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**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Thirty-fifth session**  
Geneva, 20–31 January 2020

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

#### **Lesotho**

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\* 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-fifth session from 20 to 31 January 2020. The review of Lesotho was held at the 5th meeting, on 22 January 2020. The delegation of Lesotho was headed by Minister of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Honourable Sixtus Habofanoeh Lehana. At its 9th meeting, held on 24 January 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on Lesotho.

2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lesotho: Argentina, Burkina Faso and Republic of Korea.

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 Lesotho:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/35/LSO/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.6/35/LSO/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/35/LSO/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on NMIRF's, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America was transmitted to Lesotho 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 7 February 2020

### **A. Presentation by the State under review**

5. Honourable Minister of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Hon. Habofanoeh Lehana when introducing the report stated that the report received indicated that the preparation of the report was both highly participatory and fully inclusive. A Stakeholders' Validation Workshop was held on 25 September 2019 and was attended by Government Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Judiciary, Development Partners and oversight bodies such as the National Assembly and Ombudsman. The workshop was characterized by constructive spirit which contributed towards the report's contents and quality. It is worth mentioning that the report was deliberated upon in an open and free atmosphere.

6. He indicated that as a means of honouring international obligations, Lesotho requested for technical assistance to address some of her human rights challenges such as training on human rights issues and state party reporting. Notwithstanding the fact that Lesotho is a State Party to all the major human rights instruments, she is however lagging behind in her obligations of reporting and domestication. Some of the reasons include amongst others, that there is currently no formal mechanism to deal with treaty body reporting. Efforts to set up the National Mechanism on Reporting and Follow-up were under way.

7. The Minister stated that in order to cooperate with treaty bodies and special procedures, the country had undergone examination of the initial report on the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families as well as the periodic report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recommendations that ensued from the reports were being implemented. The periodic report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, periodic report on the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the initial report on the Convention Against Torture were being drafted and will be submitted to relevant treaty monitoring bodies in due course. Further, Lesotho extended a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation who undertook the mission from 4-15 February 2019. The report of the mission was tabled during the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Council. The recommendations that emanated there from are being implemented incrementally in daily water supply and sanitation services provision.

8. He indicated progress made with regards to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission stating that after the promulgation of the Human Rights Commission Act in 2016 (the Act), there were concerns by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that the Act was not in compliance with the Paris Principles. He stated that a case was lodged by the NGOs in that regard. The case was dismissed by the High Court and an appeal was lodged but later withdrawn when Government and the NGOs agreed to review the Act accordingly. A cabinet memorandum which spells out the changes that will be effected in the Act and Regulations was tabled before Cabinet for consideration and approval was given. Drafting instructions have been provided to the Parliamentary Counsel.

9. When addressing the rights of women, the Minister stated that Lesotho has made progress in promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. Noted progress is in education and non-agricultural wage employment. At the 27th African Union Summit held in Rwanda from 17-18 July 2016, Lesotho won the 2016 African Gender Award as one of the continent's top performers in the advancement of the economic and social rights of women. He made mention of steps that have been undertaken to curb human trafficking and gender based violence (GBV) such as the development of the Domestic Violence Bill. However, despite these measures, GBV remains a challenge to women in Lesotho.

10. Pertaining to children's rights, he indicated that the Government is in the process of amending the Children's Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) 2011. The Children's Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill 2019 makes child marriage a punishable offence. The Amendment Bill also abolishes all forms of child labour.

11. With regards to rights of persons with disabilities, there is a Persons with Disability Bill 2019 which has passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the National Assembly and is currently in the Senate. It makes provision of inclusive education.

12. When speaking to the rights to education and health, the Minister indicated that some of the challenges facing the education sector are early child and forced marriages which contribute to the high rate of girl children who drop out of school. There are ongoing sensitization campaigns aimed at encouraging both teachers and parents to allow pregnant girls to remain in class for as long as the condition of their pregnancy permits.

13. In order to improve rural women's access to sexual and reproductive health rights, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with NGOs, CSOs and development partners have taken the following measures: Recruitment and capacitation of village health workers whose mandate include distribution of family planning commodities and provision of information on Family Planning at community level and Ministry of Health also updated the Community based Distributors' manual on distribution of Family Planning.

14. When addressing conditions of detention, the Lesotho Correctional Service has established a health section comprising of a HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Nursing Officers,

Nursing Sisters, Nutrition Officers, Health Inspectors and Pharmacy Technologists. In the Female Correctional Institution, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission is provided and both antenatal and post-natal care is administered. The Sexual Reproduction Health programme was launched in September 2015. There is access to Anti-Retroviral Treatment for all inmates including foreigners and support teams have been formed in most Institutions. There has also been training for youths and juveniles on HIV and AIDS and life skills.

15. As it will be recalled, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, Lesotho noted all recommendations that dealt with key populations such as LGBTIs as well as decriminalizing defamation. Nonetheless, there was progress in relation to implementation of these. In the 2019/2020 budget speech, the Government undertook to increase targeted HIV testing and services to key populations, which include, LGBTI community. The Government through the Ministry of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights (Human Rights Unit), conducted its legal environment assessment on HIV /AIDS in 2014, supported by UNDP. The objective of the assessment was to improve availability of information, legal and regulatory aspects governing HIV-related issues, also taking into account the rights of key populations such as LGBTIs.

16. Lesotho has taken steps to repeal criminal defamation laws or insult laws which impede freedom of speech. The High Court sitting as the Constitutional Court declared on 21 May 2018, that criminal defamation is unconstitutional. The Constitutional Court held that criminalizing defamation had a dire effect on journalistic freedom of expression, resulting in self-censorship by journalists and consequently a less-informed public. Both these recommendations have been partially implemented.

17. On new developments, he stated that Lesotho is undertaking national reforms on the Constitution, Parliament, security, judiciary and the public service, which are key for Lesotho's long-term stability and economic transformation.

18. He made mention of challenges facing the country such as a decline in agricultural production as a result of deteriorating rangeland conditions, soil erosion and periodic droughts. As a result, the country is experiencing worsening food deficit as a net food importing developing country thus contributing to widening poverty and food insecurity. Despite some of these challenges, Lesotho looks into the future with enthusiasm.

19. He concluded by providing response to advance questions from the United Kingdom and looked forward to a constructive dialogue.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

20. During the interactive dialogue, 81 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Djibouti expressed its appreciation with regard to the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance as well as the adoption of a number of human rights instruments.

22. Egypt commended the promotion of the rights of women and children with disabilities, hailed efforts in the sphere of education, healthcare and combating corruption, and welcomed the creation of a national human rights commission.

23. Eswatini welcomed and thanked the delegation of Lesotho for their comprehensive report, primarily on the implementation of the recommendations from the country's second cycle review- where 118 recommendations were made of which 96 were accepted.

24. Fiji welcomed achievements in implementing recommendations from the previous UPR cycle and commended Lesotho on developing its National Climate Change Policy Act 2017 and national resiliency framework 2017–2030 to prevent and mitigate disaster risks.
25. Ethiopia commended Lesotho's decision to mainstream disaster risk reduction and resilience through the adoption of the National Resilience Strategic Framework and welcomed its plan in the health sector to reduce maternal mortality.
26. France expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by Lesotho to improve access to health and children's rights, but wished to call attention to the fact that the human rights situation remained fragile.
27. Georgia welcomed the measures taken by the Government to combat human trafficking, in particular the development of the regulations and the National Action Plan to implement the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2011.
28. Germany appreciated Lesotho's ongoing national reform process and the establishment of the National Reforms Authority but expressed concern about the recent increase in police violence, which had led to several deaths in police custody.
29. Ghana commended the Government on its commitment to upholding the rule of law, promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women, combating of human trafficking as well as promotion and protection of children's rights.
30. Honduras welcomed the ratification of all core international human rights treaties as well as various ILO instruments, and expressed satisfaction at progress regarding gender parity in education followed up by corresponding education expenditure.
31. Iceland hoped that the implementation of steps outlined in the national report would continue, in particular the commitment demonstrated to address gender-based violence and the changes made to ensure equality regarding the acquisition of citizenship.
32. India noted with appreciation the consultation process undertaken, which included the setting-up of an Interministerial Committee on the Universal Periodic Review with a view to the preparation of the National Report.
33. Indonesia hailed Lesotho's multi-pronged efforts which were designed to improve the implementation of social policies as well as the country's efforts to mainstream policies and actions in the field of disaster risk reduction.
34. Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated steps to promote children's rights through the ongoing law reform process for harmonizing the definition of the child in all relevant legislation and aligning it with the CRC.
35. Iraq commended Lesotho on the consultative process that had accompanied the preparation of the present UPR report and welcomed Lesotho's accession to all core international human rights instruments and the Second Development Plan.
36. Ireland recognized that the current national reform process would be important for further promotion of human rights and encouraged Lesotho to continue efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission.
37. Italy praised welcomed the efforts carried out since the second cycle, in particular the adoption of the Lesotho Gender and Development Policy 2018-2030 and the Guidelines on herd boys as well as the initiatives that were designed to sensitize public opinion to the importance of preventing child, early and forced marriages.
38. Kuwait commended Lesotho on its efforts in the field of human rights and also wished to express its appreciation for the development of the Food and Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2019–2023.

39. Libya welcomed the positive steps taken in the area of human rights promotion, which included the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, as well as the country's institutional and legal reforms.
40. Mali appreciated the Government's efforts to enable the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2016 but wished to point out that certain provisions of the law had to be reviewed.
41. The Marshall Islands commended Lesotho on its legal and constitutional reforms to domestically adopt all international human rights treaties ratified by it and hailed efforts to amend the Child Protection and Welfare Act.
42. Mauritius applauded the various legislative amendments and policies implemented to strengthen the human rights of Lesotho citizens in order to uplift their conditions of living, and hailed the passage of the Human Rights Commission Act.
43. Mexico expressed its appreciation for the progress made by Lesotho, such as the reforms to the Marriage Law and the Child Protection and Welfare Law, which were aimed at eliminating child marriage.
44. Montenegro noted positive developments with regard to the ratification of the core human rights treaties but wished to underscore its concerns over the worst forms of child labor, exploitation of children and child marriage.
45. Morocco supported the constitutional reforms undertaken, particularly in the fight against human trafficking, the adoption of the strategy to combat corruption, and efforts to promote the rule of law and access to justice.
46. Mozambique commended Lesotho on its efforts regarding the submission of overdue reports to the different international and regional human rights treaty bodies, as it sought to promote and protect the human rights of its people.
47. Myanmar commended Lesotho's efforts to align legislation with UN human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
48. Namibia commended Lesotho on its efforts to advance the economic and social rights of women as well as the rights of children, and welcomed the ongoing campaign aimed at eliminating child marriages.
49. Nepal welcomed the initiatives taken by Lesotho, for example the re-establishment of the National AIDS Commission and the National Health Strategy for Adolescents and Young People to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.
50. The Netherlands appreciated the Government's commitment to the SDG agenda but remained concerned about the high level of discrimination and violence against LGBTI individuals as well as the widespread problem of gender-based violence.
51. New Zealand hailed Lesotho's wide-ranging constitutional and security sector reforms and acknowledged its ongoing commitment to fighting corruption, but was concerned about lack of healthcare access for poor and rural women.
52. Lesotho referred to recommendations made from the floor including the abolition of the death penalty, submission of overdue state party reports, domestication of international treaties, establishment of the Human Rights Commission, child labour, addressing trafficking, the situation of disabled persons, the policy to address climate change and the rights of migrants.
53. When responding to some of the statements, the delegation of Lesotho indicated that since death penalty was contained in the constitution as a limitation to the right to life, its

abolition had been tabled for national debate as part of the national reform process. Since death penalty was still retained in the Constitution of Lesotho, ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR will depend on the outcome of the national reforms in relation to death penalty.

54. Niger welcomed the initiatives taken by Lesotho aimed at reducing poverty and ensuring the economic development of the country despite various difficulties, among which was the lack of resources and capacities.

55. Nigeria noted with encouragement Lesotho's efforts to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights, and commended the Government on its determination to combat corruption and enhance good governance.

56. Pakistan welcomed Lesotho's efforts to reduce extreme poverty, food insecurity and unemployment, and hailed the National Youth Policy (2017), designed to stimulate environmental awareness among youth and their responsibilities towards environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.

57. The Philippines expressed its appreciation for the adoption of national strategies that gave due priority to the areas of inclusive and sustainable growth, socioeconomic development, and the strengthening of governance and accountability.

58. Portugal thanked Lesotho for the presentation of the national UPR report and commended it on ratifying or acceding to all core human rights treaties as well as a number of International Labour Organization instruments.

59. Rwanda welcomed measures aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, including the implementation of previous recommendations and efforts to address the backlog of cases in the courts through the Integrated Case Management System.

60. Senegal welcomed measures to remedy prison overcrowding and widespread HIV/AIDS and steps to incorporate recommendations relating to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

61. Serbia welcomed cooperation of the relevant authorities with UN mechanisms for organizing training courses to raise awareness of UN human rights standards, and commended national efforts to accelerate action to eliminate food insecurity and malnutrition.

62. The Seychelles highlighted the Gender and Development Policy, the drafting of the Older Persons Protection Bill, and the adoption of a National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons and a National Climate Change Policy.

63. Sierra Leone welcomed strides in achieving the SDG 1 and 10 to address poverty and inequality as well as the emphasis to promote gender equality and congratulated Lesotho for winning the 2016 African Gender Award.

64. Slovenia encouraged Lesotho to ratify the OP-CAT, the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. It raised concerns about the reports on persistent discrimination and violence against women and girls and abuse against children.

65. Solomon Islands congratulated Lesotho on many achievements, including the ratification of all core treaties on human rights.

66. Somalia commended Lesotho for consulting with the civil society during the adoption of its national report. It welcomed the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking Act and its national plan as well as the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

67. South Africa was encouraged by the efforts to address gender-based violence, including through the Gender and Development Policy, to conduct consultations on the draft law against domestic violence and to establish regional partnerships to address human trafficking.
68. South Sudan made recommendations.
69. Spain welcomed the outreach campaigns on human trafficking, the process to outlaw child marriage, the commitment to providing funding for education and congratulated Lesotho on achieving gender equity in primary education.
70. Sudan commended the efforts to promote human rights since the previous UPR and praised Lesotho for its ongoing cooperation with the Human Rights Council.
71. Thailand hailed the National Strategic Development Plan II, the Gender and Development Policy, human rights-based response to HIV and measures to combat human trafficking, child marriage, child labour and hunger. It was ready to continue its technical cooperation program with Lesotho.
72. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the law reform to harmonise the definition of the child and to prohibit child marriage and the efforts aimed at providing refugees with access to basic healthcare and education.
73. Togo commended Lesotho for its efforts in the field of human rights since the previous UPR, including ensuring protection for refugees. It urged the international community and technical partners to support Lesotho.
74. Tunisia noted the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, national laws and programs on human trafficking, poverty elimination and implementation of the SDGs.
75. Ukraine appreciated the information on the implementation of the recommendations on women's rights, human trafficking, right to health and education, anti-corruption legislation and cooperation with the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures that contained in the national report.
76. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed recent collaboration between the government and civil society organisations on the reforms and the process to establish a Human Rights Commission. It urged Lesotho to address lengthy delays in the judicial system. It was concerned about reports of torture and police brutality.
77. The United Republic of Tanzania applauded Lesotho's progress since the last UPR review.
78. The United States of America was concerned about allegations of police brutality and urged Lesotho to ensure accountability for such crimes. It noted that media freedom remained fragile and encouraged Lesotho to reaffirm its obligations to protect freedom of expression.
79. Uruguay praised the efforts to bring the legislation in line with the ratified human rights instruments and to promulgate the constitutional amendment making possible to have a double nationality and prohibiting corporal punishment of children.
80. Vanuatu welcomed the National Strategic Development Plan II which covers cross-cutting issues like poverty, gender, HIV/AIDS and disability as well as the ten-year Gender and Development Policy.
81. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued efforts to implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, National Health Strategy for Adolescents and Young People and to combat human trafficking.



82. Zambia applauded the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the launch of a campaign calling for an end to child marriage.
83. Zimbabwe noted the National Strategic Development Plan II to address a number of challenges such as climate change, environment, disabilities as well as the constitutional reforms to ensure political stability and economic transformation.
84. Algeria commended Lesotho for the ratification of the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons and measures to combat human trafficking, particularly through the law of 2011.
85. Angola hailed progress in promoting gender equality and empowerment, particularly in education and non-agricultural employment, and welcomed measures to combat human trafficking. It encouraged Lesotho to further strengthen measures against perpetrators of human trafficking.
86. Argentina congratulated Lesotho on its actions to establish a national mechanism for the presentation of reports and the follow-up of the implementation of Treaty Bodies recommendations, and encouraged Lesotho to continue working towards reaching this objective.
87. Australia acknowledged the work to establish a national human rights institution and encouraged Lesotho to continue this reform. It said that gender-based violations, abuses and allegations of torture by security forces had continued to impact people.
88. Azerbaijan praised Lesotho for implementing the recommendations of international organisations on correctional institutions and adopting the Children's Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill.
89. The Bahamas commended the work geared towards the establishment of a National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up and congratulated Lesotho on its efforts invested in the promotion of human rights, particularly education.
90. Barbados praised Lesotho for its actions to advance the economic and social rights of women and steps to mitigate climate change.
91. Benin noted with satisfaction the adoption of a number of legislative and institutional reforms, particularly to protect the rights of women and children and to ban child marriage without exception.
92. Botswana welcomed the review of the Chieftainship Act and cooperation with the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, including the submission of its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the visit of the Special Rapporteur on safe drinking water and sanitation.
93. Brazil encouraged Lesotho to enact the domestic violence bill and continue its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. It welcomed the re-establishment of the National Aids Commission, the National Action Plan for HIV/AIDS and measures to protect vulnerable groups from violence.
94. Burkina Faso applauded the constitutional amendments to reinforce gender equality and the strategic plan on sexual and reproductive health.
95. Burundi praised the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan, programs to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and the elaboration of the Gender and Development Policy in conformity with SDGs, international and regional instruments.
96. Canada welcomed commitment to end child marriage and was concerned about the use of force by law enforcement. It encouraged Lesotho to offer training to police aimed at

preventing arbitrary arrests and torture and to allocate resources to improve access to drinking water.

97. Chile noted with interest the National Strategic Development Plan II and congratulated Lesotho on its efforts to participate in capacity-building activities for the presentation and follow-up to the recommendations of the Treaty Bodies.

98. China applauded the efforts to adopt the National Strategic Development Plan II, to implement the SDGs, to improve healthcare and education, to combat poverty and human trafficking and to promote the rights of women and children.

99. Congo commended progress in ensuring gender equity in primary education, in protecting the rights of migrants and urged the country to redouble its efforts to operationalise its National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles.

100. Costa Rica welcomed progress in eradicating child marriage and urged Lesotho to continue its efforts. It said that Lesotho should make greater efforts in tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic, improving access to healthcare and in combatting human trafficking.

101. Côte d'Ivoire praised the adoption of the sectorial policies and the National Strategic Development Plan II and ratification of the core human rights instruments. It urged Lesotho to continue its work.

102. Cuba highlighted the development of the Gender and Development Policy with the multisectoral approach and participation of governmental and non-governmental actors.

103. Denmark commended the steps to incorporate human rights education in the primary school curriculum and was concerned about reports of widespread sexual and gender-based violence, including the lack of protection against child marriage.

104. Lesotho took the floor and referred to the recommendations made from the floor including cruel and inhumane treatment, freedom of expression, children's rights, health services, over-crowding in detention centres, police brutality, passing of a law on access to information, food insecurity, forced child marriage, access to health of rural women, international reporting obligations, free primary education and migrant children.

105 Targeted steps towards adoption of an anti-torture legislation had been taken. Currently cabinet has approved the drafting of a policy on torture, which will lead to the drafting of a consolidated and comprehensive law in line with Lesotho's obligations to prevent and punish torture and to provide redress to its victims. Considering reporting obligations under CAT, Lesotho has a draft initial report. We have also requested to report through the simplified reporting procedure and are currently awaiting the list of issues from the Committee Against Torture.

106. The Receipt and Access to Information Draft Bill was to ensure that citizens have access to information but it has still not been tabled before Parliament. Aware of food insufficiency in Lesotho, the Government subsidizes farmers with seeds, fertilizers and tractors. At community level, household heads, including women are trained on key-hole vegetable gardening for subsistence and commercial purposes. In order to ensure that hunger does not contribute to school dropout, there is a schooling feeding programme which ensures provision of food to all children in public schools.

107. In an effort to address and eliminate cases of early and forced child marriages, where such are reported, children are rescued. The Government also works with NGOs such as Beautiful Dream Society to rehabilitate and provide shelter and schooling for such children.

108. In order to improve rural women's access to sexual and reproductive health rights, the Ministry of Health in collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations has taken some of the following measures: recruitment of village health

workers whose mandate include distribution of family planning commodities, and mobile clinics which rove in villages, they provide all services including family planning services.

109. The Minister appreciated the opportunity provided by the UPR mechanism for Lesotho to reflect and assess in a self-critical manner, achievements as well as identifying existing gaps and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground. He thanked all who had made the process a success.

## **II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

**110. The recommendations listed below have been examined by Lesotho and enjoy the support of Lesotho:**

**110.1 Submit outstanding state party reports under Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Marshall Islands);**

**110.2 Adopt national anti torture legislation to ensure full implementation of the Convention Against Torture (Bahamas);**

**110.3 Submit reports to the different Human Rights Treaty Bodies in a timely fashion (Mozambique);**

**110.4 Continue its efforts to convey as soon as possible its periodic report on commitments generated by international human rights instruments (Senegal);**

**110.5 Establish a mechanism to ensure timely reporting and follow up on the implementation of recommendations from the various treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

**110.6 Implement all the recommendations that emanating from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (South Sudan);**

**110.7 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for UN treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**110.8 Submit outstanding State Party reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Republic of Tanzania);**

**110.9 Implement recommendations emanating from the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and finalize the draft Action Plan in this regard (Zimbabwe);**

**110.10 Submit outstanding State Party reports to the international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe); Strengthen the independent National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Honduras);**

**110.11 Consider effective implementation of the National Strategic Development Plans (India);**

- 110.12 **Strengthen efforts for operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission (India);**
- 110.13 **Strive to operationalise the Human Rights Commission (Kuwait);**
- 110.14 **Consider the immediate operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles, as well as to consider the possibility of bilateral and cross-regional exchanges and collaboration with other National Human Rights Institutions (Indonesia);**
- 110.15 **Establish a national human rights institution (Iraq);**
- 110.16 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the independence of the National Commission for Human Rights in order to make it in-line with the Paris Principles (Mali);**
- 110.17 **Establish an independent Human Rights Commission that is compliant with the Paris Principles (Marshall Islands);**
- 110.18 **Make the Human Rights Commission operational in accordance with the Paris Principles (Morocco);**
- 110.19 **Endeavour to domesticate the ratified international and regional human rights instruments (Mozambique);**
- 110.20 **Enhance efforts to establish a National Human Rights Commission in compliance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**
- 110.21 **Bring national legal provisions in line with international standards on freedom of expression under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**
- 110.22 **Create a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, and urge the international community to provide necessary technical assistance (Niger);**
- 110.23 **Sustain efforts in upholding human rights and seek necessary support to enhance its capacity in this regard (Nigeria);**
- 110.24 **Continue to undertake reforms for improving policies and programmes geared towards respecting and promoting human rights (Pakistan);**
- 110.25 **Ensure the allocation of adequate resources to the Human Rights Commission (Philippines);**
- 110.26 **Finalise the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, compliant with the Paris Principles, and ensures that its mandate also focus on the economic, social and cultural rights (Portugal);**
- 110.27 **Strengthen its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**
- 110.28 **Strengthen efforts to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission. (Fiji);**
- 110.29 **Continue its efforts to the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the Country (Somalia);**
- 110.30 **Fully operationalise the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (South Africa);**
- 110.31 **Expedite the establishment of processes to domesticate international human rights instruments ratified by the country (South Africa);**

- 110.32 Finalise the Older Persons Protection Bill to ensure the protection and promotion of their human rights (South Africa);
- 110.33 Enhance efforts to establish the Human Rights Commission in accordance to the Paris Principles compliant (South Sudan);
- 110.34 Continue efforts to consider the establishment of the Human Rights Commission in line with Paris Principles (Tunisia);
- 110.35 Fully comply with the state's obligations under international human rights instruments to which Lesotho is a party, including by timely submitting periodic reports to respective treaty bodies and domestication of human rights obligations (Ukraine);
- 110.36 Fully implement the Human Trafficking Act 2011, including taking measures to ensure investigation, prosecution and conviction of human traffickers in fair trials, including officials complicit in trafficking crimes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 110.37 Consider the establishment of Human Rights Commission (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 110.38 Finalize the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in compliance with the Paris Principles (Vanuatu);
- 110.39 Take steps so that the National Human Rights Commission can exercise its mandate in line with the Paris Principles (France);
- 110.40 Speed up the process of establishing national mechanisms to address the backlog of State-party reports (Angola);
- 110.41 Ensure that the country develops an operational human rights institution which will promote and protect the rights of all citizens (Angola);
- 110.42 Expedite the establishment of an independent national human right institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 110.43 Continue to take steps with a view to the creation of the Human Rights Committee in compliance with the Paris Principles and to the adoption of the implementation plan for inclusive education and the adoption by Parliament of the draft legislation on equality for persons with disabilities (Benin);
- 110.44 Continue its efforts towards establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and to develop the Human Rights Action Plan (Georgia);
- 110.45 Proceed with the steps to establish a National Mechanism on Reporting and Follow-up on the implementation of recommendations from the treaty monitoring bodies (Georgia);
- 110.46 Speed up the process of establishing a National Mechanism and follow up to address the backlog of state party reports (Kuwait);
- 110.47 Take effective measures to ensure the implementation of the 2018–2028 Gender and Development Policy as a possible way of addressing gender equalities (Botswana);
- 110.48 Expedite the process of establishing and operationalizing the National Human Rights Commission (Burundi);
- 110.49 Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile);

- 110.50 Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);
- 110.51 Operationalize the National Human Rights Committee via the effective entry into force of the law setting up this body (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 110.52 Enhance efforts in mitigating the negative effects of practices that could lead to discrimination between men and women (Indonesia);
- 110.53 Adopt norms that will guarantee to LGBTI persons the full enjoyment of their rights on the basis of equality in all spheres, combatting discrimination and negative stereotypes that still exists in the society (Argentina);
- 110.54 Not to relent in its determination to combat corruption and ensure good governance (Nigeria);
- 110.55 Continue to give due priority to vulnerable sectors in community-based disaster resilience and climate adaption efforts (Philippines);
- 110.56 Ensure that the implementation of its climate change policies and resiliency frameworks are gender-responsive and disability-inclusive, consistent with the UNFCCC and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, to address the economic, cultural and social impacts and challenges that climate change represents, for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights for all (Fiji);
- 110.57 Ensure that a human rights approach is reflected in the Government's 2020 submission of the reviewed Nationally Determined Contributions (Fiji);
- 110.58 Continue investing resources for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 110.59 Continue the fight against corruption including looking into the possibility of establishing a special court for grand corruption cases (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 110.60 Fully implement the National Climate Change Policy and put in place a comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate its implementation (Vanuatu);
- 110.61 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking particularly children and women (Egypt);
- 110.62 Further intensify the conduct of public awareness-raising activities on combating trafficking in persons (Philippines);
- 110.63 Harmonise all legal frameworks to ensure access to justice for all the victims of trafficking (Spain);
- 110.64 Modify the law on combatting human trafficking in such a way that use of force, coercion or fraud should not be prerequisites for criminalising the trafficking of children as an offence (Spain);
- 110.65 Take further measures to prevent human trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Timor-Leste);
- 110.66 Undertake impartial investigations into allegations of police brutality, corruption, and human rights violations and abuses, including reported extrajudicial killings and torture by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, and continue to operationalize the Police Complaints Authority (United States of America);

- 110.67 **Immediately end undue restrictions on freedom of expression and adopt a zero-tolerance stance towards intimidation of the press, including the arbitrary arrests of journalists and harassment of radio stations (United States of America);**
- 110.68 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking by systematically bringing perpetrators to justice (France);**
- 110.69 **Conduct trainings for police officers on human rights and prevention of arbitrary arrests and torture (Zambia);**
- 110.70 **Conduct independent and impartial investigations into claims that police and security forces have committed human rights violations, including torture and unlawful killings and initiate prosecutions (Australia);**
- 110.71 **Step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking (Congo);**
- 110.72 **Take effective measures to prevent further acts of torture and other forms of police violence and to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice (Germany);**
- 110.73 **Strengthen mechanisms to investigate cases of forced labor, in particular the Child and Gender Protection Unit and increase efforts to ensure the lawful prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking, exploitation and abuse (Germany);**
- 110.74 **Consider to take measures to investigate all cases of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment and punish the perpetrators accordingly (Ghana);**
- 110.75 **Continue to strengthen the justice system and other mechanisms to prevent, remedy and ensure accountability for human rights violations, including by adopting measures to assure their administrative and budgetary autonomy (Brazil);**
- 110.76 **Enact legislation on access to information (Seychelles);**
- 110.77 **Take urgent action to promote open and transparent Government, ensuring access to information by promulgating a freedom of information law and honouring information requests (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 110.78 **Adopt all the necessary measures to guarantee the freedom of expression and information, ensuring that the journalists and the media can carry out their work in a safe environment, free from intimidation and reprisals, in accordance with international standards (Uruguay);**
- 110.79 **Enact legislation that ensures freedom of the press (Canada);**
- 110.80 **Take measures to strengthen the efficiency and the effectiveness of the judiciary system (Italy);**
- 110.81 **Allocate additional resources to address overcrowding, inadequate sanitary conditions and lack of medical care in prisons and detention centres (Canada);**
- 110.82 **Mobilize resources for the construction of the industrial estates in order to create job opportunities (Ethiopia);**
- 110.83 **Continue ongoing measures for reduction of extreme poverty, food insecurity and employment (India);**

- 110.84 Continue to implement the National Nutrition Policy (2016) to address malnutrition using evidence-based action plans (Pakistan);
- 110.85 Step up efforts to fight poverty and hunger, as well as to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation (Sudan);
- 110.86 Continue to strengthen efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity, including through agricultural investments and multi-stakeholder partnerships at domestic and international levels (Thailand);
- 110.87 Continue progress their successful social policies to provide the greatest well-being and quality of life possible to their people with the essential support and cooperation of the international community (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 110.88 Prioritize the guarantee of access to water and sanitation to schools at all levels, including preschools and day-care centres, as well as in rural areas (Bahamas);
- 110.89 Intensify efforts to address extreme poverty and food insecurity, including through ensuring effective implementation of the National Nutrition Policy and establishment of the Food and Nutrition Council (Botswana);
- 110.90 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, improve the people's living standards in order to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 110.91 Continue working to increase the efficiency and coverage of social protection programmes through the strengthening of institutional coordination and legal frameworks, as well as the consolidation of existing social assistance programmes (Cuba);
- 110.92 Implement effectively the Food and Nutrition Strategy and The Plan of Action 2019–2023 in order to guarantee food security and the right to food for the entire population (Cuba);
- 110.93 Continue the efforts for enhancing access to healthcare services particularly for HIV/AIDS care (India);
- 110.94 Exercise the rights to health and sanitation of the people effectively, particularly by improving drinking water quality (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 110.95 Continue the country's efforts in the field of strengthening the health system and expanding the circle of providing health services to all groups of society (Libya);
- 110.96 Allocate the necessary resources for provisions of qualified medical staff and health care facilities for people in remote areas (Mauritius);
- 110.97 Design a National Plan to guarantee access to health services, containing the sexual and reproductive health, including for people with disabilities, women, girls, and teenagers (Mexico);
- 110.98 Enhance efforts to ensure access to healthcare by pregnant women in order to reduce maternal mortality (Myanmar);
- 110.99 Continue measures to curb the spread of AIDS in its efforts to improve access to health services (Nepal);
- 110.100 Take action to improve maternal health and ensure equitable access to health services (New Zealand);



- 110.101 **Strengthens its legislation and guidelines on health policies, as well as its implementation, to improve its access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, by people living with disabilities, women and young people in particular (Portugal);**
- 110.102 **Take further measures to improve health care infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, and resources devoted to maternal health (Solomon Islands);**
- 110.103 **Advance efforts to safely get mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth, with special attention paid to improving health-care access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds (Solomon Islands);**
- 110.104 **Strengthen efforts to ensure access to health services for people in rural areas (South Africa);**
- 110.105 **Continue the policy to include hygiene and menstrual hygiene management as part of national policy (Spain);**
- 110.106 **Continue efforts to provide healthcare and to promote reproductive health of women, particularly in the rural areas (Tunisia);**
- 110.107 **Take effective steps to curb the HIV pandemic (Ukraine);**
- 110.108 **Strengthen health legislation and the application of the policies and guidelines aimed at improving access, especially for persons with disabilities, women and young people to health services, including to sexual and reproductive health services (Algeria);**
- 110.109 **Maintain and intensify all measures to enhance the right to education for all and organize outreach campaigns to promote increased access for children in rural areas (Djibouti);**
- 110.110 **Continue legislative measures aimed to ensuring quality and inclusive education (Libya);**
- 110.111 **Continue its measure to effectively implement the Inclusive Education Policy, and allocate sufficient funds required in this regard (Myanmar);**
- 110.112 **Attribute greater resources for subsidising pre-school education as well as secondary and tertiary education (Spain);**
- 110.113 **Continue efforts to implement national strategies aiming at ensuring the right to education for all (Sudan);**
- 110.114 **Further strengthen its School Nutrition Policy (Ethiopia);**
- 110.115 **Continue efforts to guarantee the right to education for all (Tunisia);**
- 110.116 **Enact the Domestic Violence Bill, support its immediate implementation and strengthen coordinated essential services and referral pathways between the health, social services, police and justice sectors in order to respond to gender-based violence (Iceland);**
- 110.117 **Advance policies and actions that aim at providing an equal and encouraging environment for women participation in decision-making positions (Indonesia);**
- 110.118 **Increase efforts to put an end to all forms of discrimination against women (Iraq);**

- 110.119 **Adopt the 2018 Domestic Violence Bill into law and continue efforts to combat gender based violence in Lesotho (Ireland);**
- 110.120 **Harmonize the dual legal systems to address discriminatory provisions against women and girls, enact the Domestic Violence Bill and fully implement the Children’s Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill to prevent child, early and forced marriage (Italy);**
- 110.121 **Continue measures to combat gender-based violence (Libya);**
- 110.122 **Step up activities in providing adequate legal protection of women against all forms of discrimination, and provide them with equal opportunities and empowerment (Montenegro);**
- 110.123 **Continue necessary efforts to reduce cases of human trafficking, especially in cases of women and children (Morocco);**
- 110.124 **Speed up the process of enacting the Domestic Violence Bill and support its immediate implementation (Namibia);**
- 110.125 **Redouble efforts in strengthening policy measures and programs to prevent and address gender-based violence (Philippines);**
- 110.126 **Intensify efforts to combat gender-based violence including through the adoption and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Bill (Rwanda);**
- 110.127 **Adopt effective legislative measures to combat gender-based violence (Sierra Leone);**
- 110.128 **Intensify efforts to combat violence against women and promote gender equality, as well as to enhance rights of children and persons with disabilities (Sudan);**
- 110.129 **Strengthen the enforcement of relevant laws to combat and punish acts of domestic violence, violence against women, and discrimination against women (Thailand);**
- 110.130 **Enact the Domestic Violence Bill and support its implementation (Timor-Leste);**
- 110.131 **Proceed to promulgate the law against domestic violence and to ensure its effective implementation (Togo);**
- 110.132 **Ensure effective implementation of legal and institutional progress in the field of women’s rights (France);**
- 110.133 **Strengthen efforts in addressing domestic violence and all forms of violence against women and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and duly punished (Zambia);**
- 110.134 **Deepen efforts and measures that aim to address gender-based violence (Barbados);**
- 110.135 **Continue its efforts to finalize the adoption of the Law against Domestic Violence (Georgia);**
- 110.136 **Redouble its efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice (Burkina Faso);**
- 110.137 **Take all necessary steps to prevent and combat violence against women, including murder and sexual exploitation and violence (Burkina Faso);**

- 110.138 **Redouble its efforts to combat human trafficking, whose main victims are women and children (Burundi);**
- 110.139 **Develop and implement public awareness campaigns against domestic violence and ensure the draft *Lesotho Domestic Violence Bill* is passed and implemented (Canada);**
- 110.140 **Continue to promote gender equality, combat human trafficking and further protect the rights of women and children (China);**
- 110.141 **Run information and awareness-building campaigns to combat stigmatization relating to menstruation (Costa Rica);**
- 110.142 **Intensify its efforts to protect children, including through the finalization of the review of the Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011 (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 110.143 **Fully implement the Anti-trafficking Act and strengthen the efforts to investigate cases of child labor and trafficking in persons and to prosecute the offenders (Italy);**
- 110.144 **Continue efforts to eliminate child marriage (Egypt);**
- 110.145 **Continue to address child labour issues by implementing an action plan for strengthening and enforcing laws that prohibit child labour (Marshall Islands);**
- 110.146 **Implement policies aimed at improving child health and education (Mauritius);**
- 110.147 **Increase the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys, by amending conflicting legislation, such as the Marriage Act of 1974, which allows girls to marry at 16 years of age (Namibia);**
- 110.148 **To enact as soon as possible the Children's Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill 2019 (Slovenia);**
- 110.149 **Enact the law on the protection and wellbeing of children, to protect children from forced and child marriage (Spain);**
- 110.150 **Take measures to strengthen current legislation against child marriage (Togo);**
- 110.151 **Continue setting up a comprehensive system to protect children's rights and develop a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against them (Ukraine);**
- 110.152 **Implement the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and address the factors that promote child labour (United States of America);**
- 110.153 **Take concrete measures necessary to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (Vanuatu);**
- 110.154 **Implement policies aimed at improving child health and strengthening measures to reduce child mortality, including in the remote regions (Zambia);**
- 110.155 **Provide sufficient funds and subsidies to ensure access of children to pre-school, secondary education and higher education and take special measures to ensure that children remain in schools, especially in rural areas (Algeria);**

- 110.156 Continue positive steps at ending child marriage (Azerbaijan);
- 110.157 Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that institutions, such as the children's court and the Child and Gender Protection Unit, effectively protect the rights of children (Barbados);
- 110.158 Continue to evaluate and refine the policies and strategies that have been put in place in order to implement free, compulsory and inclusive education for children (Barbados);
- 110.159 Step up efforts to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, mutilation of body parts and child labour, including by developing and enhancing national programmes and strategies (Brazil);
- 110.160 Strengthen mechanisms to combat child labour by amending the legislative framework to ensure all children under the age of 18 are protected from all forms of forced labour and hazardous employment conditions (Canada);
- 110.161 Take all necessary steps to prevent and combat the ill-treatment of children, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (Chile);
- 110.162 Adopt the Amendment Bill to the Child Protection and Welfare Act without further delay (Denmark);
- 110.163 Continue to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic and sexual exploitation and abuses (Ghana);
- 110.164 Continue strengthening programmes of social protection, focusing on persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 110.165 Ensure progress in the preparation of legal and administrative measures that will ensure full access to education for persons with disabilities (Argentina);
- 110.166 Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and discrimination against persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);
- 110.167 Increase awareness of the officials working on migration and law enforcement officials (Iraq);
- 110.168 Amends legislation to ensure universal, free and accessible birth registration, and to ensure adequate safeguards against statelessness for children born in the territory, as well as safeguards in the process of renunciation and change of citizenship (Portugal).

**111. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Lesotho and have been noted by Lesotho:**

- 111.1 Redouble efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (Djibouti);
- 111.2 Ratify the International Labour Organization's Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (No 169) (Honduras);
- 111.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras); (Montenegro); (Mozambique); (Senegal); (Ukraine); (Chile); (Costa Rica); (Germany); (Denmark);

- 111.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (Honduras);**
- 111.5 **Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**
- 111.6 **Take all necessary measures to formally abolish the death penalty, including removing the death penalty form the Constitution of Lesotho and by ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ireland);**
- 111.7 **Enact a General Law to prevent, investigate and punish torture and other cruel treatment, or degrading penalties and ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture (Mexico);**
- 111.8 **Work towards abolishing the death penalty through the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**
- 111.9 **Envisage the possibilities to ratify the Optional Protocol relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Niger);**
- 111.10 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Serbia, Congo);**
- 111.11 **Become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Seychelles);**
- 111.12 **Accelerate the process of accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or punishment (Sierra Leone);**
- 111.13 **Ratify the Convention against Torture (Somalia);**
- 111.14 **Proceed to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**
- 111.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, (Ukraine);**
- 111.16 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay);**
- 111.17 **Reconsider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**
- 111.18 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 111.19 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Azerbaijan);**

- 111.20 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica);**
- 111.21 **Ratify the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 111.22 **Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, fully implement the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, and ensure effective law enforcement (Germany);**
- 111.23 **Consider to ratify the outstanding core international human rights treaties and conventions, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**
- 111.24 **Criminalize homophobia and transphobia to prevent violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Honduras);**
- 111.25 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation, to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 111.26 **Amend Section 3 of the Marriage Act of 1974 for it to be inclusive of same-sex couples (Iceland);**
- 111.27 **Include in the legislation a provision prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation on gender identity, and reform laws that criminalize consensual sexual relations between same-sex persons, such as the Criminal Code of 2010, and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, section 187 (5) (Mexico);**
- 111.28 **Review and amend the legislative framework to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity is included as a protection ground for non-discrimination (Netherlands);**
- 111.29 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex relationships between adults, and introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination laws which include sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);**
- 111.30 **Repeal provisions in the Penal Code that criminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults, and amend relevant legislation to ensure discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is explicitly prohibited (Australia);**
- 111.31 **Implement legal reforms to protect the human rights of all persons irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Germany);**
- 111.32 **Guarantee legal status to persons with disabilities by fully adopting the draft Law on Equal Opportunities establishing a disability benefit (France);**
- 111.33 **Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty, including by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**
- 111.34 **Consider positively the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Fiji);**
- 111.35 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment**

or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);

111.36 Abolish the death penalty (Chile);

111.37 Put an end to threats and intimidations against journalists and human rights defenders and promote freedom of expression which is guaranteed in the Constitution by retracting the notion of the “crime of sedition” from the Penal Code (France);

111.38 Repeal legislation that could lead to self-censorship, including the Sedition Proclamation of 1938 and the Internal Security Act of 1984 (Denmark);

111.39 Amend legislative provisions which discriminate against women and girls in areas relating to marriage, inheritance and family (Namibia);

111.40 Resist calls to further liberalize abortion, and instead implement laws aimed at protecting the right to life of the unborn (Solomon Islands);

111.41 Amend or repeal section 18(4)(c) of the Constitution of Lesotho, which allows for discrimination against women with respect to adoption, marriage, divorce, burial, and devolution of property on death (Canada);

111.42 Affirm that the right to life applies from conception until natural death, and as such that the unborn child has the right to protection of his or her life at all points (Solomon Islands);

111.43 Amend or repeal Article 18(4)(c) of their Constitution in order to protect women and persons with disabilities from discrimination (Bahamas).

112. 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 Lesotho was headed by Minister of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Honourable Sixtus Habofanoeh Lehana and composed of the following members:

- Honourable Attorney General, Adv. Haae Phoofolo (KC);
  - Deputy Attorney General, Adv. Tsebang Putsoane;
  - Principal Secretary of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Mr. Tanki Mothae;
  - Ambassador H.E Refiloe Litjubo;
  - Chief Legal Officer of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights Ms. Polo Chabane;
  - Chief Legal Officer of Education Mr. Santi Mofoka;
  - Senior Legal Officer Ms. Thato Monyake;
  - Legal Officer Ms. Bokang Lethunya;
  - Minister Counsellor Mrs. Nthabiseng Lelisa.
-