



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
10 May 2019

Original: English

UNEDITED VERSION

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-third session
Geneva, 6-17 May 2019

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

Bhutan

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-third session from 6 to 17 May 2019. The review of Bhutan was held at the 6th meeting, on 8 May 2019. The delegation of Bhutan was headed by Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tandi Dorji. At its 10th meeting, held on 10 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Bhutan.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bhutan: Argentina, Austria and Bahrain.
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 Bhutan:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/BTN/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.6/33/BTN/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/ BTN/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Bhutan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

[To be completed by 24 May 2019]

- A. Presentation by the State under review**
- B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

5. During the interactive dialogue, 94 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

6. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Bhutan and enjoy the support of Bhutan:

- 6.1 **Take appropriate steps towards ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand);/Continue progress towards ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Australia);/Accelerate efforts to accede to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bahrain);**

- 6.2 Strengthen the legal status and visibility of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by establishing a clear timetable for the harmonization of laws (Honduras);
- 6.3 Continue working with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (Kuwait);
- 6.4 Keep on mobilizing resources and seek necessary international assistance to enhance its capacity to promote and protect human rights (Nigeria);
- 6.5 Strengthen international cooperation in the field of human rights (Malaysia);
- 6.6 Continue to enhance capacity building through partnership with UN Agencies, including the OHCHR and other development partners with a view to fulfilling the country's international human rights obligations (Ghana);
- 6.7 Step up cooperation with international organizations to build the capacities of national institutions and comply with the requirements of international treaties (Iraq);
- 6.8 Seek the support of the international community in Bhutan's human rights programmes (Kuwait);
- 6.9 Take further steps to improve national legislation regarding the respect of citizens' rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);
- 6.10 Strengthen the National Committee for the Welfare of Women and Children, so that it provides programmes and activities with a gender perspective and adapted to children (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 6.11 Uphold further all human rights for citizens of the country as guaranteed by the Constitution of Bhutan (Tajikistan);
- 6.12 Consolidate human rights policies within the framework of a comprehensive national strategy (Ukraine);
- 6.13 Despite the challenges, consistently take steps to strengthen human rights, including through aligning laws and policies with international human rights instruments and incorporating the best practices of other countries (Tajikistan);
- 6.14 Develop a National Action Plan on Trafficking in Person, through wide consultation with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders (Seychelles);
- 6.15 Adopt a National Action Plan together with the National Strategy to combat trafficking in persons (Armenia);
- 6.16 Further provide human rights education and training for law enforcement agencies, students and other stakeholders, taking into account the World Programme for Human Rights Education (Thailand);
- 6.17 Continue training for law enforcement on trafficking in persons (Jordan);
- 6.18 Further promote genuine participation of civil society organizations, including in the area of awareness raising, advocacy and monitoring in the field of human rights (Austria);
- 6.19 Take concrete measures in order to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (Portugal);

- 6.20 Continue to work with all relevant stakeholders and the international community to support these efforts to combat inequality through technical cooperation and the sharing of best practices in combating inequality (Singapore);
- 6.21 Continue to implement interventions to reduce income disparity and inequalities (Maldives);
- 6.22 Step up efforts to fully implement the laws and regulations that apply to equality between men and women (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 6.23 Elaborate targeted interventions alongside the existing good practices to reduce the widening income disparity and other forms of inequalities (Hungary);
- 6.24 Take steps to ensure non-discrimination of members of the LGBT community (Israel);
- 6.25 Further promote sustainable economic and social development to provide a solid basis for people to better enjoy all human rights (China);
- 6.26 Continue efforts in reducing inequality and promoting inclusive development (Myanmar);
- 6.27 Further strengthen efforts to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas (Japan);
- 6.28 Continue work for the protection of the environment and the biological corridors (Oman);
- 6.29 Continue to implement policies and measures to strengthen its environmental conservation efforts (Pakistan);
- 6.30 Continue undertaking inclusive consultations on disaster management and contingency planning to ensure that the needs of women, children, elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups are duly considered (Philippines);
- 6.31 Expand the actions of preparation for natural disasters, emergency situations and adaptation to climate change, with an emphasis on the protection of children, women, and people with disabilities (Cuba);
- 6.32 Intensify efforts for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child eradicating corporal punishment both at school and at home (Chile);
- 6.33 Take appropriate measures to ensure that the rights of the children are respected, including by prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment (Italy);
- 6.34 Further intensify efforts to address root causes of trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Philippines);
- 6.35 Step up efforts in conducting capacity-building activities for duty bearers in the areas of combating trafficking in persons and violence against women and children (Philippines);
- 6.36 Explicitly define and criminalize the sale of children and develop other mechanisms to address child trafficking (Portugal);
- 6.37 Intensify efforts aimed at bilateral, regional and international cooperation to prevent trafficking in persons (Qatar);

- 6.38 Tighten the normative framework that prohibits human trafficking and sexual exploitation, but also the awareness and sensitization of the population in this regard (Spain);
- 6.39 Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation (Timor-Leste);
- 6.40 Strengthen legislation and public policies to eradicate trafficking in persons, in particular of girls and boys (Mexico);
- 6.41 Redouble efforts to address the root causes of trafficking in women and girls, and ensure rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 6.42 Continue its efforts aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in persons (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 6.43 Continue to combat trafficking in women and children by ensuring the rehabilitation and social reintegration of victims (Gabon);
- 6.44 Continue the efforts in order to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (Georgia);
- 6.45 Continue its engagement to ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of victims of trafficking, including by providing them with access to shelters, legal and medical assistance (Hungary);
- 6.46 Intensify efforts to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief and the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities (Italy);
- 6.47 Prevent the misuse of defamation laws to unduly constrain freedom of expression both online and offline (United States of America);
- 6.48 Do not relent in its poverty alleviation efforts and the fight against corruption (Nigeria);
- 6.49 Continue to be committed to eradicating poverty, particularly in rural areas, and intensifying infrastructure constructions in rural areas and increasing income of peasants (China);
- 6.50 Continue efforts to provide government services on the Internet (Jordan);
- 6.51 Continue its reforms in health and education to enhance access to quality services for all (Pakistan);
- 6.52 Accelerate efforts towards effective solutions for the provision of basic services in the rural areas such as health, education and potable water (Bahrain);
- 6.53 Continue reform measures in health and education for higher quality services (Myanmar);
- 6.54 Continue to promote their social policies in order to increase the quality of life of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 6.55 Take further measures to sustain and reinforce progress made in poverty alleviation and inequalities reduction (Viet Nam);
- 6.56 Continue with the implementation of the 12th Five Year Plan, which includes the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequality (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

- 6.57 Continue the positive efforts in the reduction of poverty and inequality (Cuba);
- 6.58 Continue to promote economic and social development with the aim of eradicating poverty and improving the standard of living of the population, especially in rural areas (Djibouti);
- 6.59 Pursue efforts to combat poverty and to improve the living conditions, particularly persons in vulnerable situations, in particular when it comes to providing healthcare and ensuring education and decent housing for all (Egypt);
- 6.60 Develop a strategy for sustainable development focused at reducing the gap between rural and urban poverty (Ethiopia);
- 6.61 Implement its key objective of poverty eradication and reducing inequality in its 5 Year Plans (India);
- 6.62 Further strengthen efforts in the area of poverty reduction and prevention of youth unemployment (Kazakhstan);
- 6.63 Strengthen the efforts of addressing the social and cultural challenges of vulnerable groups mainly women farmers (Ethiopia);
- 6.64 Move towards full implementation of the Gender Equality Policy, including through the use of smart agricultural methods and technologies, to improve the situation of women farmers (Israel);
- 6.65 Strengthen its efforts in providing access to adequate sanitation facilities in rural areas and access to an adequate standard of living for economically disadvantaged families (State of Palestine);
- 6.66 Continue strengthening free access to health-care services for all people of Bhutan (Nicaragua);
- 6.67 Further strengthen public healthcare system in Bhutan, including by enhancing physical infrastructure and allocation of resources to healthcare facilities benefitting rural communities (Sri Lanka);
- 6.68 Continue allocating resources for the healthcare sector to improve health-care services (Malaysia);
- 6.69 Continue to consolidate their successful health programmes through universal, free and quality medical care (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 6.70 Pursue actions and initiatives with a view to the promotion of basic health services and access to education for all (Benin);
- 6.71 Continue to raise public awareness on health services to vulnerable groups, particularly those who are living in rural areas (Cambodia);
- 6.72 Enhance children's enrolment in schools (Jordan);
- 6.73 Increase school attendance of boys, girls and adolescents, including those with a disability, and reduce the illiteracy rate of girls and women (Mexico);
- 6.74 Fully implement the national e-Health strategy and action plan and share good experiences in this regard (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 6.75 Continue its efforts to improve the state of health of the population particularly for women and children (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 6.76 Continue to improve the quality and access to education for all children, especially children from the rural communities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 6.77 Keep up efforts to provide quality education to boys and girls through its Government education programme, in order to ensure their proper development (Nicaragua);
- 6.78 Increase efforts to promote access to education by expanding access to primary school and general education (Oman);
- 6.79 Continue efforts to bridge the gender gap in higher education (Oman);
- 6.80 Take concrete measures to improve literacy equally amongst boys and girls (Portugal);
- 6.81 Continue efforts to reduce illiteracy in the country and ensure access to education for all segments of society (Saudi Arabia);
- 6.82 Continue further interventions targeting the right to education including through non-formal education and access to technical and vocational training facilities (Sri Lanka);
- 6.83 Take all appropriate steps to encourage and facilitate women's participation in tertiary education including in STEM (Sri Lanka);
- 6.84 Continue its efforts to improve the quality and access to education, and to increase efforts to ensure accessibility to education for children with disabilities (State of Palestine);
- 6.85 Strengthen efforts to increase enrolment of female students in tertiary education (Malaysia);
- 6.86 Continue ensuring universal access to free and equitable education to guarantee every child the right to free basic education (Turkmenistan);
- 6.87 Continue efforts to ensure access to quality education and healthcare services (Viet Nam);
- 6.88 Strengthen measures to guarantee access of girls and women to all levels of education, including tertiary education (Argentina);
- 6.89 Continue efforts in ensuring free and equitable education for all (Brunei Darussalam);
- 6.90 Strengthen the actions for access and quality of education at all levels, as well as inclusive education for children with disabilities and literacy programmes (Cuba);
- 6.91 Continue to develop strategies to improve the quality of and access to education (Cyprus);
- 6.92 Take further measures to encourage higher attendance and retention of girls in schools (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 6.93 Continue implementation of reforms for improving quality of education (India);
- 6.94 Strengthen its efforts to promote access to education for all (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 6.95 Strengthen the Government's efforts to improve the quality and access to education particularly for children from rural communities (Kyrgyzstan);

- 6.96 Take the requisite steps to address the existing gaps that affect particularly women's rights (Sierra Leone);
- 6.97 Increase its efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of women's rights, in particular the right to access to justice (Timor-Leste);
- 6.98 Continue its efforts to ensure that women have access to justice across the country, including establishing well-resourced and accessible specialized courts for women and children (Afghanistan);
- 6.99 Continue its work to support the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children, girls and adolescents (Nicaragua);
- 6.100 Consider organizing capacity building and professional activities for women so that they can access formal economy (Peru);
- 6.101 Provide more employment opportunities for women and promote their entry into formal economy by building their capacity through the provision of vocational and technical training (Qatar);
- 6.102 Continue efforts to increase the representation of women in the labour force and improve literacy and numeracy rates for women (Australia);
- 6.103 Improve the situation of women and girls in Bhutanese society, in particular their social protection, access to basic health services, and decent menstrual hygiene (France);
- 6.104 Enhance the provision for vocational and technical trainings for women to enable their greater participation in the formal economy, including through bilateral and regional cooperation (Indonesia);
- 6.105 Further promote women's empowerment, building upon the significant progress in recent years (Japan);
- 6.106 Continue its efforts to implement the national policies and programmes aimed at further promoting gender equality as well as the rights of women and children (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 6.107 Continue its efforts for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Pakistan);
- 6.108 Revise the 1980 marriage law and increase the age of marriage for women to 18 years of age in line with SDG 5.3 (Switzerland);
- 6.109 Continue efforts in combating discrimination against women (Tunisia);
- 6.110 Strengthen education programmes to counter the negative effects of discriminatory stereotypes on women, especially in rural areas (Algeria);
- 6.111 Combat discrimination against women and girls (Cambodia);
- 6.112 Continue to promote gender equality and narrow the gender gap through enhancing participation of women and girls in political, economic and social activities (Cambodia);
- 6.113 Take all measures to counter the negative impact of discriminatory stereotypes of women (Iceland);
- 6.114 Intensify efforts to adopt a national policy for gender equality (Iraq);
- 6.115 Prepare a national action plan to prevent all forms of violence against women and allocate sufficient resources for its application (Spain);

- 6.116 Continue efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 6.117 Continue efforts in combatting violence against women and girls (Brunei Darussalam);
- 6.118 Address violence against women and girls, including the perception that domestic abuse is normal, by raising awareness of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and by providing additional services to victims (Canada);
- 6.119 To expedite the formulation of a policy to prevent violence against women and harmful traditional practices as indicated in the national report (Eritrea);
- 6.120 Continue the efforts with regard to the protection of women's rights and strengthening of combating violence against women and children (Georgia);
- 6.121 Continue to adopt measures to combat violence against women and children, including by implementing and closely monitoring the impact of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Germany);
- 6.122 Enhance the combat against gender-based violence, taking into account the results of the Violence against Women and Girls Study Report by UNDP (Austria);
- 6.123 Consider taking measures to better protect women and children from domestic violence, in particular to envisage a reform of national legislation with a view to better protecting children and women from domestic violence (Russian Federation);
- 6.124 Continue awareness-raising actions with a view to educating communities on questions of domestic violence (Burkina Faso);
- 6.125 Pursue effective measures to increase women's participation in political and public life (Djibouti);
- 6.126 Improve women's representation in decision-making positions and management positions (Egypt);
- 6.127 Continue its efforts to improve women's participation in political and public life and strengthen their representation in decision-making bodies (Gabon);
- 6.128 Continue ongoing measures for addressing gender gap in the areas of leadership and decision making levels (India);
- 6.129 Consider taking measures to ensure the full and equal participation of women in elected and appointed bodies, including gender parity system (Kyrgyzstan);
- 6.130 Make every effort to implement the Communication for Development strategy to uphold child rights by families (Turkmenistan);
- 6.131 Eradicate child and early forced marriage by providing incentives to girls and their families to remain in school and by addressing rural poverty (Canada);
- 6.132 Combat early marriage and sexual exploitation of children by raising public awareness (France);

- 6.133 Strengthen the efforts to prevent and combat child, early and forced marriage, including by raising the minimum legal age of marriage for girls (Italy);
- 6.134 Adopt concrete measures aimed at preventing child trafficking, including by addressing root causes for children's vulnerability in this regard (Slovenia);
- 6.135 Step up measures to ensure that children are not exploited in any form, and that the rights of the child are protected and promoted (Maldives);
- 6.136 Strengthen campaigns and programmes on the prevention of child marriage and awareness-raising on its consequences (Argentina);
- 6.137 Take measures to explicitly define and criminalize the sale of children, the offering, delivering or accepting, by whatever means, of a child for the purpose of sexual exploitation, transfer of organs for profit or engagement in forced labour (Brazil);
- 6.138 Intensify efforts to fight against child marriage, as well as early and forced marriage, particularly in rural areas (Burkina Faso);
- 6.139 Take further steps to fully abolish underage marriage (Eritrea);
- 6.140 Adopt a national policy for social and educational inclusion of children with disabilities (Qatar);
- 6.141 Consider the adoption of the legislative and political framework for disability, aimed primarily at providing adequate educational services to persons with special needs, children with a higher risk of disability, and with mental disorders (Serbia);
- 6.142 Consider adopting a policy framework to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, in order to guarantee their social and educational inclusion (Brazil);
- 6.143 Expedite the development of an Action Plan for the national Policy for Persons with disabilities (Israel);
- 6.144 Promulgate desired legislations with a view to addressing the needs of the aged (Sierra Leone);
- 6.145 Intensify efforts to improve the living conditions of the elderly and persons with disabilities (Cyprus);
- 6.146 Continue expanding rural access to quality education and enhancing the job prospects of its youth, including through technical and vocational education training as envisaged in the Bhutan Education Blueprint (Singapore);
- 6.147 Spend more efforts and take measures for job creation and address the youth unemployment issue (Turkey);
- 6.148 Continue its efforts to address the issue of youth unemployment, including through creation of productive and gainful employment (Bangladesh);
- 6.149 Take further measures to decrease the high rate of youth unemployment (Hungary).

7. The following recommendations will be examined by Bhutan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

- 7.1 Continue to build a legal framework for the protection of human rights, by ensuring better implementation of the texts signed and ratifying the main international conventions (France);
- 7.2 Intensify the process of ratification of core international human rights instruments (Ukraine);
- 7.3 Take steps towards ratifying the remaining core international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Austria);
- 7.4 Consider ratifying core human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a party (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 7.5 Encourage accession to the core international human rights treaties (Iraq);/Consider acceding to the international human rights treaties, to which it is not yet a party (Kyrgyzstan);/Consider ratifying other core human rights instruments, to which it has not yet become a party, including through collaboration with other States Parties in the region (Indonesia);
- 7.6 Consider ratifying all the core human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);
- 7.7 Consider ratifying the core international human rights instruments, among which the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Kazakhstan);
- 7.8 Ratify relevant international human rights instruments, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Estonia);/ Ratify all the fundamental human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a party, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, among others (Honduras);/Ratify all core international human rights instruments, most notably the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ireland);
- 7.9 Ratify the core international human rights treaties, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);
- 7.10 Take the necessary steps to consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mauritius);
- 7.11 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium; Montenegro; Nepal; Timor-Leste; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);/Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mexico);
- 7.12 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and both its Optional Protocols, as previously recommended (Portugal);

- 7.13 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aimed at definitively abolishing the death penalty (Spain);/Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sierra Leone);**
- 7.14 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);/Take the necessary steps to consider ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mauritius);**
- 7.15 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Belgium; Nepal; Timor-Leste; Spain; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);/Accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mexico);**
- 7.16 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol, as previously recommended (Portugal);**
- 7.17 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay);**
- 7.18 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Fiji);/Step up efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);/Intensify efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Chile emphasizes that the Initiative of the Convention against Torture (CTI) can provide cooperation and support to Bhutan if it so wishes to advance in this regard (Chile);**
- 7.19 **Ratify and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Belgium; Denmark; Montenegro; Switzerland; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 7.20 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, as previously recommended (Portugal);**
- 7.21 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Senegal);**
- 7.22 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**
- 7.23 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);**
- 7.24 **Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**
- 7.25 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**
- 7.26 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**
- 7.27 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia; Belgium; Sierra Leone);**

- 7.28 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);
- 7.29 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 7.30 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute, including incorporating the Rome Statute definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court (Latvia);
- 7.31 Ratify the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions (Switzerland);
- 7.32 Consider acceding to the ILO Convention n° 189 on Domestic Workers (Philippines);
- 7.33 Consider the ratification of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Afghanistan);
- 7.34 Expedite the establishment of an organ with its terms of reference to coordinate all activities related to the full implementation of its ratified human rights treaties (Sierra Leone);/Consider establishing an entity with the mandate of coordinating all activities related to the implementation of human rights treaties, to which it is a party (Ghana);
- 7.35 Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);/Consider issuing a standing invitation to the Special Procedures Mechanism (Seychelles);
- 7.36 Respond constructively to pending requests for country visits by the Human Rights Council special procedures and consider extending a standing invitation to all of them (Ukraine);/Accept visit requests from United Nations special procedures mandate holders (France);
- 7.37 Review the Penal Code, the Child Care and Protection Act, the Child Adoption Act and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act in order to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings (Mexico);
- 7.38 Decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults (Belgium);/Decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct among consenting adults (France);
- 7.39 Revoke the provision on sodomy in Sections 213 and 214 of the Penal Code, which criminalizes same-sex conduct (Netherlands);/Repeal Sections 213 and 214, which prohibit homosexual acts, from its Penal Code (Switzerland);/Decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults by amending sections 213 and 214 of the Penal Code (Canada);/Revoke Section 213 of the Penal Code (Cyprus-D);/Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct by revoking or amending Sections 213 and 214 of the Penal Code (Germany);/Decriminalize consensual same-sex acts by either revoking or amending Sections 213 and 214 of the Penal Code (Iceland);/Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct by repealing or amending Sections 213 and 214 of the Penal Code of Bhutan (Ireland);
- 7.40 Repeal legislation that criminalizes same-sex sexual conduct, and institute the recognition of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation, identity or expression of gender or sexual characteristics (Spain);

- 7.41 Introduce reforms to the Criminal Code to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations as an essential step for the acceptance of sexual diversity in the country (Uruguay);
- 7.42 Amend provisions of the Penal Code that are discriminatory, and that penalize relations between persons of the same sex (Argentina);
- 7.43 Continue to implement legislative reforms to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct (Australia);
- 7.44 Repeal criminal provisions that sanction consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex, and combat discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);
- 7.45 De-criminalize abortion and take measures to ensure that all women have access to legal abortion and high-quality post-abortion services (Iceland);
- 7.46 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);/Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution (Nepal);
- 7.47 Take steps to set up a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);
- 7.48 Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution with a wide-ranging mandate and in line with the Paris Principles (Seychelles);
- 7.49 Establish a National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia);/Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- 7.50 Continue measures to eradicate discrimination against children from Nepalese ethnic origin, particularly with regard to their access to education and citizenship (Peru);
- 7.51 Amend anti-discrimination laws to include discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);
- 7.52 Enable greater inclusion and participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, and indigenous and other marginalized communities in devising the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights holistic strategies towards managing strategies towards managing climate change and its impact on livelihoods (Fiji);
- 7.53 Pursue legislative reform efforts to completely prohibit corporal punishment in all contexts, particularly in the home and at school (Algeria);
- 7.54 Invest more efforts to ensure the unequivocal prohibition of corporal punishment against children in all settings by law, including at home and in schools (Croatia);
- 7.55 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including the home and schools, and take all measures to enforce it in practice (Iceland);
- 7.56 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of all children in all settings (Austria);
- 7.57 Develop a new national action plan for combating trafficking in persons, which includes the ratification of the UN Convention against

Transnational Organised Crime (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

7.58 **Review the registration system for religious organizations to ensure that registration is not a pre-requisite for exercising the right to freedom of religion or belief (Netherlands);**

7.59 **Amend the Law on Religious Organizations to protect the free practice of religion and the ability of religious organizations to obtain legal status (United States of America);**

7.60 **Ensure respect for the rights of individuals belonging to religious communities and ensure their inclusion by facilitating the registration of minority religious groups (Canada);**

7.61 **Ensure freedom of religion and belief and to actively combat discrimination of religious minorities (Estonia);**

7.62 **Strengthen measures to combat school dropout, especially of pregnant girls, girls from rural areas and girls belonging to communities discriminated against on grounds of their language, caste, race, religion and any other status (Peru);**

7.63 **Enable women to transmit Bhutanese nationality to their children under the same conditions as men (France);**

7.64 **Take all necessary measures to end the practice of child marriage and define child marriage as an offence in the Criminal Code (Belgium);**

7.65 **Ensure that children of Nepalese origin are aware of their rights under the law, and that these rights are explained in an accessible manner, including in schools and in official documents (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

7.66 **Identify and correct practices that discriminate against children based on their ethnic origin, in particular in their access to education and health services (Austria);**

7.67 **Take all necessary measures to enable Bhutanese refugees who wish to return to do so in a safe manner and in conditions respecting their rights (Switzerland);**

7.68 **Resume discussions with the Government of Nepal on the status of individuals in Nepal who assert claims to Bhutanese citizenship or residency (United States of America);**

7.69 **Take the measures necessary to guarantee effective procedures to determine the nationality of refugee children based on the right to a nationality, in particular Nepalese boys, girls and adolescents (Argentina);**

7.70 **Give favourable consideration to the return of Nepali-Bhutanese refugees from Nepal, particularly those with urgent humanitarian needs (Australia);**

7.71 **Continue efforts, together with Nepal, to find a lasting solution to the situation of refugees formerly resident in Bhutan and currently living in Nepal (Germany).**

8. 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 Bhutan was headed by H.E.Lyonpo (Dr) Tandi Dorji, Foreign Minister and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Sonam Tshong, Foreign Secretary;
 - H.E. Mr. Kinga Singye, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva;
 - Mr. Tenzin Rondel Wangchuk, Director, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Tashi Penjor, Director, Department of Law and Order, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs;
 - Mr. Ugyen Dorji, Chief, Social and Humanitarian Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mrs. Tshering Lhadn, Minister Counsellor (Political), Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva;
 - Mr. Sangay Phuntsho, Minister Counsellor (Economic), Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva;
 - Mr. Phuntsho Wangyal, Chief, Gross National Happiness Commission;
 - Mr. Namgay Dorji, Deputy Chief Attorney, Office of the Attorney General;
 - Mr. Ugyen T. Dukpa, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva;
 - Mr. Chainga, Deputy Chief Planning Officer, Ministry of Education;
 - Mr. Galey Tenzin, Senior Programme Officer, National Commission for Women and Children;
 - Mr. Rigtsal Dorji, Second Secretary (political), Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva;
 - Mr. Dorji Wangchuk, Executive Director, Ability Society of Bhutan;
 - Ms. Kinley Zam, Assistant Desk Officer, Multilateral Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Dorji Wangchuk, Executive Director, Ability Society of Bhutan.
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