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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Liberia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>GoL Response</i>
103.1, 2, 16, 17	Accelerate the process of ratification of the human rights treaties that it has signed (Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Morocco)	Accepted
103.3, 4, 5, 6	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Slovenia, Togo, Ukraine, Chile)	Accepted
103.7	Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Belgium)	Accepted
103.8, 9	Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines, Honduras, Senegal);	Accepted
103.10, 11	Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Honduras, Mali)	Accepted
103.12	Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany)	Accepted
103.13, 14	Consider the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and of other human rights instruments signed but not ratified (Costa Rica, Argentina, France)	Accepted
103.15	Sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons of the United Nations (Honduras)	Accepted
103.16, 17	Speed up, to the extent possible, the signature and ratification of international human rights instruments (Mozambique, Morocco)	Accepted
103.18	Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Accepted
103.19	Pursue collaborative efforts with human rights mechanisms (Niger)	Accepted
103.20	Liaise with the international community to support the operationalization of its national mechanism for treaty reporting and follow-up (Ethiopia)	Accepted
103.21	Extend an invitation to the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism to visit the country before its fourth review under the UPR mechanism (Panama)	Accepted
103.22	Bring customary law in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine)	Accepted
103.23	Effectively implement the National Human Rights Action Plan (Malaysia)	Accepted
103.24	Continue to mobilise resources and seek necessary support to enhance its capacity to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria)	Accepted

<i>Recommendation No.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>GoL Response</i>
103.33, 34	Establish a national preventive mechanism according to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and improving the living conditions of prisoners in Liberia (Czechia, Denmark)	Accepted
103.35	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)	Accepted
103.36, 37	Ensure that the Constitution Review process considers human rights standards as a basis for the proposed constitutional amendments (Fiji, Ghana)	Accepted
103.38	Continue to strengthen respect and protection of human rights in the maritime sector, to improve productivity in the fishing industry including through relevant cooperation with bilateral, regional and international partners (Indonesia)	Accepted
103.218	Establish a dedicated statelessness determination procedure (Somalia)	Accepted
103.25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32	Make efforts to strengthen national human rights institutions through provision of adequate resources (Pakistan, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Togo, Zambia, Chile)	Accepted
103.27	Strengthen the capacity of its independent National Commission on Human Rights through cooperation with national human rights institutions of other countries (Indonesia)	Accepted
Theme: Women's rights		
103.81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 96, 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 113, 114, 116	Develop a legal framework in the Penal Code that explicitly criminalizes the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) including specific penalties (Netherlands, Nepal, Panama, Poland, Angola, Iceland, Lesotho, Kenya, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Zambia, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, Fiji, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Japan, Ukraine, Spain, Sudan, Botswana)	Noted ¹
103.87, 95	Strengthen efforts to abolish traditional harmful practices (Ukraine, Brazil)	Noted
103.98	Prioritize the Strategy for the Protection of Girls against Child Marriage (2016) in conformity with the 2063 Agenda of the African Union and criminalize female genital mutilation (Costa Rica)	Noted
103.105, 111, 112	Intensify efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV, as well as to criminalize Female Genital Mutilation in all circumstances and ultimately eradicate the practice (Ireland, Burundi, Republic of Korea)	Noted
103.115	Expand the existing public awareness campaigns against FGM and other harmful traditional practices to all the country's counties (Zimbabwe)	Noted
103.117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 186	Sustain efforts in combatting sexual and gender-based violence, and ensure the empowerment of women, as well as ensure adequate standard of living (Nigeria, Philippines, Sweden, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Canada, Sierra Leone)	Accepted
103.149	Ensure an adequate protection of the right to work and to just and favorable conditions of work, especially for women, who remain highly vulnerable in both the formal and informal sectors of	Accepted

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	employment (Holy See)	
103.184	Take steps to further promote and enhance the economic participation of women (Philippines)	Accepted
103.185	Continue efforts to ensure equal land and property rights for women and men (Republic of Korea)	Accepted
103.187, 190, 193	Repeal the discriminatory provisions against women from the Aliens and Nationality Law and the Constitution in relation to the transmission or acquisition of nationality (Spain, Botswana, Rwanda)	Accepted
103.188, 189, 191, 196, 198	Take further steps to increase women's participation in political processes, including consideration of provisional special measures in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Sweden, Togo, Malaysia, Senegal, Rwanda)	Accepted
103.192	Amend the customary and statutory laws in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls (Namibia)	Accepted
103.194, 195, 197	Promote the participation of girls in all levels of education, especially in rural areas, including by ensuring that schools are a safe space for girls (Latvia, Senegal, Angola)	Accepted
103.199	Take further measures to incorporate women and children's rights into national programmes (Kenya)	Accepted
Theme: Children's rights		
103.128, 129, 130	Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, including at home (Zambia, Japan, Georgia)	Accepted
103.200	Ensure the timely implementation of the four-year National Action Plan for Child Welfare and Protection for Liberia, and allocate sufficient resources for the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to implement the plan (Iceland)	Accepted
103.201, 202	Ensure free birth registration of all children born in the country (Somalia, South Sudan)	Accepted
103.203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210	Carry on the efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labour (Oman, Portugal, Somalia, South Sudan, Ukraine, United States of America, Germany, Italy)	Accepted
103.211, 212, 213, 214	Take effective legal measures to prohibit and eliminate child and forced marriages. (Zambia, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar)	Accepted
Theme: Death penalty		
103.60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77	Continue existing moratorium on the death penalty and further take steps towards its legal abolition (Nepal, Sierra Leone, Poland, Spain, Timor-Leste, Argentina, Brazil, Czechia, France, Fiji, Georgia, Holy See, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Mozambique, Rwanda)	Accepted
Theme: Non-discrimination		
103.40, 42, 47, 59	Carry out comprehensive education and awareness raising campaigns to combat stigmatization and de facto discrimination suffered by persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and Ebola disease survivors (Panama, Portugal, Uganda, Iraq)	Accepted
103.41	Take concrete measures to tackle stigma and discrimination against	Accepted

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	persons affected by leprosy and their family members and to ensure them timely and adequate access to health services (Portugal)	
103.39, 48, 55	Promote the approval of a legislative instrument to combat discrimination that includes a definition of all forms of discrimination, offers effective remedies in the event of a violation, and includes an action plan for the implementation of education and awareness campaigns that promote equality, tolerance and respect for diversity (Argentina, Belgium, Israel)	Accepted
103.43, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58	Combat widespread impunity for violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and repeal all provisions in domestic law, including section 14.79 of the Penal Code, that criminalize same-sex activities among consenting adults (Canada, Costa Rica, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Chile, Ireland, France, Iceland, Portugal, Spain, Timor-Leste, United States of America)	Noted ²
103.173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183	Improving access to education, and impose laws that ensure an inclusive education, giving particular attention to people with disabilities, girls and women (South Sudan, Oman, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Eswatini, Holy See, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Pakistan, India)	Accepted
103.216, 217	Consider paying necessary attention to promote the enjoyment of human rights for persons with disabilities (India, Egypt)	Accepted
Theme: Accountability		
103.131, 132, 133,	End impunity of crimes committed during Liberia's two armed conflicts by creating a war crimes court that operates fully consistent with international legal norms and standards for fair trials (Netherlands, Germany, Poland)	Noted ³
103.134, 135, 136	Adopt the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in order to guarantee that allegations of serious human rights violations and war crimes are investigated in a thorough, impartial and independent manner, guaranteeing accountability while putting in place a comprehensive reparations plan for all victims (Argentina, Montenegro, Belgium)	Accepted
103.137	Continue to enhance measures aimed at reforming the justice sector (Mauritania)	Accepted
Theme: Sexual and reproductive health		
103.164, 165	Increase the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services and commodities, including through family planning outreach and community-based distribution of modern family planning commodities (Iceland, Sweden)	Accepted
103.166	Strengthen measures to address the barriers to access for women on health-care services, including socio-cultural barriers (India)	Accepted
103.167	Strengthen measures to safeguard the rights of women and girls, particularly in the areas of maternal, sexual and reproductive health, and healthcare for people living with HIV/AIDS (Lesotho)	Accepted
103.168	Take all necessary measures to improve the health sector, to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure health care services are provided to all citizens (Libya)	Accepted
103.169	Ensure that the Health and Education sector of the government has the	Accepted

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	necessary financial, human and technical resources to carry out their mandates effectively to provide high quality services for all (Maldives)	
103.170	Promote the enrolment and the retention in schools of girls and adolescents and to facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception (Mexico)	Accepted
103.171, 172	Address challenges that hinder women's access to health care services in order to reduce maternal mortality rate (Myanmar, Burkina Faso)	Accepted
Theme: Condition of the detention facilities		
103.78, 79, 80	Strengthen efforts to bring all prisons in Liberia in full compliance with Liberia's international obligations (Sierra Leone, Zambia, France)	Accepted
Theme: Human trafficking		
103.143, 144,	Prioritize resources for the identification of victims of trafficking, including internal trafficking, and more vigorously investigate and prosecute traffickers, including officials accused of complicity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America)	Accepted
103.145, 146, 147, 148	Take steps to address the root causes of trafficking in women and girls, and ensure the rehabilitation and social integration of victims by providing them with access to shelters, legal, medical and psychosocial assistance and alternative income generating opportunities (Malaysia, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Israel)	Accepted
Theme: Rule of law		
103.138	Take concrete measures to end conventional practices inconsistent with the rule of law, such as those related to witchcraft and trial by ordeal (Republic of Korea)	Accepted
103.139	Strengthen the legislative framework with a view to granting the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission more prosecutorial powers as well as clear political independence to fight predatory corruption in order to boost the economy (Haiti)	Accepted
103.140	Implement the recommendations of the EU Election Observation Mission in 2017, in particular on access to voting rights for convicted detainees or hospitalized citizens (Czechia)	Accepted
103.141, 142	Take all steps to repeal the penal law of 1978 and decriminalize free speech (Sierra Leone, Maldives)	Accepted
Theme: Support to national development agenda		
103.152, 153, 154	Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, strengthen poverty reduction efforts and improve the living standard of its people (China, Sudan, Myanmar)	Accepted
103.150, 151, 155, 156, 157	Continue consolidating its social programmes in order to improve the quality of life of its people, especially those most in need, with the international assistance and cooperation that the country requires. (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Philippines, Indonesia, Cuba; Ethiopia)	Accepted
103.158, 159,	Continue expanding health care services and making them available to all Liberians (Oman, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, China,	Accepted

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160, 161, 163	Egypt)	
103.162	Continue improving community and preventive health care, as well as the role of the National Public Health Institute, to enhance the struggle against infectious diseases (Cuba)	Accepted
103.215	Continue to support, through economic and social policies, the institution of traditional family and the preservation of family values as follow-up to recommendation 100.58 accepted during the second cycle (Haiti)	Accepted

Notes

The recommendations that were “noted”, should not imply that they do not enjoy any support from the Government of Liberia, but that the Government is not in the position to commit to those recommendations without the requisite preparation.

- ¹ At the onset of this administration, it was established that ending the practice of FGM in Liberia needs extensive consultations with our traditional people, including civil society actors who continue to lead awareness activities in that direction. To this end, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) embarked on a purposeful and intentional engagement with our traditional Chiefs and Elders. This engagement was cemented in a never before seen, concentrated outreach and awareness; thus, this assured them that the Administration respects their views and craves their direct involvement, which they view as allowing them to take ownership of the process to eradicate FGM.
- ² On recommendations relating to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights, the protection of the rights of all citizens and foreign residents residing within our borders, remains a constitutional duty and priority of Government. Article 11(3) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia states: “All persons are equal before the law and are therefore entitled to the equal protection of the law”. The fact that the recommendations of LGBT were noted does not mean that the rights of LGBT persons are not guaranteed. In fact, the Government has remained engaged with all relevant stakeholders on the protection of LGBT persons from discrimination.
- ³ H.E. George Manneh Weah in his first State of the Nation Address, mentioned that his administration would support the TRC process. He reaffirmed this pledge while addressing the United Nations General Assembly in New York, United States of America, in September 2018. The commitment of the government to the implementation of the TRC recommendations is also stated in the Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD, Page 90).
With support from the United Nations’ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Liberia and the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), based in Nigeria, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), in collaboration with the civil society, implemented a three-day national colloquium from May 15-18, 2019 under the theme, “Promoting National Reconciliation through Implementation of the TRC Recommendations”. The event brought together over one hundred and fifty stakeholders from across the country to solicit the views of Liberian citizenry on the way forward in regards to the implementation of the report of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).