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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Greece

Addendum

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

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. Greece welcomes all recommendations received (239 in total) during its third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 1 November 2021. Greece would like to clarify that its overall approach towards UPR recommendations is to accept those on which measures have already been or are currently being implemented or where measures are envisaged to be taken before its next voluntary mid-term report or its next UPR in 2026.

2. Hence, after careful consideration, Greece is pleased to **accept (fully or partially) 219** recommendations while it **takes note of 20**. Details are provided below.

3. In particular:

Greece accepts the following recommendations: 130.5, 130.8, 130.9, 130.10, 130.11, 130.12, 130.13, 130.14, 130.15, 130.16, 130.17, 130.18, 130.19, 130.20, 130.21, 130.22, 130.23, 130.24, 130.25, 130.26, 130.27, 130.28, 130.29, 130.30, 130.31, 130.32, 130.33, 130.34, 130.35, 130.36, 130.37, 130.38, 130.39, 130.40, 130.41, 130.42, 130.43, 130.44, 130.45, 130.46, 130.48, 130.49, 130.50, 130.51, 130.52, 130.53, 130.54, 130.55, 130.56, 130.57, 130.58, 130.59, 130.60, 130.61, 130.62, 130.63, 130.64, 130.66, 130.67, 130.68, 130.69, 130.70, 130.71, 130.72, 130.73, 130.74, 130.75, 130.76, 130.77, 130.78, 130.79, 130.83, 130.84, 130.85, 130.86, 130.87, 130.89, 130.90, 130.91, 130.92, 130.93, 130.94, 130.95, 130.98, 130.99, 130.100, 130.101, 130.102, 130.103, 130.104, 130.105, 130.106, 130.107, 130.108, 130.109, 130.110, 130.111, 130.112, 130.113, 130.114, 130.115, 130.116, 130.117, 130.118, 130.119, 130.120, 130.121, 130.122, 130.123, 130.124, 130.125, 130.126, 130.127, 130.128, 130.129, 130.130, 130.131, 130.132, 130.133, 130.134, 130.135, 130.136, 130.137, 130.138, 130.139, 130.140, 130.141, 130.142, 130.143, 130.144, 130.145, 130.146, 130.147, 130.148, 130.149, 130.150, 130.151, 130.152, 130.153, 130.154, 130.155, 130.156, 130.157, 130.158, 130.159, 130.160, 130.161, 130.162, 130.163, 130.164, 130.165, 130.166, 130.167, 130.168, 130.169, 130.170, 130.171, 130.172, 130.173, 130.174, 130.175, 130.176, 130.177, 130.178, 130.179, 130.180, 130.181, 130.182, 130.183, 130.184, 130.185, 130.189, 130.190, 130.191, 130.192, 130.193, 130.194, 130.195, 130.196, 130.197, 130.198, 130.199, 130.200, 130.201, 130.202, 130.203, 130.205, 130.206, 130.208, 130.209, 130.210, 130.211, 130.212, 130.213, 130.215, 130.216, 130.217, 130.218, 130.219, 130.220, 130.221, 130.223, 130.224, 130.225, 130.228, 130.229, 130.230, 130.231, 130.232, 130.233, 130.234, 130.235, 130.236, 130.237, 130.238, and 130.239.

4. In this respect, Greece would like to clarify the following:

(a) **Recommendation 130.43** is accepted taking into account that, in Greece, freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution and relevant legal provisions; thus, if needed (i.e. in cases of hate speech) judicial review and subsequent measures adopted ensure the full implementation of such guarantees.

(b) **Recommendation 130.44** is accepted with the rationale that Greece will consider implementing more easily accessible procedures regarding gender change.

(c) **Recommendation 130.60** is accepted with the rationale that issues, such as those raised in the said recommendation are better addressed through enhanced bilateral and international cooperation.

(d) On the issues raised under **recommendation 130.91**, Greece would like to stress that the purpose of the recently adopted Law 4825/2021 is to incorporate NGOs and their members' / volunteers' assistance to the national command and control scheme for search and rescue operations of the Hellenic Coast Guard, in order to further ensure that people in distress receive assistance of the highest professional standards. Therefore, it is not true that NGOs or their members / volunteers are being prosecuted for their actions; what is being prosecuted is any illegal interference in the area of competence of the Hellenic Coast Guard.

(e) Moreover, with respect to **recommendations 130.202, 130.203, 130.209, 130.215, 130.216, 130.231, 130.237 and 130.238**, Greece underlines that the Hellenic Coast Guard has been rescuing lives at sea and will continue to do so. At the same time, it is complying with relevant EU Regulations regarding interception of boats entering Greek territorial waters. Greece also stresses that at land borders the Hellenic Police is ensuring that all third country nationals crossing the border illegally are being treated according to

relevant national legislation and international law. It should be noted that whenever any such allegation(s) arise, a three-level mechanism is already in place to address them. This mechanism consists of the following procedures: i) as soon as any information regarding such allegations or complaints reach the competent Authorities, an affidavit administrative examination is ordered to be held without delay; ii) in parallel, such claims may be submitted to the competent prosecutorial Greek Authorities; and iii) moreover, the Greek Ombudsman and the National Transparency Authority, both independent monitoring Authorities, are also receiving relevant case-files. In any event, it is envisaged to further enhance the effectiveness of this mechanism.

5. **Greece partially accepts** the following recommendations:

(a) **Recommendation 130.6** is partially accepted only with regard to the Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action which Greece will consider signing and noted regarding the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

(b) **Recommendation 130.47** is partially accepted only with regard to the part on Roma population, and noted with regards to the ratification and effective implementation of the Framework Convention for the protection of National Minorities.

(c) **Recommendation 130.222** is also partially accepted only with regard to the part on intensifying efforts to assess asylum claims. For the second part, see paragraph above regarding recommendations 130.202, 130.203, 130.209, 130.215, 130.216, 130.231, 130.237 and 130.238.

6. **Greece takes note** of the following recommendations: 130.1, 130.2, 130.3, 130.4, 130.7, 130.65, 130.80, 130.81, 130.82, 130.88, 130.96, 130.97, 130.186, 130.187, 130.188, 130.204, 130.207, 130.214, 130.226, and 130.227.

7. In this respect, Greece would like to clarify the following:

(a) **Recommendation 130.1:** Greece, along with all other European Union Member States, does not intend to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. However, the rights of migrant workers and members of their families are safeguarded in Greece under relevant European Union and domestic legislation, as well as under the general human rights treaties to which Greece is a Party.

(b) **Recommendations 130.2 and 130.3:** Greece attaches great importance to the Optional Protocols to the UN human rights treaties, including those providing for a communications procedure. While the competent Greek Authorities are closely following the Views and Decisions adopted by the respective Committees of the ICESCR and the CRC and are looking forward to further indications as to how they will implement the relevant legal instruments, however, at this stage, Greece is not in a position to take steps towards the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the ICESCR and the CRC.

(c) **Recommendation 130.88:** According to relevant Greek Law, the specific location of the alternative service performed by conscientious objectors is being decided based upon the wider public sector Authorities' needs and requirements. However, as enlisted personnel serves outside their place of habitual residence, so is the case with conscientious objectors, meaning they are asked to perform their alternative service outside their place of habitual residence being able, in all cases, to request a transfer after five months of alternative service.