- 93.95. Continue the action aimed for the promotion of gender equality in all public and private activities (Angola);
- 93.96. Continue to enhance protection and rights of women and children (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 93.97. Lead campaigns of public awareness in the media to fight against drugs consume, abusive consume of alcohol and suicide, between young women and girls (Algeria);
- 93.98. Exert more efforts aiming at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, particularly in the labour market (Libya);
- 93.99. Continue the work accomplished to prevent gender-based discrimination, promote equality between women and men and thus improve women's condition, particularly in working life (Cuba);
- 93.100. Continue its good efforts to address violence against women (Lithuania);
- 93.101. Ensure proper implementation of policies directed towards combating violence against women, including the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding sexual violence (Republic of Moldova);
- 93.102. Establish a specific action plan to combat gender-based violence with a special system of prevention for this type of violence and also broaden the network of assistance for victims of sexual violence or gender-based violence (Spain);
- 93.103. Promote gender equality and further combat violence against women (China);
- 93.104. Undertake further measures aimed at eradicating violence against women (Georgia);
- 93.105. Ensure the implementation of measures aimed at combatting violence against women (Iceland);
- 93.106. Strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women. (Iraq);
- 93.107. Continue its efforts in eliminating discrimination and preventing violence against women and children as well as undertaking further measures, with a longer-term strategy, aimed at protecting women's rights (Iceland);
- 93.108. Prepare a national plan with allocated targets to combat violence and discrimination against women and provide access and financial aid to support services, and strengthen cooperation between different government agencies (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 93.109. Increase its funding to actors engaged in combatting violence and sexual abuse of women (Sweden);
- 93.110. Implement new measures to ensure victims of rape seek redress and modify the law to ensure the penalties for rape are more severe (Sierra Leone);
- 93.111. Carry out a review of criteria for prosecuting cases of rape and sexual assault, to ensure that lack of consent, not only the use of force, is given

adequate consideration when bringing cases for prosecution (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

93.112. Consolidate support services for women victims of violence (Republic of Moldova);

93.113. Provide adequate support services to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence (Turkey);

93.114. Continue its efforts to implement the Istanbul Convention by ensuring that it has a sufficient budget, increase the number of shelters for women and children victims of violence, strengthen penalties for rape, improve the training of professionals for a better reception of victims, better processing of their complaints (France);

93.115. Implement the “Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence” in order to provide improved protection and assistance to women and children that have become victims of violence (Germany);

93.116. Strengthen the measures to combat violence against women as well as support victims and survivors of such violence (India);

93.117. Further continue its efforts to combat domestic violence and intensify the implementation of the Government Action Plan for Gender Equality (Mongolia);

93.118. Allocate sufficient resources in order to ensure full implementation of the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Netherlands);

93.119. Provide further support assistance services to better protect victims of domestic violence (Sierra Leone);

93.120. Establish a national action plan to address domestic and family violence (Australia);

93.121. Establish a national coordination unit and provide adequate resources and other support for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Canada);

93.122. Take further measures to address violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, especially in the field of prevention (Estonia);

93.123. Take all the necessary measures to put an end to violence committed against women and children (Libya);

93.124. Reinforce the measures to protect the rights of child (Georgia);

93.125. Provide training on the rights of the child to public officials and civil servants (Timor-Leste);

93.126. Bring its legislation on the right of children during the asylum procedure in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (France);

93.127. Establish additional standards to guarantee the swift and appropriate appointment of guardians to unaccompanied minors (Portugal);

93.128. In cases when the Finnish authorities decide that the separation of children from their natural family is necessary for the best interests of the child, that this measure be adopted according to a decision taken by a judicial

authority, as requested by the provisions of the article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Romania);

93.129. Speed the necessary legislative reforms to facilitate the reunion of children with their families (Colombia);

93.130. Provide training in the area of the rights of the child for state officials and civil servants at all levels, in particular to prevent cases of the unjustified removal of children from their families (Russian Federation);

93.131. Ensure full implementation of laws prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings, including through campaigns to raise awareness among adults and children, as well as the promotion of positive and non-violent forms of discipline that do not affect the upbringing of children (Uruguay);

93.132. Review national laws to prohibit the detention of minors (Portugal);

93.133. Adopt measures to hold juvenile and adult offenders separately (Russian Federation);

93.134. Take measures to separate young detainees from adults in all places of detention (Algeria);

93.135. Accompany the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with sufficient funds and concrete indicators through a new National Policy on Disability (VAMPO) that continues VAMPO 2010-2015 (Spain);

93.136. Strengthen antidiscrimination legislation to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities to public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation (United States of America);

93.137. Continue efforts on the promotion of opportunities of productive and paid employment for people with disabilities (Colombia);

93.138. Continue consultations on the rights of people with disabilities with a view to implement non-discriminatory policies and legislations (Maldives);

93.139. Establish and promote culture-sensitive initiatives to provide services for minority groups such as Roma and Sami and for migrants and refugees (Maldives);

93.140. Consider to introduce incentives for better political participation of minorities and immigrants with a view to uphold their integration into society (Serbia);

93.141. Continue with the policies of inclusion of the Roma population (Peru);

93.142. Continue its efforts to prevent discrimination against Roma (Timor-Leste);

93.143. Protect the economic, social and cultural rights of the Sami people from the negative effects that may result from logging and other activities carried out by private agents (Guatemala);

93.144. Strengthen national efforts to protect migrants and refugees. (Iraq);

93.145. Strengthen social integration policies, especially for migrants (Lebanon);

- 93.146. Strengthen the policies related to receiving and integration of migrants and refugees (Peru);
- 93.147. Adopt legislation and policy measures to effectively promote and protect human rights for refugees migrants and rights of ethnic minorities (China);
- 93.148. Continue its effort to combat discrimination, particularly against migrant workers (Bangladesh);
- 93.149. Take urgent measures for the investigation and punishment of acts of hate and discrimination towards migrants, refugees and minorities, and to deepen its programmes of awareness to the population in general and to public officials (Argentina);
- 93.150. Ensure the effective protection of migrants, particularly women migrant workers, against discrimination (Philippines);
- 93.151. Provide the necessary protection to and preserve the dignity of asylum seekers, ensure their access to legal assistance, facilitate the family reunification procedures for migrants, and provide them with social security (Egypt);
- 93.152. Evaluate the impact of recent changes made to policies and legislation which seem to restrict the international protection regime for asylum seekers and refugees and ensure that all persons in need of international protection receive fair treatment and that refugees' rights to reunification is respected (Kazakhstan);
- 93.153. Thoroughly and comprehensively review its legislation regarding the granting of asylum and migration in order to align it with its international obligations and standards (Honduras).
94. 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 Finland was headed by Ms. Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Pirkko Mattila, Minister of Social Affairs and Health Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Ms. Terhi Hakala, Ambassador, Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Tiina Ullven-Putkonen, Special Adviser to the Minister Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Mr. Renne Klinge, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Nina Nordström, Director Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Krista Oinonen, Director Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Marjatta Hiekka, Legal Counsellor Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Janina Hasenson, Legal Counsellor Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Katja Koskela, Counsellor Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland;
- Ms. Johanna Suurpää, Director Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Ville Hinkkanen, Senior Adviser, Legislative Affairs Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Veli-Pekka Rautava, Chief Senior Specialist Ministry of the Interior;
- Ms. Kukka Krüger, Senior Specialist Ministry of the Interior;
- Ms. Teija Pellikainen, Senior Officer for Legal Affairs Ministry of Defence;
- Mr. Aki Tornberg, Councillor of Education Ministry of Education and Culture;
- Ms. Seija Jalkanen, Administrator, Legal Affairs Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment;
- Mr. Pasi Korhonen, Director of International Affairs Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Ms. Viveca Arrhenius, Ministerial Counsellor for Social Affairs Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Ms. Maija Iles, Senior Officer of Legal Affairs Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;
- Mr. Ville Koponen, Legal Adviser Ministry of the Environment;
- Ms. Linda Ekholm, Counsellor Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Katariina Tervakangas, Second Secretary Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Heini Leppänen, Adviser Permanent Mission of Finland, Geneva;
- Ms. Kaari Mattila, Member of the Human Rights Delegation The Finnish League for Human Rights;

- Mr. Markku Jokinen, Member of the Network specializing in Human Rights in the Finnish Foreign Policy Finnish Association of the Deaf;
  - Ms. Saija Kuronen, Sign language interpreter Finnish Association of the Deaf;
  - Ms. Susanna Silberstein, Sign language interpreter Finnish Association of the Deaf.
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