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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Sao Tome and Principe

* 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 Sao Tome and Principe was held at the 16th meeting, on 27 January 2021. The delegation of Sao Tome and Principe was headed by the Minister of Justice, Public Administration and Human Rights, Ivete Lima Correia. At its 17th meeting, held on 29 January 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Sao Tome and Principe.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sao Tome and Principe: Austria, Côte d'Ivoire and Japan.
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 Sao Tome and Principe:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Fiji, Germany, Liechtenstein, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Slovenia and Uruguay was transmitted to Sao Tome and Principe 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 head of the delegation congratulated the United Nations for the creation of the universal periodic review mechanism and highlighted its relevance to the promotion and protection of human rights.
6. Sao Tome and Principe had gained its independence in 1975 and had since committed to building a free and solidary society. In the area of governance, and intending to deepen the democratic rule of law, Sao Tome and Principe was implementing measures for promoting and protecting human rights, and for strengthening institutions and increasing the country's capacities.
7. In the economic area, Sao Tome and Principe faced vulnerabilities due to its condition as a small island developing State. Its economy was highly dependent on cocoa exports and on official development assistance, which financed more than 90 per cent of the country's investment expenditure.
8. Despite challenges, Sao Tome and Principe had been able to guarantee free primary education, and basic health care and social security for its citizens. The country had achieved three of the eight Millennium Development Goals, having attained universal primary education and significantly reduced both child and maternal mortality. Sao Tome and Principe had also reduced malaria morbidity and mortality and increased the coverage of antiretroviral treatment.
9. In the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2015, Sao Tome and Principe had accepted 144 recommendations and noted 2. In the area of civil and political rights, Sao

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/37/STP/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/37/STP/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/37/STP/3.

Tome and Principe had acceded to several international human rights instruments, as recommended in the previous cycle. Five instruments were pending ratification.

10. In 2019, the country had acceded to several regional instruments, namely: the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), the African Youth Charter and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

11. Sao Tome and Principe had taken steps to safeguard children's rights. In addition to existing constitutional provisions, it had implemented legislative measures to combat all forms of discrimination against and maltreatment of children and had ratified international treaties on the subject.

12. Sao Tome and Principe did not have provisions legalizing corporal punishment against children in its legal system. Although article 304 of the Family Code affirmed that parents could reprimand or correct children adequately and moderately, the country's legal system had specific provisions guaranteeing the inviolability of the physical integrity of children.

13. The delegation referred to the national plan for the protection of the child, which had been adopted to align national legislation with international standards. In 2018, a national committee to coordinate the execution of the policy had been instituted but had not yet started its activities due to organizational issues. The legal system of Sao Tome and Principe had provisions for punishing and preventing domestic violence. A project to build an integrated centre and a shelter for victims of gender-based violence had been approved but still lacked funding for its implementation.

14. Regarding access to justice, the delegation indicated that several actions had been taken to strengthen the functional capacity of the judiciary system, such as the creation of a constitutional court, the institution of a judiciary police force, and the rehabilitation of the Lembá court.

15. To improve the protection of human rights, the creation of an ombudsperson's office had also been approved and the implementation process had been started. An intersectoral committee had been created to report on the implementation of human rights recommendations.

16. In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, and considering the high rates of poverty, income concentration and unemployment in Sao Tome and Principe, several measures aimed at eliminating poverty had been adopted. Some examples were the support programme for vulnerable families, the parental education programme, the programme for the most critical first days, the strategic plan to eradicate hunger, and the social entrepreneurship project.

17. Furthermore, Sao Tome and Principe intended to mobilize external financial resources for socioeconomic development.

18. Concerning the right to an adequate standard of living, one of the goals established in the national programme for sustainable development was for 50 per cent of the population to be connected to the public water distribution network by 2020. In addition, the coverage of treated water had increased by 3 per cent.

19. Despite the economic challenges, Sao Tome and Principe had made progress in the area of health. Programmes to respond to epidemics and malaria had been established, as had an updated national health plan for 2017–2021. The plan had been designed to improve national health-care coverage to make it more equitable and was aimed at making Sao Tome and Principe a model of excellence by 2030. To attain that objective, the country intended to improve training and the availability of human resources; improve the availability of quality medicine and vaccines; geographically expand and improve the coverage of health services; improve the financial sustainability of health services and the quality of services in disease control; strengthen national referral hospitals, research and treatment; and digitalize the health system for better control and management of information.

20. Services in the area of sexual and reproductive health aimed at adolescents had been instituted. Sao Tome and Principe aimed to reduce the adolescent pregnancy rate to 15 per cent by 2021; conduct training for service providers about young people's health; revise the package for adolescent health services; reorganize spaces and timetables to better serve adolescents; equip schools and health-care facilities with educational materials adapted to the health of adolescents, and provide health services adapted to adolescents, including in schools. Awareness-raising campaigns about adolescent pregnancy, family planning and contraception had been carried out.

21. The purpose of the country's comprehensive sexual education programme was to raise awareness among public school educators about issues regarding gender inequality and sexual diversity. Several tools had been produced in the context of this plan, such as the pedagogical manual for educators, and a guide to participatory methodologies. Sao Tome and Principe had adopted an action plan to accelerate family planning for 2018–2021, and had increased the supply of free contraceptives and services in the country's health centres.

22. The right to education was universal in the country, as enshrined in the Constitution and in Law 04/2018. Sao Tome and Principe provided universal, mandatory free education until the ninth grade. The purpose of the Education Policy Charter (2012–2022) was to progressively and sustainably guarantee access to 12 years of universal, quality education free of charge for all young people by 2022. In accordance with Law No. 04/2018, the schooling age in Sao Tome and Principe covered the period between the ages of 4 and 18.

23. In 2020, a provision that had prohibited pregnant adolescents from attending school had been revoked. The right of pregnant adolescents to attend school was therefore ensured. Despite challenges, Sao Tome and Principe had reportedly increased the accessibility and quality of education, and the number of classrooms and teachers.

24. In the area of the rights of persons or special groups, the inviolable rights to name and nationality were enshrined in the Constitution and the civil registry code. Those rights were acquired at the registration of the child's birth.

25. The delegation emphasized the adoption of the national strategy for permanent birth registration. Birth registration had been declared free of charge, and was promoted in maternity wards throughout the country and at health and registration fairs at the national level. As a result, the country had reached a birth registration coverage rate of 95 per cent by 2014.

26. In partnership with United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations, Sao Tome and Principe had implemented awareness-raising campaigns for the protection of children's rights. The country safeguarded the rights of the child in its national legislation and had ratified key regional and international instruments in that area, namely, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and International Labour Organization conventions relating to the rights of the child. Also, Sao Tome and Principe had adopted a national plan for the protection of the child, a national plan of action against child labour and a national social protection policy and strategy.

27. With a view to further strengthening measures for realizing children's rights, and with the support of the United Nations system, Sao Tome and Principe had prepared its United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2017–2021. The framework had three strategic axes: strengthening social cohesion through access to quality basic social services in order to reduce disparity and inequality between citizens and between communities; strengthening the country's internal and external credibility; and promoting inclusive sustainable growth and resilience, taking into account gender and young people's issues, from a sustainable and inclusive development perspective, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

28. In response to a recommendation to increase the age for marriage, Sao Tome and Principe indicated that the family code prohibited marriage under the age of 18.

29. The national social protection policy contained guidelines for the prevention of all forms of violence against children, for the care of victims of such violence and for holding

perpetrators accountable. The policy also stipulated responsibilities in the areas of justice, health, social issues, education, security and crime prevention.

30. Sao Tome and Principe had adopted a policy and legislative measures to address child labour. Along those lines, the national plan for the protection of the child and its respective action plan had been adopted. The Labour Code prohibited activities that hindered the harmonious development of the child, and the country had defined a list of the worst forms of child labour. The country's Penal Code also contained provisions prohibiting hazardous work activities from being performed by children, and establishing penalties for parents, tutors and employers of children performing hazardous work.

31. Notwithstanding those advances and the ratification of international and regional conventions safeguarding the rights of the child, Sao Tome and Principe faced material and financial challenges in executing the actions set out in the aforementioned instruments.

32. Recommendations regarding women's rights had focused mainly on the adoption of anti-discrimination measures and combating domestic violence. Sao Tome and Principe affirmed that it safeguarded women's rights and freedoms in its Constitution. As a consequence of legislative reform, provisions that prohibited and punished discriminatory, violent, abusive action or attacks against women had been introduced in the Penal Code, the family code, the Labour Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the domestic violence bill and Law No. 20/2018. Aiming to safeguard women's rights, the country had also ratified key international and regional conventions.

33. Regarding equality and non-discrimination, Sao Tome and Principe had adopted the national social protection policy and its respective plan of action. The document's strategic goals 1 and 3 provided for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including provisions on cash transfers to poor families of persons with disabilities and on the promotion of their employability and access to decent work.

34. In the environmental area, Sao Tome and Principe emphasized its ratification of the Paris Agreement on 2 November 2016 and the creation of the Climate Change Adaptation Project and the West African Coastal Resilience Investment Project, aimed at eliminating the negative effects of coastline erosion. As important measures in that area, the delegation highlighted a survey that had been conducted to assess the number of artisanal fishermen and their vessels in the country; the improvement of the messaging and warning system for fishers and coastal communities; training and awareness-raising activities on maritime safety that had been conducted among 1,250 fishers; the planting of 3,000 tree species in Sao Tome and in Principe; the development of training activities in risk management and management of community projects for members of risk management committees and fisher associations in 31 communities; space-planning activities in fishing communities' safe expansion zones; the preparation of risk maps for coastal communities, both in Sao Tome and in Principe; and the development of studies of geomorphological and coastal dynamics and vegetation options for coastal protection in most coastal communities.

35. To conclude, the head of the delegation reiterated that despite its vulnerable economic situation, Sao Tome and Principe had achieved significant progress in the fields of health, education and social protection, and in its legislative reform. In addition to those advances, the country had ratified several instruments, demonstrating its willingness to fulfil its human rights obligations.

36. Sao Tome and Principe had presented periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and had extended an invitation to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which had visited the country.

37. Due to the lack of economic, financial and human resources requested for the realization of human rights, the advancements achieved still lagged behind the country's expectations. Sao Tome and Principe hoped to further advance in the realization of human rights by engaging the public sector, civil society stakeholders and bilateral and multilateral partners.

38. The delegation thanked all delegates for their availability and participation in the third universal periodic review of Sao Tome and Principe.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

39. During the interactive dialogue, 66 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
40. Burkina Faso welcomed the adoption of appropriate legislation aimed at combating domestic violence and violence against women and girls. It encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to continue its commitment to improve human rights at the national level, including by combating all forms of violence against women and girls.
41. Cameroon noted improvements in the promotion and protection of human rights, and stated that it considered that Sao Tomé and Principe was on a positive path.
42. Canada remained concerned about domestic violence and the reluctance of victims to prosecute owing to the costs involved and a lack of faith in the justice system. It emphasized the importance of raising awareness of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence. Canada also expressed concern regarding working conditions, and child labour in particular.
43. Chile welcomed the ratification of universal human rights instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and various regional treaties.
44. China expressed appreciation for efforts by Sao Tome and Principe to promote economic and social development, actively respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, improve the quality of primary and secondary education, strengthen the public health system, promote gender equality and protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
45. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Sao Tome and Principe for the progress made in the field of human rights since the presentation of its second national report, and encouraged it to continue its efforts.
46. Cuba recognized the country for the results it had achieved in the promotion and guarantee of the right to education.
47. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commended the State under review for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) of the International Labour Organization.
48. Denmark commended Sao Tome and Principe for having raised the legal age of marriage to 18 years. However, it expressed concern regarding the continued prevalence of early pregnancy and child, early and forced marriage. It also expressed concern that defamation, libel and slander were considered criminal offences under the Penal Code.
49. Djibouti welcomed progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the ratification of international and regional instruments relating to human rights.
50. Egypt welcomed efforts made to strengthen democracy and fundamental freedoms. It recognized progress made in improving the living conditions of citizens and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
51. Ethiopia welcomed the country's decision to ratify regional human rights instruments such as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Maputo Protocol. Ethiopia commended the country for the special attention it accorded to the protection of persons with disabilities and its delineated strategic objective in that regard.
52. Fiji congratulated Sao Tome and Principe for its achievements in the implementation of the recommendations from the previous cycle. Fiji commended the country for its resilience and commitment regarding human rights development, including efforts towards

achieving gender equality and reforms in the area of juvenile justice, and encouraged it to continue such efforts.

53. Finland welcomed the engagement of Sao Tome and Principe in the universal periodic review process.

54. France welcomed the progress of Sao Tome and Principe in terms of respect for children's rights and the ratification of several international instruments.

55. Gabon noted with satisfaction the country's commitment to combating climate change, eliminating extreme poverty and ensuring effective enjoyment of human rights, particularly for vulnerable people, through the adoption of legislation and the creation of human rights institutions. Gabon expressed appreciation for awareness campaigns to promote and protect children's rights, and measures to protect the environment, particularly the ratification of the Paris Agreement in 2016.

56. Georgia commended Sao Tome and Principe for its efforts in implementing the recommendations accepted during the second universal periodic review cycle, including its ratification of international human rights instruments. Georgia welcomed positive developments, particularly measures to combat discrimination and violence against women, and the adoption of relevant legislation.

57. Germany commended Sao Tome and Principe for its exemplary democratic development and for its ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto. Germany expressed concern about the rights of vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

58. Ghana commended Sao Tome and Principe for ratifying the Convention against Torture and for adopting domestic legislation and action plans to promote and protect human rights. Ghana particularly noted the establishment of a multisectoral national committee to coordinate implementation of the child protection policy, created through a national decree that had entered into force in May 2018.

59. Honduras congratulated Sao Tome and Principe on the results obtained in the implementation of recommendations from previous universal periodic review cycles, particularly the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Second Optional Protocol thereto, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

60. Iceland welcomed the ratification by Sao Tome and Principe of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the enactment of the new family law that had established 18 as the minimum age for marriage.

61. India noted that, as an island nation, Sao Tome and Principe was vulnerable to effects of climate change. It lauded the measures taken to mitigate climate change and the development of adaptation plans. India acknowledged the challenges and constraints faced by Sao Tome and Principe and offered cooperation.

62. Indonesia commended Sao Tome and Principe for ratifying a number of international human rights instruments since its previous cycle, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention against Torture.

63. Ireland commended the progress made by Sao Tome and Principe since the previous universal periodic review cycle, including in enacting legislation on protecting children against exploitation. Ireland was concerned that child labour remained widespread, that corporal punishment was not prohibited by law, and that the country had achieved limited progress in establishing an independent national human rights institution.

64. Italy commended Sao Tome and Principe on the ratification of relevant international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

65. Japan expressed appreciation for the country's ratification of multiple human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It noted that the country's commitment to protect and promote civil and political rights had been well demonstrated by the peaceful and democratic transfer of power in 2018.
66. Luxembourg congratulated Sao Tome and Principe on the progress made in the protection and promotion of the economic and social rights of its population.
67. Maldives commended Sao Tome and Principe for its commitment in addressing the impacts of climate change through adaptation and mitigation projects. It welcomed the adoption of the national child protection policy and its action plan, which were aimed at preventing all forms of violence against children.
68. Mali noted the efforts made by Sao Tome and Principe to ratify a large number of international legal instruments. It welcomed the results obtained in terms of universal access to education and the reduction of maternal and child mortality, but noted that extreme poverty was still present despite the initiatives taken to eradicate it.
69. The Marshall Islands commended the efforts of Sao Tome and Principe in ratifying a number of core human rights treaties. It was pleased to note the creation of the Climate Change Adaptation Project and the West African Coastal Resilience Investment Project, both aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change.
70. Mauritania welcomed the efforts made by Sao Tome and Principe to implement the recommendations accepted during the previous review regarding the ratification of several conventions. It also appreciated the progress made by the country in combating poverty and improving the health system.
71. Mauritius congratulated Sao Tome and Principe for the presentation of its national report. It welcomed the progress made in adopting measures to mitigate climate change and the 47 per cent increase in the use of renewable energies.
72. Mexico acknowledged the progress achieved by Sao Tome and Principe, such as the establishment of an advice centre addressing domestic and marital violence and the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
73. Montenegro welcomed the ratification by Sao Tome and Principe of international and regional human rights treaties and commended the adoption of programmes to ensure social protection of the most vulnerable groups and to eliminate discrimination. Montenegro also noted the progress achieved in the area of birth registration and encouraged the Government to ensure access to justice for all women victims of violence.
74. Mozambique welcomed the ratification of a number of regional international instruments in the area of human rights. It commended the efforts and political will to ensure effective enjoyment of human rights in Sao Tome and Principe, despite the huge challenges faced by the country.
75. Namibia noted that Sao Tome and Principe was a party to eight of the nine core international human rights treaties, which was indicative of the Government's commitment to promote and protect human rights. It noted, however, that Sao Tome and Principe had yet to ratify some key optional instruments.
76. Nepal welcomed the adoption of the national health plan. It also welcomed the adoption of the child protection policy and the establishment of a national committee to coordinate its implementation. It encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to continue to take measures to ensure access to free basic, quality education for all children, particularly children from poor communities.
77. The Netherlands welcomed the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, and the establishment of the advice centre addressing domestic and marital violence. However, it was concerned about the widespread occurrence of gender inequalities and inequities in the country.
78. Nigeria noted the Government's efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and in ensuring the socioeconomic well-being of its

population. It also commended Sao Tome and Principe for measures being adopted with a view to protecting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations.

79. The Philippines welcomed the country's recent accession to several core international human rights instruments. It also commended the steps taken to better protect the rights of children, including the right to a name and nationality, and the social assistance provided to children.

80. Portugal welcomed the ratification of the following instruments: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol thereto, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

81. The Russian Federation noted progress in the protection of human rights since the previous universal periodic review cycle and supported the efforts of national authorities to strengthen the national potential in the promotion and protection of human rights.

82. Rwanda commended the country for its achievements in the area of human rights since the previous universal periodic review cycle, in particular measures taken to combat poverty and provide better living conditions for the most vulnerable segment of the population, the adoption of the national social protection policy and steps taken to combat all forms of discrimination against women.

83. Senegal welcomed the ratification of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

84. Serbia expressed appreciation for all the efforts invested by Sao Tome and Principe in implementing recommendations from the previous cycle, in particular the measures taken to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system.

85. Slovenia commended the decision of the Government to change its policy in order to ensure that birth registration was free of charge for children up to 1 year of age, with a view to achieving universal birth registration.

86. South Africa was encouraged by the Government's clear political resolve and commitment to the effective enjoyment of human rights, as commended by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

87. Spain was pleased to note that the country had ratified the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It also welcomed the fact that there was a law against gender-based violence.

88. The Sudan welcomed the steps taken by Sao Tome and Principe to promote and protect human rights despite the many challenges it faced. It commended, in particular, its work in the education and health sectors.

89. Timor-Leste commended the establishment of an intersectoral committee for coordinating the implementation of the child protection policy, and what it had achieved under the aegis of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020.

90. Togo welcomed the progress achieved by Sao Tome and Principe in the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the second universal periodic review cycle. It praised the progress achieved in the strengthening of democracy and the multiparty system, and the adoption of legislative measures to ensure free birth registration.

91. Tunisia welcomed the steps taken in the implementation of the recommendations from the previous cycles of the universal periodic review, especially the ratification of a number of human rights-related international instruments, including in the fields of education, health, gender equality and the prevention of violence against women and children.

92. Ukraine welcomed steps aimed at ensuring progress in health, education, social policies, legislative reform, the ratification of relevant conventions, and measures regarding climate change and the elimination of discrimination against women. It was however concerned about early marriage, child labour and cases of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

93. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized the country's efforts to protect human rights through the ratification of international human rights instruments. It commended Sao Tome and Principe for the delivery of peaceful elections in 2018 and encouraged a free and transparent electoral process in accordance with international human rights standards for the presidential elections that year.

94. The United States of America commended the country's commitment to the promotion of human rights, both domestically and internationally. It noted that progress could still be made to improve anti-corruption efforts, to strengthen efforts to reduce gender-based violence, and to prevent the exploitation of children.

95. Uruguay acknowledged the efforts made by Sao Tome and Principe since the second cycle. It especially applauded the abolition of the death penalty in the country and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

96. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the country's commitment to promoting human rights, to supporting the achievements of the country in the area of education and to achieving a school enrolment rate at the primary level of up to 98 per cent, and also welcomed the significant reduction in maternal and infant mortality. It noted that the country was strongly committed to combating poverty and extreme poverty through programmes aimed at improving the quality of life of the population, paying special attention to the most vulnerable.

97. Zambia commended the Government of Sao Tome and Principe for having ratified several international and regional instruments since 2018, under the lead of international partners such as the African Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

98. Angola noted with interest the initiatives dedicated to the promotion, protection and realization of human rights in the country, and the measures taken to implement the Sustainable Development Goals to improve the well-being of its people, despite the current challenges.

99. Argentina congratulated Sao Tome and Principe for the decision taken in 2017 by the ministries responsible for justice and for finance, which had signed a decree guaranteeing free registration in the civil registry of children under 1 year of age.

100. Australia welcomed the country's ratification of United Nations human rights conventions and the Government's 2018 announcement to prioritize the tackling of corruption. It encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to further integrate international human rights standards into its judicial system.

101. The Bahamas recognized the challenges faced by Sao Tome and Principe, including due to limited human and financial resources, and the threats posed by climate change. It encouraged the country to seek technical assistance and capacity-building support, and to call on the international community to cooperate with the country in that regard.

102. Botswana welcomed the legislative and normative measures taken by Sao Tome and Principe to implement previous recommendations, including on domestic violence, education and access to medicines for HIV/AIDS. It also noted remaining challenges, in particular to ensuring an adequate standard of living and children's rights.

103. Brazil encouraged Sao Tome and Principe to introduce legislation for access to information, in order to guarantee freedom of speech and information. It commended the country's human rights achievements, including regarding civil birth registration, access to water and electricity, and its peaceful transfer of power after the 2018 elections.

104. Morocco noted that Sao Tome and Principe had made progress in the areas of health, social policy, the environment and the ratification of international instruments. It also

expressed appreciation for the attention given to the fight against poverty through the national social protection strategy, and to improving the accessibility and quality of education through the establishment of the Education Policy Charter (2012–2022).

105. The Islamic Republic of Iran recognized the increasing vulnerability of Sao Tome and Principe to climate change, but considered that the country had yet to take effective measures to address it.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

106. **The following recommendations will be examined by Sao Tome and Principe, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council.**

106.1 **Ratify all outstanding international human rights treaties (South Africa) / Ratify pending international instruments (Zambia) / Intensify the process of ratification of the core international human rights instruments (Ukraine) / Advance in the ratification of the main international instruments to which the country is not yet a party (Uruguay) / Continue efforts to ratify international instruments (Morocco);**

106.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Finland) (France) (Germany) (South Africa) (Zambia) / Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras);**

106.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and strengthen the efforts to improve conditions of detention (Italy);**

106.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Botswana) (Burkina Faso) (Germany) (India) (Montenegro) (Namibia) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) / Accede to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Sudan);**

106.5 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Honduras) / Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Sudan);**

106.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Finland) (France) (Luxembourg) / Adhere to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Mexico);**

106.7 **Ratify the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Portugal);**

106.8 **Draft laws criminalizing sexual exploitation and ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (South Africa);**

106.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and adopt measures to protect all children from violence and abuse (Italy);**

106.10 **Pursue the process of aligning domestic legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the country has already ratified (Mozambique);**

- 106.11 Consider the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) / Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Germany) (Japan) (Mexico) / Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);
- 106.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Namibia);
- 106.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);
- 106.14 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France) (Luxembourg);
- 106.15 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Spain);
- 106.16 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius) (Rwanda) (South Africa) (Togo);
- 106.17 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education and thus ensure education for all children, including children with special needs and young people, in a gender-responsive education system, where pregnant girls would be allowed to attend school (Slovenia);
- 106.18 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Senegal) / Ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (South Africa);
- 106.19 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Chile);
- 106.20 Ensure the full incorporation into its legal system of the obligations derived from the human rights treaties to which the country is already a party, requesting assistance from OHCHR in this regard (Uruguay);
- 106.21 Consider the establishment of a proactive reporting system to international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as an organized record-keeping system to address data gaps, especially in children's rights (Philippines);
- 106.22 Continue to take measures to maximize the benefits from the African Continental Free Trade Area (Timor-Leste);
- 106.23 Consolidate human rights policies within the framework of a comprehensive national strategy (Ukraine);
- 106.24 Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);
- 106.25 Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (France);
- 106.26 Establish, without delay, a national human rights institution that complies with the Paris Principles (Ireland);
- 106.27 Continue actions to implement the national human rights institution in 2021 (Georgia);
- 106.28 Pursue the ambitious programme of institutional reforms described in the national report with the support of the United Nations and other technical and financial partners (Luxembourg);
- 106.29 Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, climate

change and disaster risk reduction, and ensure full and meaningful participation of diverse groups, including but not limited to women, children, persons with disabilities and minority groups, and local communities in the implementation (Fiji);

106.30 Continue implementing measures aimed at mitigating the impact of climate change on the human rights of the population (Chile);

106.31 Take the necessary measures to minimize the effects of climate change (Georgia);

106.32 Increase its involvement on environmental issues and take adequate measures to mitigate the effects of climate change (India);

106.33 Take additional measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on human rights (Mozambique);

106.34 Continue efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, including by strengthening community resilience and creating adaptability conditions (Nepal);

106.35 Increase government involvement with climate change issues, including by adopting both preventative and adaptive approaches to mitigate the effects of climate change (Sudan);

106.36 Develop effective measures and policies to address the country's vulnerability to climate change in order to increase its preparedness, in cooperation with the regional and international organizations (Islamic Republic of Iran);

106.37 Develop a comprehensive strategy addressing the sustainable use, management and conservation of marine ecosystems and associated resources (Marshall Islands);

106.38 Take measures to prevent flooding and erosion, such as planting trees and building flood detention basins (Marshall Islands);

106.39 Ensure rational use, management and conservation of aquatic and marine ecosystems and associated resources (Senegal);

106.40 Make the efforts necessary to develop an effective and integrated national strategy to combat discrimination at all levels (Islamic Republic of Iran);

106.41 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);

106.42 Continue efforts to combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);

106.43 Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of co-habiting couples in same-sex unions (Iceland);

106.44 Pass anti-discrimination legislation to explicitly extend protections to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics (Australia);

106.45 Adopt legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, in repetition of the previous universal periodic review cycle (Netherlands);

106.46 Adopt strategies and awareness campaigns to combat homophobia in society and in the family environment (Spain);

- 106.47 Fully implement the government's programme on justice reform to improve the identified institutional and regulatory gaps in the judicial system (Canada);
- 106.48 Establish a youth training policy that meets the country's development needs (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 106.49 Improve the reporting records on human rights abuses and increase resources allocated to the domestic monitoring bodies to adequately address human rights violations (Germany);
- 106.50 Continue enhancing the capacities of institutions to deal with organized crime, corruption and other challenges related to the rule of law (Indonesia);
- 106.51 Scale up efforts in upholding human rights and seek necessary support to enhance its capacity in this regard (Nigeria);
- 106.52 Continue efforts aimed at improving the situation in the functioning of the judiciary and penitentiary system (Russian Federation);
- 106.53 Promote progress made in the field of fundamental freedoms, strengthening the principles of democracy, establishing social peace and improving the livelihoods of the population (Tunisia);
- 106.54 Ensure accountability for human rights violations through independent investigations and prosecution, and access to justice as well as full reparation for victims (Ukraine);
- 106.55 Enact reforms to reduce corruption, increase transparency of financial assets of political leaders, investigate incidents of police corruption, and conduct trials of public officials accused of corruption (United States of America);
- 106.56 Increase resources allocated to its monitoring bodies to adequately address human rights violations (Zambia);
- 106.57 Strictly enforce anti-corruption laws, including through the investigation and prosecution of persons who commit such offences (Australia);
- 106.58 Amend the Penal Code to decriminalize defamation, libel and slander, and place these within the civil code, in accordance with international standards (Denmark);
- 106.59 Introduce an access-to-information law in accordance with international standards, and decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code in accordance with international standards (Germany);
- 106.60 Consider introducing an access-to-information law in accordance with international standards and practices (Ghana);
- 106.61 Raise awareness about combating human trafficking, exploitation of children and child labour (Egypt);
- 106.62 Strengthen efforts to raise public awareness on the adverse human rights impacts of labour and sex trafficking and train government competent authorities on how to effectively reduce the incidence of labour and sex trafficking (Fiji);
- 106.63 Protect women and children from human trafficking for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation (France);
- 106.64 Strengthen the respect for human rights in maritime sector, including by abolishing human trafficking, slavery and other human rights abuses in seafood and fisheries sectors, including through bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);

- 106.65 Enact a law that criminalizes trafficking in persons, including children and adolescents for the purpose of sexual exploitation and child pornography (Mexico);
- 106.66 Continue to take measures to raise public awareness of trafficking in persons (Timor-Leste);
- 106.67 Continue to implement measures to combat trafficking in persons, generally for labour or sexual exploitation, raising public awareness and training the competent authorities (Brazil);
- 106.68 Work to develop a comprehensive action plan for integrating young people into the labour market and reducing unemployment (Egypt);
- 106.69 Improve the conditions of the labour market, in particular for young people (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 106.70 Reinforce and protect economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);
- 106.71 Redouble efforts to ensure gender equality in the country's political, social, economic and cultural activities, and generate strategies that allow the obtention of data for all the indicators to be used to monitor the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals from a gender perspective (Chile);
- 106.72 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and to improve people's living standards, so as to provide a solid foundation for the people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 106.73 Continue applying poverty reduction measures and ensure the exercise of the right to food, within the framework of the national strategy for social protection (Cuba);
- 106.74 Continue increasing the national coverage of drinking water and sanitation, as well as the coverage and impact of health services (Cuba);
- 106.75 Continue to promote economic and social development aimed at eradicating poverty and improving the living conditions of the population, especially those living in rural areas (Djibouti);
- 106.76 Continue its engagement with the international community to realize endeavours of extreme-poverty alleviation (Ethiopia);
- 106.77 Enhance its social protection scheme with a particular focus on people in the most vulnerable situations (Ethiopia);
- 106.78 Consider addressing the root cause of youth unemployment in the country, by providing operational management of policies and programmes for the youth (Ghana);
- 106.79 Intensify measures to implement the national social protection strategy, in order to contribute more effectively to the elimination of extreme poverty (Mali);
- 106.80 Adopt further measures to ensure poverty reduction and the empowerment of women, as well as the protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);
- 106.81 Step up efforts to provide drinking water and sanitation in all parts of the country (Serbia);
- 106.82 Make the necessary steps to develop and implement national policies to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (Ukraine);
- 106.83 Continue strengthening its policies and social programmes in the fight against poverty and extreme poverty in order to improve the quality of life of the population, especially those from the most excluded sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

- 106.84 Continue to implement and provide adequate resources for the national social protective strategy, which aims to contribute to the elimination of extreme poverty over the next 10 years (Bahamas);
- 106.85 Take further measures to enhance the quality-of-living conditions of children and women (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 106.86 Take further steps to eradicate extreme poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 106.87 Ensure full and equal access to modern methods of contraception and to family planning services (Denmark);
- 106.88 Continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information (Fiji);
- 106.89 Intensify actions to combat early pregnancy and moral abandonment of children, and elaborate a programme with a view to ensuring the protection of children affected by this problem (Gabon);
- 106.90 Implement a recurring course on sexual education of high quality and quantity in schools in order to prevent the further spread of HIV (Germany);
- 106.91 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the outcome document of the International Conference on Population and Development to respond to the needs of young people and reduce the early pregnancy rate from 15 to 10 per cent by 2023 through the intensification of comprehensive sexuality education in all secondary schools and the provision of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health in all health centres and posts (Iceland);
- 106.92 Continue the efforts made to tackle HIV and ensure that infected people, especially women and children, have access to adequate health care (Tunisia);
- 106.93 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the outcome document of the International Conference on Population and Development to achieve zero unmet needs for family planning by 2030, and increase the prevalence of contraception from 41 to 50 per cent, as stated in the 2019–2022 national family planning strategic plan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 106.94 Adopt necessary measures to reduce existing disparities in access to prenatal care services and delivery in health centres, with the objective of reducing the neonatal mortality rate (Argentina);
- 106.95 Repeal government regulations that prohibit pregnant teenagers from attending high school to ensure women's and girls' right to education (Australia);
- 106.96 Continue to implement policies aimed at supporting education for all and accelerating the integration into professional life of young people who have dropped out of school, in particular girls (Djibouti);
- 106.97 Employ more qualified teachers at primary and secondary schools, ensure sufficiently systematic advanced training for already employed teachers, and increase the number of years of compulsory education of students to nine (Germany);
- 106.98 Improve the quality of education at all levels and enhance efforts to prevent dropouts and grade repetitions, especially among girls (Japan);
- 106.99 Strengthen its efforts to improve and ensure equal access to quality education for all children (Maldives);

- 106.100 **Ensure access for all, girls and boys, to quality education on an equal footing, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Mauritius);**
- 106.101 **Enshrine the right to education for all in its Constitution, increase the number of years of compulsory education to 9 and the number of years of free education to 12, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, and make 1 year of pre-primary education free and compulsory, in accordance with the same Goal (South Africa);**
- 106.102 **Recognize in the Constitution the right to education for all people, and guarantee compulsory and free primary and secondary education (Mexico);**
- 106.103 **Guarantee free public education for all (Ukraine);**
- 106.104 **Continue strengthening the advanced programmes in the area of education and health (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 106.105 **Reinforce the implementation of educational and training programmes in the area of human rights at the three levels of education, with the support, if possible, of OHCHR (Angola);**
- 106.106 **Provide at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education, of which at least 9 are compulsory, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Bahamas);**
- 106.107 **Continue the progress made in promoting the rights of women and girls (Cameroon);**
- 106.108 **Educate the public, law enforcement officials and the judiciary about the rights of women, especially in cases of rape and domestic violence (Canada);**
- 106.109 **Guarantee access for women and girls to sexual health and reproductive rights and comprehensive sexuality education, and combat domestic violence effectively (France);**
- 106.110 **Strengthen efforts in curbing violence against women (Indonesia);**
- 106.111 **Enhance efforts to implement existing policy instruments aimed at protecting women's rights, and enhance the support given to women victims of violence, including by providing adequate resources to counselling centres (Italy);**
- 106.112 **Strengthen the capacities of the domestic violence counselling centres and the reception and support structures for victims of domestic violence (Luxembourg);**
- 106.113 **Enact general legislation for the protection of women against sexual harassment, regardless of the environment wherein the offence is committed (Netherlands);**
- 106.114 **Strengthen awareness-raising regarding domestic violence against women and children as a crime, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and that victims are protected and provided with compensation (Portugal);**
- 106.115 **Ensure that equal opportunities are given to women and girls in Sao Tome and Principe to address gender disparities (South Africa);**
- 106.116 **Strengthen the material and human resources of the centre for counselling on domestic violence (Spain);**
- 106.117 **Continue efforts to combat domestic and gender-based violence and child abuse and further strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for this purpose (Tunisia);**
- 106.118 **Create effective mechanisms to prevent gender-based violence (Ukraine);**

- 106.119 Support efforts by the Prime Minister's office to reduce levels of domestic violence, investigate, prosecute and convict criminals who commit rape or gender-based violence (United States of America);
- 106.120 Continue consolidating the measures adopted to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 106.121 Adopt specific measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making positions (Angola);
- 106.122 Intensify its efforts to promote and protect women's rights in order to combat all forms of violence against women and promote gender equality (Brazil);
- 106.123 Develop necessary legislative measures to combat domestic violence, in particular in areas with a high rate of domestic violence (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 106.124 Continue the efforts to promote gender equality and better protect women's rights (China);
- 106.125 Take further action to achieve gender equality, such as establishing a plan to increase female participation in political institutions, and preventing sexual violence against women and girls (Marshall Islands);
- 106.126 Continue taking effective measures, including awareness-raising programmes, to eliminate all types of violence against women and children (Nepal);
- 106.127 Strengthen efforts to empower women, especially in encouraging recourse to available legal remedies when their rights are violated (Philippines);
- 106.128 Ensure the protection in law and in practice of the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);
- 106.129 Reinforce relevant measures to address the high prevalence of child abuse and domestic violence and ensure all perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (Ghana);
- 106.130 Enact laws explicitly prohibiting prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children (Burkina Faso);
- 106.131 Reinforce cooperation with the United Nations for the protection of the rights of the child (Cameroon);
- 106.132 Revise the Labour Code to fully harmonize it with international laws, and enforce the prohibition of child labour in the informal, agricultural and domestic sectors (Canada);
- 106.133 Establish explicit prohibitions against all forms of corporal punishment on children in all settings, including at home, and eliminate any provision that allows this practice (Chile);
- 106.134 Make the national commission for the rights of the child operational in order to better protect and defend children (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 106.135 Continue to take positive steps to eliminate corporal punishment in all settings, especially against children (Fiji);
- 106.136 Grant the national committee on the rights of the child sufficient resources to enable it to play its role fully (Gabon);
- 106.137 Develop policies and legislation for the protection of the rights of the child, including the implementation of the national action plan on child labour, and the explicit prohibition of all corporal punishment of children in all settings as well as repeal all provisions defending its use (Ireland);

- 106.138 Strengthen efforts to protect children, including by ending child labour, violence against children, sexual violence and early marriage (Japan);
- 106.139 Strengthen its efforts to raise awareness on child labour (Maldives);
- 106.140 Take measures to ensure that all children are registered at birth (Mozambique);
- 106.141 Take concrete measures to eliminate child labour and to ensure a universal family benefit programme for children (Portugal);
- 106.142 Revise the Penal Code and all other legislation affecting children, in order to make sure that it meets the standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (South Africa);
- 106.143 Revise the children's code to bring it into conformity with international law (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 106.144 Take effective measures to better fight against child labour, and violence against children and women, including early marriage (Togo);
- 106.145 Sensitize populations on the need to register births (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 106.146 Eliminate all forms of child labour as set out under the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) through the implementation of the national action plan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 106.147 Register all births, provide all children with birth certificates and investigate and address all instances of neglect and abuse of children (Zambia);
- 106.148 Enact stricter laws regarding corporal punishment and child abuse (Zambia);
- 106.149 Consider extending the deadline for registering children at birth (Angola);
- 106.150 Review, with a view to strengthening it, national legislation in the area of protection of children, especially in combating networks of trafficking and child labour (Argentina);
- 106.151 Continue efforts to combat discrimination, ill-treatment and exploitation of children (Morocco);
- 106.152 Bring into full operation the national commission for the coordination of the implementation of the national child protection policy (Bahamas);
- 106.153 Take additional efforts to eliminate all forms of child labour and child abuse (Montenegro);
- 106.154 Adopt a law to criminalize sexual exploitation and child prostitution and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Gabon);
- 106.155 Identify and protect children from sexual exploitation, reduce instances of child labour by increasing labour inspections and expand protections to the informal sector (United States of America);
- 106.156 Further reinforce its children's rights framework through concrete measures to address child prostitution and sexual exploitation (Philippines);
- 106.157 Continue its plans and programmes aimed at protecting vulnerable groups (Mauritania);
- 106.158 Conduct a population census in 2022 in order to ensure that timely and disaggregated data is used in the formulation of human rights policies and to address social and economic inequalities (Mexico);
- 106.159 Take all necessary measures to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights and the dignity of older persons, particularly in the

current situation of the extreme vulnerability they face in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argentina);

106.160 Develop, with the technical support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, national legislation that includes the establishment of a procedure for the determination of refugee status, thus complying with the obligations derived from the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Uruguay);

106.161 Continue the efforts to integrate persons with disabilities into the process of facilitating access to health care and education (Cameroon).

107. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sao Tome and Principe was headed by the Minister of Justice Public Administration and Human Rights (MJAPDH), H.E. Ms. Ivete Lima Correia, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Gregório Santiago, Coordinator of the Human Rights Office of MJAPDH;
 - Mr. Manuel Ramos, Advisor to MJAPDH;
 - Ms. Ernestina Menezes, Institute for Equality and Gender (INPG);
 - Ms. Vilma Loureiro Pinto, Ministry of Labor, Family, Solidarity and Professional Training (MTFSFP);
 - Ms. Anya Santos, Ministry of Health (MS);
 - Mr. Homero Luiz, Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEES);
 - Ms. Vanda Rompão, Ministry of Planning, Finance and Blue Economy (MPFEA).
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