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

The Gambia

* 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-fourth session from 4 to 15 November 2019. The review of the Gambia was held at the 3rd meeting, on 5 November 2019. The delegation of the Gambia was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambadou. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 November 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on the Gambia.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Gambia: Bulgaria, the Philippines and Togo.
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 the Gambia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/GMB/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.6/34/GMB/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/GMB/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Gambia 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. On behalf of the President of the Republic of the Gambia, the Government and people of the Gambia, the delegation expressed its appreciation to the Human Rights Council and welcomed the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Gambia.
6. The national report was prepared in consultation with all stakeholders including relevant ministries and government departments, the Commonwealth secretariat, and civil society and non-governmental organizations. This report should be assessed with full appreciation for the nature and magnitude of the challenges with which the Government was confronted, following more than two decades of dictatorship. Despite these challenges, many of the recommendations from the previous review had been implemented over the last three years.
7. The delegation stated that great emphasis was being placed on governance in the transition from dictatorship to democracy. The root causes of conflict were the decades of authoritarian rule characterized by gross human rights violations, a deeply polarized society based on ethnic and political considerations, ethnic hatred manifested through hateful propaganda targeted at certain ethnic communities, political persecution, impunity and poverty.
8. Consequently, the first and most pressing challenge for the Government was sustaining peace in the country amidst a real risk of inter-communal clashes motivated by ethnic and political considerations that had simmered beneath the façade of peaceful co-existence for over two decades. This required reassurances from all sides of the ethnic and political divide that there would be no witch-hunt against any person or community for the

excesses of the previous administration, while also reassuring victims and their families that justice will be dispensed through due process of law. A balance was needed to be struck between fostering social cohesion and reconciliation through justice, and rebuilding a strong and robust democratic foundation anchored on the respect for the rule of law and human rights.

9. The Government has resolved to improve the country's constitutional, legal and institutional framework in various governance areas in order to consolidate democracy and align the entire governance architecture with international justice and human rights standards. The priority was to put in place a new and resilient architecture to uphold the highest standards of human rights, justice and rule of law. This required embarking on an ambitious and comprehensive transitional justice process.

10. The delegation stated that the Government stood firm in its conviction that without good governance there cannot be durable peace or economic development. Good governance provided a conducive and permissive political, social and economic environment that allowed the Government to put in place policies, programs and strategies that uphold human rights and justice, spur economic growth, and enabled the provision of basic services, while allowing the expression of individual creativity for private wealth creation. Good governance was therefore the first priority area in the National Development Plan 2018-2021.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

11. During the interactive dialogue, 86 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

12. Holy See appreciated the action taken to abolish the death penalty and stated that availability and quality of health services and education would reduce inequality.

13. Honduras congratulated the Gambia for progress made in establishing an inter-ministerial team for the preparation of reports and for follow-up to the review.

14. Iceland welcomed the significant advances the Government had made since taking office, including the steps taken to abolish the death penalty, and looked forward to its abolition.

15. India encouraged the Gambia to continue its cooperation with the United Nations and other organizations to further strengthen its laws and align them with international human rights law.

16. Indonesia appreciated the progress made since the previous review, and noted the introduction of the School Improvement Grant and the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

17. Islamic Republic of Iran congratulated the Gambia for the introduction of the School Improvement Grant as a step towards the progressive introduction of free education.

18. Iraq commended the Gambia for the ratification of, among others, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

19. Ireland welcomed the announcement a moratorium on the death penalty and encouraged the Gambia to consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedures.

20. Italy commended Gambia for the ratification of human rights instruments and for the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

21. Latvia encouraged Gambia to undertake further efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations and commitments and welcomed cooperation with the special procedures.

22. Libya commended the Gambia for its efforts in implementing the recommendations from the previous review and the progress made in protecting human rights.

23. Madagascar congratulated the Gambia for its commitment to guaranteeing human rights by carrying out important constitutional reforms and encouraged it to continue with such efforts.
24. Maldives appreciated the constructive engagement with the review process and welcomed the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission.
25. Mali congratulated the Gambia for ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as recommended by Mali during the previous review.
26. Mauritania welcomed the presentation of the national report and the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission.
27. Mauritius commended the Gambia for enacting National Human Rights Commission Act of 2017 and for the major efforts undertaken to reform the judiciary.
28. Mexico acknowledged the progress achieved, including the enactment of the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 that prohibits child marriage and establishes the age of marriage as 18 years.
29. Montenegro encouraged further engagement in the process of transitional justice and expressed concern about restrictive legislation relating to the freedom of expression.
30. Morocco appreciated the enactment of several legislative measures to implement recommendations from the previous review and measures to address delays in submitting reports to treaty bodies.
31. Mozambique noted the significant strides the Gambia had made in implementing the recommendations from the previous review, including by establishing the National Human Rights Commission.
32. Myanmar regretted that most of the ratified international human rights conventions were yet to be enacted in domestic legislation. It was concerned that gender inequality remained a problem.
33. Namibia noted the accession to 9 core international human rights instruments and the Government's pledge to progressively realise the rights and freedoms contained therein.
34. Nepal noted efforts taken to empower women and to abolish the death penalty.
35. The Netherlands was concerned about attacks on and arrests of journalists and about the high prevalence of sexual and gender based violence.
36. Niger noted legal and institutional reforms for the protection of human rights and the adoption of the National Development Plan for 2018-2021.
37. The delegation of the Gambia stated that since the installation of the current administration three years ago, progress in areas of civil and political rights has been remarkable, most visible in the area of freedom of expression. Reporters without Borders' global report on freedom of expression published in 2019, ranked the Gambia 9th in Africa and 92nd in the world for 2018, a jump of 30 places from the previous year. These rankings were a reflection of the reality on the ground. Within the past three years, there has been a proliferation of private radio stations and newspapers, private television stations and a host of political programs. The education tax levied on media houses and media practitioners had been lifted and a self-regulatory independent media council had been established. No media practitioner or journalist has been arrested or prosecuted over the past three years. The Government has honoured the judgments of Ecowas regional court and paid the damages to practitioners for abuses suffered under the previous administration.
38. A draft Media Services Bill and a draft Freedom of Information Bill will be presented to the National Assembly for enactment by the end of 2019.
39. The Gambia had ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment in September 2018. A new Criminal Code criminalizing torture was expected to come into force by the end of 2019. The Government was also

committed to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

40. There were a number of legal and procedural safeguards to guide law enforcement authorities on effective investigations and which sought to protect the dignity of persons upon arrest and detention, which were rigorously applied by law enforcement agencies. The National Intelligence Agency has been stripped of its powers of detention. A new approach to policing based on human rights was being undertaken and a human rights unit has been established in the police force to receive complaints, and respond to incidents of abuse and brutality. A police bill was being drafted to entrench the legal and procedural safeguards in the handling of suspects and to provide a code of conduct for police officers, while also serving to inform the public about what could be expected from the police.

41. A series of concrete measures including sensitization workshops about the prohibition of torture were being rolled out for law enforcement agencies with the support of international partners.

42. The prisons, while still not up to the desired standards, were far better places of detention than they were under the previous administration. The conditions of detention including food, beddings, and other basic amenities have significantly improved over the past three years. International organizations were routinely given access to the prisons. New detention facilities were being constructed to mitigate overcrowding of awaiting trial detainees. The Prisons Act was being reviewed.

43. Several rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were reflected in the 1997 Constitution of the Gambia and in other laws. The Gambia has met the Millennium Development Goals with respect to free primary school enrolment, as well as gender parity.

44. With the support of United Nations Women and the Commonwealth Secretariat, all laws that tend to discriminate against women were being reviewed. The delegation expressed the hope that by December 2019, 95 percent of all discriminatory laws would have been identified and repealed.

45. Where rights have not been explicitly guaranteed in the Constitution, such as the right to health or the right to work, they have been reflected in legislation and policies.

46. Under the National Health Policy, 'Health is Wealth', the Health Master Plan 2017-2020, and the National Reproductive Health Policy 2017-2026, great strides have been made to provide affordable health care at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Under 5 mortality rates have been significantly reduced. Eighty-six percent of women received antenatal care from a skilled health professional. Significant inroads have been made in the treatment of diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and mental health.

47. The Women's Act of 2010 (as amended) prohibits the practice of female genital mutilation. In 2018, the Ministry of Justice established a Sexual and Gender Based Violence Unit with the responsibility to handle all criminal cases of sexual violence and abuse. Members of the Unit will receive specialized training in the investigation, prosecution and handling victims.

48. There has been an increase in women's participation in national politics at all levels. The Women's Bureau, a specialized Government department advises Government on issues of women and girls. Similarly, there was a National Women's Council composed of 65 members representing the interests of women countrywide.

49. Empowering women by appointing them to decision-making positions beyond just the political sphere was at the heart of the Government's policy and was reflected in the judicial appointments of women over the last three years. Women were also included in all the transitional justice processes, particularly the transformative governance rebuilding activities.

50. Nigeria commended the Government for the ratification of several international human rights instruments and for its efforts to strengthen legal and institutional framework.

51. Pakistan commended the Government for its measures to improve the status of women in political, social and economic life and for its commitment to the well-being of its people.
52. The Philippines noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and institutional and legal reforms undertaken.
53. Portugal welcomed the establishment of a national human rights commission and the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
54. Rwanda welcomed the efforts of Gambia to abolish the death penalty and the ongoing review of constitutional and legislative framework to protect human rights.
55. Saint Kitts and Nevis noted efforts of the Government to review laws concerning media and to draft the Bill on freedom of information.
56. Senegal noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and encouraged the Gambia to continue its efforts to conclude ongoing reforms.
57. Serbia noted the cooperation of the Gambia with the special procedures of the United Nations and expressed its belief that such cooperation could be further strengthened.
58. Seychelles noted the establishment of a national human rights institution, legislative and policy reforms, and the constructive engagement with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.
59. Sierra Leone noted the Government's commitment to reform state institutions. It urged the Government to implement the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission's recommendations.
60. Slovenia commended the Gambia for the implementation of recommendations related to freedom of expression, association and assembly. It was concerned by the low rate of literacy among women and girls and about discrimination against them.
61. Solomon Islands noted the significant legislative reforms that had been undertaken since the previous review and the ratification of many international human rights instruments.
62. South Africa commended the Gambia for the political reforms and welcomed the ratification of several human rights instruments.
63. Spain noted that legislation was yet to be harmonized with international standards, consensual same-sex relationships remained criminalized, and the practices of child marriage and female genital mutilation were widespread.
64. The State of Palestine commended the Government for the signature and ratification of international conventions and appreciated the efforts to improve the status of women.
65. Sudan noted the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
66. Switzerland welcomed the ratification of the Second Option protocol to the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture, and the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
67. Timor-Leste noted the enactment of the Human Rights Commission Act, the moratorium on the death penalty, and the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
68. Togo noted the moratorium on the death penalty and the commencement of the ratification process of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
69. Tunisia noted the ratification of the Convention against Torture, and the enactment of laws including the Women's Act of 2016.
70. Turkey noted the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the National Human Rights Institution, the creation of the Development Plan (2018-2021), and efforts to combat human trafficking.

71. Uganda noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution and the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
72. Ukraine noted the engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and progress towards abolishing death penalty. It expressed concern about child marriage and female genital mutilation.
73. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the drafting of a new Constitution. It expressed concern about corruption, discrimination against women and minority groups, and laws repressing freedom of expression.
74. United States of America expressed concern by impunity for security services, the practice of female genital mutilation and the criminalization of LGBTI status and conduct.
75. Uruguay encouraged the Gambia to ensure the effective abolition of the death penalty and expressed concern about its unwillingness to decriminalize same-sex sexual relations.
76. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
77. Zambia commended the Gambia for the progress made in signing and ratifying numerous international human rights treaties since the change of government in 2017.
78. Algeria applauded the ratification of international human rights instruments, as well as measures for the advancement of women.
79. Angola noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, as well as key constitutional and legal reforms.
80. The delegation of the Gambia stated that hundreds of prisoners had been released by Presidential pardon, and there were no political prisoners or prisoners of conscience.
81. The Government adopted a policy of public engagement through consultations, participation and inclusiveness in the three main pillars of the transitional justice process, which were the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, the Constitutional Review Commission, and the National Human Rights Commission of the Gambia. This was borne out of the recognition that by giving the people ownership of the processes, they were more likely to accept the outcomes.
82. The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission has commenced public hearings, which has attracted several witnesses including victims and perpetrators. An initial contribution of one million United States dollars was made to the Victims Trust Fund, from the proceeds of sale of the former President's assets. The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission like all truth commissions, was not a court and one of its primary objectives was to establish the truth in exchange for amnesty and the promotion of healing and national reconciliation. It was also mandated to identify those who were alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for human rights violations for prosecution.
83. A new constitution was being drafted that would faithfully and accurately reflect the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Gambia and was expected to be promulgated in 2020, following a national referendum.
84. The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty has been ratified. A moratorium on the death penalty was imposed and all death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment. However, the death penalty continued to divide public opinion, as manifested during public consultations with the Constitutional Review Commission. The Government has made public its preference for total abolition.
85. Following clashes between the police and some protesters in Faraba Banta, a sand mining region of the country, three civilians were shot and killed by the police and several others including some police personnel were injured. An independent commission of inquiry was established and the recommendations of the commission were being implemented, including the prosecution of the police officers allegedly responsible for the death of the three protesters. Compensation will be paid to the injured protesters and to the families of those protesters who have been killed.

86. The delegation stated that the Gambia experienced challenges in tackling trafficking in persons, and in implementing legislating prohibiting child marriage, child labour laws and female genital mutilation. The Government remained committed to addressing those challenges.
87. The Government was committed to reviewing the criminal code with a view to removing the criminal sanctions against the gay and lesbian community, while respecting the values of the cultural and religious society that make up the Gambia.
88. The anti-corruption legislation was not fit for purpose and new legislation was expected to be enacted in 2020.
89. Argentina noted the ratification of Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and progress towards abolishing death penalty.
90. Australia welcomed the steps taken to improve the human rights framework, the commencement of hearings by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the ban on female genital mutilation.
91. Azerbaijan welcomed the increased cooperation with treaty bodies and special procedures, and the ratification of several international human rights instruments.
92. The Bahamas commended the Gambia for its commitment to realizing the rights of its citizens demonstrated through initiatives including constitutional and legislative reforms.
93. Bangladesh noted the ratification of human rights instruments, the establishment of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and the National Human Rights Institution.
94. Belgium noted the progress made since the previous review, but that further progress can be achieved by increasing the protection of human rights in line with international standards.
95. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the national policy on the promotion of women, as well as the establishment of the Agricultural Council.
96. Botswana noted the new constitutional, legislative and regulatory reforms to protect human rights and cooperation with human rights mechanisms, and the re-entry to the Rome Statute.
97. Brazil applauded the ratification of CAT, the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the moratorium on capital punishment.
98. Burkina Faso welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution, It expressed concern about child marriage and female genital mutilation.
99. Burundi welcomed the Development Plan (2018-21), and measures towards the improvement of administration of justice, public health and for the benefit of women and children.
100. Canada noted the peaceful transition to democracy and the focus on the protection of human rights. It encouraged the Gambia to ensure that the national human rights commission acted independently and effectively.
101. Central African Republic congratulated the Gambia on inviting Special Proceedings' mandate holders and on reviewing legislation with the aim to protect freedom of expression.
102. Chile expressed its expectation that the process of reviewing the Criminal Code and the Children's Act, among others, would meet the highest human rights standards.
103. China noted the implementation of the National Development Plan 2018-2021, which improved the standard of living and promoted sustainable development, amongst others. It also noted efforts to combat human trafficking.
104. The Congo welcomed the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights and encouraged harmonization of national legislation with ratified international human rights instruments.

105. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
106. Croatia welcomed the improved conditions for enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and the establishment of the National Media Law Review Committee.
107. Cuba noted the adoption of policies, legislation and programmes to favour women's empowerment, as well as to guarantee gender equality in primary education.
108. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the adoption and implementation of the National Social Protection Plan (2015-2025) and the National Development Plan (2018-2021).
109. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
110. Denmark noted the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and welcomed the adoption of the amended Women's Act of 2015.
111. Djibouti welcomed the ratification of several international instruments and the programme of institutional and legal reforms, particularly regarding its Constitution and Elections Act.
112. Egypt noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and appreciated efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional structure for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
113. Ethiopia noted the ratification of international human rights instruments and the Government's commitment to addressing its backlog in reporting to various international human rights mechanisms.
114. Fiji noted the ratification of international human rights instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the moratorium placed on the death penalty.
115. France welcomed efforts by the Gambia to improve the human rights' situation, particularly in combatting torture and in the area of women's rights.
116. Gabon appreciated the strengthening of the legislative and institutional framework with a view to promoting women's rights.
117. Georgia appreciated the initiatives taken to promote children's rights, including the amendment of the Children's Act of 2005 to criminalize child marriage and child labour.
118. Germany welcomed the progress made in the protection of human rights. It called for the completion of all legal reforms that have been set in motion.
119. Ghana welcomed the progress made in the protection of human rights despite the challenges inherited by the new democratic dispensation.
120. The delegation of the Gambia stated that in the health sector, all efforts were being made to ensure that all district hospitals were able to provide primary health care, especially for women and children, and were able to perform operations.
121. The Government continued to strengthen the focus on education for girls. Girls who had dropped out of school to get married, had been given another opportunity to attend school, with the objective of reducing child marriage.
122. The national social protection agenda has been improved and a new programme has supported 15 000 households with cash transfers. This programme also supported persons with disability. Efforts were also made to enact a draft national health insurance bill.
123. Children with disabilities in rural areas, particularly girls, were in the process of being identified. Five teachers have been assigned to each of the regions with relevant specialised skills to teach children with disabilities and with capacities in Braille and sign language. A policy of mainstreaming children with mild and moderate disability in mainstream schools has been adopted. National mechanisms have been established to coordinate the

implementation of supported universal periodic review recommendations. These mechanisms were the inter-ministerial task force which is also responsible for treaty body reporting and the national human rights commission. The national human rights mechanism will also have the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations from the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission upon the completion of its work. The Commission was not permitted to grant amnesty to persons who were alleged to have committed acts that constituted crimes against humanity.

124. Since taking office, the Government has managed to organize three free, fair and transparent legislative and local government elections under the auspices of the Independent Electoral Commission. More than 200 candidates contested for 53 seats in the legislative assembly, 400 candidates for 120 local council seats and 38 candidates contested for 7 mayoral and chairperson seats in municipalities and administrative regions across the country. This record participation of ordinary Gambians in the political process was mainly due to the new permissive political environment, and the drastic reduction of monetary deposits payable by contestants to secure their participation in these elections. In addition, concrete steps have been taken on electoral law reform. While the Government recognized that the ongoing constitutional review process would deal with more fundamental aspects of the electoral process, a conscious decision had been taken to engage in a consultative, inclusive and participatory legislative review exercise by all stakeholders to the political process so as to ensure an inclusive, fair, transparent and level playing field in future elections. These consultations were ongoing and the Elections Act was expected to be revised in 2020.

125. The fear of government has all but dissipated. People were freely expressing themselves without fear of arrest or intimidation. Civil society organizations have been allowed the conducive space to freely operate. Reports of arbitrary arrests by security forces have been significantly reduced, and so are reports of detention without trial, enforced disappearance, and state sanctioned murder or torture.

126. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to uphold the highest standards of human rights. The objective was to ensuring a gradual but incremental realization of all human rights with the view to building a modern democratic state anchored on respect for the rule of law, human rights, and democratic pluralism. The Gambia would continue to count on the support and goodwill of the international community and would continue engaging with bodies such as the Human Rights Council.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

127.1 Ratify international legal instruments on human rights that Gambia has not yet party to (Niger);

127.2 Continue to review and accede to international human rights treaties and conventions (State of Palestine);

127.3 Continue the practice of becoming party to international instruments in the field of promotion and protection of human rights (Azerbaijan);

127.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);

127.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);

127.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);

127.7 Consider ratifying Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as

well as the **Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the earliest convenience (Ghana);**

127.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as previously recommended (Mali);**

127.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Montenegro);**

127.10 **Continue to seek necessary international support to enhance its capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);**

127.11 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all thematic Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Rwanda);**

127.12 **Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**

127.13 **Continue its efforts to submit outstanding reports to the Treaty Bodies (Côte d'Ivoire);**

127.14 **Continue with the ongoing institutional and legal reforms contained in the National Development Plan (2018–2021) aimed at addressing the backlog of state reports to Treaty Bodies (Ghana);**

127.15 **Fully implement certain recommendations, which Gambia accepted to during the second cycle of the universal periodic review (Madagascar);**

127.16 **Adopt, with the support of the international community, a comprehensive package of measures to implement constitutional and democratic reforms (Niger);**

127.17 **Guarantee the full incorporation of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the new Constitution's declaration of rights (Spain);**

127.18 **Prioritize completion of the Constitutional Review process taking into account the need for inclusive consultations (Uganda);**

127.19 **Continue to incorporate international human rights conventions that have been ratified by Gambia into the domestic legislation (Indonesia);**

127.20 **Ensure media and freedom of expression provisions contained within the Constitution comply with international standards, as outlined under Article 19 of the ICCPR (Australia);**

127.21 **Continue with efforts to permanently abolish the death penalty in all circumstances by amending the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Criminal Code (Ireland);**

127.22 **Remove the death penalty from the Constitution (Germany);**

127.23 **Integrate abolition of the death penalty into the Penal Code and the Constitution (Switzerland);**

127.24 **Continue ongoing legislative reforms to adopt a new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, in line with international standards (Côte d'Ivoire);**

127.25 **Continue legislative reform efforts to review the laws, in order to ensure their compatibility with the international obligations (Libya);**

127.26 **Take further measures for the completion of the legislative reform process in line with international standards (Azerbaijan);**

127.27 **Continue with the ongoing review of domestic laws in line with international best practices (Ghana);**

127.28 **Bring national legal provisions in line with international standards on freedom of expression under the ICCPR, inter alia by repealing Section 173A of**

the Information and Communications Amendment Act (2013), and by amending sections 25 (4) and 209 of the Constitution (Netherlands);

127.29 Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment against children in all settings, including in the home, and to repeal all legal defences for its use, including the application of the concept of “reasonable chastisement” (Mexico);

127.30 Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 or pass legislation expressly prohibiting direct or indirect sexual harassment (Namibia);

127.31 Pass legislation that promotes and guarantees freedom of expression, access to information and media pluralism (Namibia);

127.32 Urgently review and bring in conformity with international and regional human rights obligations restrictive laws on the right to freedom of expression, including the relevant sections of the Criminal Code (Iceland);

127.33 Table and pass the Freedom of Information Bill soonest and continue to amend and ensure that its Information and Communications Act is in line with international best practices, which is linked to SDG16 (Saint Kitts and Nevis);

127.34 Reconsider national laws related to the status of women, in particular the Law on Women, with a view to removing any provisions that are discriminatory against women (Serbia);

127.35 Incorporate into its domestic legal framework the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified in 2015 (Mexico);

127.36 Speedily enact the ‘Disability Bill’ and allocate sufficient funds for its effective implementation to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres (Seychelles);

127.37 Enact legislation to implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Convention effectively (Seychelles);

127.38 Take further steps to eradicate all draconian laws aimed at stifling freedom of expression and other media laws (Sierra Leone);

127.39 Speed up the repealing of all discriminatory provisions in the Criminal Code (Sierra Leone);

127.40 Adopt the draft Disability Bill and continue to strengthen the implementation of the Disability Advocacy Strategy to integrate the interests of persons with disabilities in the country’s development agenda (South Africa);

127.41 Take effective measures by means of policy and legislative reforms to combat violation of children’s rights (India);

127.42 Adopt a law to combat discrimination that takes into account the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and ensures that victims of discrimination have access to appropriate remedies (Togo);

127.43 Ensure speedy enactment of the international human rights conventions in domestic legislation (Ukraine);

127.44 Protect the right to freedom of expression by repealing the Seditious Act and the Official Secrets Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

127.45 Amend the children’s act of 2005 to ensure that it covered all areas of the convention on the rights of the child, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and child labour, and ensure its effective enforcement (Zambia);

- 127.46 Complete all internal procedures to enact the Disability Bill to provide statutory protections for the human rights of persons with disabilities (Bahamas);
- 127.47 Enact domestic legislation to bring all international human rights treaties into force (Bahamas);
- 127.48 Enact anti-discrimination legislation containing a comprehensive list of grounds for discrimination in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and providing for access to remedy for victims of discrimination (Belgium);
- 127.49 Protect the freedom of expression by ensuring that all provisions of the Information and Communication Act of 2013 are brought into conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 127.50 Consider reviewing laws which could unduly restrict freedom of expression (Brazil);
- 127.51 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international human rights law (Brazil);
- 127.52 Reform the Criminal Code to protect freedom of the press and freedom of expression (Canada);
- 127.53 Modify or repeal the laws that restrict freedom of expression and complete the process of legislative reform in line with the review carried out by the National Media Law Review Committee (Chile);
- 127.54 Amend the Children's Act 2005 to ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and child labour, and ensure its effective enforcement (Honduras);
- 127.55 Finalise the adoption of the Freedom of Information Bill to facilitate public's access to information (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 127.56 Finalise the adoption of the Disabilities Bill to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 127.57 Amend laws that restrict freedom of expression, including sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code (Denmark);
- 127.58 Amend or repeal all laws that unduly restrict freedom of expression, both online and offline, and decriminalise press-related offences such as defamation, libel, sedition and the publication of false information in accordance with international standards (Ireland);
- 127.59 Ensure the freedom of expression and press freedom, by repealing repressive provisions of the Penal Code, in particular sections 51 and 52, which criminalize hateful remarks against the President of the Republic or the administration of justice, and sections 59 and 181, which criminalize the publication of "false information" or "information that causes fear" (France);
- 127.60 Reform the Criminal Code and the Information and Communications Act to ensure that the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press are protected (Germany);
- 127.61 Reform legislation on personal data protection and privacy in order to provide safeguards on the use of personal data and provide equal access to technology and communications to all citizens (Germany);
- 127.62 Take necessary measures to strengthen functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 127.63 Take the necessary measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is adequately funded, the proper execution of its mandate, and that conditions are in place to ensure complete independence of the Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Portugal);

- 127.64 Strengthen the mandate of the National human rights Commission (Sudan);
- 127.65 Adopt necessary measures to ensure the independence and efficiency of the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (Togo);
- 127.66 Secure independent and effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission (Ukraine);
- 127.67 Adopt the Child Protection Strategy with appropriate action plans (Montenegro);
- 127.68 Further intensify its national training and awareness-raising programs on gender-related laws for duty bearers and the public (Philippines);
- 127.69 Continue to strengthen educational and gender equality policies, towards the greatest possible development and well-being of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 127.70 Continue the adoption and implementation of national action plans for continuous progress of the human rights standards (Azerbaijan);
- 127.71 Accelerate the adoption of the child protection strategy, and to enforce appropriate plans for its implementation (Iraq);
- 127.72 Continue to take active measures to better protect the rights of women, children, and people with disability (China);
- 127.73 Strengthen its resilience on the comprehensive reform agenda it has embarked since 2017 (Ethiopia);
- 127.74 Adopt measures to guarantee the equal representation of women and men in all positions in the public and private sectors (Honduras);
- 127.75 Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for sustained socio-economic development (Pakistan);
- 127.76 Continue to strengthen efforts, through the recently established Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, aimed at the promotion of gender equality, access to social protection and through educational campaigns, while paying specific attention to the needs of rural women (South Africa);
- 127.77 Eliminate the legal discrimination of women, guarantee the effective application of the law prohibiting domestic violence and the law on sexual crimes as well as decriminalize the voluntary termination of pregnancy and ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Spain);
- 127.78 Pursue comprehensive efforts to combat discrimination against women (Tunisia);
- 127.79 Continue implementing measures such as the National Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2010–2020), with a view to combatting problems faced by women and girls to access their rights on an equal footing with men, including in relation to access to rights to property, reproductive rights, and protection against violence and discrimination (Uruguay);
- 127.80 Continue with the measures to guarantee the representation of women and men on equal terms in all decision-making positions in the public and private sectors (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 127.81 Effectively incorporate a gender perspective in the framework of the Gambia National Development Plan (2018–2021), and continue implementing all relevant public policies for ensuring women and girls' equality and empowerment (Cuba);
- 127.82 Remove all severe restrictions and discrimination, in law and in practice, on full enjoyment of human rights for women and girls to ensure their

equal access and equal rights with men, including the right to land ownership, the right to education and reproductive rights (Myanmar);

127.83 Continue its national policy efforts to realize the participation of women and men in an equal and equitable manner in the economic, political and social spheres (Bahamas);

127.84 Take further action to enforce the ban on female genital mutilation, educate communities on the law, and protect the rights of women and girls (Australia);

127.85 Continue its efforts in enhancing the socio-economic well-being of its people, and ensure their full enjoyment of human rights (Nigeria);

127.86 Continue intensifying international partnerships and cooperation in particular on socioeconomic development programs (Philippines);

127.87 Continue to implement the National Development Plan 2018–2021 (Sudan);

127.88 Strengthen the implementation of the National Development Plan and its follow up including through collaboration with other states (Indonesia);

127.89 Continue to implement the National Development Plan 2018–2021, strengthen efforts in poverty alleviation and promote sustainable economic and social development (China);

127.90 Ensure that women, children and persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in the development of legislation, policies and programs on climate change and disaster risk reduction (Fiji);

127.91 Abolition of death penalty in the legal system (Spain);

127.92 Abolish the death penalty (Timor-Leste);

127.93 Continue to strengthen measures towards abolishing the death penalty in its national legislation (Argentina);

127.94 Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards complete abolition of this practice, and commutes all remaining death sentences (Australia);

127.95 Completing the process of abolishing death penalty (Central African Republic);

127.96 Consider formally abolishing the death penalty (Fiji);

127.97 Intensify the efforts to abolish death penalty (Georgia);

127.98 Maintain the moratorium on the executions with a view to legally abolishing the death penalty (Italy);

127.99 Criminalize torture and enforced disappearance, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Spain);

127.100 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention in order to put an end to persistent impunity and fully incorporate the Convention against Torture into national laws (Switzerland);

127.101 Consider appropriate measures to put an end to acts of torture, beatings and ill-treatment that would have been conducted by certain members of defence and security forces (Central African Republic);

127.102 Prevent the excessive use of force by public authorities, as well as cases of torture and extrajudicial executions (Italy);

127.103 Regulate excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies (Botswana);

- 127.104 Improve the judicial system by ending the practice of provisional detention of more than 72 hours and providing human rights training to police forces and judicial personnel (France);
- 127.105 Ensure that the enforcement of the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 and the Women's (Amendment) Act of 2015 is guaranteed and respected so as to eradicate the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation (Madagascar);
- 127.106 Step up the efforts to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) and early child marriages (Maldives);
- 127.107 Raise awareness and enforce legislation prohibiting the practice of female genital mutilation (Germany);
- 127.108 Strengthen and accelerate mechanisms aiming at eradicating the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (Nepal);
- 127.109 Strengthen the measures to effectively address violence against women and girls and eliminate harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage (Slovenia);
- 127.110 Intensify efforts to eradicate harmful practices against women and child marriage through grass root sensitization and enforcement of relevant legislation such as the Children's Act and the Domestic Violence Act (Uganda);
- 127.111 Counteract the female genital mutilation (Ukraine);
- 127.112 Intensify the application of the 2015 and 2016 laws that criminalize child marriage and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);
- 127.113 Sensitize the public, especially traditional and religious leaders on the negative consequences of the practices of child marriage and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);
- 127.114 Step up efforts to eradicate traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriage and forced marriage (Burundi);
- 127.115 Intensify the fight against child marriage and female genital mutilation (Central African Republic);
- 127.116 Ensure the implementation of the 2016 laws prohibiting genital mutilation and forced marriages (France);
- 127.117 Undertake awareness-raising campaigns in particular among traditional and religious leaders to combat socio-cultural and religious burdens, as well as harmful traditional practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation (Gabon);
- 127.118 Strengthen the efforts to fully implement the existing legislation aimed at preventing all harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation and early, child and forced marriages (Italy);
- 127.119 Take the necessary steps to investigate all allegations of torture in detention and ensure that prison conditions are in line with international standards (Portugal);
- 127.120 Ensure those accused of crimes have access to a timely and fair trial as well as improve sanitation and reduce overcrowding, physical abuse, and food shortages in Gambian prisons (United States of America);
- 127.121 Improve living conditions in Prisons, including prisoners' access to medical care and endeavour to prevent arbitrary arrests, detention, violence and ensure due process of the law is followed (Botswana);
- 127.122 Continue the process of strengthening the Judicial System that started in 2017 which would provide the Judiciary complete independence (India);

- 127.123 Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Zambia);
- 127.124 Intensify efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Iraq);
- 127.125 Continue and further strengthen capacity building and training of the police officers, prosecutors and other law enforcement agents on the application of relevant legislation in order to address the underreporting of sexual violence and the lack of accountability (Croatia);
- 127.126 Provide training to law enforcement and judiciary officers in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Women's Act of 2015 (Denmark);
- 127.127 Intensify its efforts to address the impunity of police, security forces and correctional officers who committed extrajudicial killings, torture, beatings and ill-treatment (Myanmar);
- 127.128 Continue efforts to deal holistically and in a sustainable manner with four key areas of the fight against impunity, including the right to know, the right to justice, guarantees for non-repetition and the right to reparation (Switzerland);
- 127.129 Fully investigate, prosecute, or otherwise hold accountable those individuals responsible for politically motivated killings and other serious human rights violations or abuses, including but not limited to those who may be recommended for prosecution by the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (United States of America);
- 127.130 Design a comprehensive judicial policy to eliminate the barriers faced by women in gaining access to justice (Zambia);
- 127.131 Ensure that all persons who had or were alleged to have committed offences of enforced disappearances or other grave human rights violations do not benefit from any special amnesty law (Belgium);
- 127.132 Strengthen transparency and accountability in public affairs, including in a response to the attacks on journalists (Croatia);
- 127.133 Provide the necessary support to the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to investigate all past human rights abuses (Morocco);
- 127.134 Speed up the implementation of the transitional justice process, so as to advance national reconciliation (Mozambique);
- 127.135 Follow through on the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission so that those who are deemed responsible for human rights violations during the previous administration are held to account (Canada);
- 127.136 Guarantee the full operability and impartiality of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission of its activities and as a precondition for the long-term stabilization of Gambia (Italy);
- 127.137 Fully Implement the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the issue of Impunity (Namibia);
- 127.138 Take additional measures to ensure full respect for freedom of expression and association, in line with international standards, as well as to ensure an enabling environment for human rights defenders and journalists, free from acts of intimidation and reprisals (Uruguay);
- 127.139 Promote women's representation in all decision-making positions, particularly in the legislative and executive branches (Timor-Leste);
- 127.140 Set out publically, steps the Government will take to ensure women's full participation and leadership in public life (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 127.141 Continue the efforts in enhancing the representation of women in national and local institutions, including in the National Assembly (Bangladesh);
- 127.142 Pursue the policy of eradicating inequality between men and women by taking measures to increase women's participation in political and public life, particularly in holding positions of responsibility (Djibouti);
- 127.143 Make further efforts to promote the respect of women's rights and to promote a greater participation of women in political life (Italy);
- 127.144 Pursue comprehensive efforts to combat against human trafficking (Tunisia);
- 127.145 Ensure effective implementation of anti-trafficking legislation, including the timely and just prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 127.146 Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers, and to address child sex tourism (United States of America);
- 127.147 Take effective measures to combat and prevent economic exploitation of children, especially child labour in family businesses and in the informal sector (Zambia);
- 127.148 Take effective measures to combat and prevent the economic exploitation of children, in particular child labour in family businesses and in the informal sector (Algeria);
- 127.149 Implement the Trafficking in Persons Act effectively, including by allocating adequate resources, and provide free legal and psychological support and compensation to victims of trafficking (Angola);
- 127.150 Adopt measures to address exploitation of women and girls in prostitution and child sex tourism, and provide assistance and rehabilitation to victims (Angola);
- 127.151 Make every efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.152 Apply effectively the Law against Trafficking in Persons, providing the necessary resources to do this work, ensuring prompt identification and support for victims, as well as punishing of those responsible (Chile);
- 127.153 Redouble efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Congo);
- 127.154 Strengthen efforts to combat youth unemployment through the provision of necessary resources for maintaining the Youth Empowerment Project (Mauritius);
- 127.155 Pursue efforts to eradicate horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market and to facilitate women's access to the economic sector (Algeria);
- 127.156 Intensify efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition, especially for children and pregnant women (Holy See);
- 127.157 Take effective measures to tackle food insecurity, malnutrition and children's nutritional needs (Congo);
- 127.158 Expedite the implementation of the 2018 National Development Plan that promises to restore good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law for all citizens, while working towards eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (South Africa);
- 127.159 Continue its endeavours to eradicate extreme poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.160 Strengthen the National Development Plan 2018-2012 with a focus on the modernization of agriculture and the fishing industry to achieve sustainable

economic growth, food and nutrition security and poverty reduction (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

127.161 Cater for eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as aspired by the Gambia National Development Plan (2018–2021) (Ethiopia);

127.162 Take into consideration the good practices and experiences in regional countries in the implementation of its National Social Protection Policy and National Development Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);

127.163 Enhance efforts to increase social security coverage (Timor-Leste);

127.164 Continue consolidating its social protection programmes in favour of its population, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

127.165 Ensure access to basic health care to all, in cities as well as in rural areas (Holy See);

127.166 Improve the health-care system, particularly by improving infrastructure and providing more resources for maternal health, including midwife training, with a focus on health-care for mothers and their children through pregnancy and childbirth (Holy See);

127.167 Continue efforts to strengthen the health system and expand the provision of health services to all segments of society (Libya);

127.168 Intensify efforts to improve health services, through allocation of increased resources to the health sector, to ensure training of health extension workers and provision of adequate medical equipment and supplies to health facilities (Maldives);

127.169 Reduce the high rate of maternal and infant mortality, including by ensuring the availability of comprehensive sexual, reproductive, and child health services, and that all births are assisted by a skilled birth attendant (Iceland);

127.170 Intensify efforts to improve health services, including the allocation of more resources to the health sector, with the particular attention to the training of health workers, appropriate medical equipment and supply of healthcare units (Serbia);

127.171 Continue effective implementation of the National Health Policy Framework (2012–2020) especially by targeting the most vulnerable groups (India);

127.172 Intensify the implementation of the National Health Policy Framework and its effort to promote equity in this regard (Indonesia);

127.173 Increase efforts to reduce and prevent maternal morbidity and mortality by implementing programs and policies, as well as ensure adequate sexual and reproductive health services (Angola);

127.174 Intensify its efforts to promote the right to sanitation and health, through fighting malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases (Islamic Republic of Iran);

127.175 Continue efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the right to health (Egypt);

127.176 Further strengthen its efforts to provide full access to education and health for all in cooperation with relevant UN agencies and other partners (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);

127.177 Pursue legislative measures to ensure inclusive and quality education (Libya);

- 127.178 Increase as far as possible the resources allocated to education so as to improve school infrastructure and ensure that children remain in school, especially girls and the inclusion of children with disabilities (Mexico);
- 127.179 Continue its efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Pakistan);
- 127.180 Allocate sufficient budgetary resources to its education sector to guarantee access to education by children and youth, including in rural areas (Philippines);
- 127.181 Intensify efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Sudan);
- 127.182 Strengthen efforts to improve access and the quality of education, particularly in rural areas (Angola);
- 127.183 Continue its efforts to ensure availability of education for all (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.184 Maintain and intensify all measures to strengthen the right to education for all by promoting greater access for girls to primary school (Djibouti);
- 127.185 Redouble efforts to promote high quality education for young girls (Gabon);
- 127.186 Improve access to education for women and girls, and support the participation of women in the economic, social and cultural spheres by promoting policies for their empowerment (Mauritius);
- 127.187 Continue to further strengthen the legislative framework with a view to improving the gender approach and promote the place of women in political, economic and social life (Morocco);
- 127.188 Continue its efforts in promoting women's rights and take measures to ensure equal representation in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors (State of Palestine);
- 127.189 Take measures for equal access of women to education as well as adequate employment opportunities for them (Ukraine);
- 127.190 Implement and enforce the Domestic Violence Act of 2013, Sexual Offences Act of 2013 and Women's Act of 2010 (Canada);
- 127.191 Ensure the effective enforcement of article 28 of the Women's Act of 2010, which prohibits girls from been withdrawn from school for marriage (Congo);
- 127.192 Continue efforts to empower women (Egypt);
- 127.193 Continue to enhance measures to prevent violence against women and domestic violence (Nepal);
- 127.194 Effectively implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act by adopting the necessary regulations and allocating adequate resources (Iceland);
- 127.195 Strengthen implementation of legislation and policies aimed at combating violence against women and domestic violence including through the establishment of programs to provide psychosocial, medical, police and legal services to survivors of gender-based violence (Rwanda);
- 127.196 Expedite the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act (Sierra Leone);
- 127.197 Combat all forms of violence against women (Iraq);
- 127.198 Ensure full enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act by providing compensation to victims (Gabon);

127.199 Take steps to implement the Children's (Amendment) Act 2016, the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015, the Children's Act 2005 and other laws, improve community engagement, and raises awareness to promote the best interests of the child, as well as protect women and children from harmful practices (Solomon Islands);

127.200 Ensure the effective application of the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 and the Women's (Amendment) Act of 2015, in particular regarding child marriage and female genital mutilation (Spain);

127.201 Pursue comprehensive efforts to protect the rights of the child, in accordance with the best interest of the child (Tunisia);

127.202 Continue to take the necessary measures to raise awareness on the consequences of child marriage, and ensure the punishment of such practice (Argentina);

127.203 Step up efforts to ensure effective access to education for the persons with disabilities (Myanmar);

127.204 Step up efforts in the protection of persons with disabilities (Ukraine);

127.205 Continue advancing the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities within the framework of National Social Protection Policy (2015–2025) (Cuba);

127.206 Expedite the process of adopting the Disability Bill seeking to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and address issues of equality and non-discrimination of disabled persons (Georgia);

127.207 Ensure universal registration at birth and take due measures to facilitate the registration of children above 5 years of age, so as to avoid statelessness (Holy See).

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

128.1 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and repeal any discriminatory laws (Iceland);

128.2 Amend legislation to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances as well as ensure that safe and legal abortion services and post-abortion care are available (Iceland);

128.3 Review national laws, including the personal law and the Women's Act of 2010, with a view to removing all provisions discriminatory towards women (Croatia);

128.4 Review the personal law and the Women's Act, with a view to removing the provisions that are discriminatory towards women with regard to marriage, divorce, inheritance, marital property, adoption and burial (Honduras);

128.5 Amend discriminatory laws against LGBTI people (Myanmar);

128.6 Repeal all legislation that criminalizes same-sex activities, including Criminal Code Article 144 (Netherlands);

128.7 Decriminalize same-sex consensual relationships and adopt measures to guarantee non-discrimination based on sexual orientation (Spain);

128.8 Deepen efforts to combat acts of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ persons by repealing all discriminatory norms and by guaranteeing the investigation and punishment of all acts of violence against LGTIBQ persons (Argentina);

128.9 Amend legislation to decriminalise homosexuality (Australia);

128.10 **Repeal all legislation that criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults and take all necessary measures to prevent discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression (Canada);**

128.11 **In line with the principle of non-discrimination, repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality and combat violence based on gender orientation and sexual identity (Chile);**

128.12 **Decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults and take measures to protect LGBTI persons from arbitrary arrests and violence (Croatia);**

128.13 **Repeal sections 144, 145 and 147 of the Criminal Code that criminalize consensual same-sex intercourse and combat discrimination against LGBTI persons (France);**

128.14 **Decriminalize same sex relationships between consenting adults and take measures to protect the human rights and the equal treatment of LGBTI persons (Germany);**

128.15 **Decriminalize homosexuality and take actions to fight against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy).**

129. 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 the Gambia was headed by Honourable Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambaou, Attorney General and Minister of Justice and composed of the following members:

- Mr Cherno Marenah; Solicitor General and Legal Secretary, Ministry of Justice;
 - Mrs Tida Jatta; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education;
 - Mrs Fanta Bai Secka; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health;
 - Mr Ousman Ceesay; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior;
 - Mrs Amie Kolleh Jeng; Director of Public Finance, Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs;
 - Mr Kajali Sonko; Deputy Director , Women's Bureau, Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare;
 - Mrs Bafou Jeng; Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers & Ministry of Justice.
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