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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

[To be completed by 22 November 2019]

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

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

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

6. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed below have been examined by the Gambia and enjoy the support of the Gambia:**
 - 6.1 **Ratify international legal instruments on human rights that Gambia has not yet party to (Niger);**
 - 6.2 **Continue to review and accede to international human rights treaties and conventions (State of Palestine);**
 - 6.3 **Continue the practice of becoming party to international instruments in the field of promotion and protection of human rights (Azerbaijan);**
 - 6.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**
 - 6.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

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- 6.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**
- 6.7 **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);**
- 6.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as previously recommended (Mali);**
- 6.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Montenegro);**
- 6.10 **Continue to seek necessary international support to enhance its capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);**
- 6.11 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all thematic Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Rwanda);**
- 6.12 **Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**
- 6.13 **Continue its efforts to submit outstanding reports to the Treaty Bodies (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 6.14 **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);**
- 6.15 **Fully implement certain recommendations, which Gambia accepted to during the second cycle of the universal periodic review (Madagascar);**
- 6.16 **Adopt, with the support of the international community, a comprehensive package of measures to implement constitutional and democratic reforms (Niger);**
- 6.17 **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);**
- 6.18 **Prioritize completion of the Constitutional Review process taking into account the need for inclusive consultations (Uganda);**
- 6.19 **Continue to incorporate international human rights conventions that have been ratified by Gambia into the domestic legislation (Indonesia);**
- 6.20 **Ensure media and freedom of expression provisions contained within the Constitution comply with international standards, as outlined under Article 19 of the ICCPR (Australia);**
- 6.21 **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);**
- 6.22 **Remove the death penalty from the Constitution (Germany);**
- 6.23 **Integrate abolition of the death penalty into the Penal Code and the Constitution (Switzerland);**
- 6.24 **Continue ongoing legislative reforms to adopt a new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, in line with international standards (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 6.25 **Continue legislative reform efforts to review the laws, in order to ensure their compatibility with the international obligations (Libya);**
- 6.26 **Take further measures for the completion of the legislative reform process in line with international standards (Azerbaijan);**

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- 6.27 **Continue with the ongoing review of domestic laws in line with international best practices (Ghana);**
- 6.28 **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);**
- 6.29 **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);**
- 6.30 **Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 or pass legislation expressly prohibiting direct or indirect sexual harassment (Namibia);**
- 6.31 **Pass legislation that promotes and guarantees freedom of expression, access to information and media pluralism (Namibia);**
- 6.32 **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);**
- 6.33 **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);**
- 6.34 **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);**
- 6.35 **Incorporate into its domestic legal framework the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified in 2015 (Mexico);**
- 6.36 **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);**
- 6.37 **Enact legislation to implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Convention effectively (Seychelles);**
- 6.38 **Take further steps to eradicate all draconian laws aimed at stifling freedom of expression and other media laws (Sierra Leone);**
- 6.39 **Speed up the repealing of all discriminatory provisions in the Criminal Code (Sierra Leone);**
- 6.40 **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);**
- 6.41 **Take effective measures by means of policy and legislative reforms to combat violation of children’s rights (India);**
- 6.42 **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);**
- 6.43 **Ensure speedy enactment of the international human rights conventions in domestic legislation (Ukraine);**
- 6.44 **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);**

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- 6.45 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);
- 6.46 Complete all internal procedures to enact the Disability Bill to provide statutory protections for the human rights of persons with disabilities (Bahamas);
- 6.47 Enact domestic legislation to bring all international human rights treaties into force (Bahamas);
- 6.48 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);
- 6.49 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);
- 6.50 Consider reviewing laws which could unduly restrict freedom of expression (Brazil);
- 6.51 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international human rights law (Brazil);
- 6.52 Reform the Criminal Code to protect freedom of the press and freedom of expression (Canada);
- 6.53 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);
- 6.54 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);
- 6.55 Finalise the adoption of the Freedom of Information Bill to facilitate public's access to information (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 6.56 Finalise the adoption of the Disabilities Bill to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 6.57 Amend laws that restrict freedom of expression, including sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code (Denmark);
- 6.58 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);
- 6.59 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);
- 6.60 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);
- 6.61 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);
- 6.62 Take necessary measures to strengthen functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);

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- 6.63 **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);**
- 6.64 **Strengthen the mandate of the National human rights Commission (Sudan);**
- 6.65 **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);**
- 6.66 **Secure independent and effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission (Ukraine);**
- 6.67 **Adopt the Child Protection Strategy with appropriate action plans (Montenegro);**
- 6.68 **Further intensify its national training and awareness-raising programs on gender-related laws for duty bearers and the public (Philippines);**
- 6.69 **Continue to strengthen educational and gender equality policies, towards the greatest possible development and well-being of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 6.70 **Continue the adoption and implementation of national action plans for continuous progress of the human rights standards (Azerbaijan);**
- 6.71 **Accelerate the adoption of the child protection strategy, and to enforce appropriate plans for its implementation (Iraq);**
- 6.72 **Continue to take active measures to better protect the rights of women, children, and people with disability (China);**
- 6.73 **Strengthen its resilience on the comprehensive reform agenda it has embarked since 2017 (Ethiopia);**
- 6.74 **Adopt measures to guarantee the equal representation of women and men in all positions in the public and private sectors (Honduras);**
- 6.75 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for sustained socio-economic development (Pakistan);**
- 6.76 **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);**
- 6.77 **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);**
- 6.78 **Pursue comprehensive efforts to combat discrimination against women (Tunisia);**
- 6.79 **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);**
- 6.80 **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);**
- 6.81 **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);

6.82 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);

6.83 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);

6.84 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);

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

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

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

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

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

6.90 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);

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

6.92 Abolish the death penalty (Timor-Leste);

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

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

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

6.96 Consider formally abolishing the death penalty (Fiji);

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

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

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

6.100 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);

6.101 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);

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

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- 6.103 **Regulate excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies (Botswana);**
- 6.104 **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);**
- 6.105 **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);**
- 6.106 **Step up the efforts to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) and early child marriages (Maldives);**
- 6.107 **Raise awareness and enforce legislation prohibiting the practice of female genital mutilation (Germany);**
- 6.108 **Strengthen and accelerate mechanisms aiming at eradicating the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (Nepal);**
- 6.109 **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);**
- 6.110 **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);**
- 6.111 **Counteract the female genital mutilation (Ukraine);**
- 6.112 **Intensify the application of the 2015 and 2016 laws that criminalize child marriage and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);**
- 6.113 **Sensitize the public, especially traditional and religious leaders on the negative consequences of the practices of child marriage and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);**
- 6.114 **Step up efforts to eradicate traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriage and forced marriage (Burundi);**
- 6.115 **Intensify the fight against child marriage and female genital mutilation (Central African Republic);**
- 6.116 **Ensure the implementation of the 2016 laws prohibiting genital mutilation and forced marriages (France);**
- 6.117 **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);**
- 6.118 **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);**
- 6.119 **Take the necessary steps to investigate all allegations of torture in detention and ensure that prison conditions are in line with international standards (Portugal);**
- 6.120 **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);**
- 6.121 **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);**

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- 6.122 Continue the process of strengthening the Judicial System that started in 2017 which would provide the Judiciary complete independence (India);
- 6.123 Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Zambia);
- 6.124 Intensify efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Iraq);
- 6.125 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);
- 6.126 Provide training to law enforcement and judiciary officers in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Women's Act of 2015 (Denmark);
- 6.127 Intensify its efforts to address the impunity of police, security forces and correctional officers who committed extrajudicial killings, torture, beatings and ill-treatment (Myanmar);
- 6.128 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);
- 6.129 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);
- 6.130 Design a comprehensive judicial policy to eliminate the barriers faced by women in gaining access to justice (Zambia);
- 6.131 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);
- 6.132 Strengthen transparency and accountability in public affairs, including in a response to the attacks on journalists (Croatia);
- 6.133 Provide the necessary support to the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to investigate all past human rights abuses (Morocco);
- 6.134 Speed up the implementation of the transitional justice process, so as to advance national reconciliation (Mozambique);
- 6.135 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);
- 6.136 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);
- 6.137 Fully Implement the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the issue of Impunity (Namibia);
- 6.138 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);
- 6.139 Promote women's representation in all decision-making positions, particularly in the legislative and executive branches (Timor-Leste);

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- 6.140 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);
- 6.141 Continue the efforts in enhancing the representation of women in national and local institutions, including in the National Assembly (Bangladesh);
- 6.142 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);
- 6.143 Make further efforts to promote the respect of women's rights and to promote a greater participation of women in political life (Italy);
- 6.144 Pursue comprehensive efforts to combat against human trafficking (Tunisia);
- 6.145 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);
- 6.146 Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers, and to address child sex tourism (United States of America);
- 6.147 Take effective measures to combat and prevent economic exploitation of children, especially child labour in family businesses and in the informal sector (Zambia);
- 6.148 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);
- 6.149 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);
- 6.150 Adopt measures to address exploitation of women and girls in prostitution and child sex tourism, and provide assistance and rehabilitation to victims (Angola);
- 6.151 Make every efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 6.152 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);
- 6.153 Redouble efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Congo);
- 6.154 Strengthen efforts to combat youth unemployment through the provision of necessary resources for maintaining the Youth Empowerment Project (Mauritius);
- 6.155 Pursue efforts to eradicate horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market and to facilitate women's access to the economic sector (Algeria);
- 6.156 Intensify efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition, especially for children and pregnant women (Holy See);
- 6.157 Take effective measures to tackle food insecurity, malnutrition and children's nutritional needs (Congo);
- 6.158 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);
- 6.159 Continue its endeavours to eradicate extreme poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);

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- 6.160 **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);**
- 6.161 **Cater for eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as aspired by the Gambia National Development Plan (2018–2021) (Ethiopia);**
- 6.162 **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);**
- 6.163 **Enhance efforts to increase social security coverage (Timor-Leste);**
- 6.164 **Continue consolidating its social protection programmes in favour of its population, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 6.165 **Ensure access to basic health care to all, in cities as well as in rural areas (Holy See);**
- 6.166 **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);**
- 6.167 **Continue efforts to strengthen the health system and expand the provision of health services to all segments of society (Libya);**
- 6.168 **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);**
- 6.169 **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);**
- 6.170 **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);**
- 6.171 **Continue effective implementation of the National Health Policy Framework (2012–2020) especially by targeting the most vulnerable groups (India);**
- 6.172 **Intensify the implementation of the National Health Policy Framework and its effort to promote equity in this regard (Indonesia);**
- 6.173 **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);**
- 6.174 **Intensify its efforts to promote the right to sanitation and health, through fighting malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 6.175 **Continue efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the right to health (Egypt);**
- 6.176 **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);**
- 6.177 **Pursue legislative measures to ensure inclusive and quality education (Libya);**

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- 6.178 **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);**
- 6.179 **Continue its efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Pakistan);**
- 6.180 **Allocate sufficient budgetary resources to its education sector to guarantee access to education by children and youth, including in rural areas (Philippines);**
- 6.181 **Intensify efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Sudan);**
- 6.182 **Strengthen efforts to improve access and the quality of education, particularly in rural areas (Angola);**
- 6.183 **Continue its efforts to ensure availability of education for all (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 6.184 **Maintain and intensify all measures to strengthen the right to education for all by promoting greater access for girls to primary school (Djibouti);**
- 6.185 **Redouble efforts to promote high quality education for young girls (Gabon);**
- 6.186 **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);**
- 6.187 **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);**
- 6.188 **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);**
- 6.189 **Take measures for equal access of women to education as well as adequate employment opportunities for them (Ukraine);**
- 6.190 **Implement and enforce the Domestic Violence Act of 2013, Sexual Offences Act of 2013 and Women's Act of 2010 (Canada);**
- 6.191 **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);**
- 6.192 **Continue efforts to empower women (Egypt);**
- 6.193 **Continue to enhance measures to prevent violence against women and domestic violence (Nepal);**
- 6.194 **Effectively implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act by adopting the necessary regulations and allocating adequate resources (Iceland);**
- 6.195 **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);**
- 6.196 **Expedite the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act (Sierra Leone);**
- 6.197 **Combat all forms of violence against women (Iraq);**
- 6.198 **Ensure full enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act by providing compensation to victims (Gabon);**

6.199 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);

6.200 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);

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

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

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

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

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

6.206 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);

6.207 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).

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

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

7.2 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);

7.3 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);

7.4 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);

7.5 Amend discriminatory laws against LGBTI people (Myanmar);

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

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

7.8 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);

7.9 Amend legislation to decriminalise homosexuality (Australia);

7.10 **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);**

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

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

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

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

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

8. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of 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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