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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Brunei Darussalam

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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 Brunei Darussalam was held at the 9th meeting, on 10 May 2019. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was headed by the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato Erywan Mohd Yusof. At its 14th meeting, held on 14 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Brunei Darussalam.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Brunei Darussalam: Bangladesh, Bulgaria and Peru.
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 Brunei Darussalam:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/BRN/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/BRN/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/BRN/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Brunei Darussalam 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 delegation was honoured to present the national report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review. The report was the outcome of an extensive process of consultation and collaboration between all relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, who have been active in promoting and safeguarding the welfare and rights of the people of Brunei Darussalam. Its objective was to ensure transparency, inclusiveness and broad ownership, consistent with the State's "whole nation" approach.
6. The head of delegation explained the history of how Islam had come to Brunei Darussalam and how its traditions and cultures had been influenced by the Arab, Indian and Chinese traders of the sixteenth century. Around 1368, the first Sultan of Brunei had converted to Islam and implemented an administration system rooted in Islamic values that had been inherited, adopted and strengthened. Brunei Darussalam had continued the legacy of the Malay Islamic monarchy rooted in the ancient sultanate system and today enshrined in the Constitution and practiced in policies, governance and the way of life.
7. The people of Brunei Darussalam had long enjoyed peace, stability and a prosperous and harmonious life, regardless of race and religion, based on the strong community values that emphasized the family institution as part of the Brunei identity. They were raised in an environment of strong values, the foundation for a respectful, compassionate and law-abiding society that was also close-knit, tolerant and understanding.
8. The Government remained committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and to respect for the dignity of all persons, as guaranteed by the Islamic religion, the

Constitution and the State's laws, and also through its commitments at the regional and international levels.

9. The Government spent billions of dollars annually to guarantee the welfare of its people and to ensure that no one was left behind. The State enjoyed one of the highest standards of living in Asia, with a crime rate of just over 1 per cent. Brunei Darussalam was ranked fifty-fifth of 190 countries for ease of doing business, and its gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to grow more than 5 per cent in 2020. Brunei, as an early achiever of the Millennium Development Goals, strove to build on its achievements to make progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. The State's long-standing policy of providing free universal access to education ensured opportunities for all, regardless of race, religion or gender. The Government also provided full scholarships to the best performing students, and low-interest loans to eligible Bruneians wishing to further their studies overseas. This had contributed to the country's high literacy rate of over 95 per cent. A five-year education strategy plan had been adopted in 2018 to further strengthen and develop the skills of its human resources. In 2019, Universiti Brunei Darussalam was ranked among the world's top 1.3 per cent by the QS World University Rankings.

11. The people of Brunei Darussalam continued to enjoy free universal health-care coverage, including medication, and treatment abroad for complex cases. Citizens did not require private health insurance to be treated in government hospitals. The Government had invested heavily in providing health-care services, including free vaccination programmes, antenatal screenings, a dedicated state-of-the-art women's and children's facility, and privately run specialized hospitals that provided cutting-edge treatment for, inter alia, cancer, stroke and cardiac conditions. Over the past 50 years, Brunei Darussalam had maintained a low maternal mortality ratio of 0.6 per 1,000 live births, and since 2017, an infant mortality rate of 9.5 per 1,000 live births. The Government continued to address other health issues, including non-communicable disease and mental health. It had implemented a multisectoral action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases for the period 2013–2018, and was collaborating with the World Health Organization in developing its next action plan.

12. The Government emphasized the need for securing housing for its citizens. To date, more than 2,000 plots of land and more than 30,000 houses for landless citizens had been provided. There were no homeless persons in Brunei Darussalam.

13. Brunei Darussalam placed great importance on family values and its institutions for the well-being and integrity of society. Since 2012, it had celebrated National Family Day every first Sunday of May to promote the institution of the family. The Government had implemented safety nets and social support for families and vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

14. Women played an important role in the country's development; more women were in fact employed in traditionally male-dominated fields and in government services, and were well represented in the Legislative Council. Brunei Darussalam was represented by 12 women ambassadors of the 43 the State had in various cities, including its Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva and in New York. According to the World Economic Forum, Brunei Darussalam had made significant progress towards gender equality in areas such as education, health and economic participation; out of 149 countries, it had risen from ninety-eighth in 2014 to ninetieth in 2018. Brunei Darussalam also ranked first for the enrolment of girls in secondary and tertiary education, and eleventh for wage equality for similar work. In 2017, Brunei Darussalam ranked fifty-eighth in the employment of women legislators, senior officials and managers. Currently, more than 1,200 women held senior government positions, including 2 deputy ministers, compared to 982 men. Since 2011, women were also given 105 days of paid maternity leave.

15. The Government had enforced laws to protect the welfare of children. The extended family system was a core component of Brunei society that also safeguarded the well-being of the child. The Government was taking measures to ensure sufficient support for working mothers by improving the standards and quality of childcare services and service providers by reviewing the Child Care Centres Act and the Child Care Centres Regulations.

16. Taking care of the elderly was an integral part of the social and cultural values of Brunei society where, thanks to the extended family system, long-term senior citizens homes were not regarded as a necessity. The Government provided monthly pensions and allowances to senior citizens to supplement their livelihood. Local non-governmental organizations were engaged in revising the Senior Citizens Action Plan and establishing senior citizens' activity centres to empower and encourage elderly persons to practice a healthy lifestyle and to promote active aging.

17. Several programmes had been implemented to ensure the protection of the welfare of persons with disabilities. Monthly pensions and allowances were provided for them and their dependents to supplement their livelihood. They were also provided with opportunities to participate actively in all aspects of society, including in national development. A revised building law now catered for the needs of persons with disabilities, while a centralized database on their status of employment was being developed.

18. As a small Islamic country for which the tenets and laws of Islam had for centuries been a way of life, interwoven into the very fabric of culture and society, Brunei Darussalam has been successful in improving and advancing the lives of its people. It was determined to continue to develop the country while respecting the principles of its national religion. It would also continue to uphold the tradition, culture and moral values that had been the core foundation of peace and harmony that the people of Brunei Darussalam had cherished for many centuries.

19. The country had a dual legal system, based on the common law that it inherited from the British and Islamic law, which had worked in tandem for many years. This unique judiciary system ensured due process and upheld the principles of fairness and justice. It also afforded society with protection from crime, and preserved societal morality and decency.

20. The Syariah Penal Code Order did not criminalize a person's status based on sexual orientation or belief, nor did it victimize persons. Brunei laws continued to protect the morality and decency of the public, while respecting the privacy of individuals. The people of Brunei Darussalam had, regardless of their sexual orientation, continued to live and to pursue their activities in their own private space. There was no discrimination against citizens or permanent residents in any way in their access to services, such as employment, education and health care.

21. Brunei Darussalam would continue to be a responsible member of the international community. It would continue to uphold its obligations and adhere to the international treaties to which it was a party, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and Convention on the Rights of the Child. Brunei Darussalam had also signed the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 2015, and was currently working on the steps towards its ratification. For decades, Brunei Darussalam had practised a de facto moratorium on the death penalty for cases under the common law; as recently clarified, the moratorium would also be applied to cases under the Syariah Penal Code Order.

22. As the Government continued to protect the welfare of its citizens and to strive for the continued progress and prosperity of the people, the importance of human rights would remain on the national agenda. Brunei Darussalam and its people did not promote or condone violence of any kind, and anyone who had lived in the country could testify that there was no torture or cruelty against any individuals or groups. The State would continue to strongly condemn acts of extremism and terrorism in all their forms, whether they were committed in the region or internationally.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

23. During the interactive dialogue, 91 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

24. Azerbaijan noted the establishment of special committees, and welcomed the adoption of the long-term development framework under Brunei Vision 2035 and the improvements in the area of poverty.
25. Bahamas valued the State's commitment to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, the access to clean water and the development of a senior citizens' action plan on ageing and health, while recognizing that more remained to be done.
26. Bahrain welcomed the measures taken within the framework of human rights, conceived from the vision of Brunei Vision 2035, especially those relating to fighting poverty, the development of a trust fund and the supplementary pension scheme.
27. Bangladesh commended the progress made in promoting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the efforts made to promote traditional family values.
28. Belarus noted with satisfaction the State's success in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and highlighted the policy to encourage culture and religious tolerance and to support the institution of the family.
29. Belgium welcomed the State's announcement that it would ratify the Convention against Torture, and emphasized that further progress could be made to increase the protection of human rights, in line with the core international human rights treaties.
30. Bhutan welcomed Brunei Vision 2035, and appreciated the initiatives to promote the rights of women and children, and the achievements in the field of education.
31. The Plurinational State of Bolivia highlighted the progress made with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals and equality through policies that empowered low-income people and promoted economic inclusion, regardless of gender, race or religion.
32. Brazil encouraged the State to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture, and expressed concern at the restrictive interpretation of sharia law, which imposed cruel and inhuman forms of punishment, urging the State to reverse them, through legislative reform.
33. Bulgaria observed the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the elimination of poverty, attaining zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality, but expressed concern at the State's decision to fully implement the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013.
34. Cambodia noted the State's commitment to strengthen democracy and human rights principles, and commended its achievements in education, health care and living standards.
35. Canada was seriously concerned that the State was moving towards increasingly inhumane treatment of citizens and non-citizens found guilty of certain crimes through the Syariah court.
36. Chile applauded the approval of the national development framework, Brunei Vision 2035, and the progress in education and the development of human capital. It expressed its concern, however, at the fact that children could be sentenced to corporal punishment and life imprisonment.
37. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the Brunei Vision 2035 programme. It noted the progress made in housing, water and sanitation, and in improving social protection networks, and the emphasis on vulnerable groups.
38. Costa Rica was pleased to note that the State had decided to withdraw its reservations with regard to certain articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and welcomed its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
39. Croatia commended the announced future ratification of the Convention against Torture and the de facto moratorium on capital punishment, although it expressed its

concern at the fact that homosexuality was considered a criminal offence and that children under 18 years of age may be sentenced to life imprisonment and corporal punishment.

40. Viet Nam commended the State's commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and appreciated its efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons.

41. Czechia appreciated the activities conducted to promote women's rights, but expressed its concern at the possible consequences of recently implemented third phase of the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013.

42. Denmark commended Brunei on its de facto moratorium on the death penalty, but was alarmed by the entry into force of the new sharia penal code.

43. Djibouti welcomed the State's commitment to promote Brunei Vision 2035, its economic and social development policy aimed at reducing poverty and inequalities.

44. Ecuador expressed its concern at the measures affecting the enjoyment of human rights, and urged the State to ensure full protection of human rights for all citizens.

45. Egypt welcomed the progress made in promoting tolerance among ethnic groups, the efforts made to secure economic and social well-being, the development of the health system and the attention paid to the elderly.

46. Equatorial Guinea welcomed the Brunei Vision 2035 programme, aimed at promoting education and a sustainable economy, and at improving living standards.

47. Fiji noted the goals of the Brunei Vision 2035 programme of strengthening resilience to climate change, and protecting people's livelihoods and the environment. It welcomed the incorporation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 into the State's strategic adaptation plan.

48. France expressed its concern at the possible consequences of the revised penal code, which if implemented would incorporate legislation that may amount to torture, thereby violating human rights laws.

49. Georgia welcomed the steps taken by Brunei to implement programmes tackling social issues, especially poverty, and noted the establishment of the National Council on Social Issues, which should be provided with additional resources.

50. Germany welcomed the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, but expressed its concern at the Syariah Penal Code Order, which prescribed the death penalty and corporal punishment.

51. Ghana noted the State's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and welcomed the establishment of the Special Committee for national coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals.

52. Greece noted the State's ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and its de facto abolition of the death penalty. It was concerned, however, about the detrimental impact on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons, women and children of the entry into force of the Syariah Penal Code 2013.

53. The Holy See commended the Brunei Vision 2035 programme and the measures that benefit the role of the family, elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

54. Honduras welcomed the progress made, and congratulated the State on various policies that empowered low-income people and promoted economic inclusion.

55. Iceland stated that the penal code marked a serious setback for human rights. It remained concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and on political participation.

56. India appreciated the efforts made in the areas of housing, water, health care and children's rights, including the Brunei Vision 2035. It encouraged the State to enforce compulsory education and equal access for girls.

57. Indonesia commended the actions taken to integrate persons with disabilities in infrastructure and human development programmes, and the measures taken to empower youth.
58. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the efforts made to implement policies empowering low-income people and promoting social inclusion, and the social plans to reduce poverty.
59. Iraq noted the establishment of the Special Committee for National Coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals. It encouraged further efforts to promote human rights.
60. Ireland expressed its concern at the implementation of Syariah Penal Code Order 2013. It hoped that the death penalty moratorium would be formally abolished. It urged the State to uphold its international human rights obligations.
61. Italy appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the signing of the Convention against Torture. It regretted the entry into force of the new Syariah Penal Code Order 2013, which contained punishment that were contrary to the Convention against Torture.
62. Jordan welcomed the progress made in the implementation of policies on health and education.
63. Kazakhstan commended the long-term development framework, Brunei Vision 2035. It appreciated the care policies for children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and the atmosphere of peace and social harmony between different religious and ethnic groups.
64. Kuwait praised the efforts made to improve living standards and to implement Brunei Vision 2035, the measures taken for elderly persons and in the area of health, and the effort made to combat drugs.
65. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the strengthening of the legislative framework, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the signing of the Convention against Torture, and the measures taken to promote human rights within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.
66. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed Brunei Vision 2035 and the work of the special committee on the family institution, women and children to ensure safety nets and social support.
67. Latvia encouraged the State to make further efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations, and expressed its concern at the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013, which prescribed forms of punishment that amounted to torture.
68. Luxembourg expressed its concern at the enactment of the revised Penal Code. It urged that the announcement on the moratorium of the death penalty is followed by concrete guarantees.
69. Malaysia appreciated many achievements, and commended the State for taking a wide range of legal, policy and institutional human rights measures, which also took into account domestic circumstances and tradition.
70. Maldives welcomed the State's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It recognized the State's efforts to integrate international conventions into long-term policies.
71. Malta referred to the definition of adultery and consensual same-sex relations as criminal offences in the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013, and noted the response given to the special procedures and the statement by the Sultan.
72. Mauritania commended the State for its accomplishments in guaranteeing the right to basic services, such as health, education and social services, the promotion of national

capacities and its cooperation with non-governmental organizations. It welcomed Brunei Vision 2035.

73. Mexico acknowledged the progress made in education and health care. It welcomed the moratorium on the death penalty and on other forms of inhuman punishment, particularly affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

74. Montenegro commended the efforts made on gender parity, but noted the absence of relevant legislation on domestic violence. It urged Brunei to combat violence against women and to eliminate all inhuman penalties from the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013, which severely affected women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and children.

75. Myanmar welcomed the national development programme Brunei Vision 2035, and also the State's efforts to fulfil its international obligations with respect to its cultural norms.

76. Namibia commended the Government for its achievements in providing clean and safe drinking water, sanitation and universal access to education.

77. The Netherlands complimented the State on its confirmation of the moratorium on the death penalty and on its announcement that it would ratify the Convention against Torture, but expressed its concern that the revised Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 included harsh penalties that would have a detrimental impact on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, women and children.

78. New Zealand was concerned about the impact of the implementation of the Syariah Penal Code Order 2013 on a broad range of human rights. It acknowledged the announcement on the moratorium on death penalty.

79. Norway was concerned about the introduction of certain provisions in sharia laws, which would have an adverse impact on the realization of human rights.

80. Oman welcomed the efforts made to strengthen and protect human rights through the Brunei Vision 2035 programme and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

81. Pakistan appreciated the State's commitment to the welfare of differently-abled persons, as reflected in its pension schemes for the blind, the mental disorder allowance, and the programmes on social services, education and community development.

82. Peru welcomed the efforts made to improve the situation of human rights, particularly of women and children, and commended the State's determination to pursue cooperation with civil society.

83. The Philippines noted the Government's efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and to tackle transnational drug trafficking.

84. Portugal remained concerned about the widespread pattern of human rights violations and discrimination, including against women and members of minorities.

85. Qatar commended the efforts made to achieve development through the Brunei Vision 2035 programme and the establishment of the Special Committee for National Coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals. It encouraged Brunei to continue its policy of transparency, equity and the prevention of discrimination.

86. The Republic of Korea noted the implementation of a development programme that contributed to creating an inclusive society and provided comprehensive health care and affordable housing. It commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

87. The Russian Federation noted the implementation of the national youth policy and several programmes to improve people's living standards, including health care, and welcomed efforts to provide quality care for persons with dementia.

88. Saudi Arabia commended the efforts to protect human rights and the achievements in the health sector, especially for elderly persons, by empowering them through a sustainable healthy lifestyle and regular health examinations.

89. Senegal noted the adoption of the long-term development framework and the establishment of several social programmes designed to assist people in gaining access to employment and housing.
90. Serbia noted the Government's commitment to implement the 97 recommendations the State had accepted at its previous review, including by cooperating with all stakeholders that actively promoted the welfare of the people.
91. Singapore noted the efforts made to improve living standards through its Brunei Vision 2035 programme and the achievements in the provision of access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation, and the Government's efforts to provide sustainable housing.
92. Slovenia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It expressed concern at the revised Penal Code Order containing harsh penalties, including amputation and stoning to death for specific acts, which may constitute a form of torture.
93. Spain expressed concern at the entry into force of the new Penal Code and the related penalties, which were incompatible with international human rights law.
94. Sri Lanka commended the efforts made to improve living standards by addressing income disparities, ensuring access to clean drinking water and providing free education and affordable social services, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
95. The State of Palestine commended the efforts made by Brunei to implement the recommendations accepted at previous review cycles, to improve access to education, to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and also the establishment of the Special Committee for National Coordination.
96. The Sudan commended Brunei Darussalam for its efforts, reflected through in the Brunei Vision 2035 programme, and welcomed its positive and constructive participation in the universal periodic review.
97. Sweden was concerned about the introduction of legislation on the death penalty by stoning and other forms of cruel punishment, in violation of human rights law.
98. Switzerland was concerned about the revision of the Penal Code introducing the death penalty for homosexual acts and adultery, and that Brunei Darussalam had not ratified some core human rights conventions.
99. Thailand welcomed the State's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the efforts made to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including through the building control law and its efforts to promote the right to health and to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
100. Timor-Leste welcomed the efforts made to improve human rights and the establishment of the Special Committee on the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities. It also welcomed the efforts made to naturalize stateless permanent residents, and encouraged the State to develop a new strategy on the rights of the child.
101. Tunisia welcomed the efforts made to strengthen the legislative framework of human rights and in the areas of development, combating poverty and promoting cultural rights.
102. Ukraine commended the efforts made to implement the 2030 Agenda through the Brunei Vision 2035 programme, and the establishment of the Special Committee for National Coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals.
103. The United Arab Emirates commended the efforts and progress made in the areas of social and economic rights, especially for vulnerable groups, and for the national development plan.
104. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland highlighted the assurances made by the State that it would outlaw all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading

punishments by ratifying the Convention against Torture, and welcomed the confirmation of the moratorium on the death penalty.

105. The United States of America was concerned about the sharia Penal Code if implemented, and the vulnerability of migrant workers. It welcomed the State's decision to extend the moratorium on the death penalty, and urged it to ratify the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

106. Uruguay welcomed the Brunei Vision 2035 programme, encouraged the inclusion of a human rights and a gender perspective in it, and commended the State for its moratorium on the recent amendments to the Penal Code.

107. China appreciated the Brunei Vision 2035 programme, the active implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the measures taken to protect women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

108. Cuba acknowledged the efforts made and positive results achieved since the State's previous review, including the updating of legislation and progress regarding various human rights institutions.

109. Afghanistan appreciated the State's efforts to improve women's participation in politics, and education. The participation of young people in national initiatives, and the measures to protect and promote the rights of older persons were also welcomed.

110. Algeria welcomed the efforts made to implement the national policy for the empowerment of low-income earners, and to promote the economic integration of all categories of the population.

111. Argentina congratulated Brunei on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

112. Armenia recognized the measures taken by the State to combat trafficking in persons, and encouraged further efforts focusing on women and children. It noted the steps taken to promote women's rights, and urged the State to address the remaining challenges.

113. Australia congratulated Brunei on its high living standards, including education and health care. It remained concerned at the continuing limitations on fundamental freedoms and the use of corporal and capital punishments under both of the State's legal systems.

114. Austria encouraged the State to implement the Brunei Vision 2035 programme. While it welcomed the State's announcement that it would maintain the de facto moratorium on executions, and apply it to the new Penal Code Order, it continued to be concerned about its implementation.

115. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to engage with the international community, and thanked all delegates for their encouragement and constructive comments.

116. Brunei Darussalam was a peaceful country, where the people lived in harmony regardless of race, gender or religion and the philosophy of the Malay Islamic monarchy was its pillar and identity. Brunei Darussalam did not promote or condone violence of any kind, and anyone who had lived or visited the country could confirm that torture or cruelty against any individuals or groups was non-existent.

117. The laws of Brunei Darussalam were designed to preserve public peace and security as the society demanded. The Syariah Penal Code Order, like the common law, was to ensure peace and societal integrity, and that the rights of all individuals were protected, without discrimination. It would protect the religion, tradition and social fabric and values of Brunei Darussalam. It would ensure that certain acts were limited to the private space, where the rights of the individuals concerned to privacy was respected and protected.

118. Brunei Darussalam had improved and advanced the lives of its people in education, health, women's empowerment, youth development and poverty alleviation.

119. The low crime rate in Brunei Darussalam was testament to its cultural, traditional and religious values, reinforced by its laws, policies and governance that had successfully protected society and the rights of all individuals.

120. The State had a long-standing commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, and to ensuring that its people continued to live in a safe and secure environment with a high quality of life. It looked forward to working with members of the troika and the secretariat in drafting the report of the Working Group.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

121.1 Ratify core international human rights treaties (Ukraine) (Slovenia) (Afghanistan); accede to core international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Honduras)(Iraq);

121.2 Continue considering the possibility of acceding to other international human rights treaties (Belarus); consider gradual ratification of remaining core international legal instruments (Georgia);

121.3 Consider ratifying the main human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party to (Ecuador) (Senegal); consider acceding to all core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Italy);

121.4 Consider acceding to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

121.5 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Bahamas) (Czechia) (Chile) (Costa Rica) (France) (Croatia) (Belgium) (Switzerland) (Uruguay) (Australia) (Afghanistan); ratify the International Convention on Civil and Political Right at its earliest convenience (Ghana);

121.6 Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and their Optional Protocols (Luxembourg);

121.7 Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Kazakhstan) (Timor-Leste);

121.8 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Croatia) (Czechia) (Chile) (Bahamas) (France) (Belgium) (Switzerland) (Australia) (Afghanistan);

121.9 Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Kazakhstan) (Timor-Leste);

121.10 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Norway) (Slovenia) (Chile) (Czechia) (Belgium) (Australia) (Italy) (Afghanistan) (Bahamas) (Switzerland); ratify the Convention against Torture at the earliest opportunity (Ireland); ratify and abide by the Convention against Torture (Greece); immediately ratify the Convention against Torture (Denmark); ratify the Convention against Torture signed in 2015 (France); intensify efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture, following recent assurances by the Government (Ghana);

121.11 Ratify the Convention against Torture, and amend all laws and punishments to make them consistent with the Convention (New Zealand);

121.12 Ratify the Convention against Torture, signed by Brunei Darussalam in 2015, and make declarations in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the Convention (Austria);

121.13 Ratifying the Convention against Torture without reservations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 121.14 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture (Indonesia); continue its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture (Kyrgyzstan);
- 121.15 Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) (Australia); ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and fully align national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);
- 121.16 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Namibia) (Armenia) (Senegal);
- 121.17 Ratify the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms Racial Discrimination (Bahamas) (Czechia) (Belgium) (Afghanistan) ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, among others (Honduras);
- 121.18 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Belgium) (Czechia);
- 121.19 Consider signing the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);
- 121.20 Accelerate the ratification process of the key international human rights conventions, including the Convention against Torture and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Republic of Korea);
- 121.21 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal) (Indonesia) (Kyrgyzstan);
- 121.22 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol thereto, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and to ensure their implementation in national legislation (Ukraine);
- 121.23 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Uruguay);
- 121.24 Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning decent work for domestic workers, 2011 (189) (Uruguay);
- 121.25 Accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, and its 1967 Protocol (Afghanistan) (Uruguay);
- 121.26 Ratify the various international conventions on statelessness with a view to regularizing the situation of persons without a nationality (Spain);
- 121.27 Strengthen efforts to identify and protect victims of labour and sex trafficking and to hold traffickers accountable, including by acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (United States of America);
- 121.28 Lift its reservations to article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Canada);
- 121.29 Lift its reservations to article 2 (g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture (Costa Rica);

- 121.30 **Withdraw its general reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and eliminate all discriminatory legal provisions against women, including those relating to marriage and divorce, property, inheritance and transmission of nationality to their children (Portugal);**
- 121.31 **Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**
- 121.32 **Issue a standing invitation to the special procedures (Ukraine);**
- 121.33 **Continue promoting international technical cooperation, including in seeking capacity-building assistance (Jordan);**
- 121.34 **Promote capacity-building cooperation related to gender mainstreaming, and share its experiences with ASEAN countries (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 121.35 **Promote international and regional cooperation in the field of human rights (Sudan);**
- 121.36 **Repeal the new punitive measures of the sharia Penal Code Order 2013, and ensure that the implementation of the law will not infringe on human rights and will be fully consistent with the international and regional human rights commitments and obligations undertaken by Brunei Darussalam (Bulgaria);**
- 121.37 **Repeal punishments, such as death penalty by stoning, hand-cutting and whipping, that violate international law by constituting torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and bring the Penal Code into line with international law standards (Czechia);**
- 121.38 **Immediately repeal the provisions of the Penal Code, which legalizes cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and the death penalty for adultery and consensual same-sex sexual acts (Denmark);**
- 121.39 **Eliminate all norms, including in the Penal Code, which provide for, inter alia, capital punishment, stoning, maiming and flogging as sanctions for certain offences or conduct (Ecuador);**
- 121.40 **Repeal the provisions of the new Penal Code providing for corporal punishment and the death penalty for several crimes, including adultery, homosexuality, apostasy or blasphemy, contrary to the international commitments in human rights freely accepted by Brunei Darussalam (France);**
- 121.41 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex conduct and repeal provisions in the Syariah Penal Code Order that are not compliant with international human rights norms (Germany);**
- 121.42 **Review, revise and repeal provisions of the Penal Code to bring it into conformity with international human rights standards and in particular the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Greece);**
- 121.43 **Repeal the newly implemented sections of the Penal Code, and bring the Penal Code into line with international human rights laws and standards (Iceland);**
- 121.44 **Repeal the new provisions of the revised Penal Code which, if implemented, will enshrine in legislation a range of extreme punishments that amount to torture or acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (Ireland);**
- 121.45 **Repeal the Penal Code Order in order for it to comply with international human rights law (Italy);**

- 121.46 Repeal the recent revisions of the Penal Code that stipulate the death penalty (Portugal);
- 121.47 Repeal the new penalties of the Penal Code Order 2013, and ensure that the implementation of the Penal Code Order 2013 and the related Criminal Court Order 2018 is fully consistent with all international and regional human rights commitments and obligations undertaken by the Government (Latvia);
- 121.48 Abolish all provisions of the revised Penal Code which are contrary to the State's international human rights obligations and commitments, including with regard to the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment or treatment, as well as the right to equal protection before the law for all, without discrimination (Luxembourg);
- 121.49 Ensure that the criminalization of offences in the Syariah Penal Code is compliant with international human rights standards by making immediate efforts to review, revise and repeal sections that are contrary to its legal obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the human rights treaties that Brunei Darussalam has signed or ratified (Netherlands);
- 121.50 Repeal or amend those sections of the Penal Code that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct and discriminate against people based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Netherlands);
- 121.51 Review and rescind any laws that contravene the obligations of Brunei Darussalam under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, or that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or religion (New Zealand);
- 121.52 Amend the Sedition Act to strengthen freedom of expression, in line with international human rights obligations (Norway);
- 121.53 Guarantee the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association by, inter alia, repealing the Sedition Act (Germany);
- 121.54 Repeal the emergency powers and the Sedition Act, and protect the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly (United States of America);
- 121.55 Reform laws and policies limiting freedoms of expression and association, such as the Sedition Act (Australia);
- 121.56 Repeal or amend the Sedition Act and the Local Newspapers Order so that they conform with international human rights standards, and take concrete legal action to protect the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, to abolish censorship and to foster a pluralistic and independent media environment (Portugal);
- 121.57 Repeal the revised Penal Code Order, and ensure that any measures introduced are consistent with the State's international human rights obligations and international human rights law (Slovenia);
- 121.58 Amend the Penal Code to ensure that it meets minimum human rights standards (Spain);
- 121.59 Revoke immediately the new legislation dated 3 April 2019 that imposes the use of death penalty for homosexuality and adultery and introduces other cruel and inhuman punishment (Sweden);
- 121.60 Revise its amendments to the Penal Code of 3 April 2019 in order to bring it into line with international human rights standards (Switzerland);
- 121.61 Speed up the adoption of national legislation aimed at its harmonization with ratified international instruments (Ukraine);

- 121.62 Repeal criminal penalties under the sharia Penal Code Order of 2013 that undermine the freedoms of religion and expression, and prohibitions on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and would have a detrimental impact on a number of vulnerable groups, including women at risk of violence, religious and ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);
- 121.63 Ensure that all amendments to the Penal Code announced in April, which reintroduced the death penalty for adultery and same-sex relations and other offences considered serious by the new legislation, remain without effect (Uruguay);
- 121.64 Review the provisions of the Penal Code of 2013 in order to ensure that they comply with international human rights law (Argentina);
- 121.65 Review the Penal Code in order to ensure its strict compliance with the human rights obligations and commitments of Brunei Darussalam (Austria);
- 121.66 Repeal all legislation giving rise to discrimination against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Austria);
- 121.67 Suspend the Syariah Penal Code and make comprehensive amendments to reflect its obligations under international law (Canada);
- 121.68 Ratify the State's commitment to the protection of human rights by repealing all regulations that sanction and discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);
- 121.69 Consider alternatives to the current Penal Code, which enshrines in legislation cruel and inhuman forms of punishment, such as the application of the death penalty for offences such as rape, sodomy, extramarital sexual relations, among other offences (Malta);
- 121.70 Lift the state of emergency systematically renewed since 1962, which restricts fundamental freedoms such as freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly or freedom of association (France);
- 121.71 Lift the state of emergency and introduce legislation that guarantees freedom of speech, religion and belief and freedom of peaceful assembly, in accordance with international standards (Spain);
- 121.72 Lift the state of emergency and remove related restrictions, including on the media (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 121.73 Implement the Syariah Penal Code Order in a manner consistent with international human rights standards (Australia);
- 121.74 The special committees under the National Council on Social Issues, such as the Special Committee on Family Institution, Women and Children and the Special Committee on Immoral Activities and the Prevention of Crime, to undertake programmes that are inclusive and sustainable (Azerbaijan);
- 121.75 Strengthen the institutional and legal framework with respect to the promotion and protection of human rights, especially in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 121.76 Continue to build institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate environmental and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework and to develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance-monitoring across all sectors (Fiji);
- 121.77 Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine) (Costa Rica) (Iraq); consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);

- 121.78 Establish quality and quantitative institutions aimed at ensuring the ability to measure the level of progress in human rights (Sudan);
- 121.79 Continue to undertake its programmes to ensure the continuity of efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 121.80 Further strengthen human rights education and expand engagement with stakeholders (Sri Lanka);
- 121.81 Continue the fair and equitable implementation of the sharia Penal Code Order by providing appropriate training and capacity-building for relevant officials (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.82 Encourage participation of relevant officials in workshops, seminars and training programmes that can contribute to a better understanding of the obligations of Brunei Darussalam to international conventions and agreements to which the State is party in order to ensure their effective implementation (Egypt);
- 121.83 Encourage the participation of relevant government officials in workshops, seminars and training programmes that can contribute to a better understanding of the obligations of Brunei Darussalam pursuant to the international instruments to which it is party and in order to ensure the effective implementation of these instruments (Jordan);
- 121.84 Encourage the participation of relevant officials in workshops and training programmes that can contribute to a better understanding of the obligations of Brunei Darussalam to international conventions and agreements to which the State is a party in order to ensure their effective implementation (Myanmar);
- 121.85 Continue the work to implement the programme for training health-care professionals who provide assistance to persons with dementia (Russian Federation);
- 121.86 Continue training of professionals and officers to improve the lives and circumstances of children in their care (Bhutan);
- 121.87 Ensure respect for the dignity and life of all persons regardless of gender, sex, race, national origin, ethnicity or sexual orientation, including through the decriminalization of same-sex relations (Costa Rica);
- 121.88 Enhance efforts to concretely recognize equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of their religious affiliation (Greece);
- 121.89 Ensure equal rights and fair treatment to all, regardless of race, nationality, gender or sexual orientation (Norway);
- 121.90 Decriminalize sexual activity between same-sex consenting adults, and ensure that the protection of human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons is in conformity with its human rights obligations (Canada);
- 121.91 Decriminalize homosexuality, cross-dressing and other "offences" used to target the LGBTIQ community (Greece);
- 121.92 Decriminalize consensual same-sex acts and adultery (Iceland); decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults (Belgium); decriminalize all sexual activity between consenting adults (Australia);
- 121.93 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults and enact a law and policies against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Mexico);

- 121.94 Continue its actions towards the accomplishment of its national vision/action in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.95 Continue the implementation and review of the national youth policy with a view to make it relevant to current developments (Egypt);
- 121.96 Continue implementing the Brunei Vision 2035 programme, which should be replicated in other countries (Equatorial Guinea);
- 121.97 Implement further the youth empowerment programme by ensuring the effective operation of relevant legal frameworks and programmes (Indonesia);
- 121.98 Continue its efforts to implement national priorities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Myanmar);
- 121.99 Continue to implement programmes that empower youth in different areas, including those related to entrepreneurship (Pakistan);
- 121.100 Ensure effective operations of the Youth Entrepreneurship Steering Committee (Pakistan);
- 121.101 Continue enhancing its programmes on the economic participation of women and youth (Philippines);
- 121.102 Continue implementing the national youth policy, and renew it in line with current requirements (Russian Federation);
- 121.103 Continue its efforts in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on ensuring sustainable livelihoods and improving accessibility to information and fundamental freedoms (State of Palestine);
- 121.104 Strengthen the mutually reinforcing links and synergies between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, including within the work of the Special Committee for National Coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals (Thailand);
- 121.105 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, and further raise people's living standards (China);
- 121.106 Continue the effective implementation of the Brunei Vision 2035 development plan for a better standard of living of its population (Cuba);
- 121.107 Intensify its efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative framework to address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate-change mitigation and adaptation (Fiji);
- 121.108 Immediately suspend any kind of punishment that would harm the life or physical integrity of human beings (Austria);
- 121.109 Consider establishing a formal moratorium on executions (Namibia);
- 121.110 Implement an official moratorium on the death penalty (Australia); immediately establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Greece); immediately establish an official moratorium on the application of the death penalty and all forms of corporal punishment, with a view to their abolition (Brazil); declare and uphold a de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty as a first step towards its full abolition (Norway); establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Croatia); adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty (Italy); adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Denmark); adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty and commute all existing death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Iceland); approve an immediate official moratorium to abolish the death penalty and commute all existing death sentences to prison terms (Chile);

maintain its de facto moratorium and establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Austria); maintain its moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Holy See) (France); maintain the current de facto moratorium with a view to formally abolishing the death penalty (Germany); maintain a moratorium on the death penalty under both the Civil and Syariah Penal Codes (Canada); maintain the moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, and revoke the Shariah Penal Code, which foresees the death penalty (Belgium); maintain the de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition, and amend the Penal Code to reduce the number of offences punishable by death (Spain);

121.111 Declare an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty under both sharia and common law as a step towards its eventual abolition (New Zealand);

121.112 Uphold its long-lasting moratorium on the death penalty, as previously recommended (Czechia);

121.113 Abolish the death penalty and commute all existing death sentences, and explicitly prohibit the application of the death penalty against children, corporal punishment and life imprisonment (Costa Rica);

121.114 Abolish the death penalty and other cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of punishment, such as whipping and lashings, particularly against minors, and raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility, which is currently 7 years of age (Mexico);

121.115 Continue efforts to end trafficking in persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);

121.116 Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Bangladesh);

121.117 Promote freedom of religion and belief, including by increasing access to religious literature, places of worship and public religious gatherings for both non-Muslims and non-Shafi'i Muslims (Canada);

121.118 Ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief, as enshrined in the Constitution, is implemented, and that religious minorities are allowed to practise freely (Ghana);

121.119 Promote the full enjoyment of the fundamental human right of freedom of religion or belief, as recognized in the national Constitution (Holy See);

121.120 Guarantee effectively the freedom of religion or belief (Italy);

121.121 Further promote religious, cultural and social harmony, and consolidate a culture of peace and coexistence (Oman);

121.122 Strengthen norms guaranteeing the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion by revising the obligation to study the Islamic religion (Peru);

121.123 Strengthen its efforts to combat intolerance on the grounds of religion or belief (Timor-Leste);

121.124 Deepen the measures aimed at effectively guaranteeing the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, particularly of boys and girls, promoting tolerance and understanding between boys and girls from all communities, including religious and non-religious groups (Argentina);

121.125 Ensure the freedom of expression and put an end to the censorship of the media, as previously recommended (Czechia);

- 121.126 Consider revising relevant acts restricting the freedom of expression and the media in order to ensure that they conform with international human rights standards (Slovenia);
- 121.127 Review its legislation to effectively guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and religion and to combat intolerance on the grounds of religion or belief, promoting dialogue and understanding among all communities (Brazil);
- 121.128 Continue the policy that allows those sentenced to death to request a stay of execution, and affords them maximum guarantees of a fair trial (Oman);
- 121.129 Strengthen measures for investigating, prosecuting and punishing those responsible for modern slavery offences, and ensure adequate victim protection and care (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 121.130 Tackle remaining social issues, particularly the challenges faced by low-income families (Cambodia);
- 121.131 Continue efforts to preserve and further strengthen the institution of the family, in line with traditional family values (Malaysia);
- 121.132 Continue policies aimed at strengthening and supporting the institution of the family (Belarus);
- 121.133 Continue efforts to preserve and further strengthen the institution of the family, in line with traditional family values (Myanmar);
- 121.134 Continue efforts to support and strengthen the historical institution of the family, the guarantor of social cohesion, in accordance with human instinct (Oman);
- 121.135 Continue efforts to improve the living standards of citizens, including by providing adequate housing at affordable prices (Qatar);
- 121.136 Ensure food security for disadvantaged groups (Malaysia);
- 121.137 Continue to update and improve the National Housing Programme, the Landless Citizens' Scheme and the National Housing Scheme to ensure the provision of sustainable and affordable housing for its people (Singapore);
- 121.138 Continue improving and strengthening programmes on employment and assistance for the poor and underprivileged (Azerbaijan);
- 121.139 Continue its efforts to ensure social security programmes to move towards building a resilient and cohesive society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 121.140 Increase efforts to provide employment and assistance to the poor and low-income groups (Qatar);
- 121.141 Continue strengthening existing programmes and plans aimed at alleviating and eradicating poverty (Bahrain);
- 121.142 Continue implementing programmes aimed at eliminating poverty and promoting health, education and cultural diversity (Sudan);
- 121.143 Further strengthen existing programmes and plans on poverty eradication (United Arab Emirates);
- 121.144 Strengthen actions to continue moving ahead with poverty reduction (Cuba);
- 121.145 Continue to invest in improving its water and sanitation infrastructure to ensure that its people can have access to clean, safe and affordable water, as well as good sanitation facilities (Singapore);

- 121.146 Share best practices arising from the Brunei Darussalam National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (Viet Nam);
- 121.147 Strengthen health services through the allocation of sufficient financial and human resources (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 121.148 Continue allocating resources for programmes aimed at raising public awareness of the harm caused by narcotic drugs (Philippines);
- 121.149 Take effective measures to ensure care of the mental health of adolescents, and facilitate their ability to have access to the necessary consultations and treatment in the area of mental health (Saudi Arabia);
- 121.150 Ensure the effective implementation of the Health System and Infrastructure Master Plan, including the provision of universal health coverage and quality health care (Thailand);
- 121.151 Ensure the effective and successful implementation of the health-care system and of the master plan to develop infrastructure (Kuwait);
- 121.152 Share best practices arising from the Brunei Darussalam National Multisectoral Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable diseases (United Arab Emirates);
- 121.153 Take measures to ensure that all women have access to legal abortion and high-quality post-abortion services (Iceland);
- 121.154 Continue to strengthen services for the education of children particularly those who have suffered from abuses or come from dysfunctional families, to ensure that they are resilient to adversity (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 121.155 Strengthen partnerships with regional and international bodies in the area of education with a view to providing quality and inclusive education to the people (Jordan);
- 121.156 Strengthen partnerships with regional and international bodies in continuing to provide quality and inclusive education (Malaysia);
- 121.157 Continue its efforts in ensuring people's access to education, including all children with disabilities, and allocate adequate financial and technical resources for schools to effectively strengthen inclusive education (State of Palestine);
- 121.158 Enhance actions to improve access to and the quality of education and health care, ensuring that they are inclusive for persons with disabilities (Cuba);
- 121.159 Continue to take steps in ensuring the sustainability of senior citizens' activity centres (Viet Nam);
- 121.160 Pursue efforts towards the sustainability of senior citizens' centres and activities (Kuwait);
- 121.161 Continue its commitment in caring for the welfare and well-being of differently-abled persons, including increased collaboration with relevant local non-governmental organizations (Pakistan);
- 121.162 Better protect the rights of the elderly, and continue to enhance their welfare and social protection (China);
- 121.163 Accelerate ongoing work on the draft plan of action dedicated to women's issues with a view to concluding it as part of the country's commitment to improving the promotion of the rights of women (Philippines);
- 121.164 Continue developing and implementing targeted strategies and activities to expand the rights of women (Russian Federation);

- 121.165 Continue its efforts to formulate and implement focused strategies to improve the rights of women and children (Bhutan);
- 121.166 Provide continuity to the national action plan dedicated to women's issues, and consider the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 121.167 Strengthen the policy towards achieving equality between women and men, and the empowerment and advancement of women (Bulgaria);
- 121.168 Strengthen the capacity and authority of the national machinery for the advancement of women by allocating it increased, sustainable human and financial resources (Bahamas);
- 121.169 Further promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (Georgia);
- 121.170 Take all steps necessary to ensure equality between men and women and to eliminate gender stereotypes (Costa Rica);
- 121.171 Take concrete steps to dismantle gender stereotypes and eliminate structural barriers to women's and girls' enrolment in non-traditional fields, such as technical or vocational sectors (Bahamas);
- 121.172 Pursue its policy for the elimination of inequalities between men and women by taking measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life, particularly in positions of responsibility (Djibouti);
- 121.173 Allow women to enjoy equal rights by conferring citizenship to their children and spouses (Germany);
- 121.174 Address the gender pay gap between men and women (Iraq);
- 121.175 Continue its efforts to promote equal economic opportunities for women and men, and to reduce the gender gap in decision-making processes (Bangladesh);
- 121.176 Remove laws discriminating against women with regard to marriage and divorce (Peru);
- 121.177 Continue efforts towards aligning its national legislation, policies and programmes on women and children with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Sri Lanka);
- 121.178 Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women, especially in the labour market (Tunisia);
- 121.179 Strengthen its efforts to promote women's participation in the work force by adopting comprehensive legislation that combats discrimination and sexual harassment at the workplace and eliminates the persisting gender wage gap (Afghanistan);
- 121.180 Take the measures necessary to guarantee that women enjoy the same rights as men to transmit nationality to their children and spouses (Argentina);
- 121.181 Respect the fundamental principle of equality between women and men, in particular by allowing Brunei women to transmit their nationality to their children and by removing reservations to article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (France);
- 121.182 Repeal all discriminatory laws against women to ensure equal rights and opportunities, and adopt national legislation that would criminalize all forms of violence against women (India);
- 121.183 Enact laws that sanction gender violence, in particular domestic violence, marital rape and female genital mutilation (Mexico);

- 121.184 Strengthen mechanisms for addressing the issue of domestic violence, including with regard to access to temporary security shelter homes, counselling and other forms of assistance (Bhutan);
- 121.185 Cease the practice of female genital mutilation, locally referred to as female circumcision (Australia);
- 121.186 Take measures to reduce the gender wage gap and to increase the participation of women in public and political life (Namibia);
- 121.187 Consider the adoption of a comprehensive strategy that would include awareness-raising and the elimination of gender stereotypes, and implement measures that would significantly enhance women's participation in political and public life (Serbia);
- 121.188 Adopt a national action plan together with the national strategy to continue efforts towards better promotion of gender equality and women's participation (Armenia);
- 121.189 Take measures to consistently apply the principle of the best interests of the child in all legislative, administrative and judicial procedures (Bulgaria);
- 121.190 Review the sharia code with a view to repealing provisions negatively affecting children, and develop institutional capacity for the effective implementation of child-related laws (Croatia);
- 121.191 Further strengthen efforts to protect the rights of children (Georgia);
- 121.192 Strive to implement the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in order to guarantee children's rights (Holy See);
- 121.193 Adopt a comprehensive strategy that includes awareness-raising activities aimed at eradicating gender stereotypes and discrimination against all marginalized groups, such as girls (Honduras);
- 121.194 Continue its endeavour to promote and protect the human rights of children, including by developing a more specific policy on children's rights within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Kyrgyzstan);
- 121.195 Conduct legal reforms so that the minimum age for marriage is 18 years for both men and women (Mexico);
- 121.196 Undertake law reforms and eliminate all cruel violations of the rights of the child, such as capital punishment, amputation and public flogging (Montenegro);
- 121.197 Increase the age of criminal responsibility from 7 years of age and raise the minimum age of marriage for all children to 18 years (Namibia);
- 121.198 Consider expanding and accelerating the ongoing work with regard to the establishment of childcare centres in workplaces (Cambodia);
- 121.199 Ensure allocation of adequate human, technical and financial resources to alternative childcare centres and relevant child protection services (Maldives);
- 121.200 Continue the effort to promote childcare, to protect the rights of children and to combat child labour (Tunisia);
- 121.201 Ensure that the minimum age applies to all types of work, including work outside a contractual employment relationship (Algeria);
- 121.202 Fully harmonize the juvenile justice system with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant norms by raising without delay the minimum age of criminal responsibility of 7 years to an internationally acceptable level, and eliminating whipping and flogging as penalties applicable to children (Chile);

- 121.203 Consider raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility for children (Belarus);
- 121.204 Continue to harmonize its juvenile justice system with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially with regard to the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Peru);
- 121.205 Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to education and allocate sufficient human and financial resources for schools to strengthen inclusive education (Bulgaria);
- 121.206 Continue to address the needs of persons with disabilities, including by implementing the relevant programme of action (Viet Nam);
- 121.207 Uphold its commitment to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in ensuring that legislation is harmonized with its obligations under the Convention (Egypt);
- 121.208 Adopt national legislation to protect and guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities (India);
- 121.209 Take further steps to improve the welfare and well-being of persons with disabilities, including through increased collaboration with local non-governmental organizations (Indonesia);
- 121.210 Continue efforts in advancing the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities (Kazakhstan);
- 121.211 Continue to develop an efficient system for the early detection and diagnosis of disabilities, to ensure the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities (Maldives);
- 121.212 Respect the rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by combating institutionalization, stigma, violence and over-medicalization, and by developing community-based and people-centred mental health services that promote inclusion in the community (Portugal);
- 121.213 Continue efforts to promote the integration of persons with disabilities into society by building their capacity and ensuring their access to all appropriate services (Qatar);
- 121.214 Continue efforts to improve living conditions of all members of society in order to promote the social welfare and development of people and assist vulnerable groups, particularly children, women and persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);
- 121.215 Incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into its national legal framework, and effectively implement the Different Abilities Design Guidelines (Sri Lanka);
- 121.216 Finalize the centralized database on the employment status of differently-abled persons in the public and private sectors (United Arab Emirates);
- 121.217 Better protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and continue to provide them with life skills training and increase their employment (China);
- 121.218 Develop a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities (Algeria);
- 121.219 Protect the rights of migrant workers, including by improving their living and working conditions (Bangladesh);
- 121.220 Continue its efforts to reduce the number of stateless persons, including by reviewing its Nationality Act (Republic of Korea).

122. **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 Brunei Darussalam was headed by the Honourable Dato Erywan Mohd Yusof; Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Hj Mohammad Rosli Hj Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office;
- Ms. Hjh Dyg Siti Norishan Hj Awg Abdul Ghafor, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awg Hj Mazanan Hj Yusof, Assistant Mufti (Buhuth), State Mufti's Office;
- Mrs. Datin Hjh Hasnah Hj Ibrahim, Assistant Solicitor-General, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Ms. Nazirah Hj Zaini, Acting Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Hj Hardifadhillah Hj Mohd Salleh, Acting Director, Islamic Legal Unit, Ministry of Religious Affairs;
- Mrs. Hjh Noridah Abdul Hamid, Acting Director, Social Services Division, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;
- Mr. Hj Muhammad 'Isamuddin Abdullah Juna, Acting Director, Prisons Department, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Mr. Azmi Hj Hafneh, Acting Senior Special Duties Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Mr. Pg Zamiri Pg Hj Jamaluddin, Senior Buhuth Officer, States Mufti's Office;
- Ms. Hjh Anifa Rafiza Hj Abd Ghani, Senior Counsel and Deputy Public Prosecutor, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Ms. Dr. Noryati Hj Ibrahim, Acting Assistant Director, Islamic Legal Unit, Ministry of Religious Affairs;
- Ms. Dk Hjh Ena Suraya Pg Hj Mohammad, Deputy Senior Counsel, Law and Welfare Division, Prime Minister's Office;
- Ms. Noorfadlina Damit, Assistant Director, Office of the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Dayang Hjh Norhartijah Hj Puteh, Syariah Legal Officer, Islamic Legal Unit, Ministry of Religious Affairs;
- Ms. Hjh Qistina Hj Murad, Community Development Officer, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;
- Ms. Hjh Dyg Aimi-Athirah Hj Awang, Legal Officer, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Ms. Dk Nur Maseleiana Rahimah Pg Ibrahim, Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Dr. Mohammad Hussin Ali Idris, Legal Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers.

Delegates from the Permanent Mission:

- H.E. Hjh Masurai Hj Masri, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam;
- Ms. Ni'matullah Athirah Muntassir, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam Geneva;

- Mohammad Yusri Yahya, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam Geneva.
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