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

Turkmenistan

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in English.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Turkmenistan was held at the 1st meeting, on 7 May 2018. The delegation of Turkmenistan was headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Mr. Vepa Hajyyev. At its 10th meeting, held on 11 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Turkmenistan.
2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Turkmenistan: Burundi, Croatia and Pakistan.
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 Turkmenistan:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TKM/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.6/30/TKM/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/TKM/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, German, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Turkmenistan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation of Turkmenistan expressed confidence that a constructive dialogue in the working group would help to achieve further progress in the implementation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens of Turkmenistan.
6. During the reporting period, Turkmenistan had engaged in a dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture. Subsequently, the Government has started to follow up the concluding observations received from those Committees.
7. A series of efforts had been made to improve domestic legislation to bring it in line with international human rights standards. In 2016, Turkmenistan adopted a new Constitution with expanded section of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Constitution put strong emphasis on the universally accepted norms of international law. The Government has been focusing its efforts to ensure the implementation of the provisions of international treaties at the national level.
8. The Constitution introduced the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson). Subsequently, the parliament adopted the Ombudsperson Act in 2016, which established the mandate and functions of the Ombudsperson. The law was drafted in cooperation with relevant international experts, including from the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The law came into force in January 2017 and the Ombudsperson was elected in March 2017. In April 2018, the Ombudsperson submitted its first annual report.

9. The Government has adopted the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan for 2015–2020, National Action Plan on Human Rights in Turkmenistan for 2016–2020, and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for 2016–2018.

10. The delegation reported on the implementation of a number of recommendations from the review of the second cycle. Turkmenistan had taken measures to strengthen the cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms. The Government had carried out several initiatives within the Human Rights Council, including co-sponsoring the Council's resolutions on gender equality and mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and on the realisation of human rights through the sport. The Government has been planning a visit of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights in coming years. The authorities held meetings with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to exchange views on selected cases and discuss further mutual cooperation.

11. The authorities had cooperated with the relevant international organisations, including the International Labour Organisation on issues of forced labour. Some high level officials of the International Labour Organisation had visited Turkmenistan to provide advice and technical assistance on the issues of ratification of new conventions and on the implementation of those conventions that had been already ratified by Turkmenistan.

12. The delegation reported on some measures taken to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The authorities, in cooperation with the United Nations County Team in Turkmenistan had developed three-stage plan on how to incorporate those goals and relevant targets at the national level. As a result of those efforts, President adopted a national action plan on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan. Additionally, a high level national committee and interdepartmental committee on technical matters of the implementation of the goals have been established.

13. Since its second universal periodic review, Turkmenistan has acceded to a number of international treaties, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Convention (No. 185) revising the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1954 and 1999 Protocols thereto.

14. National experts have been examining the question of accession to other international treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Discrimination in Education.

15. Turkmenistan has adopted amendments to the Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons in 2016 and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for 2016-2018. The Government has developed standard operational procedures for the effective identification of trafficking victims and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the national action plan.

16. An Anti-corruption law has been adopted in 2014. Subsequently, a state program on combating corruption and an action plan for its implementation have been adopted in 2017. The Government has established a state agency on combating economic crimes.

17. Turkmenistan adopted the Information Protection Act in 2014, which regulated matters related to the exercise of the right to seek, receive, produce, use and disseminate information, and also the application of information technologies and the protection of information. The Act on the Legal Regulation of the Development of the Internet and the Provision of Internet Services in Turkmenistan was also adopted in 2014. The delegation provided detailed information to demonstrate an increase in the access to the Internet and the use of modern communication technologies by general population. It noted that no

restriction had been identified on the access to the Internet, including publishing information in local and foreign websites.

18. The delegation responded to a statement claiming a ban on several thousand individuals to exist the country by stating that such an assertion was not correct and that restrictions exercised on the exit from the country had been carried out in line with national legislation and in the interest of public security and safety of individuals.

19. The delegation explained that the authorities have continued the efforts to ensure the realisation of the right to freedom of religion by maintaining regular contacts with the representatives of religious organisations and organising meetings to bring together various religious organisations and churches.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 74 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. The Netherlands welcomed the adoption of a national action plan for gender equality and the national action plan for human rights. It remained concerned about the continued pressure on human rights defenders and the media.

22. Nigeria commended Turkmenistan for the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons Act 2016 and for its efforts to combat trafficking in person, ensure equality and non-discrimination, to promote religious tolerance among its population and to strengthen the legal framework to bring in compliance with international human rights standards.

23. Norway welcomed Turkmenistan's participation in the universal periodic review. It remained concerned about the human rights situation in the country.

24. Paraguay recognized the important work done by the Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance with the International Obligations Undertaken by Turkmenistan in the Field of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, serving as a right platform for the follow up of recommendations received from various human rights bodies.

25. The Philippines congratulated Turkmenistan for the adoption of its new Constitution in 2016, including new articles safeguarding civil rights and fundamental freedoms. It commended Turkmenistan for ratifying several human rights treaties and for its work in fighting trafficking in persons.

26. Poland welcomed the adoption of the 2016 Ombudsperson Act, which had established rights, duties and authority of the Ombudsman. It noted that the Ombudsman should act independently and be granted with an adequate budget.

27. Portugal welcomed the adoption of a new Constitution and the fact that included a new section on human rights and fundamental freedoms. It noted with appreciation the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combatting trafficking in persons.

28. Qatar welcomed the report of Turkmenistan regarding the implementation of the recommendations received in the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It welcomed the adoption of the National Plan on Gender Equality and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons.

29. The Republic of Korea noted the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the strengthened human rights protection in the new Constitution adopted in 2016. It also noted the active cooperation of Turkmenistan with the human rights treaty bodies.

30. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of national action plans on gender equality, on human rights and on combating trafficking in persons. It encouraged the Government to consolidate measures for the effective implementation of the above-mentioned policies. It noted concerns expressed about the underrepresentation of women in public and private sectors.

31. The Russian Federation noted with appreciation new provisions on the Office of the Ombudsman in the new Constitution and reforms in the health sector. It noted the adoption of the State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men Act and a programme for enhancing the employment sector and creating new jobs for the period up to 2020, as well as the action plan for its implementation.
32. Saudi Arabia noted efforts to improve further the cooperation with the United Nations, especially with UNICEF for the period 2016-2020.
33. Senegal praised Turkmenistan for the ratification of a number of international instruments and the adoption of a new Constitution in 2016 that focused on the multi-party political system and respect for human rights.
34. Serbia encouraged the Government to improve the cooperation human rights mechanism of the United Nations. It welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman institution and the adoption of numerous laws that complied with the relevant human rights treaties.
35. Slovakia noted with appreciation the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating trafficking in persons. It noted the adoption of a new Constitution in 2016, which included a section on human rights but also provided for limitations of those rights made by law.
36. Slovenia welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman office and encouraged Turkmenistan to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles. Slovenia expressed concern at the human rights situation in the country, particularly enforced disappearances and torture allegations, and restrictions to the enjoyment of freedom of movement and expression.
37. Spain welcomed with satisfaction the establishment of the office of the Ombudsman, the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons. Spain was concerned at the high number of allegations of torture and ill treatment against detainees.
38. Sweden stated that the enforced disappearance of prisoners has continued and remained systematic.
39. Switzerland deplored that the human rights situation in Turkmenistan has not improved since the last review. Several special procedures mandate holders visits have been on a waiting list for a long time. Switzerland remained particularly concerned at the incarceration rate and the conditions of detention.
40. Tajikistan noted continued progress made in the area of human and the establishment of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Turkmenistan.
41. Togo congratulated Turkmenistan for the progress made since the second review in reforming national human rights system, particularly the adoption of a new Constitution in 2016, which included new provisions on human rights. It encouraged Turkmenistan to continue those efforts with a view at improving the human rights situation in the country.
42. Ukraine noted the efforts undertaken by Turkmenistan to improve the institutional and legislative framework for human rights, including the ratification of several international treaties, the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combatting trafficking in persons, as well as the adoption of the law on the Office of Ombudsman.
43. The United Kingdom remained concerned by allegations of torture, incommunicado detentions and restrictions on access to justice and access to information. It was concerned by restrictions on freedoms of movement, expression, association and religion or belief and the use of forced labour to harvest cotton.
44. The United States of America appreciated efforts to protect conscientious objectors and improve prison conditions. It was concerned at reported use of excessive forces by security forces, undue restrictions placed on the exercise of freedom of expression, religion and movement; and harsh prison conditions. It urged Turkmenistan to allow all individuals to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

45. Uruguay welcomed the measures implemented by Turkmenistan since second review, particularly the adoption of the national plan of action on human rights, and measures for gender equality and empowerment of women.
46. Uzbekistan welcomed legal reforms and the adoption of laws aimed at strengthening national human rights protection system. It noted the fact that Turkmenistan accorded particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights and the protection of the rights of children and women.
47. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Turkmenistan for its social programs for all, for its commitment aimed to promote gender equality and for the incorporation of the establishment of a national human rights institution in the Constitution.
48. Yemen welcomed the report of Turkmenistan regarding the implementation of the recommendations received in the previous universal periodic review. Yemen commended Turkmenistan for its important efforts aimed at improving the human rights situation in the country.
49. Afghanistan noted the efforts of Turkmenistan in reforming its national system for the protection of human rights. Afghanistan commended Turkmenistan for submitting periodic reports to the human rights bodies, particularly to the Human Rights Committee.
50. Algeria commended Turkmenistan for ratifying several international treaties. Algeria noted with satisfaction the adoption of the new Constitution in 2016, which included guarantees for human rights in compliance with international human rights law.
51. Argentina congratulated Turkmenistan for the adoption of its new Constitution in 2016 and for the establishment of a national human rights institution. Argentina took note of Turkmenistan's effort aimed at improving the national legislation related to hate crimes.
52. Armenia welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons, and the National Action Plan on Gender Equality. It encouraged Turkmenistan to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights and ratify human rights instruments.
53. Australia appreciated Turkmenistan's steps aimed to establish a national human rights institution through the office of the Ombudsperson. Australia was concerned that civil and political rights were restricted in practice. It welcomed the introduction of a prison reform program.
54. Austria welcomed an increased number of projects with the OSCE and measures to improve the legal and institutional framework. It noted reports about recent incommunicado detentions. It asked Turkmenistan to give an update on its intentions to invite independent authorities, including international monitors to visit prisons.
55. Azerbaijan praised Turkmenistan for its commitment to the universal periodic review and active engagement with human rights treaty bodies. It noted with appreciation measures taken to promote gender equality in public administration.
56. Bangladesh commented Turkmenistan for adopting a new constitution in 2016, with a focus on safeguarding human rights in line with its international human rights obligations. It also noted adopted laws and policy measures to combat corruption and human trafficking and related to education, housing and health sectors.
57. Belarus welcomed the adoption of a number of policy documents to ensue holistic approach to the protection of human rights, including the National Action Plan on Human Rights and National Action Plan on Gender Equality. It noted efforts of Turkmenistan to combat human trafficking, including the implementation of the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons.
58. The delegation of Turkmenistan, referring to cooperation with Special Procedure mandate holders, noted the dialogue that was held with some mandate holders in 2017 and 2018. The Government has provided required information to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances related to pending cases. The Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights had responded positively to the Government's intention to visit Turkmenistan in 2018-2019.

59. In December 2017, the Deputy Foreign Minister had met with a regional representative of OHCHR to discuss on how to intensify further the cooperation with OHCHR in promoting human rights.

60. The delegation explained that the new Constitution provided equal rights and opportunities to women and men. A law, adopted in 2015 had established further measures to ensure gender equality. The 24 percent of all decision-making posts were held by women. Women had accounted for 25 percent of total members of parliament elected in 2018 and the Speaker of Parliament was also a woman.

61. The strategic tasks set out in the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2015-2020 were directly geared to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. One of the goals of the Plan was to change and eradicate stereotypes leading to discrimination against women through public awareness raising campaigns, trainings for and workshop-discussions among various professional groups. A nationwide media campaign had been run to raise awareness throughout society on gender equality and on the provisions of CEDAW and relevant legislation. Gender equality had been included in a training programme of civil servants targeting mid-level officials.

62. A national action plan on the rights of the child was being developed by the Interdepartmental Commission with expert input from the UNICEF. The Plan was developed based on recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Children and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Plan included measures to address child labour in line with the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation.

63. The new Constitution contained a provision on the prevention of forced labour and the worst forms of child labour. The Government has not received any complaints on forced labour. It continued its cooperation with experts of the International Labour Organisation. The amendments to the relevant legislation has been made to raise the minimum employment age from 16 to 18. Turkmenistan envisaged developing indicators for target 8.7 of Sustainable Development Goal to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

64. Access to drinking water has improved as a result of the efforts made under the general programme for the supply of clean drinking water to population centres for the period up to 2020, under the close monitoring of the Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry. According to 2016 data, the proportion of the population living in households using improved drinking water sources has become 83 per cent. Such access has been almost universal in urban areas, at 98 per cent, while the proportion in rural areas accounted 73 per cent. The proportion of the population that has access to improved sanitation has been consistently high at 99 per cent.

65. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection actively has been implementing the program to improve employment of persons with disabilities. The Ministry has elaborated a quota for employment of persons with disabilities as well as for families with children with disabilities. In 2016, the President has adopted a decree, containing a plan of action to ensure full realization of the right to work for persons with disabilities for 2017-2020. According to the Pension Fund, the employment of persons with disabilities has increased.

66. The delegation reported that non-governmental organisations had taken an active participation in the development and implementation of a number of national action plans, including on health, human rights and gender equality. A new law on non-governmental organizations was adopted in 2014. Under the new law, foreign citizens or non-citizens could be founding members. The 2017 law on charity activities permitted donors to carry out charity activity individually or through the establishment of charity foundations.

67. A new law on freedom of religion and religious organizations was adopted in 2016 to define the requirement for establishment and functioning of religious communities and organisations. The law defined instances when an organization can be closed by a court

decision. Eight new religious organizations have been registered since 2016. No complaints have been registered on the violation of the right to freedom of religion or belief.

68. Belgium welcomed the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights. It expressed concern about the persistence of gender violence and about conditions in detention facilities, particularly the use of torture. It emphasized that civil society plays an important role to ensuring human rights.

69. Brazil commended Turkmenistan for the adoption of the 2016 Constitution with strengthened provisions on human rights, the establishment of the position of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the adoption of national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combatting human trafficking. It encouraged Turkmenistan to align its law on citizenship with international standards on statelessness.

70. Bulgaria acknowledged the adoption of the new Constitution and national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking. It encouraged Turkmenistan to effectively implement new policies and to ensure independence of the newly established Commissioner for Human Rights.

71. Burundi welcomed measures taken by Turkmenistan to improve human rights situation in the country, including by establishing the Commissioner for Human Rights and adopting the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It also welcomed efforts to ensure full realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities, including in access to employment and to education.

72. Canada encouraged Turkmenistan to strengthen protections for civil society and women, and to combat enforced disappearances. It expressed concern about difficulties faced by civil society in operating effectively due to legal restrictions.

73. Chile noted the establishment of the office of Ombudsman, the adoption of a new Constitution in 2016 and the plan of action on gender equality. With reference to a recommendation it made in the previous cycle, Chile was concerned at the lack of progress in ensuring the right to freedom of expression.

74. China noted that Turkmenistan was committed to the achievement of sustainable development and the improvement of the living standards of its people. Turkmenistan also made progress in the field of the rule of law, protecting the rights of women and children and persons with disabilities, and in combatting trafficking in human beings.

75. Cuba noted the efforts of Turkmenistan in strengthening the democrat principles and legal framework, developing civil society and ensuring the realisation of economic and social rights.

76. Czechia appreciated the adoption of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2015-2020, the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2016-2020 and the Ombudsperson Act, It encouraged Turkmenistan to translate these plans into concrete improvements in practice.

77. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the accession to additional international instruments during the reporting period and measures taken to strengthen its human rights legal framework and institutional capacity and to improve the quality of life and education.

78. Denmark noted that Turkmenistan accepted a recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture during the second universal periodic review and stressed that the dialogue with the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture remained highly valuable to all states working to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

79. Djibouti commended Turkmenistan for the adoption of a new Constitution in 2016 that introduced multiparty system, integrated many provisions of international treaties to which Turkmenistan was a party, and enshrined the rights and freedoms of citizens.

80. Egypt welcomed new Constitutional provisions protecting fundamental rights and freedoms plus amendments to domestic legislation guaranteeing respect for human rights standards. It further expressed appreciation for the National Action Plan for gender equality 2015-2020.

81. Estonia encouraged Turkmenistan to accept and facilitate the requested visits by special procedure mandate holders and extend an open invitation to all of them to visit the country. It remained concerned about laws and practices restricting freedom of opinion and expression, including restrictions on Internet access and online content.
82. France regretted that institutional changes like the establishment of the ombudsperson had remained without effect since 2013. Moreover, the elections of 25 March did not seem to indicate any improvement in terms of democracy.
83. Georgia welcomed the strengthening of national human rights institutions through the establishment of the position of Commissioner for Human Rights in line with the recommendations of the second universal periodic review. It noted the accession of Turkmenistan to a number of international treaties, including the Paris Agreement.
84. Germany welcomed the adoption on national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking. It remained concerned about the continuing deterioration regarding freedom of expression. It condemned the persistent use of torture and ill-treatment in prisons and the many enforced disappearances.
85. Greece noted with appreciation a number of legal measures taken to promote human rights, including the revised Constitution in 2016 and the adoption of national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating against violence and amendments to the Criminal Code introducing a definition of torture.
86. Honduras noted the inclusion of a section of human rights in the 2016 Constitution and the establishment of the position of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
87. Iceland welcomed the Constitutional provision recognizing equal rights for women and men but expressed concerns about continued under-representation of women in the public and private sectors, and the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.
88. India noted with appreciation the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combating human trafficking, the establishment of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the constitution provisions guarantying social security for the persons with disabilities.
89. Indonesia commended Turkmenistan for the adoption of the Ombudsman Act in 2016. It noted the National Action Plan on Human Rights of Turkmenistan for the period of 2016-2020 and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons for the period of 2016-2018 and expressed its hope that those action plans would contribute to improvement of the human rights situation.
90. Islamic Republic of Iran commended the Government for the adoption and implementation of the National Socioeconomic Development Program for the period of 2011-2030, the revised National Presidential Programme on the Improvement of Social and Living Conditions and the Presidential Programme on socioeconomic development for the period of 2018-2024.
91. Iraq commended the Government for the adoption of the National Action Plans on Human Rights for the period of the period of 2016-2020, and for submitting reports to various treaty bodies, which demonstrated the countries commitment to the respect of human rights.
92. Ireland encouraged Turkmenistan to ensure an effective and independent functioning of the office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with the Paris Principles. It noted that although the Human Rights Action Plan committed to new visits by special procedures mandate holders, no such visits had taken place yet. It remained concerned about restrictions on freedom of association.
93. Italy commended Turkmenistan for the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman, the adoption of the national action plans on human rights, on gender equality and on combatting trafficking in persons.
94. Kazakhstan expressed hope that the national action plans on human rights, gender equality and on combatting human trafficking would contribute to the improvement of

human rights situation in the country. It noted with appreciation the establishment of the position of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the engagement of Turkmenistan with the United Nations human rights treaty bodies.

95. Kyrgyzstan noted the extended list of human rights in the new Constitution and efforts to protect the rights of women and eliminate worst form of child labour.

96. Lao People's Democratic Republic commended the adoption of the National Plan on Gender Equality for the period of 2015-2020 and the National Action Plan on Human Rights for the period of 2016-2020.

97. Latvia noted measures taken by the Government and encouraged further efforts in fulfilling human rights obligations.

98. Malaysia commented Turkmenistan for its efforts directed to socio-economic development. It noted measures taken by the Government to raise the awareness of government officials, youth, local authorities, law enforcement bodies and other relevant stakeholders in the field of human rights by holding regularly talks, meetings and round-table discussions.

99. The Maldives commended Turkmenistan for implementing the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and for adopting State Guarantees of Equal Rights on Women Act.

100. Mexico commended Turkmenistan for the adoption of the new Constitution in 2016 with human rights provisions. It called on the Government to ensure full compliance of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights with the Paris Principles. It also noted measures taken to ensure gender equality.

101. Montenegro called on the Government to ratify the OP-CAT and to improve cooperation with special procedures. It encouraged the Government to take additional measures to ensure independence and effectiveness of the national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles.

102. Morocco welcomed the new constitution of 2016 and the adoption of law on ombudsman. It welcomed the Government's efforts to protect and promote human rights.

103. Nepal noted the adoption of the Ombudsman Act in 2016 enabling the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights. It believed strengthening this institution; implementing the National Action Plans on Human Rights and National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons would enhance the protection and promotion of human rights.

104. Oman took note of the achievements reached by Turkmenistan in all areas of human rights. Oman welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution which included a section on human rights.

105. The delegation of Turkmenistan stated that the Government had cooperated with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the access of international organizations to detention places. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as the diplomatic missions and intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations had carried out visits to penitentiary institutions.

106. The delegation reported on various measure taken with the aim to improve conditions of detention, including prison cells and sanitary and hygiene facilities and bring them into line with relevant standards and to protect the health of persons deprived of liberty. In the framework of prison modernization programs, Turkmenistan has allocated over USD 67 million for construction work and capital repairs to facilities in the prison system and for the acquisition of medical equipment in the period of 2011 and 2017. Following the adoption of the Penal Enforcement Code in 2011, the laws and regulations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were revised to bring them into line with the Code.

107. Regarding questions on cases of enforced disappearances and unlawful detention, the delegations informed the Human Rights Council that imprisonment of such individuals had been carried out on the basis of the court judgments finding them guilty in criminal

offense under the domestic legislation. Such persons could not fall under the category of enforced or involuntary disappearance as they held regular contacts with their family members.

108. Courts had not recorded any complaints or instances of torture and ill-treatment since the amendment made to the Criminal Code in 2012 to incorporate an article, criminalising torture. The Ministry of Interior has been carrying out measures to prevent torture or inhuman treatment to occur in the penitentiary institutions.

109. The freedom of movement, including the right to leave the country has been enshrined in the new Constitution and protected by the national laws. The temporary restrictions on freedom of movement of the citizens could only be carried out by the provisions of relevant laws in order to protect national security and public order, and to ensure safety and health of citizens.

110. Under the State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act, the State ensured the protection from harassment, sexual violence, abduction and trafficking of women and men. There was no specific offence of domestic violence in the legislation. However, the domestic legislation criminalized acts harming dignity and physical integrity of all individuals, including women as well as acts of humiliation or cruelty and the infliction of various types of bodily injury. One of the objectives of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality in Turkmenistan, 2015–2020, was to examine national legislation in light of international standards and best practices and develop proposals on how to improve further domestic legislation to effectively prevent domestic violence.

111. Responding to calls for ratification of new human rights instruments, the delegation explained that Turkmenistan has considered it important a preparatory work carried out prior to such ratifications by analysing domestic legislation and studying feasibility of legal reforms.

112. The delegation did not share the view expressed during the interactive dialogue that critical media has been facing serious restrictions in the country. The statistics on the users of the Internet and social media has also indicated that no limitations had been exercised on the access of the population to the Internet.

113. In conclusion, the delegation thanked for active input by states during the interactive dialogue and reassured the participants that all recommendations put forward would be thoroughly examined and used to further improve human rights situation in the country.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

114. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Turkmenistan and enjoy the support of Turkmenistan:

- 114.1 **Carry on ratifying international human rights treaties (Azerbaijan);**
- 114.2 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);**
- 114.3 **Accelerate its efforts towards acceding and fully implementing the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions (Philippines);**
- 114.4 **Consider extending a standing invitation to the mandate holders of special procedures based on the international commitments assumed by the Government (Paraguay);**
- 114.5 **Extend a standing invitation to Special Procedures (Portugal);**
- 114.6 **Extend a standing invitation to the human rights Special Procedures and mechanisms (Honduras);**
- 114.7 **Consider strengthening cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council including receiving visits requested so far as a first step towards issuing a standing open invitation (Ukraine);**

- 114.8 Continue constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);
- 114.9 Continue constructive cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Cuba);
- 114.10 Accede to UNESCO (Oman);
- 114.11 Ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human Rights (Qatar);
- 114.12 Take further steps in order to ensure the effective independence of the office of the Ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles and strengthen its mandate by ensuring that it has the competence to consider complaints and monitor detention facilities (Republic of Moldova);
- 114.13 Strengthen the Ombudsman's office to enable its accreditation as an A-status National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 114.14 Guarantee the efficiency and the independence of the National Institution for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in conformity with the Paris Principles, and adopt a national plan of action for children (Spain);
- 114.15 Build up the status of the national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);
- 114.16 Continue to strengthen the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights (India);
- 114.17 Continue efforts to ensure the smooth functioning and full independence of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);
- 114.18 Continue efforts to strengthen the capacity and independence of its national human rights institution, namely the Ombudsperson of Turkmenistan (Indonesia);
- 114.19 Continue strengthening the newly constituted national human rights institution and other relevant mechanisms (Nepal);
- 114.20 Strengthen the "Interdepartmental Commission on Compliance with the International Obligations Undertaken by Turkmenistan in the Field of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law", in order that this Interdepartmental Commission ensures the follow-up of the implementation of recommendations received from international bodies (Paraguay);
- 114.21 Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to sustainably implement the policies that promote and protect the rights of women and children (Philippines);
- 114.22 Continue to implement the national action plans with special attention to the action plan on gender equality 2015-2020 (Bangladesh);
- 114.23 Implement the National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2015-2020 and the National Action Plan on Human Rights 2016-2020 (Cuba);
- 114.24 Establish a monitoring mechanism for the national plan for gender equality 2015-2020, the national plan for combating trafficking in persons 2016-2017 and the national plan for human rights 2016-2020 (Greece);
- 114.25 Publish swiftly the results of the 2012 national population and housing census (Uruguay);
- 114.26 Accelerate the approval and implementation of the national census on health care and the status of women in the family (Uruguay);

- 114.27 **Continue bringing national human rights legislation in line with international human rights standards (Azerbaijan);**
- 114.28 **Reform the relevant legislation to bring it in line with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by simplifying the legal and procedural requirements for registration by civil society organisations and minimising reporting obligations to authorities (Ireland);**
- 114.29 **Continue efforts to harmonize national legislation with international obligations of Turkmenistan (Morocco);**
- 114.30 **Protect the constitutional principle of equality of rights and freedoms of citizens as well as fulfil the country's international commitments on gender equality (Cuba);**
- 114.31 **Take further efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Uzbekistan);**
- 114.32 **Enhance its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Egypt);**
- 114.33 **Maintain economic development dynamics and reforms with a view to improving the well-being of population (Azerbaijan);**
- 114.34 **Follow-up and implement the National Socioeconomic Development Programme for 2011-2030 based on a participatory approach which includes all local stakeholders (Morocco);**
- 114.35 **Continue its efforts to promote economic and social sustainable development to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);**
- 114.36. **Fight against corruption and strengthen the capacity of institutions to effectively detect such practice, investigate cases of corruption and prosecute the perpetrators (Algeria);**
- 114.37 **Provide information to the families of persons in custody who previously have been reported as having disappeared, including current place of detention and details of custodial sentence (Sweden);**
- 114.38 **Introduce domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape, into the Criminal Code as a specific crime, and create an independent mechanism for receiving victims' complaints (France);**
- 114.39 **Include domestic violence in the Criminal Code as a separate offence (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 114.40 **Continue taking further steps for the strengthening of judicial system (Tajikistan);**
- 114.41 **Establish clear criteria for the appointment, tenure and removal of judges, as part of national efforts to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and due process (Mexico);**
- 114.42 **Align legislation and legal practices with international standards in order to ensure fair and effective treatment by the judicial system, especially for young people (Djibouti);**
- 114.43 **Respect the right to a fair trial, and revoke prosecutors' authority to hold convicted persons indefinitely by a simple written decision even though they have served their sentences (France);**
- 114.44 **Provide access to international monitoring mechanisms in all places of detention in line with international standards (Belgium);**

- 114.45 Sustain its commitment in the promotion of religious tolerance, as well as its efforts in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);
- 114.46 Respect the rights of Christians to exercise their freedom of religion and belief without fear of imprisonments or other forms of persecutions (Poland);
- 114.47 Take further efforts to improve the enjoyment of the right of opinion and expression (Iraq);
- 114.48 Continue with its efforts in combating trafficking in persons (Nigeria);
- 114.49 Continue to enhance the Turkmenistan's regulation against human trafficking (Indonesia);
- 114.50 Work in partnership with the International Labour Organisation to eliminate forced labour in connection with state-sponsored cotton harvesting (United Kingdom);
- 114.51 Ensure comprehensive implementation of the programme for enhancing the employment sector and creating new jobs in Turkmenistan for the period 2015–2020, as well as the action plan for its implementation, above all, in order to ensure maximum level of employment for persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);
- 114.52 Continue consolidating its social policies, especially in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to continue improving the quality of life of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 114.53 Continue its efforts to protect the rights of women and children and to provide them social protection (Yemen);
- 114.54 Take effective measures to eliminate and further prevent violations of economic, social and cultural rights (Djibouti);
- 114.55 Increase the on-going efforts to enhance the populations' living standards and welfare, so that they pave the way further for the human rights protection (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 114.56 Continue its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country by strengthening its national policies and programmes with the aim of further improving the well-being of its people (Malaysia);
- 114.57 Make additional efforts to provide access to potable water and adequate sanitary conditions, particularly in rural areas (Serbia);
- 114.58 Fully implement its programme for the supply of clean drinking water to population, and share good experiences in this regard (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 114.59 Continue to further strengthen its efforts to safeguard the right to health with an enhanced allocation of resources in this area (Bangladesh);
- 114.60 Continue efforts to promote healthcare in rural areas (Egypt);
- 114.61 Continue strengthening logistical and material provision for healthcare institutions, particularly in rural areas (Belarus);
- 114.62 Continue efforts to develop infrastructure for health facilities and maternal and child healthcare centres as well as to implement a strategy for the development of the production of medicine with the aim at expanding access for all citizens to quality health care (Saudi Arabia);
- 114.63 Solve the insufficient number of family doctors, nurses and midwives particularly in rural areas, the lack of medicines and the need to improve the skills of medical personnel (Serbia);

- 114.64 **Continue taking measures to expand public access to quality services in health care and education (Uzbekistan);**
- 114.65 **Continue efforts to promote access to education, especially in rural areas (Senegal);**
- 114.66 **Continue to adopt positive measures to better protect its people rights to education, healthcare and others (China);**
- 114.67 **Continue to take appropriate measures for providing quality education and healthcare (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 114.68 **Enhance capacity building to improve the education and health care systems in the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 114.69 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality, with a particular focus on positive measures designed to increase women's participation in public and political life (Republic of Moldova);**
- 114.70 **Abolish gender stereotypes and gender-based discrimination in its Labour Code (Republic of Korea);**
- 114.71 **Continue promoting women's rights to ensure that they are fully respected (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 114.72 **Promote and advance gender equality to counter stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women in the family and society at large through public awareness, education and training programmes (Iceland);**
- 114.73 **Continue assistance and promotion on women's empowerment both public and private sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 114.74 **Revise provisions in the Labour Code that justify restrictions on women's employment opportunities based on gender stereotypes (Iceland);**
- 114.75 **Strengthen legislative measures and public policies designed to promote and protect the rights of women and to facilitate their empowerment (Bulgaria);**
- 114.76 **Strengthen preventive measures for dealing with violence against women, including through collecting data and raising awareness about gender equality and women's rights (Slovenia);**
- 114.77 **Accelerate its efforts towards eliminating violence against women, and consider adopting relevant legislation (Georgia);**
- 114.78 **Adopt legislation specifically criminalizing violence against women, ensure thorough investigations, and provide appropriate training to the police, the judiciary and other relevant stakeholders on how to address such cases (Canada);**
- 114.79 **Take concrete measures to fight gender-based violence, including within families, such as legislative measures and plans of action following consultations with civil society (Belgium);**
- 114.80 **Adopt a comprehensive law, covering all forms of violence against women, including a national action plan in this area (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 114.81 **Adopt legislation specifically criminalizing violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence, and ensure its effective implementation (Latvia);**
- 114.82 **Adopt a National action plan for children, taking into account the concluding observations of 2015 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Portugal);**
- 114.83 **Continue cooperation with UNICEF to develop national plan of action plan on the interest of children (Belarus);**

114.84 **Adopt a national action plan on the interest of children in Turkmenistan (Kyrgyzstan);**

114.85 **Continue its efforts together with UNICEF, in improving ways and means of protecting children's rights by implementing their program on the development of the juvenile justice system (Maldives);**

114.86 **Strengthen its policy on prevention and combat of child labour, and on the full guarantee of the rights of child, with special attention to children without parental care (Tajikistan);**

114.87 **Introduce a clear ban on the sale of children, and on the child prostitution and pornography in the relevant law (Kyrgyzstan);**

114.88 **Discontinue the practice of temporary placement of children in institutions and to develop and implement a comprehensive deinstitutionalization strategy (Bulgaria);**

114.89 **Expand the scope of the curriculum on basic life skills, in order to comprehensively address issues related to sexuality, to protect adolescents from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases preparing them for adult life (Honduras);**

114.90 **Involve persons with disabilities in the implementation of the plan of action for the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities (Qatar);**

114.91 **Expand programs and initiatives to eliminate negative stereotypes and prejudice against persons with disabilities (Maldives);**

114.92 **Bring existing legislation fully in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (Brazil);**

114.93 **Harmonise its legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in particular to consider adopting a social and human rights model for disability (Bulgaria);**

114.94 **Repeal laws that allow deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities mainly due to their disability and to the potential danger posed by them (Spain);**

114.95 **Improve the situation of persons with disabilities (Iraq);**

114.96 **Develop measures to preserve ethnic, cultural and religious diversity and strengthen intercultural dialogue in society (Russian Federation);**

114.97 **Consider a possibility of opening culture centres in the country for the representatives of non- titular nationalities residing in Turkmenistan in order to allow them to be able to fulfil their educational and cultural needs (Kazakhstan);**

114.98 **Ensure that non-citizens have access to education, housing, health care, employment and birth registration without discrimination (Algeria).**

115. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by Turkmenistan and have been noted by Turkmenistan:

115.1 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Portugal);**

115.2 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law and ensure adequate and effective protection against discrimination on any ground (Montenegro);**

115.3 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that ensures adequate and effective protection against all forms of discrimination, containing a list of all grounds for discrimination including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras).**

116. The following recommendations will be examined by Turkmenistan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:

- 116.1 **Ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet party, in particular, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention against Discrimination in Education and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Honduras);**
- 116.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal) (Iraq) (Montenegro) (Ukraine) (Portugal);**
- 116.3 **Adhere to the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Togo);**
- 116.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal) (Burundi) (Denmark) (Greece 2) (France) (Chile) (Ukraine) (Portugal);**
- 116.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Norway) (Afghanistan);**
- 116.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended (Estonia);**
- 116.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment establishing prevention system of regular visits to places of detention (Poland);**
- 116.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish an independent mechanism for monitoring of all places of detention (Australia);**
- 116.9 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish a national system that independently and regularly monitors and inspects all places of detention without prior notice (Czechia);**
- 116.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and allow full access of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to places of detention in accordance with ICRC principles (Germany);**
- 116.11 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, enabling independent inspection of prisons and detention centres (United Kingdom);**
- 116.12 **Adhere to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**
- 116.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal) (Ukraine);**
- 116.14 **Sign and ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**
- 116.15 **Intensify internal examinations related to the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Optional Protocol**

to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);

116.16 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their families (Indonesia) (Philippines);

116.17 Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);

116.18 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);

116.19 Ratify the Convention on Prevention of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

116.20 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Republic of Korea) (Austria);

116.21 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Estonia);

116.22 Continue the efforts to adhere to the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court (Paraguay);

116.23 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all obligation under the Rome Statute, as previously recommended (Latvia);

116.24 Accept the authority of the Committee against Torture to receive and examine individual communications and sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);

116.25 Consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, as well as the ratification of the Rome Statute, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances, the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);

116.26 Facilitate a visit by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Norway);

116.27 Collaborate with Special Procedures, namely the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, as well as the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances, welcoming them, when requested, in the country (Switzerland);

116.28 Develop a schedule of visits of all United Nations Special Procedures who have asked to visit the country and take measures to facilitate such visits (Chile);

116.29 Authorize the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council to visit Turkmenistan, in accordance with the human rights national plan of action 2016-2020 (France);

116.30 Permit visits from all United Nations Special Procedures who have requested to visit the Country (Ireland);

116.31 Allow the United Nations special procedures to visit the country (Italy);

116.32 Fully cooperate with the United Nations, to facilitate all pending requests for visits by the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures and to respond favourably and constructively to the views of the Human Rights Committee (Austria);

- 116.33 Respond positively to pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider the extension of a standing invitation to all mandate holders, as previously recommended (Latvia);
- 116.34 Strengthen cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures (Czechia);
- 116.35 Eliminate, in law and in practice, all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Czechia);
- 116.36 Take measures to fight all forms of discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation (Italy);
- 116.37 Consider the adoption of a general law against discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity, or any other form of intolerance (Uruguay);
- 116.38 Decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Iceland);
- 116.39 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex and put an end to the stigmatization of homosexuality, bisexuality, intersexuality and transsexuality (Uruguay);
- 116.40 Ensure that no form of discrimination or violence against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity is tolerated and that all such cases are properly investigated and sanctioned (Iceland);
- 116.41 Take the necessary measures to establish, in its national legislation, a comprehensive legal framework of adequate and effective protection against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and also repeal the criminalization of consensual sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Argentina);
- 116.42 Investigate and hold accountable officials suspected of committing torture or other serious human rights violations or abuses (United States of America);
- 116.43 Intensify efforts to combat cases of torture and forced disappearances (Italy);
- 116.44 Study a possibility of establishing a national preventive mechanism to prevent torture (Kazakhstan);
- 116.45 Investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially all allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and – to this end - establish an independent, accessible and effective complaints mechanism for all places of detention (Canada);
- 116.46 Put an end to the practice of arbitrary and incommunicado detention and forced disappearance, and provide information on the whereabouts of all people who have disappeared in prison (Chile);
- 116.47 Abolish incommunicado detention, and ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigation into all cases of alleged disappearances (Czechia);
- 116.48 End the practice of enforced disappearances and ensure that following prompt, thorough and impartial investigations perpetrators are brought to justice as well as provide effective remedies to victims and their families, including reparations (Canada);
- 116.49 Tackle the issue of enforced disappearances, inter alia by acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Netherlands);

- 116.50 **Respect its international commitments on enforced disappearance, and become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 116.51 **Investigate and sanction all reported cases of enforced disappearances and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Argentina);**
- 116.52 **Investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention as well as torture, ill-treatment and holding incommunicado in prisons (Poland);**
- 116.53 **Allow unhindered access to enforced disappeared persons by international monitoring bodies, including United Nations representatives and Special Procedures, and provide information on their whereabouts (Norway);**
- 116.54 **Provide those who are imprisoned, including in the Ovodan-Depe and Seydi prisons, access to independent inspectors and other visitors and permit those visitors to conduct private and fully confidential interviews with prisoners consistent with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (United States of America);**
- 116.55 **Inform relatives and the public about the whereabouts of all persons who have been under arrest and whose fate is currently unknown, and ensure access to lawyers of their choice (Germany);**
- 116.56 **Grant full access to independent international mechanisms to all places of detention, thoroughly investigate allegations of enforced disappearances and torture and improve detention conditions in line with the international standards (Austria);**
- 116.57 **Improve the conditions of detention, in line with international norms and rules, namely the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Nelson Mandela's rules (Switzerland);**
- 116.58 **Establish a system of regular and independent monitoring of places of detention, and facilitate effective monitoring by independent organizations (Estonia);**
- 116.59 **Adopt the necessary measures in order to recognize the right to conscientious objection to compulsory military service (Argentina);**
- 116.60 **Take concrete measures to protect and respect individuals' rights to exercise freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression, including on the Internet, social media, and in traditional media, including by preventing harassment of journalists operating in the country (United Kingdom);**
- 116.61 **Reform government practices that restrict freedoms of religion or belief, expression, and movement to ensure that individuals are not punished for expressing their opinions or beliefs (United States of America);**
- 116.62 **Take measures to fully realize freedom of expression, including on the Internet and social media (Republic of Korea);**
- 116.63 **Effectively implement the provisions of the Media Law that safeguard media pluralism and prohibit censorship (Estonia);**
- 116.64 **Ensure freedom of expression and access to information, and stop interfering with access to the Internet as well as censorship of online and print media (Germany);**
- 116.65 **Ensure unobstructed internet access and cease censorship of online media, including foreign websites and communication applications. This includes the repeal of all provisions from the Law on the Regulation of the Development of the Internet and the Provision of Internet Services that require state licencing of the activities of Internet providers (Netherlands);**

116.66 **Respect the right to freedom of expression, allow media to operate without any interference and provide an enabling and protective environment where journalists and activists can exercise their human rights without reprisals (Austria);**

116.67 **Adopt measures, including through amending relevant laws, to ensure that the Internet, television, radio and print media serve as a channel for receiving and transmitting independent public interest information in the country (Slovakia);**

116.68 **Include a ban on censorship in the Constitution and expand the definition of the ban on censorship in the Law on Mass Media to include every person who makes public communications, in accordance with its international obligations (Sweden);**

116.69 **Decriminalize defamation, and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

116.70 **Cease blocking access to Internet sites and social media networks (Sweden);**

116.71 **Take positive steps to protect and promote the freedoms of expression and assembly, including by: enforcing legal provisions that safeguard media pluralism and prohibit censorship; and ending forced mobilization of residents for participation in government-organised mass events (Australia);**

116.72 **Revise laws and practices in order to guarantee full enjoyment of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and ensure that any restrictions comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia);**

116.73 **Guarantee fully the rights of freedom of association, assembly and expression, and of the press (Spain);**

116.74 **Strengthen efforts to guarantee the respect for fundamental freedoms; also by simplifying the procedures for legal registration of NGOs and religious groups (Italy);**

116.75 **Release immediately and unconditionally all persons imprisoned as a result of peaceful exercise of freedom of expression, collection and distribution of information, and journalistic activity (Norway);**

116.76 **Take concrete steps to ensure the protection of journalists, media personnel and human rights defenders against attacks, and prosecute those responsible for such acts, as previously recommended (Estonia);**

116.77 **Ensure that human rights defenders and journalists are able to conduct their work and activities freely online and offline and to release all prisoners of conscience (Slovenia);**

116.78 **Recognize publicly, protect and support, notably with administrative measures, of the work of human rights defenders, including women and young human rights defenders (Belgium);**

116.79 **Stop threats, physical attacks, arbitrary detention and conviction of human rights defenders and individuals for their exercise of freedom of expression and assembly (Norway);**

116.80 **End arbitrary detention, travel bans, harassment and other acts of intimidation against journalists, media workers and human rights defenders (Germany);**

116.81 **Release all human rights defenders and journalists, and guarantee independent media from undue influence or interference (Czechia);**

116.82 **Revise laws and policies to ensure an enabling environment for human rights defenders, an independent media, and a robust civil society (Canada);**

116.83 **Amend the legislation, including the Constitution and the Law on Migration, by including explicit legal guarantees for the right to free exit from, and return to Turkmenistan in accordance with international law (Sweden);**

116.84 **Take immediate legal action to reverse policy on restricting the rights of everyone to leave the country and return to their own country (Norway);**

116.85 **Establish a time bound national plan of action for addressing forced labour in the cotton farming and abolish mandatory production and sanctions for no compliance with cotton quota (Chile);**

116.86 **Grant fair and adequate compensation to owners and residents of Ashgabat who were evicted from their properties (Togo);**

116.87 **Review provisions regarding compulsory HIV testing contained in 2016 Act on controlling the spread of the disease caused by HIV while providing early diagnosis and treatment to HIV-infected mothers and their infants in light of the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the relevant Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Brazil);**

116.88 **Ensure that the implementation of measures to prevent HIV does not lead to discriminatory practices and is in line with international human rights obligations (Mexico);**

116.89 **Introduce legal measures that prohibit forced and child labour (Poland);**

116.90 **Remove criminal penalties restricting freedom of opinion and expression (Mexico);**

117. 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

[English Only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Turkmenistan was headed by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Mr. Vepa Hajyyev and composed of the following members:

- Ambassador Atageldi Haljanov, Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
 - Ms. Kumush Gurbanniyazova, Head of Department of the Ministry of Adalat (Justice) of Turkmenistan;
 - Mr. Geldimyrat Veliyev, Senior Officer of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Turkmenistan;
 - Ms. Selvi Sysoyeva, Senior Specialist of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Turkmenistan;
 - Mr. Amanmyrat Kerimov, Senior Prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's Office of Turkmenistan;
 - Ms. Shemshat Atajanova, Head of the Department of the Turkmen National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan;
 - Ms. Suray Seyilbayeva, Attaché of the Department of International Organizations of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.
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