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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Kazakhstan

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-fourth session from 4 to 15 November 2019. The review of Kazakhstan was held at the 7th meeting, on 7 November 2019. The delegation of Kazakhstan was headed by the Minister of Justice, Marat Beketayev. At its 14th meeting, held on 12 November 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Kazakhstan.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Kazakhstan: Chile, China and Iceland.

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 Kazakhstan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/KAZ/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/KAZ/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/KAZ/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Belgium, Liechtenstein, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the United States of America was transmitted to Kazakhstan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Kazakhstan stated that, in 2017, major constitutional reforms had been adopted, which had strengthened the country's legislative and judicial branches, and had made the Government more accountable to the public. The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, had also issued a strategy to build a "Listening State", ready to listen and respond to constructive criticism.

6. Since its second universal periodic review, Kazakhstan had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (in 2015) and the Convention against Discrimination in Education (in 2016).

7. Kazakhstan was committed to zero tolerance for acts of torture and violence, placing particular emphasis on the protection of women and children.

8. The authority of the Commissioner for Human Rights to inspect facilities had been increased. The Commissioner oversaw an Expert Council responsible for investigating alleged human rights violations and monitoring the Government's compliance with existing laws.

9. Since 2010, the prison population had been reduced by 46 per cent and new methods of addressing non-violent criminal offenders had been implemented. Since 2003, Kazakhstan had observed a moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty.

10. President Tokayev had established a National Council of Public Trust with representatives from human rights advocacy groups, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Commissioner for Children's Rights and other experts. Kazakhstan guaranteed free

preschool, primary, and secondary education. Some 93 per cent of children between the ages of 3 and 6 attended preschool and over 7,000 schools – 95 per cent of them State-owned – provided secondary education.

11. More than 700,000 citizens had benefited from the Programme for the Development of Productive Employment and Mass Entrepreneurship for 2017–2021, obtaining professional skills to enter the workforce. In 2018, the Government had expanded the eligibility for targeted social assistance and other benefits, increasing the average basic pension by over 70 per cent.

12. Since 2015, Kazakhstan had adopted numerous fundamental reforms to its justice system aimed at guaranteeing independent and qualified judges, ensuring the rule of law, increasing the accessibility of courts, ensuring the impartiality and fairness of the court system and bringing national courts into line with international standards. Currently, 90 per cent of civil court claims were filed online. All courts were equipped with audio and video recording systems. Emphasis was put on efforts to promote mediation, as a method of pretrial resolution of disputes.

13. In 2018, access to legal services, especially for socially vulnerable groups, had been expanded by a new law. Standards for legal practice and education had been raised and barriers to entering the legal profession had been reduced.

14. In 2016, the Office of the Commissioner for Children’s Rights had been established, legislation guaranteeing children’s rights and punishing child abuse had been improved and juvenile courts had been established.

15. The World Economic Forum had recognized the progress of Kazakhstan in achieving equality for women. The prevention of domestic violence against women and children was a national priority.

16. Kazakhstan had introduced trilingual education, encouraged multilingualism and enabled children to learn in their native languages. State policy emphasized the preservation and strengthening of interconfessional harmony and respect.

17. To combat the illegal export, import and trafficking of persons, an inter-agency commission had been established.

18. With regard to a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, the Government had taken the measures necessary, including the adoption of comprehensive action plans, improving legislation and creating the institutional framework to implement the recommendations stemming from the universal periodic review and other United Nations human rights mechanisms.

19. The Government had the political will to meet all the challenges it faced and to create opportunities for positive and lasting change for the country and its citizens.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 93 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Togo noted with satisfaction that Kazakhstan had continued active collaboration with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, had received visits by special procedure mandate holders and had ratified a number of conventions.

22. Tunisia welcomed the cooperation with the special procedures mechanism and the Human Rights Council. It also commended Kazakhstan for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the reform of the Criminal Code.

23. Turkmenistan welcomed the establishment of the National Council of Public Trust, appointment of commissioners for human rights and children’s rights and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

24. The United Arab Emirates commended Kazakhstan for the human rights reforms undertaken to enhance transparency and accountability and the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals into its national laws and plans.
25. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted the actions to reduce the prison population and investigate instances of torture. It was concerned about libel charges used to control the media and restrict the freedom of expression of journalists.
26. The United States of America urged the Government to continue its productive engagement with civil society and encouraged further measures to ensure and protect freedom of peaceful assembly and expression.
27. Uruguay noted the cooperation with the international human rights system and encouraged the adoption of measures to guarantee the right to freedom of the press and freedom of expression and association.
28. Uzbekistan welcomed the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and noted the Government's commitment to openness, including through the involvement of civil society and the creation of the National Council of Public Trust.
29. Turkey appreciated the progress in empowering women and commended Kazakhstan for the establishment of the National Council of Public Trust. It also noted the President's efforts with regard to human rights.
30. Viet Nam commended Kazakhstan for its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the achievements in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
31. Yemen appreciated the adoption of a national plan to implement five institutional reforms relating to the rule of law, economic growth, accountability and transparency in the Government.
32. Afghanistan commended Kazakhstan for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the Commissioner for Children's Rights in 2016.
33. Algeria welcomed the measures taken by Kazakhstan to provide access to housing and to ensure universal access to and improve the quality of education.
34. Argentina praised Kazakhstan for its cooperation with the treaty bodies, and for having issued a standing invitation to, and receiving visits from, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
35. Armenia noted with satisfaction the implementation of the national plan on trafficking in persons and the adoption of legislative and practical measures to strengthen punishments for trafficking and crimes against humanity, as well as initiatives to allow national minorities to exercise their rights freely.
36. Australia welcomed a zero-tolerance approach to torture, but remained concerned by the number of reported incidents, indicating that the use of torture remained a systemic issue to be addressed.
37. Austria noted the findings of the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on the reported cases of criminal prosecution against members of the national preventive mechanism and the deteriorating conditions for freedom of expression.
38. Azerbaijan highlighted the development of inclusive education programmes and praised the Government's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and its interim progress report in that regard.
39. Bahrain praised the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and stressed the importance of continuing reforms prioritizing the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups.
40. Belarus noted with satisfaction the improvements in the living standards and welfare of citizens and achievements in the areas of education, health and social assistance.

41. Belgium referred to the recent transition of power and encouraged further progress to increase the protection of human rights in line with the core international human rights treaties.
42. Bhutan highlighted the ratification of human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the revision and adoption of domestic laws as part of the reform of the judicial system.
43. Brazil encouraged measures to prevent registration requirements from hampering the enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief. It praised the commitment to improve the situation of persons with disabilities in the 2050 national development strategy.
44. Brunei Darussalam commended the Government's efforts to promote a healthy environment, in particular the action plan to implement the transition to a green economy, the issuing of microloans and the business support and development programme, Business Road Map 2020.
45. Bulgaria highlighted that the parliament of Kazakhstan had the highest level of women's representation among the parliaments of Central Asia. It encouraged Kazakhstan to provide the Commissioner for Children's Rights with sufficient resources.
46. Canada welcomed initiatives to modernize family courts and the establishment of structures to address torture and curb corruption. It noted the need to address underlying challenges to human rights.
47. Chile acknowledged the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It expressed concern that the Criminal Code included the death penalty for 17 crimes.
48. The Philippines commended Kazakhstan for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and recognized the policy frameworks and strategic plans on the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.
49. Croatia noted the overall improvement in the conditions of detention. It also requested clarification on the reported cases of criminal prosecution against members of the national preventive mechanism.
50. Cuba commended Kazakhstan for the review of its legislation, as well as the development of policies, institutions and mechanisms for the protection of the rights of children.
51. Czechia commended Kazakhstan for its recognition of the need for efficient communication with the public and business.
52. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Kazakhstan for its efforts to strengthen the sociopolitical and judicial systems, and measures to form an integrated society, in which all ethnic groups were involved in all areas of life.
53. Denmark was concerned about legal restrictions on the exercise of religion or belief. It encouraged Kazakhstan to continue efforts to promote the rule of law by securing the independence of the judiciary.
54. Responding to comments, the delegation of Kazakhstan noted that, in 2017, a law on the modernization of the procedural foundations of law enforcement had been adopted, taking into account the recommendations from the second review cycle. Detention periods had been reduced from 72 to 48 hours, and decisions on preventive measures and investigative actions could now only be issued by a court.
55. Criminal legislation had been further improved. Agencies were prohibited from conducting investigations into allegations of torture against their own staff. Other efforts included strengthening the role of the independent public monitoring commissions and the national preventive mechanism, installation of video surveillance systems and the introduction of e-filing of complaints.
56. The recommendation from the second cycle to clarify the term "incitement of national, religious and class discord" was under consideration.

57. Legislation was being amended to strengthen punishments for serious crimes against persons, such as kidnapping and illegal imprisonment, and crimes related to drugs and trafficking in persons, and to decriminalize slander.
58. It was noted that abolition of the death penalty would require introducing amendments to the Constitution.
59. Freedom of expression was guaranteed by the Constitution, and everyone had the right to freely receive and disseminate information by any means not prohibited by law. The State guaranteed the protection of the honour, dignity, health, life and property of journalists. The legislation provided for criminal and administrative liability for obstructing the work of the media and journalists.
60. The Prosecutor General's Office had been vested with the power to temporarily restrict access to Internet sites that promoted terrorism, extremism, suicide, the distribution of pornographic materials, or the sale of drugs or weapons.
61. The Criminal Code provided criminal liability for the use of violence in 21 crimes, with sentences up to life imprisonment. In accordance with the 2017 reform, any violent act, regardless of a complaint from the victim, should be reviewed and offenders were held liable. A law was being developed to strengthen penalties for domestic violence.
62. The Government had adopted an action plan to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for 2018–2020. Since 2016, 358 victims of trafficking in persons had been identified and 587 persons had been prosecuted for such crimes.
63. To simplify the process of legalizing migrant workers, 17 migration service centres had been opened, reducing the amount of time needed to obtain a work permit from seven days to two hours.
64. The parliament was considering amendments to ensure that newborn children of stateless persons were documented, which would provide them with access to a full package of social services.
65. Measures to strengthen the judicial system, including capacity-building and institutional modernization, were also highlighted.
66. The Concept of Civil Society Development until 2025 had been developed to strengthen civil society and to ensure its active involvement in decision-making.
67. The Government was developing a new law on peaceful assembly that would, *inter alia*, simplify the current procedures.
68. Citizens, foreigners and stateless persons could practise any religion without registration, and could also freely create religious associations. The requirements of the legislation on the registration of religious associations were in line with international standards and were applied transparently, as evidenced by the steady growth of religious associations.
69. Djibouti acknowledged progress in the normative and institutional framework, in particular the 2017 constitutional reform, and efforts towards sustainable development through the 2050 national development strategy.
70. The Dominican Republic welcomed steps to strengthen the judicial system through the adoption of legislation to modernize the system and to increase its autonomy.
71. Egypt welcomed legislative and administrative reforms increasing penalties for corruption, trafficking in persons and violence against children, and commended Kazakhstan for the judicial reforms to protect the rights of citizens.
72. Estonia commended Kazakhstan for amendments to legislation related to the operation of children's organizations, but expressed concerns about restrictions on freedom of expression, in particular the Internet law criminalizing online activities.
73. Fiji commended Kazakhstan for the moratorium on the death penalty, and the development of the action plan for the period 2013–2020 and the Presidential Decree of 2014 to facilitate transition to a green economy.

74. Finland noted the Government's efforts to facilitate dialogue with civil society and the establishment of the Commissioner for Children's Rights. However, it was concerned about discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
75. France welcomed the reform of the penitentiary system and progress in the interaction between authorities and the public. It noted the need to strengthen efforts concerning respect for public liberties and the rule of law.
76. Georgia welcomed the establishment of commissioners for human rights and children's rights, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention against Discrimination in Education.
77. Germany commended Kazakhstan for efforts to prevent and penalize acts of torture and to strengthen civil rights. However, it expressed concerns about restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly.
78. The Holy See noted the importance of the national human rights indicators related to freedom from torture, participation in the government, education, adequate housing, fair trial and violence against women.
79. Iceland welcomed the national report and the steps outlined therein and expressed its hope for their continued implementation.
80. India welcomed the 2017 constitutional reforms to redistribute powers among the branches of government and making the parliament and the Government more directly responsible to citizens.
81. Indonesia appreciated the efforts to strengthen the independence and efficiency of the justice system and noted efforts to combat trafficking in persons and provide rehabilitation to victims.
82. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed appreciation for the work done in the field of social security and the creation of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in society.
83. Iraq welcomed the reforms implemented by Kazakhstan, in particular the legal and judicial reforms aimed at strengthening the capacity and independence of the judiciary.
84. Ireland acknowledged efforts to advance human rights domestically but remained concerned over reports of mass arrests, detentions and criminal prosecutions against peaceful protesters, activists, journalists and lawyers.
85. Israel commended Kazakhstan for its respect for religious freedom and the rights of minorities and appreciated the appointment of commissioners for human rights and for the rights of the child.
86. Italy appreciated efforts made since the previous cycle, particularly the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
87. Jordan welcomed the institutional, social and economic reforms leading to the adoption of the National Plan of 2019, and the legislative measures aimed at combating trafficking in persons and crimes against children.
88. Kuwait commended Kazakhstan for measures taken to improve human rights and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly with regard to protecting the rights of children, including through improved social and health care.
89. Kyrgyzstan praised efforts to cope with terrorism and to protect hundreds of women and children returning from conflict zones and victims of domestic violence.
90. The Lao People's Democratic Republic congratulated Kazakhstan on the measures taken to implement the recommendations adopted during the previous review, particularly the progress in the protection of the rights of women and persons with disabilities.
91. Latvia noted measures taken by the Government for the promotion and protection of human rights and encouraged further efforts towards the fulfilment of its human rights obligations and commitments.

92. Madagascar commended Kazakhstan for, among other things, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights.
93. Malaysia commended Kazakhstan for the broad consultations involving various stakeholders in preparation for its review, the road map for reproductive health and efforts to reach specific segments of the population through health centres.
94. Maldives welcomed the introduction of indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals into national strategic planning, the permanent mechanism to monitor implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to empower women.
95. Mauritania commended Kazakhstan for the adoption of the 2050 national strategy aimed at implementing the national development goals, and of a national plan for the improvement of social and economic rights.
96. Mexico commended Kazakhstan for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the adoption of the family and gender policy to 2030, aimed at increasing women's representation in the Government.
97. Mongolia commended Kazakhstan for the actions to ensure the economic and social rights of its citizens, and particularly the introduction of Sustainable Development Goal indicators into its national strategic planning.
98. Montenegro commended Kazakhstan for the reduction in the number of children in detention but remained concerned about the constitutional amendments of 2017 concerning the application of international treaties. It noted the importance of the complete abolition of death penalty.
99. Morocco noted the family and gender policy, the amendments to the law on social protection of persons with disabilities and progress in protecting children's rights through amendments to relevant legislation.
100. Myanmar commended Kazakhstan for great strides in reform, in particular the progress in protecting women's and girls' rights and achievements in the promotion of gender equality.
101. Nepal welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and amendments to election laws to promote pluralism and proportional representation, as well as the commitment to zero tolerance of torture.
102. The Netherlands commended Kazakhstan for the intention to combat corruption but remained concerned about the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and the lack of progress in ensuring the rights to freedom of expression and assembly.
103. The delegation of Kazakhstan noted that steps had been taken to bring the national human rights institution into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) by securing the status of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Constitution. The Commissioner was independent and not accountable to any of the legislative, judicial and executive authorities.
104. Kazakhstan had taken legislative measures to create an effective mechanism for filing complaints in cases of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.
105. To implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government had approved a national plan to ensure the rights and improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities until 2025.
106. In May 2018, following a visit by an International Labour Organization (ILO) high-level mission, a road map on the implementation of the recommendations of ILO committees on the application of the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) had been adopted.

107. In 2017, the Government approved a new Concept for Migration Policy until 2021 in order to protect the rights of migrants and refugees. Kazakhstan had joined the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
108. Kazakhstan had achieved success in educational reforms and, in 2017, it had ranked fourth out of 137 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index for primary education enrolment. Financial support for children from socially vulnerable groups had been ensured.
109. As part of the health-care reforms, Kazakhstan would implement a social health insurance system. An additional package of medical services would be provided for insured citizens, covering at least 94 per cent of the population.
110. In 2019, Kazakhstan had presented its first voluntary national review on its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals during the high-level political forum on sustainable development, where it had been noted that Kazakhstan ranked fifty-eighth among the 198 countries in the human development index.
111. Nicaragua thanked Kazakhstan for presenting its national report and made recommendations.
112. Niger commended Kazakhstan for the creation of the National Council of Public Trust, the national preventive mechanism and a commission on the rights of the child.
113. Nigeria noted measures to combat trafficking in persons and to ensure protection of victims' rights, and commended Kazakhstan for the reform of the judicial system to enhance the administration of justice.
114. Oman took note of the national report and of the laws, strategies and programmes implemented by Kazakhstan with the aim of promoting and protecting human rights.
115. Pakistan appreciated efforts to prevent violence against women and the establishment of crisis centres and domestic violence helplines. It commended Kazakhstan for the establishment of the National Council of Public Trust.
116. Paraguay appreciated ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the creation of the national preventive mechanism, and encouraged the strengthening of the institutional framework to implement the recommendations from universal periodic reviews.
117. China acknowledged the economic plan to ensure strategic development and the measures taken to combat terrorism and trafficking in persons, and to protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
118. Poland welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, and activities to promote interfaith dialogue.
119. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Commissioner for Children's Rights and hoped that their mandates and capacity would be strengthened.
120. The Republic of Korea commended Kazakhstan for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and welcomed measures to protect children's rights and the zero-tolerance policy with regard to torture.
121. The Republic of Moldova welcomed measures to combat trafficking in persons, the zero-tolerance policy with regard to torture, and progress in women's participation in politics and public life, as well as advancements in universal health coverage.
122. The Russian Federation commended Kazakhstan for its dialogue with civil society and efforts to ensure the social and economic well-being of the population, and welcomed the free and fair elections in 2019 and the concept of a "Listening State".
123. Senegal congratulated Kazakhstan for organizing repatriation operations in 2019, and appreciated efforts to reduce the number of children in detention and improvements in their reintegration and education.

124. Serbia welcomed the implementation of the National Plan with regard to increasing penalties for violence, trafficking in persons and other crimes, in particular crimes against children.

125. Singapore commended Kazakhstan for the establishment of the Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights, enhanced punishments for the sexual and financial exploitation of children and the development of training schemes for judges.

126. Slovakia commended Kazakhstan for hosting visits from special procedure mandate holders. It was concerned that the Criminal Code recognized 17 crimes for which the death penalty could be imposed.

127. Slovenia noted the progress in achieving gender equality in elected institutions. It also noted that violence against women remained acute, especially in rural areas, and that legislation decriminalizing domestic violence needed to be improved.

128. Spain noted that Kazakhstan had ratified the majority of international human rights treaties and made recommendations.

129. Sri Lanka noted the reforms to the Constitution in 2017 and the adoption of amendments to the laws on elections. It also noted the Government's commitment to zero tolerance for acts of torture and violence, especially against women and children.

130. Sudan commended Kazakhstan for the establishment of the national preventive mechanism and the Commissioner for Children's Rights, as well as efforts to empower women, especially in the health and education sectors.

131. Sweden encouraged further efforts to protect women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and all persons in vulnerable situations, from violence and discrimination, as well as the complete abolition of the death penalty.

132. Switzerland commended Kazakhstan on the progress made in the penitentiary system. However, it noted that certain formulations in the Criminal Code increased the risk of arbitrary interpretation, restricting civil society space and the right to freedom of expression.

133. Thailand welcomed the establishment of the National Council of Public Trust and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It commended Kazakhstan for efforts to combat trafficking in persons and other crimes.

134. Timor-Leste noted the increasing engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and welcomed the development of the family and gender policy concept to 2030 and its national plan targeting the elimination of violence and trafficking in persons.

135. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the introduction of 79.9 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators into the national strategic planning and highlighted the progress in education and employment, especially for persons with disabilities.

136. Honduras welcomed the progress made, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

137. In conclusion, the delegation of Kazakhstan noted that, in 2016, a new Concept of Family and Gender Policy had been approved to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the recommendations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. To reinforce national institutional and human capacity, a three-year agreement had been concluded with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

138. Kazakhstan noted that it had always been and remained committed to the principles of openness, transparency and impartiality in its promotion and protection of human rights, and would continue to consistently improve the existing legal and institutional mechanisms in that area.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

139. The following recommendations will be examined by Kazakhstan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council:

- 139.1 Continue its efforts to ratify international instruments (Morocco);
- 139.2 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay) (Paraguay) (Honduras);
- 139.3 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Timor-Leste);
- 139.4 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and continue to promote measures to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers (Sri Lanka);
- 139.5 Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Kyrgyzstan);
- 139.6 Consider the ratification of Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Togo); Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Republic of Moldova); Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mongolia);
- 139.7 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovakia);
- 139.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);
- 139.9 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and implement its provisions in national legislation (Ireland);
- 139.10 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and eliminate the death penalty for those crimes for which is still envisaged (Spain);
- 139.11 Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Kyrgyzstan);
- 139.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Madagascar);
- 139.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger);
- 139.14 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Honduras);
- 139.15 Accelerate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uzbekistan);
- 139.16 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Slovakia);
- 139.17 Continue the work regarding the rights of the child and the rights of persons with disabilities by ratifying, without further delay, the Optional

Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Germany);

139.18 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);

139.19 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);

139.20 Consider acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Croatia);

139.21 Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);

139.22 Accede to and fully align national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);

139.23 Establish a national mechanism for reporting, implementation and follow-up to international recommendations on human rights (Paraguay);

139.24 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Paraguay);

139.25 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Honduras);

139.26 Continue to engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures (Sri Lanka);

139.27 Continue cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations in the field of human rights (Iraq);

139.28 Legally establish the primacy of international human rights legislation over internal regulations (Spain);

139.29 Further strengthen national capacities regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into account the concluding observations of treaty bodies and recommendations from the universal periodic review (Belarus);

139.30 Strengthen the mandate of the children's ombudsman with a view to efficiently protecting children's rights (Niger);

139.31 Make the national human rights institution fully compliant with the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient financial and human resources (Togo);

139.32 Expand the mandate of the ombudsman for human rights in accordance with article 2 of the Paris Principles and guarantee its independence (Armenia);

139.33 Bring the ombudsperson institution into full compliance with the Paris Principles (Croatia);

139.34 Take further steps towards ensuring the independence of the Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);

139.35 Continue efforts to bring the ombudsperson institution into compliance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);

139.36 Provide the human rights ombudsman with an appropriate legal and institutional framework in order to align it with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);

- 139.37 **Strengthen the capacity of the office of the ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles, including by providing it with adequate financial and human resources (Republic of Korea);**
- 139.38 **Continue strengthening the independence of the ombudsperson institution in order to bring it into full compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Moldova);**
- 139.39 **Strengthen the national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in line with the Paris Principles (Senegal);**
- 139.40 **Fully align the working conditions of the ombudsman so that it complies with the Paris Principles, including by further strengthening its independence and ensuring adequate financial and human resources (Serbia);**
- 139.41 **Continue to improve the national human rights mechanism in line with the Paris Principles to effectively implement the commitments made in the area of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Indonesia);**
- 139.42 **Continue promoting actions to strengthen the office of the ombudsperson (Dominican Republic);**
- 139.43 **Continue efforts to strengthen the role of the human rights ombudsman (Iraq);**
- 139.44 **Explicitly prohibit any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);**
- 139.45 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes an explicit prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);**
- 139.46 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation which includes sexual orientation and gender identity as protection grounds (Sweden);**
- 139.47 **Adopt comprehensive legislation against discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**
- 139.48 **Guarantee an enabling environment for civil society activities, activist groups and human rights defenders of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Chile);**
- 139.49 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 139.50 **Adopt specific legislation to eliminate discrimination in which all prohibited grounds of discrimination are specified, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);**
- 139.51 **Adopt legislation that expressly guarantees protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons against discrimination and violence and provides for the full enjoyment of their rights (Uruguay);**
- 139.52 **Amend existing legislation to prohibit discrimination against women and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);**
- 139.53 **Adopt comprehensive legislation against discrimination, which includes direct and indirect discrimination and all grounds of discrimination, including gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);**
- 139.54 **Amend the article on violations of the equality of people and citizens (article 145) of the Criminal Code to explicitly and separately include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as protected characteristics (Belgium);**

- 139.55 Continue efforts to ensure a healthy environment for all (Brunei Darussalam);
- 139.56 Continue efforts to enhance business support and development programmes that aim to assist employment (Brunei Darussalam);
- 139.57 Ensure that women, children and persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in the development of legislation, policies and programmes on climate change and disaster risk reduction (Fiji);
- 139.58 Ensure that the environment is properly protected and the population informed on the impact of pollutants on the environment and people's health (Holy See);
- 139.59 Strengthen efforts to address environmental hazards that impact on the health of people, especially children living in environmentally high-risk areas (Maldives);
- 139.60 Develop and adopt a national action plan on business and human rights in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in consultation with the private sector, civil society, relevant stakeholders and the Working Group on business and human rights (Thailand);
- 139.61 Increase efforts to promote a zero-tolerance approach to torture, in particular by conducting timely, transparent and comprehensive investigations into and prosecutions of reported incidents of torture (Australia);
- 139.62 Bring domestic legislation that criminalizes torture into line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);
- 139.63 Ensure proper investigation of all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment through an independent mechanism and immediately adopt strict safeguards to ensure that no statement obtained through torture can be used in the courts (Czechia);
- 139.64 Take robust measures to eradicate torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and to effectively investigate, prosecute and punish such acts (Finland);
- 139.65 Take further measures to prevent all episodes of torture and other degrading treatment, in particular in prisons (Italy);
- 139.66 Devote all efforts to clarify allegations concerning torture and ill-treatment of detained persons (Poland);
- 139.67 Continue efforts to combat torture and ill-treatment, notably by ensuring that investigations on all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are carried out by an independent body and that those responsible are punished (Switzerland);
- 139.68 Deepen efforts to eliminate the death penalty from its national legislation (Argentina);
- 139.69 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Austria);
- 139.70 Abolish capital punishment (Slovakia);
- 139.71 Abolish the death penalty completely (Sweden);
- 139.72 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes, noting that it has abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes, and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);
- 139.73 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition

of the death penalty (Estonia); Abolish the death penalty and sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal); Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);

139.74 While narrowing the application of the death penalty under its law, also consider completely abolishing it (Fiji);

139.75 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes, including war crimes, treason and terrorist acts (France);

139.76 Keep the moratorium on the death penalty, while further reducing the list of capital crimes, with a view to abolishing it (Holy See);

139.77 Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty and consider fully abolishing it (Italy);

139.78 Make progress in line with the current moratorium on the application of the death penalty, until its complete elimination from the current legal system (Uruguay);

139.79 Extend the mandate of the national preventative mechanism to cover all places of detention in line with article 4 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and ensure its financial and operational independence (Austria);

139.80 Consider establishing an independent national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture (Tunisia);

139.81 Ensure the independence of and provide resources and a broad mandate to the national mechanism for the prevention of torture in order to continue its efforts to combat and eliminate torture (Paraguay);

139.82 Further strengthen and improve the judicial and law enforcement systems (Turkmenistan);

139.83 Protect the independence of the judiciary by bringing regulations relating to the legal profession into line with international legal standards (Denmark);

139.84 Continue promoting legislative and institutional mechanisms to combat corruption (Egypt);

139.85 Ensure the rule of law, particularly the independence of the judiciary, and the right to a fair trial for all persons (France);

139.86 Reform the judicial system in accordance with international standards related to the administration of justice, to guarantee that judges and lawyers exercise their profession independently (Mexico);

139.87 Continue to develop and strengthen the judicial system in order to improve the quality of judicial decisions (Nigeria);

139.88 Strengthen transparency and accountability by promoting and protecting the right to freedom of expression, especially by upholding media freedom, protecting activities of non-governmental organizations, and amending criminal and civil codes with regard to criminal slander and libel (Australia);

139.89 Strengthen freedom of the press and the right to information by modifying the legislation that criminalizes journalists and the media for defamation, insults and false information, which is an obstacle for their work (Chile);

139.90 Bring article 20 (2) of the Constitution of Kazakhstan into line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);

139.91 Amend restrictive laws regulating the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly so that they are fully compliant with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular the provisions under articles 19 and 21 (Ireland);

139.92 Adopt adequate changes to the legislation that restricts the freedom of the media and freedom of expression, as well as freedom of assembly and association, in order to bring it into line with international human rights standards (Slovenia);

139.93 Ensure the exercise of freedom of expression and opinion by revising the criminal law used against independent media and the law on incitement to hatred used to restrict freedom of expression (France);

139.94 Amend article 174 of the Criminal Code to ensure its compliance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria);

139.95 Amend article 174 of the Criminal Code on incitement of social, clan, national, racial or religious discord, notably through a narrow well-defined interpretation of “discord” to prevent arbitrary prosecutions (Belgium);

139.96 Review its legislation that limits freedom of assembly, expression and association, including article 174 of the Criminal Code on inciting social, national, clan, racial, class or religious discord, and end all forms of arbitrary detention of people attempting to exercise their right to peaceful assembly (Finland);

139.97 Ensure freedom of expression and bring the law on mass media, including articles 130 and 174 of the Criminal Code, into line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international human rights obligations and standards (Germany);

139.98 Revise, by the next universal periodic review, the Criminal Code, in particular articles 130, 274, 400 and 405, in accordance with Kazakhstan’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czechia);

139.99 Repeal articles 400 and 403 of the Criminal Code to guarantee the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of association for all citizens, including human rights defenders (Germany);

139.100 Take necessary measures to fully protect freedom of expression, including by repealing or revising the legal provisions limiting freedom of expression and by refraining from using criminal provisions and other regulations as tools to suppress the expression of dissenting opinions (Latvia);

139.101 Protect space for dissent by amending or abolishing articles 174 and 274 of the Criminal Code to remove vague concepts, such as incitement of discord, and also decriminalize defamation (United States of America);

139.102 Repeal and revise the legal provisions that limit freedom of expression, and refrain from using criminal provisions as tools to suppress the expression of dissenting opinions, including on the Internet and social media (Netherlands);

139.103 Clarify article 174 of the Criminal Code in order to prevent arbitrary prosecutions that violate international law (Switzerland);

139.104 Decriminalize defamation (Estonia);

139.105 Strengthen efforts to guarantee the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly (Brazil);

139.106 Enhance the promotion and protection of the freedom of expression, both online and offline, and take the necessary measures to ensure respect for freedom of association and assembly (Italy);

- 139.107 Strengthen respect for the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression (Croatia);
- 139.108 Continue to guarantee the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association with a view to strengthening democratic values in Kazakhstan (Indonesia);
- 139.109 Amend the law on peaceful assemblies to require a simple notification procedure for the holding of a public gathering (Netherlands);
- 139.110 Review the public assembly law to bring it into line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 139.111 Repeal the requirement of prior authorization of peaceful assemblies and adopt a new law on public assembly that is in compliance with international standards (Slovakia);
- 139.112 Undertake necessary measures to ensure full enjoyment by individuals of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Poland);
- 139.113 Ensure effective investigation into acts of intimidation and harassment against lawyers and human right defenders (Austria);
- 139.114 Take immediate measures to ensure the effective protection of lawyers, media workers, bloggers and human rights defenders against any form of harassment and immediately and unconditionally release human rights defender Max Bokayev as per the request made by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (Czechia);
- 139.115 Ensure freedom of association and assembly by removing excessive controls on the registration and activities of non-governmental organizations and trade unions, and on the right to demonstrate (France);
- 139.116 Revise the 2015 law on charity to remove the registration process for non-governmental organizations (United States of America);
- 139.117 End restrictive reporting requirements for non-governmental organizations (United States of America);
- 139.118 Continue its efforts to strengthen civil society and the non-governmental sector (Georgia);
- 139.119 Continue working to ensure active dialogue with civil society institutions in order to provide for the openness of the work of government bodies (Uzbekistan);
- 139.120 Implement legislation to protect freedom of association and peaceful assembly, and define and criminalize all slavery and slavery-like practices, including domestic servitude, and forced and bonded labour, in line with ILO standards (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 139.121 Continue its involvement in the promotion of interfaith dialogue and in upholding respect for freedom of religion or belief (Poland);
- 139.122 Revisit the legal framework regulating the exercise of religion or belief, in particular the 2011 law on religious activity and religious associations, to ensure the legislation's compatibility with international legal standards (Denmark);
- 139.123 Ease registration for religious communities and ensure the full exercise of the freedom of religion or belief in line with international standards (Holy See);
- 139.124 Ensure the democratic process, especially by holding free, fair and transparent elections (France);

- 139.125 Remove existing restrictions on free and democratic elections with a focus on implementing the recommendations of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Germany);
- 139.126 Accept the recommendations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on the electoral system in preparation for the next parliamentary elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 139.127 Foster transparency in the rules applicable to electoral processes, in line with the international commitments of Kazakhstan (Brazil);
- 139.128 Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Tunisia);
- 139.129 Define criminal offences in national legislation to ensure the elimination of all contemporary forms of slavery and forced labour practices and to guarantee that all forms of violence against women are criminalized (Brazil);
- 139.130 Step up efforts in conducting training on anti-human trafficking for duty bearers (Philippines);
- 139.131 Redouble efforts to effectively tackle trafficking in persons, inter alia, by easing registration measures for all migrants (Holy See);
- 139.132 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and guarantee protection of victims (Jordan);
- 139.133 Scale up its efforts to combat human trafficking, and uphold the rights of its victims (Nigeria);
- 139.134 Continue to take measures to support the institution of the family and childhood and the creation of an inclusive society (Pakistan);
- 139.135 Amend legislation and regulations to ease the formation, registration and operation of independent trade unions and civil society organizations, and to protect peaceful public assembly and labour action (Canada);
- 139.136 Intensify efforts to increase working opportunities for young people (Egypt);
- 139.137 Allow independent trade unions to flourish by passing and implementing amendments to bring the law on trade unions into compliance with ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention 1948 (No. 87) (United States of America);
- 139.138 Strengthen the mechanism to attract foreign workers (Niger);
- 139.139 Revoke the list of prohibited professions for women and guarantee equal access to all professions to all women and persons of all genders (Honduras);
- 139.140 Continue its development efforts aimed at improving the educational, health and living conditions of the population in order to further promote and protect human rights (Yemen);
- 139.141 Continue increasing efforts in the field of social, economic and cultural rights in the context of the implementation of relevant long-term State programmes, paying particular attention to measures aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Belarus);
- 139.142 Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and in the improvement of human development indicators (India);
- 139.143 Continue implementing its national programmes and policies to improve education, health and the social security system (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

- 139.144 Continue consolidating actions that promote the right to social security and formal employment (Dominican Republic);
- 139.145 Focus further on the rights of people to development, which will contribute to the promotion of civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 139.146 Continue its efforts in further enhancing the protection of the economic, social and cultural rights of its people (Malaysia);
- 139.147 Continue efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights (Mauritania);
- 139.148 Continue to support business development, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (Nicaragua);
- 139.149 Continue to support the human development indicators (Oman);
- 139.150 Continue to implement the national development strategy and promote sustainable economic and social development, in order to provide a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 139.151 Better protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and continue to promote the development of education and health care (China);
- 139.152 Continue to ensure the effective implementation of social policies and programmes, including the improvement of social services and facilities for persons with disabilities and persons with mental health conditions (Thailand);
- 139.153 Continue strengthening the excellent social rights policies to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly the most vulnerable groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 139.154 Continue its efforts to provide equal access to health-care services throughout the country in both urban and rural areas (Afghanistan);
- 139.155 Implement measures to ensure equal access to quality health services throughout the country, both in urban and rural areas (Algeria);
- 139.156 Continue efforts to put in place universal health coverage extending to all categories of the population, and ensure equal access to quality health services for all in the entirety of the country, both in urban and rural areas (Djibouti);
- 139.157 Continue to implement the strategy on the health-care rights of children, especially children with disabilities (Kuwait);
- 139.158 Strengthen efforts to ensure affordable and quality health and social services to improve the overall well-being of children, women and older persons (Malaysia);
- 139.159 Continue the efforts in the area of access to education through the reduction of regional disparities (Algeria);
- 139.160 Provide adequate financial resources to ensure universal access to education, in particular for those living in rural areas (Philippines);
- 139.161 Incorporate comprehensive sexuality education in the school curriculum at all levels of schooling and out-of-school settings (Iceland);
- 139.162 Ensure access of all citizens to quality education in preschools and schools, as well as the opportunity to gain new professional skills in the universities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 139.163 Continue efforts to provide education to all citizens (Kuwait);

- 139.164 **Ensure inclusive education for all children with disabilities, including by allocating resources and through additional professional training for teachers (Maldives);**
- 139.165 **Accelerate the efforts to implement national schemes designed to ensure equal access to education for persons with disabilities (Israel);**
- 139.166 **Take further steps towards increased protection of the rights of children and persons with disabilities (Poland);**
- 139.167 **Take measures to ensure that children with disabilities can access inclusive and quality education without discrimination (Republic of Moldova);**
- 139.168 **Ensure that children with sensory disabilities are integrated in the educational system and implement policies enabling children with disabilities to participate in inclusive education (Senegal);**
- 139.169 **Consider further technical collaboration between its institutions, the relevant United Nations agencies and third countries to identify and implement good practices, as appropriate, for providing quality early and inclusive education for all children, particularly children with disabilities (Singapore);**
- 139.170 **Intensify efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Sudan);**
- 139.171 **Continue to support its legislative and institutional mechanisms to ensure the right to education for all children (Pakistan);**
- 139.172 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and women and girls' empowerment (Viet Nam);**
- 139.173 **Increase efforts to ensure women fully enjoy their rights (Bahrain);**
- 139.174 **Continue its efforts to combat discrimination against women (Tunisia);**
- 139.175 **Extend implementation of the Gender Equality Strategy for 2006–2016, and expand the scope of the action plan subsequently adopted on the same issue, with a view to continuing progress towards the full equality and empowerment of women (Cuba);**
- 139.176 **Ensure that sufficient resources and training are allocated to the implementation of the 2016 Concept of Family and Gender Policy in order to make its outcomes sustainable (Singapore);**
- 139.177 **Continue to provide an adequate budget for the implementation of its national policies and programmes aimed at further promoting gender equality in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 139.178 **Continue the policy of eliminating inequality between men and women by taking effective measures aimed at increasing the participation of women in political and public life, as well as the economic empowerment of women (Djibouti);**
- 139.179 **Continue taking steps to increase women's representation in the political and public spheres (Egypt);**
- 139.180 **Keep its momentum for empowering women and girls and take further steps to increase women's representation in public and political life (Myanmar);**
- 139.181 **Continue efforts towards achieving women's political representation (Nepal);**
- 139.182 **Maintain the commitment to promote gender equality and take measures to increase women's participation in public and political life (Nicaragua);**

- 139.183 Continue efforts to promote gender equality, and to increase women's participation in public and political life (Pakistan);
- 139.184 Further enhance the participation of women in decision-making roles in political, economic and social spheres of life (Sri Lanka);
- 139.185 Continue to promote gender equality and enhance women's participation in public life (United Arab Emirates);
- 139.186 Eliminate any form of restriction to women's choice of profession (Iceland);
- 139.187 Strengthen policies to address discriminatory practices limiting women's economic empowerment (Iceland);
- 139.188 Continue to strengthen the legislative framework and policies on gender equality, especially in the context of women's access to economic, social and cultural rights (India);
- 139.189 Continue efforts to empower women and ensure women's participation in society, especially in all aspects of political life, decision-making processes and senior positions (Jordan);
- 139.190 Take the necessary measures to ensure that women have full and effective access to all economic, social and cultural rights, including representation in positions of responsibility and in decision-making, in both the public and private sectors (Togo);
- 139.191 Continue efforts to increase women's representation in State decision-making processes (Dominican Republic);
- 139.192 Continue efforts to ensure legal protection against the abuse of women, children and the elderly in families (Latvia);
- 139.193 Continue strengthening efforts to combat violence against women and children and ensure that these acts are effectively investigated and those responsible are held accountable (Sudan);
- 139.194 Further strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence (Georgia);
- 139.195 Make necessary amendments to the Criminal Code to ensure that perpetrators of crimes of sexual violence do not enjoy impunity based on so-called "reconciliation" with the victim (Sweden);
- 139.196 Deepen measures aimed at combating violence against women, in particular by criminalizing any form of domestic violence in order to protect all victims, punish the perpetrators and avoid impunity (Argentina);
- 139.197 Make every possible effort to combat domestic violence, in particular sexual violence, and gender stereotypes, through their criminalization and punishment (Uruguay);
- 139.198 Maintain the positive dynamics in combating domestic violence, and ensure that these incidents are investigated and perpetrators brought to justice (Azerbaijan);
- 139.199 Continue efforts to protect women and children from domestic violence (Bhutan);
- 139.200 Further strengthen measures and programmes on combating and preventing violence against women and children (Philippines);
- 139.201 Criminalize all forms of violence against women and adopt legislation to combat sexual harassment in the workplace (Iceland);
- 139.202 Revise the Criminal Code to ensure that the definition of rape is in line with international standards (Iceland);

- 139.203 **Criminalize domestic violence and incorporate the highest international standards in legislation to combat violence against women and girls (Mexico);**
- 139.204 **Adopt legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence (Portugal);**
- 139.205 **Criminalize all forms of violence against women (Republic of Moldova);**
- 139.206 **Adopt a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls (Spain);**
- 139.207 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Spain);**
- 139.208 **Criminalize all forms of violence against women, notably by ratifying the Istanbul Convention, adopting legislation to fight against sexual harassment and revising article 120 of the Criminal Code in order to guarantee its conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Switzerland);**
- 139.209 **Improve systems to curb and prosecute violence against women and vulnerable groups, and revoke prohibitions on fields of employment for women (Canada);**
- 139.210 **Streamline existing legal provisions and procedures related to combating domestic violence in order to ensure victims achieve justice (Israel);**
- 139.211 **Enhance efforts to fight against all forms of violence against women and strengthen access to justice for victims of gender-based violence (Italy);**
- 139.212 **Continue efforts aimed at tackling domestic violence (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 139.213 **Continue its efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women, particularly domestic violence (Morocco);**
- 139.214 **Continue its efforts to combat domestic violence, including violence against women and children (Myanmar);**
- 139.215 **Establish tougher penalties for sexual violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, drug trafficking and other serious crimes (Myanmar);**
- 139.216 **Enhance its efforts to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and to take concrete steps to promote women's representation in the decision-making process (Republic of Korea);**
- 139.217 **Enhance efforts to eradicate child poverty in cities and remote areas (Bahrain);**
- 139.218 **Continue efforts to protect and promote the rights of the child in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child (Tunisia);**
- 139.219 **Continue its commitment to protect the rights and interests of children, including those with disabilities (Turkmenistan);**
- 139.220 **Continue to move forward in providing comprehensive attention to children, adolescents and young people, particularly in the legal, health and education spheres, as well as in the areas of information and communication technologies (Cuba);**
- 139.221 **Continue its efforts to protect children's rights, particularly to protect children against pornography, especially through the Internet (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 139.222 **Intensify efforts to protect the rights of children (Madagascar);**

- 139.223 **Implement urgently the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children from sexual violence and early marriage (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 139.224 **Strengthen the efforts to protect children from all forms of violence, including sexual violence and child, early and forced marriage (Italy);**
- 139.225 **Continue efforts to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation (Jordan);**
- 139.226 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children (Montenegro);**
- 139.227 **Provide the necessary support for gifted children of low-income families (Kuwait);**
- 139.228 **Continue efforts to promote the rights of children, particularly in the areas of education and health (Oman);**
- 139.229 **Take further steps to ensure that the rights of the persons belonging to national minorities are protected, including their right of self-identification, and to learn their mother tongue (Bulgaria);**
- 139.230 **Continuously carry forward the State policy of ensuring harmonization of inter-ethnic and interreligious relations (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 139.231 **Continue to maintain inter-ethnic harmony and interreligious understanding (United Arab Emirates);**
- 139.232 **Continue to maintain inter-ethnic harmony and interreligious understanding (Armenia);**
- 139.233 **Continue to effectively implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Viet Nam);**
- 139.234 **Continue implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and promoting inclusive education (Azerbaijan);**
- 139.235 **Continue aligning the national legislation in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Oman);**
- 139.236 **Continue adopting inclusive measures to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Bhutan);**
- 139.237 **Exert additional efforts to fully include persons with disabilities in society, in particular in the areas of education, labour and legal capacity, and to discontinue their institutionalization and involuntary treatment (Bulgaria);**
- 139.238 **Improve and implement systems to increase access to education, health and judicial services for children and adults with disabilities, and their families (Canada);**
- 139.239 **Intensify the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it ratified in 2015 (Turkmenistan);**
- 139.240 **Continue efforts to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities to enable their full participation in society in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Indonesia);**
- 139.241 **Continue efforts to ensure better access to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights for children with disabilities (Iraq);**
- 139.242 **Continue its efforts to implement the Plan of Measures to Ensure the Rights and Improve the Quality of Life of People with Disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

139.243 **Continue developing its successful policies and comprehensive programmes in favour of persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

139.244 **Take practical measures to ensure that failed asylum seekers, and all persons who are not formally recognized as refugees but nonetheless were unable to return to their country due to convincing reasons, are allowed to stay in the country until it is safe for them to return (Afghanistan);**

139.245 **Ensure full compliance with the principle of non-refoulement (Czechia).**

140. **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 Kazakhstan was headed by Mr. Beketayev Marat, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Aitzhanova Zhanar – Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Kozhamzharov Kairat – Member of the Parliament (Senate);
- Mr. Smagulov Assylbek – Member of the Parliament (Lower house);
- Ms. Akhmetova Akerke -Vice Minister of Justice;
- Mr. Kenenbayev Yerlik – Deputy Prosecutor General;
- Mr. Zhakupov Rashid – Deputy Minister of Interior Affairs;
- Mr. Tukiyev Aslan – Deputy Chief for provision of courts' activity, Supreme Court (administrative office of the Supreme Court);
- Mr. Sarbassov Akmadi – Vice Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Population;
- Mr. Yessin Daniyar – Vice Minister of Information and Social Development;
- Ms. Shaimova Aigul – Vice Minister of National Economy;
- Ms. Zhaxelekova Botagoz – Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Abishev Tastemir – Secretary of the Human Rights Commission, Presidential Administration;
- Ms. Shugaipova Makpal – Deputy Director of the National Institute of Intellectual Property;
- Ms. Dyussekin Meruyert – Chief of Unit of the Department of International Law and Cooperation, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Baimaganbetov Berik – Deputy Director of the Criminal prosecution sector, General Prosecutor's Office;
- Ms. Karashina Bakhniyaz – Director of Department of State Politics in Mass Media, Ministry of Information and Social Development;
- Mr. Zhekebayev Dulat – Deputy Chair of the Committee for Protection of Child Rights, Ministry of Education and Science;
- Ms. Danenova Ainur – Advisor of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Baissuanov Arman – Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Kul-Mukhammed Zhazira – First Secretary of the Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UNOG and other International Organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Koishibayev Bakbergen – Second secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Baltabekuly Aidos – Deputy director of Consulting Group Bolashak LLP;
- Mr. Urazalin Akzhol – Advisor of the Minister of Justice.