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Universal periodic review

## Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\*

### Nepal

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\* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-seventh session from 18 January to 8 February 2021. The review of Nepal was held at the 7th meeting, on 21 January 2021. The delegation of Nepal was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali. At its 14th meeting, held on 26 January 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Nepal.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Nepal: Argentina, Burkina Faso and India.
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 Nepal:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Nepal 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 thanked Member States for supporting the candidature of Nepal during the 2020 elections for membership in the Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Nepal remained committed to the work of the Council.
6. A cross-sectoral committee led by the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers was formed for the preparation of the national report. Widespread consultations were undertaken with stakeholders and a draft report was disseminated, with feedback incorporated subsequently.
7. Nepal had accepted 152 recommendations during the 2015 universal periodic review, most of which had been implemented. A mechanism within the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers monitored implementation.
8. Since the previous review, the periodic reports submitted by Nepal under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had been considered by the respective treaty bodies. The reports for submission under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were being prepared.

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/37/NPL/1.

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/37/NPL/2.

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/37/NPL/3.

9. Nepal had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in June 2020. It intended to build the legal and institutional capacity necessary to accede to other international instruments.
10. In 2018, Nepal had invited the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to carry out country visits. It would be welcoming the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in 2021.
11. Nepal had embarked upon a new era of political transformation in 2006, consolidated with the adoption in 2015 of the democratic Constitution. The Constitution guaranteed an array of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights and consolidated an inclusive, federal, democratic and republican order that reflected the country's transformation from conflict to peace through a nationally owned peace process. In 2017, Nepal held participatory elections at the federal, provincial and local levels.
12. During the previous four years, a comprehensive legal reform process had been undertaken to implement the human rights commitments of Nepal and drive the federalization process. New rights were guaranteed by the Constitution.
13. Nepal was implementing its fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025), which integrated the implementation and follow-up of universal periodic review and treaty body recommendations.
14. The National Human Rights Commission, which exercised a wide range of powers, had been accredited as an A status institution. Other independent commissions focusing on women, Dalits, indigenous peoples, Madheshis, Tharus and Muslims worked to promote and protect the rights of those specific communities.
15. The Government was committed to implementing the commissions' recommendations. During the previous two decades, the National Human Rights Commission had made 1,195 recommendations, most of which related to transitional justice and were being addressed by the two transitional justice mechanisms. The Government had implemented recommendations on providing relief and on taking action against public servants. The few remaining recommendations, related to amending the National Human Rights Commission Act, were under consideration.
16. The Government was committed to empowering the National Human Rights Commission, including by providing the resources it needed to discharge its mandate in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The Government had recommended the appointment of the commissioners of the various thematic commissions in an inclusive manner and provided the requisite resources for their functioning.
17. A multi-ethnic, multilingual, multi-religious and multicultural country, Nepal believed in equality, inclusion, secularism, non-discrimination and social justice. Discrimination based on class, caste, region, language, religion and gender were outlawed. Untouchability was punishable under the law. All allegations of caste-based discrimination had been investigated and those responsible prosecuted.
18. The Constitution guaranteed the rights of sexual minorities to participate in State bodies. Census and electoral rolls recognized lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons under an "others" category, as did citizenship certificates and passports. Discrimination based on sexual orientation was punishable.
19. The 2015 earthquakes had claimed 8,790 lives and injured 22,302 more. The Government had provided treatment to all the injured and reconstruction was nearing completion. Nepal had built better infrastructure and improved the capacity for responding to natural disasters.
20. Nepal was vulnerable to climate change challenges and was developing a national adaptation plan. It had set a target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
21. Regarding development, the fifteenth national development plan was being implemented. Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally

agreed development goals through enhanced partnership was key to the protection of all human rights, including the right to development. Nepal had mainstreamed the Goals into national development policies, aiming to realize them by 2030.

22. The *Human Development Report 2020* showed improvement in the Human Development Index of Nepal, which was preparing to graduate from the status of least developed country to that of lower-middle-income country. It had embraced a vision encapsulated in the motto “prosperous Nepal, happy Nepali”, and had increased investment in infrastructure and the social sectors.

23. Nepal had abolished the death penalty. Torture had been criminalized in the Penal Code of 2017 and perpetrators could be punished with imprisonment for up to five years. Departmental action had been taken against 158 police personnel for negligence and violations of human rights. The statutory limitation on filing a case involving torture had increased from 35 days to six months, and victims were entitled to compensation.

24. Human rights focal points had been appointed in police headquarters and all provincial and district police offices. Training courses on promoting and protecting human rights and on preventing human rights violations had been delivered to security personnel. Human rights were integral to all training curricula in government training centres. Security forces exercised minimum force when keeping law and order.

25. Everyone was protected against arbitrary arrest and detention. All reports of extrajudicial killings were investigated and those responsible were prosecuted and punished through the competent authority, in accordance with prevailing laws.

26. The independence, competence and impartiality of the judiciary were guaranteed by the Constitution. Judicial power was exercised in accordance with the principles of the separation of powers and of checks and balances.

27. Good governance was a priority and resources had been allocated for the prevention and investigation of cases of misconduct and corruption, and for the prosecution of those responsible.

28. Male and female prisoners were accommodated separately, while children under the age of 18 years were sent to the child correction home. The Government had increased daily living allowances for prisoners and new prisons had been built, with separate blocks for men, women, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as had an “open” prison. Measures had been taken to protect prisoners during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including by providing protective equipment, sanitary items and medical care. To reduce overcrowding, 6,672 prisoners had been released.

29. Nepal remained committed to concluding the transitional justice process through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons. In Nepal, the transitional justice process was guided by the Comprehensive Peace Accord, Supreme Court directives, relevant international commitments, victims’ concerns and the realities on the ground. The Government was steadfast in its position that there would be no blanket amnesty for serious human rights violations.

30. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission had received 63,718 complaints, made preliminary investigations, verified the authenticity of complaints and consolidated cases for further investigation. It would carry out detailed investigations into 200 cases.

31. The Commission on Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons had received 3,223 complaints, of which it had verified 2,514 after carrying out preliminary investigations. It was carrying out detailed investigations into 2,097 cases.

32. Nepal regarded civil society and the media as indispensable partners in the promotion and protection of human rights and had forged partnerships with 237 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and more than 51,000 NGOs affiliated to the Social Welfare Council.

33. Nepal respected the rights to freedom of opinion, expression and peaceful assembly, bearing in mind that, while exercising one's rights, all should be equally respectful of the rights and obligations of others.
34. The Constitution guaranteed freedom of religion. The Penal Code criminalized hate speech, attacks against religious sites and activities aimed at creating religious discord. Forceful conversion was prohibited by law.
35. Regarding the right to work, the "President women upliftment programme", the "Prime Minister employment programme" and the "Prime Minister agricultural modernization project" sought to generate employment. Policies on labour, employment and social security were aligned with the National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).
36. Nepalese labour laws protected equal pay for work of equal value. The law had increased maternity leave from 52 to 98 days. The Government had specified a minimum wage and a minimum of 100 days of paid employment was guaranteed. Forced labour was prohibited and workers could form trade unions and engage in collective bargaining.
37. Nepal had signed bilateral agreements and memorandums of understanding with nine countries that were destinations for migrant workers, to protect the rights of such workers. The Government had introduced a policy to promote the fair recruitment of migrant workers. Returnee migrant workers were provided with incentives to become self-employed.
38. Older persons, single women, Dalits, persons with disabilities, the destitute, indigents and people belonging to ethnic groups facing extinction received monthly social security allowances. A contribution-based social security scheme covered workers in the formal and informal sectors.
39. Nepal aimed to reduce poverty to 5 per cent by 2030 and to eliminate poverty altogether by 2043. It was committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on zero hunger and programmes were being implemented to ensure food and nutrition security.
40. Laws had been enacted to safeguard the right to a clean environment, safe drinking water and sanitation. In September 2019, Nepal had declared itself an "open defecation free" country.
41. Regarding health, every citizen had the right to free basic health services from the State. The Government paid for health insurance for the poor, orphans, older persons and persons with disabilities. Insurance coverage had been extended to 563 local levels, the target being to eventually achieve universal coverage. The foundations had been laid for the construction of basic hospitals in all local levels.
42. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic had severely affected livelihoods, the economy, public health and social security systems. The Government had responded through measures such as isolation, quarantine and treatment, and had adopted protocols complying with World Health Organization guidelines. Testing and treatment were being provided free to people in need and additional resources were being provided to health systems at all levels. Nepal had been able to keep mortality rates low and recovery rates high.
43. Given the continued risk of transmission risk, Nepal was struggling with capacity constraints. While the development of vaccines had given hope, the availability and affordability of vaccines was critical, requiring greater international cooperation. Nepal welcomed the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and commended its neighbours for ensuring the availability of vaccines. The Government had decided to provide vaccines free of cost.
44. Regarding education, every community had the right to basic education in its mother tongue. The right of every child to receive free and compulsory basic education, including educational materials, was protected by law. Citizens were entitled to free education up to secondary level.
45. Universal enrolment and gender parity in school had been almost achieved. Programmes had produced results in terms of enrolment and reducing the number of girls dropping out of school. Monthly scholarships and meals were provided to children from marginalized communities. Distance learning through the radio and online classes was

facilitated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Human rights education was part of the curriculum.

46. In terms of violence against women, the Penal Code had increased the statutory limitation for filing a report in rape cases from 35 days to one year. The maximum penalty for rape had been increased from 16 to 20 years in prison. The Crime Victim Protection Act provided protection for victims. Compensation too was provided. The Government had increased punitive measures for acid attacks.

47. With respect to human trafficking, institutional and administrative measures had been strengthened. A total of 971 trafficking cases and 1,300 arrests had been recorded during the previous five years. The Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau had been established under the Nepal Police. Victims were entitled to compensation, rehabilitation, economic support and psychosocial counselling. The national plan of action against human trafficking (2011–2021) was being implemented. Nepal had rescued over 10,000 victims during the previous few years. There were 36 safe houses and rehabilitation centres for victims. A separate fund had been established.

48. In terms of gender equality, the delegation noted that the Head of State was a woman. The Government was implementing Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) on women and peace and security through a national plan of action and applying a gender-responsive budgeting system. Nepal had recorded progress in terms of women's political representation, and women's participation in the labour force had reached 83 per cent.

49. Women enjoyed equal rights in family matters and property. Their sexual and reproductive health rights were established by law. Polygamy, child marriage, forced marriage, sexual harassment in the workplace and sexual and domestic violence were punishable by law. Widespread awareness-raising programmes had been conducted. The Penal Code prohibited dowries and *chhaupadi* cultural practices. Progress had been achieved in reducing maternal and infant and neonatal mortality rates. A steering committee was addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

50. Regarding children, the Constitution ensured for every child the right to birth registration, education, health and personality development. The 2018 Act relating to Children provided safeguards against sexual abuse. The Government operated 18 child helpline services. Juvenile benches had been established in courts to facilitate child-friendly prosecutions. Nearly 8,000 children in street situations had been rescued and rehabilitated in the previous three years. The National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage of 2016 aimed at ending child marriage by 2030.

51. Nepal was part of the global partnership Alliance 8.7, which sought to end all forms of child labour by 2025. An inter-agency working group had been set up to implement the national master plan on the elimination of child labour (2018–2028) and thereby achieve the goals of eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2022 and all forms of child labour by 2025.

52. The 2017 Act relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognized the importance of persons with disabilities empowering themselves. New building codes required public buildings to be accessible and an inclusive education policy had been adopted. Nearly 50,000 students had enrolled in educational programmes during the previous academic year.

53. Nepal had ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and indigenous peoples and communities facing extinction had the right to State benefits.

54. The Constitution guaranteed special measures for minorities and marginalized groups to enable them to enjoy fundamental rights and fair representation.

55. Nepal had sheltered Tibetan and Bhutanese refugees for decades on humanitarian grounds. The Extradition Act recognized the principle of non-refoulement.

56. The Constitution guaranteed that no citizen could be deprived of the right to citizenship, and federal laws would be enacted based on this principle.

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

57. During the interactive dialogue, 98 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

58. Uruguay congratulated Nepal for the adoption of its fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).

59. Uzbekistan welcomed the efforts made to ensure justice, security and the rule of law.

60. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the progress made in food, education and health.

61. Viet Nam commended Nepal for the legal and institutional progress it had made in promoting human rights.

62. Afghanistan welcomed the progress made towards eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

63. Argentina congratulated Nepal for its engagement with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

64. Armenia noted the positive steps taken to combat human trafficking and discrimination against women.

65. Australia appreciated the commitment to continuing to build on the Constitution of Nepal to protect human rights.

66. Azerbaijan welcomed the progress made in implementation of the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle.

67. The Bahamas welcomed efforts regarding climate change, particularly implementing the Disaster Risk and Management Act.

68. Bahrain commended Nepal for promoting women's rights and protecting the rights of migrant workers.

69. Bangladesh appreciated the efforts of Nepal to mainstream human rights into its national development policies.

70. Belarus noted positively the practice of adopting national human rights action plans.

71. Belgium welcomed the pledge by Nepal to address human rights violations during the conflict period through transitional justice mechanisms.

72. Bhutan commended Nepal for the 2018 Right to Employment Act and the contributory social security system.

73. Botswana noted with concern the proposed bill to revise the National Human Rights Commission Act.

74. Brazil commended Nepal for the progress achieved regarding transitional justice, food security and access to health.

75. Bulgaria applauded the efforts made to implement almost all the accepted recommendations from the second universal periodic review.

76. Burkina Faso commended Nepal for the President's programme for improving the situation of women.

77. Cambodia welcomed the establishment of the separate and specialized Anti-Human Trafficking Bureau.

78. Canada welcomed the progress made towards banning harmful practices and making torture and enforced disappearance distinct crimes.

79. Chile appreciated that the democratic process had taken into account the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
80. China commended Nepal for its achievements in reducing poverty, promoting gender equality and protecting children's rights.
81. Croatia welcomed the 2018 Act relating to Children and the 2017 Labour Act.
82. Cuba recognized the progress made by Nepal in preventing and combating human trafficking and protecting victims.
83. Cyprus welcomed the legislative measures to increase women's representation in the Federal Parliament and in the provincial assemblies.
84. Czechia appreciated the adoption of a national child labour abolition master plan.
85. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Nepal for the implementation of the fifteenth five-year plan.
86. Denmark commended Nepal for taking steps to address caste-based discrimination and violence against women.
87. Egypt commended Nepal for the five-year plan for economic development and the National Human Rights Action Plan.
88. El Salvador highlighted the receptiveness of Nepal to hosting special rapporteurs on country visits.
89. Estonia encouraged Nepal to pay more attention to the human rights of vulnerable groups.
90. Ethiopia appreciated the adoption of the 2017 Act relating to Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
91. Fiji commended Nepal for its poverty reduction initiatives and the budget allocation to address the effects of climate change.
92. Finland welcomed the engagement of Nepal in the universal periodic review process.
93. France remained concerned about the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Nepal.
94. Georgia welcomed the independent National Human Rights Commission and the engagement of Nepal with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.
95. Germany commended Nepal for improving conditions for Bhutanese refugees but remained concerned about vulnerable groups.
96. Greece welcomed the efforts made on school enrolment and the national strategy to end child marriage.
97. Guyana noted the implementation of previous universal periodic review recommendations through national human rights action plans.
98. Haiti welcomed the measures taken to address suicide, the subject of accepted recommendations made by Haiti during the previous universal periodic review.
99. The Holy See encouraged Nepal to protect vulnerable people's rights and safeguard freedom of religion and belief.
100. Honduras congratulated Nepal for the progress made in implementing the recommendations from previous universal periodic review cycles.
101. Iceland welcomed the decision of Nepal to join the United Nations LGBTI Core Group.
102. India welcomed the progress made on economic, social and cultural rights and the accession to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.



103. Indonesia commended Nepal for adopting the fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).
104. The Islamic Republic of Iran recognized the important human rights achievements made since the previous universal periodic review.
105. Iraq appreciated the adoption of the fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).
106. Ireland remained concerned about the lack of accountability for human rights violations committed during the civil war.
107. Italy welcomed the national child labour abolition master plan and the National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage.
108. Japan appreciated the efforts made to eliminate harmful practices but noted the challenges faced by vulnerable groups.
109. Jordan commended Nepal for its human rights efforts and the implementation of recommendations from the previous universal periodic review.
110. Kazakhstan commended Nepal for adopting policies to protect migrant workers and making torture and enforced disappearance illegal.
111. Kuwait welcomed the efforts made by Nepal to promote economic development and social justice.
112. The Lao People's Democratic Republic congratulated Nepal on implementing its National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).
113. Latvia welcomed the delegation and thanked it for the presentation of its national report.
114. Lebanon welcomed the efforts made by Nepal to eliminate violence against women and girls.
115. Liechtenstein thanked the delegation for the information in its statement and the national report.
116. Malaysia looked forward to the effective implementation of the fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).
117. Maldives appreciated the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in the national development plan.
118. Malta welcomed the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
119. The Marshall Islands welcomed the national master plan against child labour.
120. Mauritius commended Nepal for expanding its health insurance programme.
121. Mexico acknowledged the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025).
122. Mongolia welcomed the specialized training courses for judges and law enforcement personnel on human rights.
123. Montenegro encouraged Nepal to operationalize its National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage by 2030.
124. Myanmar congratulated Nepal for 33 per cent of positions in the Federal Parliament and provincial assemblies being occupied by women.
125. Namibia commended Nepal for taking measures aimed at eliminating poverty by 2043.
126. The Netherlands commended Nepal for its efforts to combat violence against women.
127. Nicaragua thanked the delegation for presenting its report and recognized the progress reflected therein.

128. Nigeria noted positively the efforts made to ensure economic, social and cultural rights, especially poverty reduction measures.
129. Norway congratulated Nepal on its election to the Human Rights Council for 2021–2023.
130. Pakistan commended Nepal for the 2019 poverty alleviation policy and the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act.
131. Panama hailed the efforts made to criminalize domestic violence and adopt the law on children.
132. Paraguay thanked the delegation of Nepal for the presentation of its report.
133. The Philippines commended Nepal for its efforts to combat human trafficking and provide human rights education for public officials.
134. Portugal welcomed the legislative progress made in tackling violence against women, notably the criminalization of harmful practices.
135. Qatar hailed the measures taken to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and include the Sustainable Development Goals in national plans.
136. The Republic of Korea commended Nepal for its efforts to eliminate harmful practices against women and girls.
137. The Russian Federation commended Nepal for cooperating with United Nations special procedure mechanisms, including on country visits.
138. Saudi Arabia praised Nepal for cooperating with the international human rights mechanisms.
139. Senegal welcomed the progress made in social and economic development and poverty reduction.
140. Serbia applauded Nepal for cooperating with the Human Rights Council treaty bodies and special procedures.
141. Singapore commended Nepal for its efforts to enhance the right to health and promote gender equality.
142. Slovenia was concerned about reports of child trafficking, child labour and child marriage.
143. Spain congratulated Nepal on its efforts to protect and promote human rights.
144. Sri Lanka appreciated the level of women's participation ensured in the civil service.
145. The State of Palestine applauded the constructive cooperation with the Human Rights Council mechanisms and special procedures.
146. The Sudan commended Nepal for establishing independent commissions to investigate human rights violations in the transitional justice context.
147. Switzerland was concerned about delays in implementing a real transitional justice strategy.
148. Thailand welcomed the fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (2020–2025) and the Public Health Service Act.
149. Timor-Leste commended Nepal for enshrining the right to mother tongue education in its Constitution.
150. Turkey noted positively the adoption of the Right to Employment Act, which enhanced conditions for workers.
151. Turkmenistan welcomed the efforts made to achieve a high economic growth rate in preceding years.
152. Ukraine welcomed the adoption of legislative acts such as the Right to Housing Act.

153. The United Kingdom welcomed the progress made on the political representation of women but remained concerned about how little accountability there was for conflict-era human rights violations and abuses.

154. The United States applauded Nepal for hosting refugees.

155. Oman noted the comprehensive efforts made to enforce the rule of law.

156. China raised a point of order against the recommendation made by the delegation of the United States. China expressed the view that, since it was the universal periodic review of Nepal, the focus should be on the human rights achievements of Nepal. China strongly opposed the use by the United States delegation of the universal periodic review platform to mention something irrelevant to that topic. China stated that it hoped that such situations could be avoided and that the rules of the universal periodic review would be respected.

157. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council noted that the statement by China would be reflected in the official record of the Working Group session.

158. In conclusion, the delegation of Nepal thanked Member States for their comments. Nepal remained strongly committed to fulfilling its human rights obligations. It would be formulating an action plan to implement the recommendations from the third universal periodic review cycle, taking into account all Member State suggestions.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

159.1 **Take further steps towards establishing the legal and institutional foundation and capacity in order to join remaining international instruments (Georgia);**

159.2 **Accede to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Holy See);**

159.3 **Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Honduras);**

159.4 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mongolia);**

159.5 **Continue to participate constructively in international human rights mechanisms (Nicaragua);**

159.6 **Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Panama);**

159.7 **Ratify the main international treaties on human rights that have still not been ratified to ensure progress on Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 13 and 16 (Paraguay);**

159.8 **Ratify the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) (Switzerland);**

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

159.10 **Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended**

(Latvia); Intensify efforts to promote cooperation with the United Nations human rights system and consider issuing a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Republic of Korea); Proactively engage with United Nations special procedures whose requests for a country visit are pending and consider issuing a standing invitation to all of them (Ukraine);

159.11 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, introduce new legislation criminalizing torture, ill-treatment and enforced disappearance in all settings and ensure prompt, impartial and independent investigations into all relevant cases and bring perpetrators to justice (Czechia);

159.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Afghanistan) (Cyprus) (Denmark) (Germany) (Senegal) (Spain) (Switzerland) (Timor-Leste);

159.13 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Paraguay);

159.14 Demonstrate commitment to further combating torture by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);

159.15 Make progress in the ratification of human rights instruments, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);

159.16 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Japan);

159.17 Consider the possibility of signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina); Take all necessary steps towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Greece); Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);

159.18 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France) (Switzerland);

159.19 Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus); Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and incorporate its provisions into national legislation, as previously recommended (Estonia); Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia); Consider the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Senegal);

159.20 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt); Undertake concrete actions towards the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (El Salvador); Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras); Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Mexico); Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);

159.21 Ensure the independence of the transitional justice commissions, providing them with resources to fulfil their mandates (Uruguay);

- 159.22 **Continue to develop and implement its National Human Rights Action Plan (China);**
- 159.23 **Continue to take measures necessary for aligning the National Human Rights Commission Act with the elevated status of the National Human Rights Commission (Georgia);**
- 159.24 **Expedite the appointment of a commissioner on women's rights and provide the National Women's Commission with a complaint mechanism and the authority to issue binding rulings (Guyana);**
- 159.25 **Take necessary steps to ensure the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal in accordance with the Paris Principles, including through the financial autonomy of the Commission and implementation of its recommendations (Australia); Further strengthen the human rights-related institutions, including the National Human Rights Commission (India); Empower the National Human Rights Commission in full accordance with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan); Guarantee full autonomy and jurisdiction to the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and ensure that the recommendations it issues are promptly implemented (Mexico); Strengthen further the National Human Rights Commission and continue to take measures for protecting women rights (Pakistan); Guarantee the financial and budgetary autonomy to ensure the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission so that it can carry out its mission and accomplish its objectives (Paraguay); Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission can discharge its functions fully, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Portugal); Further strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, including through the adoption of appropriate legislation (Sri Lanka); Ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, in compliance with the Paris Principles (State of Palestine); Continue efforts to ensure the effective operation of the National Human Rights Commission, in keeping with the Paris Principles (Uzbekistan);**
- 159.26 **Continue with steps towards implementation of the fifth National Human Rights Action Plan (Sri Lanka);**
- 159.27 **Expedite the appointment of a commissioner on women's rights (Timor-Leste);**
- 159.28 **Continue its ongoing efforts to improve national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Turkmenistan);**
- 159.29 **Strictly comply with international human rights standards in elaborating, implementing and revising policy and legislation (Ukraine);**
- 159.30 **Further enhance integration and cooperation among all sectors of society in order to continue achieving the goals of raising structural and institutional standards in the field of human rights (Oman);**
- 159.31 **Amend the legislation that generates discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and review the definition of marriage in the Civil Code to guarantee equal access to this right (Uruguay);**
- 159.32 **Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate discrimination based on racial or caste-based hierarchies and ensure that educational curricula do not propagate these hierarchies (Bahamas);**
- 159.33 **Investigate effectively and prosecute caste-based discrimination and violence (Croatia);**
- 159.34 **Effectively apply national legislation towards the elimination of all practices based on a caste system, including in the light of the relevant human rights instruments (El Salvador);**
- 159.35 **Develop effective mechanisms to implement the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act (Germany);**

- 159.36 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes a definition of discrimination against women encompassing direct and indirect discrimination and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination (Guyana);**
- 159.37 **Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples (Iceland);**
- 159.38 **Pursue development of all sections of society in an inclusive manner (India);**
- 159.39 **Continue the efforts to combat caste-based discrimination and segregation (Italy);**
- 159.40 **Increase education and awareness-raising programmes to combat crimes of hate and racial discrimination (Jordan);**
- 159.41 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination based on caste and gender (Lebanon);**
- 159.42 **Take the necessary measures to advance in the fight against discrimination in all its forms, in particular racial and caste discrimination (Argentina);**
- 159.43 **Consider including the issue of caste discrimination in school and university curricula (Malta);**
- 159.44 **Continue to strengthen its efforts to prevent and eliminate discrimination based on caste, including through the full and effective implementation of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act (Republic of Korea);**
- 159.45 **Continue protecting, in law and practice, the rights of the vulnerable groups of the population, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);**
- 159.46 **Amend the Civil Code in order to recognize marriages of same-sex couples by strengthening the principles enshrined in the 2015 Constitution to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Spain);**
- 159.47 **Conduct public awareness campaigns to eliminate caste-based hierarchies (State of Palestine);**
- 159.48 **Intensify public awareness campaigns to eliminate the notion of racial or caste-based hierarchies (Sudan);**
- 159.49 **Take further measures to combat climate change and natural disasters (Bangladesh);**
- 159.50 **Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 159.51 **Continue to strengthen its efforts in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals for the better enjoyment of human rights of its people (Viet Nam);**
- 159.52 **Apply an inclusive approach in shaping disaster prevention and mitigation policies and strategies by incorporating the views of women and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and older people, indiscriminately (Indonesia);**
- 159.53 **Strengthen cooperation with international partners to reverse the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through capacity-building to achieve national development targets and meet the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Indonesia);**
- 159.54 **Ensure that vulnerable populations are engaged in the development and implementation of climate resilience and adaptation plans (Maldives);**

- 159.55 Continue to improve the prison infrastructure and the living conditions of persons deprived of liberty (Cuba);
- 159.56 Ensure prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigations into all cases of unlawful killings (Greece);
- 159.57 Revise the draft anti-torture bill to comply fully with international standards, including by removing the statute of limitations and providing for all five forms of reparation (Ireland);
- 159.58 Strengthen its efforts to put an end to torture and ill-treatment of children in all settings (Montenegro);
- 159.59 Fight more effectively against impunity by putting in place legislation that penalizes acts of torture and investigating extrajudicial executions (France);
- 159.60 Continue to provide the necessary training to law enforcement agencies on the implementation of the national Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code (Maldives);
- 159.61 Continue efforts to ensure access to justice, poverty reduction and the protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);
- 159.62 Bring the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act into compliance with international norms, particularly with regard to the definition of amnesty, witness protection and the delays in processing complaints (Belgium);
- 159.63 Bring the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act in line with the Supreme Court's ruling of 26 February 2015 to deliver meaningful results on truth, justice and reconciliation (Canada);
- 159.64 Bring the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act into compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling and international standards and, in particular, include survivors of sexual violence and their families in the transitional justice process and all related government schemes (Germany);
- 159.65 Ensure that the transitional justice process takes a gender-sensitive approach and upholds international standards, with the transparent and timely conclusion of cases by commissions of inquiry, ensuring the rights of all victims to truth, justice and reparation (Ireland);
- 159.66 Take appropriate measures to effectively address the cases related to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that occurred during the conflict and provide justice to the victims (Italy);
- 159.67 Pass a bill to amend the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act in order to ensure the effective functioning of the Commission (Norway);
- 159.68 Take necessary measures to guarantee the independence of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and to ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations are brought to justice (Republic of Korea);
- 159.69 Advance a credible and victim-centric transitional justice process that is consistent with the judgments of the Supreme Court of Nepal and international law (Australia);
- 159.70 Continue to address cases related to violations of human rights that occurred during the conflict (State of Palestine);
- 159.71 Adopt, on the basis of transparent and inclusive consultations, a holistic transitional justice strategy, combining fact-finding, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition, as well as institutional reforms (Switzerland);

159.72 Amend the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, thereby addressing the demands of victim groups, to ensure victims of conflict-era violations and abuses are meaningfully engaged in the transitional justice process (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

159.73 Consider revising the local legislation on media and information technology in order to guarantee the full respect of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Brazil);

159.74 Ensure that legislation on cybersecurity guarantees the rights of access to information and freedom of expression (Chile);

159.75 Safeguard the freedom of expression and foster civil society participation; ensure that NGOs active in the field of human rights – including those receiving foreign grants – are free to operate (Czechia);

159.76 Repeal or amend sections 155, 156 and 158 of the Penal Code so it is consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);

159.77 Ensure the right to freedom of expression online and offline, in law and in practice, and guarantee a safe and enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders (Estonia);

159.78 Guarantee freedom of expression, information and peaceful assembly by putting an end to the excessive use of force against demonstrators, human rights defenders and journalists, as well as by sanctioning the perpetrators of violations of their rights (France);

159.79 Ensure no person is arrested for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression, association or assembly and that all arrests are carried out in accordance with the law and in line with international human rights standards (Greece);

159.80 Take all necessary measures, in particular at the legislative level, in order to protect the rights of persons from religious minorities and in order to guarantee freedom of religion or belief in law and in practice, in accordance with international human rights law (Haiti);

159.81 Protect and uphold the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting the free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland);

159.82 Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of all residents of Nepal (Latvia);

159.83 Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment, and to relax the requirements for registering NGOs (Latvia);

159.84 Eliminate all provisions that restrict freedom of expression, through any means, such as criminal provisions relating to slander or defamation (Mexico);

159.85 Introduce and implement measures to protect lawyers and human rights defenders, including investigating and prosecuting all forms of attacks against them (Netherlands);

159.86 Amend article 26 of the Constitution to include the right to choose or change one's religion or belief, in accordance with article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);

159.87 Remove restrictions on the right to freedom of religion or belief in the Criminal Code (Norway);



- 159.88 Ensure the right to freedom of expression and ensure all individuals are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse (Australia);
- 159.89 Reform the Electronic Transactions Act to eliminate the criminalization of speech (United States of America);
- 159.90 Step up efforts to combat slavery and trafficking in human beings, including by considering the possibility of adopting strategies or action plans in these spheres, as well as additional measures to identify victims of slavery and trafficking, especially among women and children, and to ensure their comprehensive protection and rehabilitation (Belarus);
- 159.91 Ensure that those responsible for trafficking in persons and slavery are brought to justice (Burkina Faso);
- 159.92 Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and all forms of slavery (Cyprus);
- 159.93 Continue to strengthen efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labour, and ensure effective implementation of standard operating procedures to address early identification of trafficking victims and provide adequate resources to rehabilitation centres for trafficking victims (Fiji);
- 159.94 Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and every form of exploitation, including child labour, also through the early identification of and support to victims while bringing perpetrators to justice (Holy See);
- 159.95 Continue efforts to prevent human trafficking, slavery and sexual exploitation (Iraq);
- 159.96 Increase efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labour, including child labour (Malaysia);
- 159.97 Intensify its efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labour (Montenegro);
- 159.98 Revise the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act to bring the definition of human trafficking into line with international law and to include all aspects of human trafficking (Armenia);
- 159.99 Scale up efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the rights of victims, as well as the rights of migrants (Nigeria);
- 159.100 Take further steps to end trafficking in persons and bonded labour practices, with special emphasis on children (Norway);
- 159.101 Continue efforts aimed at implementing the law on combating trafficking in human beings, notably the national action plan to combat human trafficking (Saudi Arabia);
- 159.102 Invest additional efforts in fighting human trafficking, slavery, sexual exploitation and forced labour, as well as efficiently conduct the sanctions policy against perpetrators of these crimes (Serbia);
- 159.103 Harmonize the Foreign Employment Act and the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act to ensure consistency with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 159.104 Uphold respect for freedom of expression and the right to privacy, including in draft legislation regulating information technology, media and mass communications (Canada);
- 159.105 Continue to take measures to further strengthen implementation of the Right to Employment Act and the contributory social security system and, in particular, implement targeted interventions for vulnerable groups (Bhutan);

- 159.106 **Ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (Namibia);**
- 159.107 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Namibia);**
- 159.108 **Further accelerate efforts to reduce poverty aimed at achieving an adequate living standard for all people (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 159.109 **Continue its efforts in poverty reduction by providing poor families with opportunities to access productive resources, capacity-building, income and sustainable development (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 159.110 **Continue to promote access to safe drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas (Bangladesh);**
- 159.111 **Intensify cooperation and efforts with the support of the international community to further enlarge programmatic interventions and investment in key areas of poverty reduction (Cambodia);**
- 159.112 **Consider taking additional steps to raise the number of people having access to upgraded water facilities nationwide (Cambodia);**
- 159.113 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and to further promote poverty alleviation (China);**
- 159.114 **Maintain and expand government programmes aimed at guaranteeing the right to food and addressing food insecurity, particularly among the most vulnerable populations (Cuba);**
- 159.115 **Continue to consolidate the successful social policies for the benefits of its people in the areas of food, health and education (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 159.116 **Further capitalize on the gains in poverty reduction and step up efforts for an increased per capita (Ethiopia);**
- 159.117 **Continue measures to improve the country's standard of living (Kuwait);**
- 159.118 **Collaborate with specialized United Nations agencies to develop the agricultural sector (Kuwait);**
- 159.119 **Continue efforts to combat and eliminate extreme poverty (Lebanon);**
- 159.120 **Continue its poverty reduction measures to achieve its target of reducing from 18 to 13 per cent by 2024 through inclusive and sustainable development (Myanmar);**
- 159.121 **Pursue the good management of policies related to the basic needs of citizens such as the rights to food, adequate housing, drinking water, education and work (Nicaragua);**
- 159.122 **Take further steps for socioeconomic development (Pakistan);**
- 159.123 **Implement a national action plan to reduce poverty with a human rights-based approach and focused on Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 10 (Paraguay);**
- 159.124 **Ensure that its efforts to address poverty are inclusive, gender-responsive and human rights-based (Philippines);**
- 159.125 **Continue the efforts to achieve remarkable progress in indicators related to hunger, nutrition and food security (Qatar);**
- 159.126 **Intensify efforts to ensure the socioeconomic rights of its citizens (Russian Federation);**

- 159.127 Continue its efforts to improve the standards of living of its people through the implementation of laws and policies that have already been put in place (Sri Lanka);
- 159.128 Consider adopting a more coordinated approach to address hunger and malnutrition (State of Palestine);
- 159.129 Step up efforts to fight poverty and hunger, as well as to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation (Sudan);
- 159.130 Continue the measures aimed at poverty alleviation, ensuring adequate housing and providing water and sanitation to the population (Azerbaijan);
- 159.131 Further strengthen effective collaboration with the international community to increase investment in food, housing, poverty reduction, employment generation, health care, education, social security and the development of people-centric infrastructures (Turkmenistan);
- 159.132 Maintain its commitment to implementing health plans and programmes to ensure the protection of the right to health during emergencies and pandemics (Bahrain);
- 159.133 Make progress in social economic recovery with a human rights perspective to face the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking into consideration the special needs of vulnerable groups in society (Chile);
- 159.134 Ensure the inclusion of vulnerable children and families in policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to minimize the risk of children getting involved in child labour (Croatia);
- 159.135 Decriminalize abortion and concretely protect the rights and sexual and reproductive health of women and girls (France);
- 159.136 Develop and implement a national strategy and action plan for the prevention of suicide, in particular by establishing a reliable data collection and addressing the social stigma associated with suicide and the root causes of male and female suicide in follow-up to the recommendations (Haiti);
- 159.137 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to ensure that marginalized groups are able to exercise their reproductive rights through universal access to quality family planning services, the upscaling of adolescent-friendly health services and the full integration of comprehensive sexuality education, consistent with the evolving capacities and needs of youth (Iceland);
- 159.138 Make efforts in furtherance of the rights to health and education (India);
- 159.139 Ensure leprosy training within the health-care community and implement the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (Japan);
- 159.140 Take all necessary measures to strengthen the promotion and protection of the human rights and dignity of older persons, particularly in the current situation of extreme vulnerability they face in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argentina);
- 159.141 Take steps to reduce neonatal mortality, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Mauritius);
- 159.142 Enhance the ongoing efforts to reduce the neonatal mortality rate (Myanmar);
- 159.143 Continue efforts to facilitate access to health services (Saudi Arabia);

- 159.144 Continue to expand efforts towards universal health coverage while minimizing disruption in the access to basic health-care services during the pandemic, taking into consideration the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (Singapore);
- 159.145 Strengthen the implementation of World Health Organization's guidelines on preparedness, prevention and control of COVID-19 in prisons and other places of detention (Thailand);
- 159.146 Continue the Government's efforts to strengthen integrated networks of health services (Oman);
- 159.147 Continue its efforts to create favourable conditions for ensuring access to free and quality education, and public health for all (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 159.148 Step up further efforts to ensure gender parity in both primary and secondary education (Bangladesh);
- 159.149 Enhance measures to scale up school enrolment at the secondary level (Ethiopia);
- 159.150 Take all necessary measures to ensure full inclusion and improve learning results for all children belonging to the Dalit community, underrepresented castes and indigenous peoples, including children with disabilities, at all levels of education, and to ensure the representation of these groups, especially women, in teaching positions (Finland);
- 159.151 Defend and promote the fundamental right to education, ensuring the provision of free quality education to all without discrimination (Holy See);
- 159.152 Provide free quality education to all citizens without discrimination (Mauritius);
- 159.153 Continue its efforts to ensure an all-inclusive education system that leaves no one behind, including children with disabilities (Norway);
- 159.154 Expand the scope of such initiatives as the Act relating to Compulsory and Free Education of 2018 and provide more scholarships on an equal basis (Turkey);
- 159.155 Guarantee access to compulsory and free education for all children (France);
- 159.156 Further enhance the empowerment of women through education, awareness-raising, training for skills development and employment (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 159.157 Eliminate the current statute of limitations on reporting cases of rape and sexual violence, even in the context of conflicts (Uruguay);
- 159.158 Remove the one-year statute of limitations for rape and sexual violence to ensure that cases are brought to justice (Bahamas);
- 159.159 Fully enforce the law and strengthen policy measures with a view to eliminating harmful traditional practices (Bahamas);
- 159.160 Continue efforts to promote women's empowerment (Bahrain);
- 159.161 Ensure the effective implementation of the criminalization of *chhaupadi* and wedding dowries, including by raising awareness among all stakeholders, imposing sanctions and prosecuting perpetrators (Belgium);
- 159.162 Ensure the speedy conclusion of investigations into allegations of gender-based violence that remain pending since 1996–2006 (Botswana);
- 159.163 Ensure, in law and in practice, the effective combat of sexual violence and the end of discriminatory measures against women and girls, including in

policies related to access to justice, attribution of nationality and prevention of trafficking in persons (Brazil);

159.164 Step up efforts to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence within the framework of the relevant presidential programme (Uzbekistan);

159.165 Take concrete actions to eliminate all forms of inequality and structural violence against women, in particular in the new constitutional legislation of Nepal (Chile);

159.166 Ensure full equality between men and women with respect to conferring citizenship on their children and spouse, including by amending provisions in the Constitution and Citizenship Act amendment bill 2020 (Canada);

159.167 Continue to promote gender equality and better protect women's rights (China);

159.168 Expedite the adoption of a national action plan on gender empowerment and include measures to combat gender-based violence (Cyprus);

159.169 Adopt comprehensive legislation banning gender-based discrimination; take effective measures to end gender-based violence, trafficking in women and girls, and sexual exploitation; provide sufficient numbers of safe shelters and other necessary services for victims (Czechia);

159.170 Eliminate the statute of limitations for rape and other sexual and gender-based violence in order to bring legislation into line with international standards (Denmark);

159.171 Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and eliminate all forms of sexual violence, as well as child marriage and child labour (Egypt);

159.172 Adopt policies to protect and provide justice for women and girls, especially those from minority communities (Estonia);

159.173 Adopt legislation that prohibits all forms of violence against women and girls to ensure that all cases are investigated and perpetrators brought to justice and that victims receive compensation, as well as strengthen awareness-raising programmes on harmful practices related to women and girls, like *chhaupadi*, child marriage, dowries, son preference, polygamy and witchcraft (Finland);

159.174 Ensure that the rights to acquire, transfer and retain citizenship are extended equally to all women and their children (Finland);

159.175 Abolish the statute of limitations for rape, bring existing legislation on rape into accordance with international standards, and enforce legislation on domestic violence and harmful practices (Germany);

159.176 Amend the Citizenship Act to enable citizenship documentation at birth and to repeal gender discriminatory provisions (Germany);

159.177 Continue its efforts to eliminate forms of discrimination against women and girls, and further promote the rights of women, children and persons from other vulnerable groups (Viet Nam);

159.178 Take measures to further promote gender equality (India);

159.179 Further strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, including through concrete legislative and policy interventions, as well as public awareness of the negative effects of harmful practices against women and girls (Indonesia);

159.180 Continue its efforts to promote the rights of women and girls, also with a view to empowering them in society (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 159.181 Step up efforts to provide equal access to online education for girls, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 159.182 Increase efforts to achieve effective equality between women and men, especially in the judiciary, the law enforcement institutions and the diplomatic corps (Iraq);
- 159.183 Prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage and other harmful practices, and take further measures to fight domestic violence (Italy);
- 159.184 Ensure effective access to gender-based violence response services and justice (Japan);
- 159.185 Enable a safe environment for women and girls to report cases of sexual and gender-based violence and ensure that all reports are fully and adequately investigated (Latvia);
- 159.186 Take effective steps to eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including by broadening the definition of family and domestic violence to cover all forms of gender-based violence against women, as well as by ensuring effective access to gender-based violence response services, and to provide justice to survivors (Liechtenstein);
- 159.187 Ensure sustainable funding for a sufficient number of safe shelters for victims of gender-based violence (Malaysia);
- 159.188 Continue working to ensure that the police provide a safe and confidential environment for women and girls to report incidents of violence, including sexual violence, and that such complaints are recorded and investigated and those responsible are brought to justice (Malta);
- 159.189 Allocate sufficient funds and facilities for shelters and one-stop crisis management centres for victims and survivors of all forms of gender-based violence and trafficking in persons (Myanmar);
- 159.190 Continue to further strengthen the national system in order to eliminate discrimination against women (Armenia);
- 159.191 Continue to fully guarantee women's rights, including the right to equal lineage without gender discrimination and the right to safe motherhood (Nicaragua);
- 159.192 Fully commit to end sexual and gender-based harassment and violence at all levels of society, including against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Norway);
- 159.193 Amend the provisions of its normative framework that contravene the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in order to guarantee a non-discriminatory approach to the granting of citizenship (Panama);
- 159.194 Promote awareness-raising campaigns and strengthen the enforcement of existing legislation and policies to eradicate harmful practices, trafficking in persons and child labour (Panama);
- 159.195 Strengthen implementation of legislation against gender-based violence and certain traditional practices that are considered harmful to women and girls (Philippines);
- 159.196 Strengthen awareness-raising programmes on harmful traditional practices against women and, at the same time, improve investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and provide compensation to the victims (Portugal);
- 159.197 Step up efforts to end gender-based violence and caste-based discrimination and ensure access to justice for survivors, including by bringing rape laws in line with international standards (Australia);

- 159.198 **Finalize its draft national gender equality policy expeditiously and undertake awareness-raising activities, in all levels of society, about its key measures (Singapore);**
- 159.199 **Take additional measures to tackle the increase of violence against women and girls in order to fight against the increase of these cases registered over the last years, including domestic violence, and to continue to prohibit harmful practices with no legal sanction – the law on violence using acid is a good example (Spain);**
- 159.200 **Speed up the measures to put an end to all harmful traditional practices (Sudan);**
- 159.201 **Strengthen the efforts aiming at protecting victims of gender-based violence and ensuring gender equality (Azerbaijan);**
- 159.202 **Redouble its efforts to end gender-based violence and ensure effective access to gender-based violence response services (Thailand);**
- 159.203 **Continue to empower women economically and socially, and effectively implement the laws to prevent all forms of gender-based violence (Turkey);**
- 159.204 **Operationalize its strategy to end child marriage by 2030 (Burkina Faso);**
- 159.205 **Establish a special mechanism responsible for independent child rights monitoring (Estonia);**
- 159.206 **End definitively the practice of child marriage (Holy See);**
- 159.207 **Move forward in fully implementing a national action plan to end child marriage, with the goal of ending all child marriage by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Kazakhstan);**
- 159.208 **Strengthen its efforts to put an end to torture and ill-treatment of children in all settings, including by ensuring that children are detained as a measure of last resort only (Liechtenstein);**
- 159.209 **Ensure that child labour in the informal sector is incorporated into the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (Belgium);**
- 159.210 **Develop safe and inclusive mechanisms for all children to express their views and find solutions for the worst forms of child labour (Croatia);**
- 159.211 **Strengthen the enforcement of existing legislation and policies to eradicate the practice of child labour, in particular regarding hazardous work (Italy);**
- 159.212 **Expand legislation and regulations on child labour to include the informal sector (Kazakhstan);**
- 159.213 **Take effective steps to combat all forms of child labour and extend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act to all areas of work (Liechtenstein);**
- 159.214 **Ensure that existing legislation prohibiting child labour is fully implemented and its enforcement monitored (Marshall Islands);**
- 159.215 **Continue paying special attention to the implementation of measures to eradicate all forms of child labour, including the prevention of child labour in the informal sector (Russian Federation);**
- 159.216 **Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of existing legislation and regulations on child labour, including the expansion of the number of labour-inspector positions and the filling of all vacant positions with experts who are in possession of strong qualifications in the area of child labour (Slovenia);**

- 159.217 **Adopt complementary measures to strengthen the national action plan for eradicating the worst forms of child labour before 2028, prioritizing the eradication of the most dangerous conditions of labour for children (Spain);**
- 159.218 **Step up efforts in the fight against segregation and discrimination of indigenous peoples and ethnic and caste minorities, including Dalits and Tibetans (Czechia);**
- 159.219 **Ensure that the rights of indigenous communities regarding the use of their land are upheld through the revision of the legislation on this matter (Marshall Islands);**
- 159.220 **Take the necessary measures to protect ethnic and caste minorities, namely from excessive use of force by the police and alleged torture in custody, and punish perpetrators (Portugal);**
- 159.221 **Increase its efforts to achieve inclusive education by ensuring access for all persons with disabilities at all levels of education (Bulgaria);**
- 159.222 **Ensure the meaningful and empowered inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in implementing disability-inclusive development projects and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Bulgaria);**
- 159.223 **Continue to work to improve the living standards for persons with disabilities (Egypt);**
- 159.224 **Take further steps to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular to provide them with equal job opportunities, as well as access to educational and health facilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 159.225 **Continue measures to guarantee the access of persons with disabilities to rehabilitation services and social protection programmes (Jordan);**
- 159.226 **Increase measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to community-based rehabilitation services and adequate social protection programmes (Malaysia);**
- 159.227 **Continue the implementation of various measures aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring their participation in the policymaking and development process (Qatar);**
- 159.228 **Undertake further measures to prevent the exploitation and abuse of Nepalese migrant workers, including by implementing the 2018 recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (Canada);**
- 159.229 **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, developing a formal recognition system and complying with the principle of non-refoulement (Holy See);**
- 159.230 **Adopt national legislation in accordance with international standards relating to the protection of refugees and put mechanisms in place to ensure respect for the principle of non-refoulement (Afghanistan);**
- 159.231 **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Namibia);**
- 159.232 **Register and verify all Tibetan, Bhutanese and other refugees followed by issuance of identity documents with the formal right to work and access services (United States of America);**
- 159.233 **Resume implementation of the gentleman's agreement, provide access and safe passage through its territory for Tibetan new arrivals and implement any legal agreements with China consistent with the principle of non-refoulement (United States of America).**



160. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting States 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 Nepal was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Honorable Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Chief Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers;
  - Mr. Dhana Raj Gnyawali, Secretary (Law), Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers;
  - Mr. Rishi Rajbhandari, Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs;
  - Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Maheshwar Neupane, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;
  - Mrs. Yam Kumari Khatiwada, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen;
  - Mr. Gopinath Mainali, Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology;
  - Mr. Laxman Aryal, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Population;
  - Mr. Toyam Raya, Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security;
  - H.E. Mr. Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN, Geneva;
  - Mr. Koshal Chandra Subedi, Joint Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers;
  - Ms. Sewa Lamsal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Tirtha Raj Wagle, Minister/ Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN, Geneva;
  - Mr. Kiran Shakya, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Uttam Kumar Shahi, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN, Geneva;
  - Mr. Narayan Prasad Wagle, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Vijay Raj Tandukar, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN, Geneva;
  - Mr. Bhuwan Paudel, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN, Geneva;
  - Mrs. Chandika Pokhrel, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Nepal to UN, Geneva.
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