



General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 January 2021

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Forty-sixth session
22 February–19 March 2021
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Belarus

* 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-sixth session from 2 to 13 November 2020. The review of Belarus was held at the 1st meeting, on 2 November 2020. The delegation of Belarus was headed by the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Yury Ambrazevich. At its 10th meeting, held on 6 November 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on Belarus.
2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Belarus: Afghanistan, Mexico and Sudan.
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 Belarus:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/BLR/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.6/36/BLR/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/BLR/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Belarus 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 Belarus stated that Belarus viewed the universal periodic review as an essential tool for international cooperation in the field of human rights, which ensured that human rights situations in all countries of the world, without exception, were considered on the basis of universality and equality.
6. To implement the recommendations from treaty bodies and the second cycle of the universal periodic review, Belarus had adopted the 2016–2019 Inter-agency Plan on implementation of recommendations. The plan was considered to be the State's first national human rights plan, and served as a framework for regular consultations with civil society on a wide range of human rights issues.
7. The State's review was taking place against the backdrop of a challenging epidemiological situation in the world and a difficult sociopolitical situation following the presidential elections. Discussion of post-election developments remained the prerogative of the Belarusian people.
8. Belarus had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and had submitted all outstanding reports under ratified treaties.
9. Belarus had initiated discussions on amending its Constitution with the participation of all interested citizens, aimed at the development of an updated structure of public administration.
10. To address social issues in dialogue with the population, a system of State public institutions for the protection and promotion of various categories of human rights was in place, such as the National Commission on the Rights of the Child and the National Council on Gender Policy.

11. An important innovation to expand public participation in decision-making had been the 2018 amendments to the law on normative legal acts. A special section on the web page of the Belarus Legal Forum had been created for public debates. In 2019, a public discussion had taken place on a bill on amendments to the laws on the activities of political parties and other public associations, and on a bill on the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

12. In 2018, the law on mass events had been amended, providing for a notification procedure for holding mass events in places designated by local authorities.

13. To strengthen the judicial system, the National Conference of Judges had been established. The transition to an appeals procedure had been finalized to examine complaints on court rulings in criminal and civil cases, and progress had been achieved in creating a digital bank of court decisions.

14. Belarus had placed particular focus on the most vulnerable groups and on the provision of social and economic guarantees. According to the rankings of international organizations, Belarus had scored highly on gender equality (ranking twenty-seventh out of 162), human development (fiftieth) and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (eighteenth). A number of public programmes on innovation and development, transport, energy security and environmental security, health care and education had been implemented.

15. The creation of conditions to allow everyone to find employment had been the backbone of social policy. An important element of the social security system was the provision of the State pension. Nearly all persons with disabilities were covered by the State pension.

16. Family support was a national priority in Belarus. The necessary conditions had been created for raising children, including children with disabilities, within families, and an extensive system of State support for families was in place.

17. The constitutional right to receive an education was strictly ensured, including free preschool education in State educational institutions. Everyone could receive education free of charge on a competitive basis in State educational institutions.

18. The health-care system provided high-quality free medical care. All women had access to prenatal and postnatal health care.

19. Belarus had created the conditions under which women could realize their potential. According to the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report, Belarus was ranked twenty-ninth for gender equality. Additionally, there had been positive changes regarding the economic empowerment of women.

20. A comprehensive study had been conducted to identify possible risks of discrimination, and had concluded that the legislation was discrimination-neutral. Legislation on protection provided for liability for violating the constitutional principle of equality, including criminal liability for inciting hatred and discord. Belarus had also taken practical measures to prevent discrimination.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 92 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Switzerland called on Belarus to refrain from any crackdown on peaceful protests, immediately free all those arbitrarily detained and investigate all human rights violations in the post-election context.

23. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the development of the legislative framework and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

24. Tajikistan noted the adoption of the 2016–2019 Inter-agency Plan on implementation of recommendations from the universal periodic review and treaty bodies.

25. Timor-Leste encouraged Belarus to repeal article 193 (1) of the Criminal Code criminalizing activities of non-registered organizations.
26. Turkey supported the steps taken to organize dialogue platforms to discuss issues related to the country's development, including the constitutional reform.
27. Ukraine made recommendations.
28. The United Arab Emirates noted the measures taken to combat trafficking in persons.
29. The United Kingdom condemned arbitrary detention, violence and intimidation against peaceful protestors, independent journalists and members of the opposition.
30. The United States called on Belarus to engage in genuine dialogue with civil society.
31. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the full exercise of democratic freedoms in Belarus.
32. Viet Nam recognized the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
33. Zimbabwe noted that Belarus had implemented socially-oriented public policies and had acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
34. Afghanistan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and was concerned about the restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly.
35. Albania expressed deep concern about the human rights situation following the 2020 presidential elections and urged dialogue between all political and civil society actors.
36. Algeria welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
37. Angola underlined the constructive cooperation by Belarus with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.
38. Argentina made recommendations.
39. Austria made recommendations.
40. Azerbaijan noted the adoption of the national plan of action to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
41. Belgium strongly condemned the disproportionate and violent post-election crackdown on peaceful protesters, political activists, journalists and media workers.
42. Brazil expressed deep concern about continued reports of violence and repression against peaceful demonstrators and called on all sides to engage in constructive dialogue.
43. Bulgaria reiterated its call for the release of all political prisoners and detainees and for an independent and impartial investigation into all alleged human rights violations.
44. Burkina Faso expressed concern about the multiple challenges that persisted in the promotion and protection of human rights.
45. Burundi commended Belarus for the measures taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the health sector.
46. Cambodia commended Belarus for efforts made to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions.
47. Canada stated that it remained seriously concerned about the deterioration of the human rights situation following the 2020 presidential elections.
48. Chile expressed concern about the repression of political opponents, human rights groups and the media.
49. China supported the achievements of Belarus in protecting human rights and its efforts to maintain its independence, sovereignty, security and development.

50. Costa Rica expressed concern about complaints of harassment and persecution of opposition candidates and restrictions on press freedoms.
51. Croatia noted legislation to protect persons with disabilities and called on Belarus to take further steps to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
52. The delegation of Belarus stated that Belarus had improved the selection process for judicial positions and modernized its refresher courses for judges, and was planning to introduce a unified information system of courts to expand the remote participation of citizens in court proceedings and create a public bank of court decisions.
53. New bills on the unified civil procedure code and on the introduction of the appeals procedure for reviewing the decisions of the Supreme Court were planned. The Supreme Court had also made a number of proposals, including a change in approaches to the appointment and dismissal of judges.
54. The Office of the Procurator General paid special attention to the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable groups and to the prevention of crime. A number of interventions had been made to ensure the social insertion of persons released from penal correction facilities. Efforts had been made to reduce the number of people in custody. Confiscation of property was excluded as a type of criminal punishment.
55. As for domestic violence, Belarus had been actively working towards prevention and had been helping victims by establishing hotlines and providing psychological and legal aid and shelter. Together with the United Nations Population Fund, a technical project had been implemented to improve the legislation on domestic violence.
56. Belarus had noted a reduction in the number of crimes committed against children and adolescents. Additionally, a process to amend the Criminal Code had been initiated to criminalize online sexual harassment of children.
57. Gradual measures had been taken to provide persons in places of deprivation of liberty with access to online education, psychological assistance and video calls with their families.
58. Concerning the right to health, Belarus had been continuously expanding its obligations regarding treatment free of charge for people with rare diseases and the provision of medicines. Significant achievements had been made in the reduction of maternal and child mortality and mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Progressive steps had been taken to change the legislation on the decriminalization and destigmatization of people living with HIV.
59. Belarus was one of the high-priority countries in the World Health Organization European Region in terms of combating tuberculosis.
60. The health system had demonstrated its efficiency and adequacy in avoiding exponential growth of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The pharmaceutical industry had been swiftly reoriented to produce medicines, personal protective equipment and polymerase chain reaction tests.
61. Belarus was working to introduce advanced information technologies in order to increase the level of protection of the rights of participants in criminal proceedings, including the use of videoconferencing and electronic documents in pretrial proceedings. Belarus actively protected victims of criminal activity, especially children, with the involvement of public and international organizations.
62. The Media Act had introduced the possibility for websites operating as online media outlets to register on a voluntary basis. The absence of registration had not prevented them from operating.
63. Free access to information for journalists had been facilitated by the National Press Centre of Belarus, which had organized thematic events for the media.
64. Cuba welcomed the determination of the people and the Government to safeguard the State's stability and sovereignty.

65. Cyprus noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and measures to improve school enrolment rates.
66. Czechia expressed alarm at persisting grave human rights violations and abuses that were taking place in Belarus.
67. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Belarus for strengthening national human rights institutions and cooperation with the Human Rights Council.
68. Denmark expressed deep concern about the treatment of peaceful demonstrators and the increasing pressure on civil society organizations.
69. Ecuador recognized the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
70. Egypt welcomed the efforts made to strengthen the legislative and institutional frameworks in the area of human rights.
71. Estonia urged Belarus to immediately end all forms of torture and inhuman treatment and other severe violations, including sexual violence.
72. Ethiopia applauded Belarus for attaining its target of 30 per cent for representation of women in decision-making positions.
73. Fiji congratulated Belarus for the adoption of a national plan of action to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
74. Finland made recommendations.
75. France condemned the violence that had followed the presidential elections and called for the release of all of those who had been arbitrarily detained.
76. Georgia encouraged the Government to further engage in constructive dialogue with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.
77. Germany stated that it remained deeply concerned about the ongoing violence against peaceful protestors and reports of torture and ill-treatment by security forces.
78. Greece expressed alarm at reports of torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment of peaceful protesters, arbitrary detention and the repression of freedom of expression.
79. The Holy See renewed its appeal for a peaceful resolution to the current tensions, through the rejection of violence and through sincere dialogue.
80. Honduras congratulated Belarus for having ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
81. Iceland expressed concern about the freedom and fairness of the recent elections, and the violence against peaceful demonstrators and media workers.
82. India positively noted continued efforts to improve national human rights-related legislation and collaboration with the human rights treaty bodies.
83. Indonesia commended Belarus for the progress made in enacting core international human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
84. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed appreciation for efforts to combat domestic violence and protect victims.
85. Iraq welcomed efforts to provide national reports on human rights treaties.
86. Ireland expressed concern about the deteriorating human rights situation in Belarus since the previous review cycle, particularly in the run-up to and the aftermath of the presidential elections in August 2020.
87. Italy made recommendations.
88. Japan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and stated that it had monitored the situation since the presidential elections with concern.

89. Kazakhstan commended Belarus for its high literacy rate and welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
90. Kuwait made a recommendation.
91. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Belarus for its achievements regarding the right to education and the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
92. Latvia stated that it remained deeply concerned about the exercise of civil and political rights, including freedom of association and freedom of expression.
93. Lebanon commended Belarus for its efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
94. Liechtenstein made recommendations.
95. Lithuania expressed deep concern about the grave deterioration of the human rights situation in the context of the presidential elections.
96. Luxembourg made recommendations.
97. The delegation of Belarus stated that environmental rights had been upheld through the national strategy on sustainable development. A network of public coordinating councils and Aarhus centres had been facilitating the engagement of citizens, public associations and business in designing and implementing the environmental policy.
98. Concerning the right to education, citizens were guaranteed the right to choose education in any educational institution in Russian or Belarusian. Belarus was a full member of the European Higher Education Area. Belarus also had a widely developed network of institutions implementing integrated education and upbringing for children with special needs. Together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a project was being implemented with a view to designing a human rights curriculum for all levels of education.
99. The realization of the right of every child to life and upbringing in a family was ensured: 81 per cent of orphans were brought up in families of Belarusian citizens.
100. Belarus had a high level of employment. Citizens who were not able to compete in the labour market, such as orphans, persons with disabilities, persons released from prison and persons close to retirement age, were subject to additional guarantees for employment, reservations for employment, retraining and adaptation.
101. The Labour Code prohibited the restriction of labour rights on discriminatory grounds. Persons who believed that they had been discriminated against had the right to go to court. Belarus had secured equality of labour rights for men and women, and guaranteed equal pay. The next national plan of action on gender equality had been adopted. Forced labour was prohibited, as enshrined in the Constitution and the Labour Code.
102. Social protection of older citizens and citizens with disabilities was guaranteed by the payment of the State pension and benefits, and the provision of targeted social assistance.
103. As for the right of association, Belarus had decriminalized liability for activities conducted on behalf of unregistered public associations.
104. Public monitoring commissions for penal institutions were completely independent. Every year, visits were conducted to approximately 20 institutions of the penal system. The public monitoring commissions had not revealed any discrimination against juvenile convicts, or against other convicts.
105. The Bar was an independent legal institution that carried out its functions in accordance with the tasks assigned to it under the Constitution. In 2017, amendments had been made to the law on the Bar and advocacy in Belarus, aimed at strengthening the role of bar associations.
106. An inter-agency expert working group had been set up to consider the recommendations issued by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on improving the electoral process. Active efforts had been made to raise awareness among voters through the introduction of a mobile application and the creation of the conditions

necessary to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities. A significant number of international and national observers had always monitored the election process in the past. However, during the 2020 election, OSCE had not made use of the invitation extended to it by the Government.

107. The delegation stated that the presidential elections in August 2020 had been fraught with riots, accompanied by damage to communal property, deliberate provocation of law enforcement officers, and orchestrated action with the participation of specially trained fighters. Belarus had taken all the measures available to it to create the internal and international order necessary for the full exercise of the rights and freedoms of its citizens. The restriction of citizens' rights and freedoms had been allowed in the interests of national security, public order, protection of morals, public health and respect for the rights and freedoms of other persons, and only in cases provided for by legislation. There had been no confirmed incidences of illegal action by law enforcement officers.

108. Maldives welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and expressed hope that a standing invitation would be extended to all special procedures.

109. Malta noted the adoption of the first national action plan on human rights, but stated that it remained concerned about the political situation.

110. Mexico recognized the adoption of the law on the rights of persons with disabilities.

111. Montenegro reiterated its call to Belarus to provide the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus with full and unhindered access to its territory, including all places of detention.

112. Myanmar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted with appreciation the provision of free medical care.

113. Nepal commended Belarus for its initiatives to increase women's representation in parliament and the public sector, including through the national plan of action to ensure gender equality.

114. The Netherlands expressed deep concern about the human rights situation, including grave human rights violations in the context of the recent presidential elections.

115. New Zealand expressed its continuing concern about the human rights situation in Belarus following the elections held in August 2020.

116. Nicaragua made recommendations.

117. Nigeria noted efforts to combat trafficking in persons and to protect the rights of victims.

118. North Macedonia urged Belarus to fight against impunity among those responsible for the use of violence against peaceful protesters.

119. Norway expressed deep regret that the Government had made little effort to end the systemic denial of the human rights of its citizens.

120. Pakistan applauded the engagement of Belarus with the special procedures and treaty bodies and its efforts to align national legislation with its international obligations.

121. Peru made recommendations.

122. The Philippines acknowledged the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and welcomed the establishment of the Sustainable Development Council.

123. Poland expressed regret that the human rights situation had continued to deteriorate.

124. Portugal noted the adoption of the first national action plan on human rights, for the period 2016–2019.

125. The Republic of Korea praised Belarus for having ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and expressed concern about reports of the arrest and detention of peaceful protesters.

126. Romania expressed support for the efforts of the international community to address the human rights situation in Belarus, particularly through Human Rights Council resolution 45/1.
127. The Russian Federation welcomed the initiative to conduct a constitutional reform to liberalize the political system and stabilize the current situation.
128. Senegal applauded the educational policy, which was underpinned by social concerns, and the national plan of action to ensure gender equality.
129. Singapore commended Belarus for the national plan of action to improve the situation of children and safeguard their rights.
130. Slovakia noted that reports had demonstrated that the human rights situation had deteriorated following the 2020 presidential elections.
131. Slovenia expressed alarm at the aftermath of the electoral process and the increase in incidence of hate speech and hate crime.
132. Spain acknowledged progress in improving gender equality and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, and expressed concern about violations of political and civil rights.
133. Sri Lanka commended Belarus for notable achievements in advancing welfare, economic and social rights and high standards of gender parity.
134. The Sudan welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
135. Sweden expressed deep concern about undue restrictions on the right to freedom of assembly and expression, arbitrary detention and reports of torture and ill-treatment during and after the 2020 presidential elections.
136. Malaysia expressed hope that the National Commission on the Rights of the Child would continue to strive to advance children's welfare and well-being.
137. The delegation of Belarus stated that much work still lay ahead. Belarus was continuing to work on modernizing and improving its socioeconomic relations. At the same time, the revolutionary changes were not acceptable, as the history of revolutions had taught that such changes were not sustainable or lasting. Sustainable development was the key to success in realizing human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

138. **The following recommendations will be examined by Belarus, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council:**
- 138.1 **Ratify the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Costa Rica);**
- 138.2 **Carry out an assessment and identify international treaties that correspond to national interests and can be implemented into legislation in the short and long term (Tajikistan);**
- 138.3 **Consider ratifying the main human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, in particular the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ecuador);**
- 138.4 **Continue its sound strengthening of human rights law, including through international treaties (Nicaragua);**
- 138.5 **Take further steps to consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

138.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France); Promptly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan); Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**

138.7 **Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**

138.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Bulgaria) (Slovakia); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as previously recommended (Croatia); Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);**

138.9 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal) (North Macedonia);**

138.10 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and consider establishing a moratorium on executions as the first step towards the official abolition of the death penalty (Argentina); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and as an interim measure establish a moratorium on executions as soon as possible, as previously recommended (Belgium); Introduce a moratorium on the death penalty as a short-term objective and consider the full abolition of the death penalty and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia); Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as previously recommended (Portugal); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**

138.11 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and as a first step establish an official moratorium on executions (Finland);**

138.12 **Implement the legislation and policies needed for the abolition of the death penalty, including through the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);**

138.13 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and immediately take appropriate measures to release all political prisoners in the country (Slovenia);**

138.14 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the Optional Protocol (Chile);**

138.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus) (Denmark); Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);**

- 138.16 **Sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Honduras); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Luxembourg);**
- 138.17 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);**
- 138.18 **Ratify the Rome Statute in its 2010 version as well as the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments) (Liechtenstein);**
- 138.19 **Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Georgia);**
- 138.20 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and criminalize domestic violence (Italy);**
- 138.21 **Sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Honduras);**
- 138.22 **Expedite accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Malta);**
- 138.23 **Continue to strengthen its cooperation with thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council and providing them with information upon request (Viet Nam);**
- 138.24 **Improve its cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including by extending a standing invitation to the special procedures, and in particular by fully cooperating with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Costa Rica);**
- 138.25 **Cooperate with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council by extending a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders and accepting a visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (France);**
- 138.26 **Fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, with other special procedures of the Human Rights Council and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and allow them unfettered access to the country (Greece);**
- 138.27 **Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended (Latvia);**
- 138.28 **Engage constructively with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and other special procedures, and issue a standing invitation to all of them (Ukraine);**
- 138.29 **Fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, other special procedure mandate holders and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and give them unfettered access to the country (Luxembourg);**
- 138.30 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Montenegro);**
- 138.31 **Pursue its constructive cooperation with human rights mechanisms and special procedures (Nicaragua);**
- 138.32 **Pursue cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including by allowing the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus access to the country (Peru);**

- 138.33 **Meaningfully engage in cooperation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and with other United Nations treaty bodies and special procedures (Poland);**
- 138.34 **Enhance further cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus by extending an invitation to visit the country (Republic of Korea);**
- 138.35 **Fully cooperate with OHCHR and special procedure mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (Romania);**
- 138.36 **Implement and allow full access to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and to cooperate with other United Nations special rapporteurs and OSCE (Slovenia);**
- 138.37 **Continue to provide thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council with information relating to their mandated activities (Sri Lanka);**
- 138.38 **Continue and strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the special procedure mandate holders (Sudan);**
- 138.39 **Grant unimpeded access to and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, as well as with OHCHR, as previously recommended (Latvia);**
- 138.40 **Cooperate with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus by granting her free, full and unhindered access (Lithuania);**
- 138.41 **Ensure the favourable conditions needed for OHCHR to fulfil its mandate in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 45/1 (Ukraine);**
- 138.42 **Implement the recommendations in the OSCE rapporteur's report under the Moscow Mechanism (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 138.43 **Grant unfettered access to international human rights monitors and engage in full, transparent and constructive cooperation with them (Slovakia);**
- 138.44 **Ensure that any constitutional reform process includes all relevant stakeholders and guarantees the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in international and regional human rights treaties (Austria);**
- 138.45 **Continue efforts aimed at ensuring respect for the foundations of the country's political and legal system and preserving constitutional standards (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 138.46 **Continue efforts to fulfil international obligations by further developing and implementing comprehensive national plans and programmes (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 138.47 **Make an earnest effort to address the human rights situation in the country (Japan);**
- 138.48 **Continue efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all its citizens (Nigeria);**
- 138.49 **Further support the development of a system of specialized State and public institutions for the protection and promotion of specific categories of human rights (Tajikistan);**
- 138.50 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution fully compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris**

Principles) (Afghanistan); Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India); Step up efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal); Take steps to establish a national human rights institution and bring it into line with the Paris Principles (Pakistan); Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Sudan); Continue to make efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as previously recommended (Malaysia);

138.51 Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Burkina Faso);

138.52 Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution with a view to overseeing, coordinating and setting standards for the effective implementation of human rights priorities (Turkey);

138.53 Establish a functioning and independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);

138.54 Create a national institute for human rights in line with the Paris Principles (Senegal);

138.55 Adopt a new national action plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including civil society (Switzerland);

138.56 Continue to formulate and to implement national plans to strengthen capacity-building in the field of human rights (China);

138.57 Continue to implement national programmes and action plans aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights (Cuba);

138.58 Continue to implement the political initiatives announced by the Belarusian Government, including the launch of a comprehensive national dialogue (Syrian Arab Republic);

138.59 Further strengthen cooperation with civil society in the development and application of regulations and laws and the implementation of national policies, strategies and programmes and international technical assistance projects (Tajikistan);

138.60 Engage in national dialogue that respects the principles of the rule of law and democracy (Japan);

138.61 Undertake the necessary constitutional reforms and establish a national dialogue with civil society (Kazakhstan);

138.62 Follow up on the positive and constructive engagement with the Belarusian civil society and expand the range of issues covered by this engagement, such as civil and political rights (Lebanon);

138.63 Engage in genuine dialogue with civil society represented by the Coordination Council in order to hold free and fair presidential elections in the presence of international observers (Lithuania);

138.64 Initiate an open and inclusive dialogue with representatives of civil society, academia and the general public, aimed at ensuring the right of the people of Belarus to free and fair elections (Norway);

138.65 Put an end to all acts of intimidation and repression against its own population and engage in transparent, inclusive dialogue with the opposition (Romania);

138.66 Engage in a genuine dialogue facilitated by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office with the voices of Belarusian civil society, including women leading the

protests, to determine a democratic path forward in allowing the Belarusian people to determine their future (United States of America);

138.67 Join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (Liechtenstein);

138.68 Adopt comprehensive legislation to prohibit all forms of discrimination, investigate statements inciting racial hatred and racial violence, and establish appropriate sanctions against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina);

138.69 Adopt comprehensive legislation against discrimination, including protection against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);

138.70 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that defines all forms of discrimination in accordance with international standards, and guarantee women equal access to work (Greece);

138.71 Take further targeted measures to prevent discrimination in all its forms (Iraq);

138.72 Pursue government activities to improve the national system of social protection to promote the rights of vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities (Lebanon);

138.73 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, defining direct and indirect discrimination, as well as other forms of its manifestation (Netherlands);

138.74 Set up social integration programmes for Roma, enabling them to exercise their rights (Senegal);

138.75 Combat discrimination and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and draft specific legislation for the training of law enforcement officers and other officials to avoid discriminatory acts against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico);

138.76 Design and implement the necessary legal instruments to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as awareness-raising programmes against violence and harassment suffered by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Spain);

138.77 Enact specific legislation containing a definition of racial discrimination in line with article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and making racial discrimination an offence punishable by law (Angola);

138.78 Take further measures aimed at the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including from a human rights perspective (Viet Nam);

138.79 Consider including in its national development strategy measures aimed at ensuring increased efficiency and accountability of public service delivery (Azerbaijan);

138.80 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, improve livelihoods and enhance peoples' well-being (China);

138.81 Continue to pursue the human rights development path suitable to its national conditions (China);

138.82 Continue to implement socially oriented policies aimed at further improving the well-being of citizens (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

138.83 Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);

- 138.84 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada);**
- 138.85 **Abolish the death penalty (Timor-Leste) (Liechtenstein);**
- 138.86 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Fiji);**
- 138.87 **Take further steps towards abolition of the death penalty (Georgia);**
- 138.88 **Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**
- 138.89 **Take steps to abolish the death penalty under all circumstances (Norway);**
- 138.90 **Consider the full abolition of the death penalty and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Romania);**
- 138.91 **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Switzerland);**
- 138.92 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Chile);**
- 138.93 **Adopt measures to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);**
- 138.94 **Establish quickly a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (France);**
- 138.95 **Establish, without delay, a moratorium on 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 (Germany);**
- 138.96 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See);**
- 138.97 **Consider introducing a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty and signing the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);**
- 138.98 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the death penalty and abolish it in law and practice (Luxembourg);**
- 138.99 **Immediately implement a formal moratorium on executions, and take steps towards the total abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand);**
- 138.100 **Immediately commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and establish an official moratorium on executions (Slovakia);**
- 138.101 **Introduce a national moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards its abolition (Sweden);**
- 138.102 **Intensify monitoring of places of detention and ensure impartial and independent investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment (Switzerland);**
- 138.103 **Take immediate measures to prevent all torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, investigate promptly and impartially all allegations of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable (Canada);**
- 138.104 **Prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by allocating sufficient resources to training for law enforcement and the judiciary in addressing cases related to torture, and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Fiji);**
- 138.105 **Immediately cease the brutal repression of peaceful demonstrators, unconditionally release all political prisoners and engage in a meaningful and inclusive national dialogue (Italy);**

- 138.106 **Immediately cease the excessive use of force and all other forms of violence against protesters (Liechtenstein);**
- 138.107 **Immediately cease police violence against peaceful protesters and journalists, including arbitrary detention, deprivation of liberty and torture (Lithuania);**
- 138.108 **Halt the arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance and torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders, journalists and demonstrators (Luxembourg);**
- 138.109 **Include a special provision in the Criminal Code to establish liability for all acts of torture in accordance with the Convention against Torture (Malta);**
- 138.110 **Amend the Criminal Code with an article providing for liability for all kinds of torture and join the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and ensure full accountability (Netherlands);**
- 138.111 **Treat all detainees in line with international human rights law, including persons sentenced to the death penalty (Poland);**
- 138.112 **Release those arbitrarily detained, and investigate all allegations of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, particularly related to people in detention (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 138.113 **Define “torture” in its Criminal Code as a specific crime in accordance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and investigate all allegations of widespread practices of torture, ill-treatment and the use of disproportionate force against peaceful protesters, particularly in the aftermath of the 2020 elections (Portugal);**
- 138.114 **Immediately cease its brutal crackdown against the Belarusian people, including threats to use lethal force against peaceful protesters and employment of severe abuses against detainees, and hold those responsible accountable (United States of America);**
- 138.115 **Continue to contribute to the intensification of global efforts to combat human trafficking, through its initiatives and support for the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 138.116 **Continue to train law enforcement officials and other government agencies to identify victims of trafficking, and provide victims with assistance and protection in accordance with the law (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 138.117 **Streamline the operations of the national mechanism designed to identify victims of trafficking in persons and refer them for rehabilitation (Zimbabwe);**
- 138.118 **Continue its efforts in the field of training and human resources development for combating human trafficking (India);**
- 138.119 **Strengthen its efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons, protecting refugees and migrants and reducing the number of identified trafficking victims (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 138.120 **Take further measures to fight human trafficking, particularly in women and children (Iraq);**
- 138.121 **Continue joint work and exchange of experiences at the regional and international levels to enhance efforts and coordination in the field of combating trafficking in persons (United Arab Emirates);**
- 138.122 **Continue to promote the fight against human trafficking and the protection of refugees (Nicaragua);**
- 138.123 **Adopt further measures to combat trafficking in persons, and ensure the protection of the rights of victims, as well as the rights of migrants (Nigeria);**

- 138.124 Continue to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships on the implementation of the national anti-trafficking legislation (Philippines);
- 138.125 Immediately release all those who have been arbitrarily detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, protect human rights defenders and stop all forms of gender-based violence (Austria);
- 138.126 Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and provide them with full rehabilitation (Belgium);
- 138.127 Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners who are detained illegally and arbitrarily (Chile);
- 138.128 Unconditionally and immediately release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, end the criminal proceedings against them and provide them with full rehabilitation (Czechia);
- 138.129 Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners and those arbitrarily detained (Estonia);
- 138.130 Immediately release unlawfully detained persons and enable an independent, transparent and impartial international investigation into all allegations of torture, sexual and gender-based violence, and other ill-treatment of detained persons (Iceland);
- 138.131 Immediately, and unconditionally, release all political prisoners and human rights defenders and refrain from such detentions in the future (Ireland);
- 138.132 Immediately cease the arbitrary detention and forceful oppression of citizens (Japan);
- 138.133 Release all individuals forcefully detained for participation in peaceful protests and on political grounds (Ukraine);
- 138.134 Release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners, including former presidential candidates, their supporters and those detained during post-election protests, and refrain from judicial harassment and reprisals (Lithuania);
- 138.135 Release all persons arrested in the context of the events surrounding the August 2020 presidential elections, drop administrative proceedings or penalties aimed at them, and stop Internet cut-offs (Luxembourg);
- 138.136 Release all political prisoners and provide them with full rehabilitation (Malta);
- 138.137 Ensure the unconditional release of people who have been arbitrarily detained or otherwise unlawfully deprived of their liberty, including members of the opposition, human rights defenders, journalists, media workers, civil society activists and political prisoners, and ensure access to justice (Norway);
- 138.138 Immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners and ensure their full rehabilitation (Poland);
- 138.139 Immediately release all political prisoners and those detained for participation in election-related protests, and demonstrate a commitment to its international human rights obligations (United States of America);
- 138.140 Guarantee freedom of assembly and ensure that all those who have been arbitrarily detained are immediately and unconditionally released (Sweden);
- 138.141 Protect the freedoms of expression, assembly and association (Albania);
- 138.142 Fulfil its obligations under international human rights law with regard to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and freedom of opinion and expression (Argentina);

- 138.143 Refrain from intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest of and the disproportionate use of force against people exercising their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Belgium);
- 138.144 Guarantee full respect for freedom of opinion and expression, including online, and for freedom of assembly and association, and harmonize national legislation in line with international standards in this area (Ecuador);
- 138.145 Take further steps towards enhancing freedom of expression of the media and freedom of association and peaceful assembly (India);
- 138.146 Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and association, and protection of the media, journalists and human rights defenders (Italy);
- 138.147 Ensure respect for human rights, including freedom of expression online and offline, freedom of assembly and association, and the freedom of the media (North Macedonia);
- 138.148 Ensure that everybody can peacefully exercise the rights to freedom of expression and of assembly in conformity with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Poland);
- 138.149 Immediately lift restrictions on freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression, including on independent media and the Internet (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 138.150 Amend its law on mass media, putting an end to arbitrary arrests and criminal prosecution in relation to mass media and freedom of speech, and ensuring freedoms of expression, assembly and association for civil society and human rights defenders (Portugal);
- 138.151 Fulfil its obligations under the international human rights treaties regarding freedom of expression, freedom of the media, free and fair elections, peaceful assembly, and protection against reprisals, ill-treatment or torture (Romania);
- 138.152 Take immediate action to improve the overall situation regarding fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and freedom of the press (Slovenia);
- 138.153 Ensure that no restrictions are imposed on the right to freedom of religion and belief (Holy See);
- 138.154 Enable a diversity of opinions in the public sphere through free and independent media, and end restrictions on the work of journalists and the media, including foreign media, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland);
- 138.155 Guarantee a favourable environment for the work of journalists and bloggers by reviewing the law on mass media to ensure that it does not restrict freedom of expression and media, including by removing the extrajudicial procedure of blocking Internet websites (Austria);
- 138.156 Take immediate measures to allow journalists and other media workers to work without fear of detention or undue restriction, and improve access to information (Canada);
- 138.157 Respect, protect and promote freedom of expression, as stipulated in article 19 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including by facilitating the accreditation of foreign journalists (Cyprus);
- 138.158 Stop harassing, intimidating and criminalizing all individuals and organizations that are critical of the Government (Czechia);
- 138.159 Protect the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by ensuring that peaceful demonstrators are not persecuted, intimidated, imprisoned, ill-treated or tortured (Denmark);

- 138.160 Ensure the safety of all journalists and the freedom of peaceful assembly in line with international standards (Estonia);
- 138.161 Refrain from Internet shutdowns and blocking or filtering of services (Estonia);
- 138.162 Abide by the obligation under international law to respect the rights of journalists, human rights defenders and other individuals to exercise their freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Finland);
- 138.163 Remove all obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and civil society can conduct their activities freely and safely (France);
- 138.164 End harassment and other reprisals against free media outlets and individual journalists (Greece);
- 138.165 Consider taking advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity to strengthen the relevant legal framework (Greece);
- 138.166 Strengthen legislation to improve press freedom and to ensure the safety of journalists, including through further utilization of its bilateral and regional cooperation (Indonesia);
- 138.167 Continue efforts to fulfil the highest attainable standard of human rights for all Belarusian citizens, including in guaranteeing the freedom of speech, and take all necessary steps to provide human rights training to relevant law enforcement officials (Indonesia);
- 138.168 Allow independent journalists and media to conduct their work free from harassment, intimidation and fear, and cease implementing Internet shutdowns or restrictions (Ireland);
- 138.169 Ensure freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and a conducive environment for journalism, notably by decriminalizing defamation and amending the Media Act and the law on anti-extremism so that they do not disproportionately limit freedom of expression (Mexico);
- 138.170 Act immediately to provide a safe environment for peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, for the Belarusian people, non-governmental organizations and civil society (New Zealand);
- 138.171 Cease repressive tactics against the media, including harassment and imprisonment of journalists, revocation of accreditation, and the blocking of independent media, opposition websites and Internet access (New Zealand);
- 138.172 Take the necessary action to ensure freedom of expression, and in particular to ensure media independence and unfettered access to the Internet (Norway);
- 138.173 Bring the legislative framework into line with the recommendations of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (Poland);
- 138.174 End the repression of protesters, civil society organizations, journalists and human rights defenders who have been trying for months to exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful demonstration (Spain);
- 138.175 Guarantee freedom of expression and media freedom by ensuring the safety of journalists and other media workers and refraining from interference and censorship (Sweden);
- 138.176 Respect the right of peaceful assembly, and release all individuals arbitrarily detained for participation in peaceful protests (Canada);
- 138.177 Ensure the right of people to peaceful assembly and the ability to peacefully protest, without limiting the rights of participants, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Iceland);

- 138.178 **Strictly adhere to its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including ensuring full and unhindered exercise of the freedom to peacefully protest (Ukraine);**
- 138.179 **Ensure that all people can exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and guarantee upholding of peaceful protests (Malta);**
- 138.180 **Immediately halt the violent repression of peaceful demonstrations, and respect the legitimate right of the people of Belarus to participate in public life (Norway);**
- 138.181 **Make further efforts to bring into full compliance with international standards its national legislation and practices that regulate freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association (Republic of Korea);**
- 138.182 **Fully respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and bring legislation into line with its international commitments (Slovakia);**
- 138.183 **Bring legislation on freedom of association into full compliance with its international obligations, including by repealing article 23.88 of the Code of Administrative Offences (Denmark);**
- 138.184 **Consider simplifying the rules that regulate the registration of civil society organizations and political parties (Peru);**
- 138.185 **Publicly recognize human rights defenders and ensure support for them to carry out their human rights work without harassment and intimidation (Slovakia);**
- 138.186 **Take measures to guarantee, both in law and in practice, the total independence of the judiciary (Albania);**
- 138.187 **Continue to strengthen the national judicial system, including by digitizing its work and increasing avenues for alternative methods of dispute resolution (Sri Lanka);**
- 138.188 **Enhance the capacities of institutions to deal with serious organized crime, corruption and other challenges related to the rule of law (Indonesia);**
- 138.189 **Ensure independent investigations into all allegations of human rights violations related to the 2020 presidential elections (Albania);**
- 138.190 **Effectively and impartially investigate all allegations of torture or ill-treatment of peaceful protestors and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Austria);**
- 138.191 **Ensure independent, transparent, impartial and credible investigations into human rights violations committed following the elections, including the disproportionate use of force against protesters (Costa Rica);**
- 138.192 **Investigate cases of the use of disproportionate violence by the police (Cyprus);**
- 138.193 **Ensure full enjoyment of freedom of expression, speech, association and peaceful assembly, and progress towards full, impartial and transparent investigation of all allegations of arbitrary deprivation of life, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment and use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators (Czechia);**
- 138.194 **Ensure full accountability of members of law enforcement agencies and their commanding officers for all their actions (Czechia);**
- 138.195 **Allow credible, transparent, independent and impartial investigations to be conducted into all human rights violations and abuses, including in connection to the 2020 presidential elections (Estonia);**

138.196 **Take immediate and effective steps to end and prevent the arbitrary arrest, torture and ill-treatment of peaceful protesters and other individuals, and to bring those responsible to justice (Finland);**

138.197 **Take all measures to combat impunity for acts of torture and sexual violence (France);**

138.198 **Conduct an independent investigation into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, including an effective and verifiable process for holding to account those who are responsible, and immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners (Germany);**

138.199 **Investigate all allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, disproportionate use of force against peaceful protesters, and torture and ill-treatment in detention of critics, journalists and peaceful protesters, and hold those responsible to account (Greece);**

138.200 **Allow for credible, transparent, independent and impartial investigations to be conducted into human rights violations and abuses committed in the run-up to, during and after the 2020 presidential elections (Italy);**

138.201 **Conduct independent investigations into the human rights violations that took place in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential elections, including cases of enforced disappearance and alleged cases of torture (Liechtenstein);**

138.202 **Ensure prompt independent investigation of all allegations of torture and bring perpetrators to account (Lithuania);**

138.203 **Investigate and punish reports of torture and ill-treatment swiftly and comprehensively on the basis of the provisions of the Convention against Torture, including the total prohibition of torture (Mexico);**

138.204 **Duly conduct prompt, impartial and full investigations into the alleged practice of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, including the detention of minors, and prosecute the alleged perpetrators (Montenegro);**

138.205 **Undertake effective and impartial investigations into allegations of arbitrary detention and torture of peaceful demonstrators by security forces, and take action to implement its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New Zealand);**

138.206 **Cooperate fully with all relevant human rights mechanisms for a comprehensive independent investigation of recent events (North Macedonia);**

138.207 **Ensure that its domestic mechanisms on accountability and the rule of law are functioning to facilitate inclusive dialogue and address alleged human rights violations (Philippines);**

138.208 **Bring to justice the individuals responsible for human rights violations, in particular in the run-up to and the aftermath of the 2020 presidential elections (Poland);**

138.209 **Conduct independent and transparent investigations into the allegations of serious human rights violations in connection with the recent demonstrations (Republic of Korea);**

138.210 **Enable independent, transparent and impartial investigations into all allegations of human rights violations, aimed at ensuring access to justice, redress for victims and accountability for perpetrators (Romania);**

138.211 **Fully investigate all allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, including of those detained during the recent post-election protests, and bring all those responsible to justice (Slovakia);**

- 138.212 **Organize the holding of free and fair elections, in line with international standards and in the presence of OSCE observers (France);**
- 138.213 **Reform the Electoral Code and related legislation, taking into account the recommendations of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Election Observation Mission's final report, of 4 March 2020 (Germany);**
- 138.214 **Reform the Electoral Code in order to bring it into line with international standards of fair and democratic elections (Romania);**
- 138.215 **Implement all the electoral recommendations from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, as stated in its observation mission reports (Sweden);**
- 138.216 **Continue to provide support and protection to the family as the fundamental and natural unit of society (Egypt);**
- 138.217 **Take further measures to promote and support the institution of the family (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 138.218 **Continue its efforts to implement the Demographic Development Outreach Plan in order to raise public awareness on demographic development issues and advocate for traditional family values (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 138.219 **Continue to strengthen efforts to ensure the provision of adequate education and health care for everyone (Kazakhstan);**
- 138.220 **Continue with its effective protection of family rights, social security, the right to work, the right to education and the rights of children and of women (Nicaragua);**
- 138.221 **Continue to make efforts for the provision of social security, primary health care and access to preschool education (Pakistan);**
- 138.222 **Develop a national poverty reduction strategy and budget with a particular focus on children and families in situations of vulnerability (Timor-Leste);**
- 138.223 **Continue to address the challenges posed by the urban/rural dichotomy and to combat poverty in rural areas (Turkey);**
- 138.224 **Adopt national strategies to fight poverty, particularly in rural areas (Iraq);**
- 138.225 **Continue its measures on social services, especially in supporting low-income families and families in difficult circumstances, and the benefit system for children (Myanmar);**
- 138.226 **Continue to adopt measures to further improve health services in order to ensure greater accessibility, especially in rural areas (Algeria);**
- 138.227 **Continue to strengthen essential health services, particularly for older persons and other vulnerable groups, and especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic or other public health emergencies (Cuba);**
- 138.228 **Improve access to and the quality of health care, including psychiatric care, for prisoners, and increase the number of professional medical staff in all detention facilities (Holy See);**
- 138.229 **Repeal laws and policies on mandatory testing for HIV, policies requiring health-care providers to report certain groups to law enforcement, and the criminalization of HIV transmission (Iceland);**
- 138.230 **Continue to conduct education and awareness-raising programmes on the importance of family planning (Maldives);**

- 138.231 **Develop and implement school-based mental health programmes aimed at youth on how to protect their own mental health and support those around them (Maldives);**
- 138.232 **Enhance its ongoing measures regarding suicide prevention among young people by strengthening anonymous counselling and hotline services (Myanmar);**
- 138.233 **Maintain the best practice of providing compulsory education free of charge for all children (Ethiopia);**
- 138.234 **Continue its conceptual framework for the development of the education system, looking ahead to 2030 (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 138.235 **Develop programmes to improve the rate of school attendance among Roma children (Peru);**
- 138.236 **Draft and implement a new national action plan to ensure gender equality (Burundi);**
- 138.237 **Continue to make efforts to provide educational facilities and opportunities to girls and women and advance equal access to vocational training facilities (India);**
- 138.238 **Take specific measures to reduce the gender pay gap, and combat the negative stereotypes regarding women in the area of work (Angola);**
- 138.239 **Take measures to raise public awareness on gender-based discrimination, in consultation with non-governmental organizations (Burkina Faso);**
- 138.240 **Regularly cover in the national media the issue of gender equality (Burundi);**
- 138.241 **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns and educational events aimed at eradicating sexist stereotypes (Burundi);**
- 138.242 **Adopt the necessary legal measures and reforms to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, as well as violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence (Ecuador);**
- 138.243 **Allocate sufficient resources to training for law enforcement and the judiciary in addressing cases related to violence against women (Fiji);**
- 138.244 **Redouble efforts in conducting awareness-raising and training for duty bearers towards preventing and addressing gender-based violence and ensuring victims' access to appropriate services (Philippines);**
- 138.245 **Adopt a comprehensive law criminalizing all forms of violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence (Brazil);**
- 138.246 **Develop specific legislation to combat domestic violence, including by establishing complaints mechanisms and strengthening the role of civil society in laws, policies, programmes and services to prevent and protect against domestic violence (Costa Rica);**
- 138.247 **Consider undertaking the necessary reforms to criminalize violence against women, in particular domestic and sexual violence (Peru);**
- 138.248 **Adopt effective legislation criminalizing violence against women, namely domestic and sexual violence (Portugal);**
- 138.249 **Continue to take steps to combat violence against women, including through legislative reforms (Malaysia);**
- 138.250 **Adopt legislation specifically criminalizing violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence (Angola);**

138.251 **Develop a legal framework aimed at combating domestic and gender-based violence (Croatia);**

138.252 **Launch awareness-raising campaigns to fight domestic violence and to raise further awareness about the consequences of it (Kuwait);**

138.253 **Consider developing a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating all forms of violence against children and put in place robust measures to effectively implement the national plan of action to advance the rights of children (Malaysia);**

138.254 **Ensure that poverty and disability are not used as justifications for removing children from parental care (Brazil);**

138.255 **Review the juvenile justice system and introduce a juvenile criminal law with a view to developing alternatives to detention and reducing prison sentences for offenders under 18 years of age (Germany);**

138.256 **Reform the juvenile justice system to ensure that the rights of children and the best interests of the child are respected in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Spain);**

138.257 **Strengthen access to education for children with disabilities (Afghanistan);**

138.258 **Pursue the efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities and guarantee equal opportunities in access to education for children with disabilities (Algeria);**

138.259 **Continue to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**

138.260 **Intensify its follow-up on the implementation of the national plan of action with regard to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ethiopia);**

138.261 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities, especially their access to higher education (Myanmar);**

138.262 **Take further steps to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their representation and meaningful participation in decision-making processes (Philippines);**

138.263 **Continue its ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive society, including by developing inclusive education policies for children with disabilities and by undertaking further awareness-raising activities at the local level on the key aspects of its disability policies (Singapore);**

138.264 **Take additional steps to mitigate the potential economic exclusion and social isolation of persons with disabilities, including children, considering the COVID-19 pandemic (Singapore);**

138.265 **Enact and implement the envisaged bill on the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities (Sri Lanka);**

138.266 **Adopt measures to protect refugees, migrants and asylum seekers from torture and ensure the protection of migrant children (Afghanistan).**

139. **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 Belarus was headed by H.E. Mr. Yury Ambrazevich, Permanent Representative of Belarus to UNOG, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Valery Kalinkovich, First Deputy Head of the Supreme Court;
- Mr. Dzmitry Hara, Deputy Prosecutor-General;
- Ms. Irina Velichko, Head, Main Department of Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Ekaterina Mozgovaya, Attaché, Main Department of Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Vadim Pisarevich, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belarus to UNOG;
- Mr. Andrei Taranda, Counsellor, Permanent Mission in Geneva;
- Ms. Tatsiana Gerasimova, Head, Division for International Legal Activity, Supreme Court;
- Mr. Andrei Maltsau, Head, Department for Supervision of compliance with legal regulations and Legality of Legal Acts, General Prosecutor's Office;
- Ms. Alena Dmukhaila, Secretary, Central Election Commission;
- Mr. Mikhail Vavulo, Head, International Legal Department, Investigative Committee;
- Mr. Raman Melnik, Head, Main Department of the Defence of the Rule of Law and Prevention, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Uladzislau Mandryk, Head, Department of Organization of the Executive process, Department of Penal Correction, Ministry of Interior;
- Mr. Aleh Silvestrovich, Head, Main Department for Drug Control and Combating Trafficking in Persons of the Criminal Police, Ministry of Interior;
- Ms. Viktoria Meleshko, Head, Legal Support and Supervision of Compliance with the Legislation, Ministry of Information;
- Ms. Elena Kirichenko, Head, Department for Non-Profit Organizations, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Alena Radabolskaya, Deputy Head, Department of Advocacy and Licensing of Legal Activities, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Eduard Tamilchik, Head, Main Department of Socially Educational Work and Youth Policy, Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Irina Karzhova, Deputy Head, Main Department of General Secondary, Pre-school and Special Education, Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Sviatlana Sysoi, Chief Specialist, Main Department of General Secondary, Preschool and Special Education, Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Alena Halauniova, Deputy Head, Department of Social, Educational and Ideological Work, Main Department of Educational Work and Youth Policy, Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Alena Lipa, Deputy Head, Main Department of Vocational Education, Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Valentina Maslovskaia, Head, Main Legal Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
- Ms. Yuliya Fabrykava, Deputy Head, Department for Disabled People, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;

- Mr. Aleh Takun, Head, Employment Policy Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection;
 - Mr. Igor Golubitsky, Head, Department of Constitutional and International Law, National Centre of Legislation and Legal Research;
 - Ms. Tatsiana Kananchuk, Head, Main Department of Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection;
 - Ms. Larissa Lukina, Deputy Head, Main Department of Environmental Policy, International Cooperation and Science, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
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