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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review *

Equatorial Guinea

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-third session from 6 to 17 May 2019. The review of Equatorial Guinea was held at the 12th meeting, on 13 May 2019. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea was headed by Alfonso Nsue Mokuy, Third Deputy Prime Minister, in Charge of Human Rights. At its 17th meeting, held on 16 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Equatorial Guinea.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Equatorial Guinea: Burkina Faso, Iceland and Ukraine.

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 Equatorial Guinea:

- (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/GNQ/1);
- (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/GNQ/2);
- (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/GNQ/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Equatorial Guinea 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 stated that it was pleased to appear before the Human Rights Council. The State's third national report covered the implementation of the recommendations accepted at the previous evaluation within the framework of the universal period review. The report contained an examination, in a spirit of transparency, of the human rights situation, the implementation of the recommendations accepted and various international commitments, and the challenges encountered during the implementation process.

6. At the third National Economic Conference, it had been decided to give priority to consolidating social equity and eradicating poverty with a view to meeting the objectives of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want of the African Union. Equatorial Guinea reaffirmed its political will and determination to devote more efforts and capacity to building a national society in which human rights constituted the supreme values of peaceful and democratic coexistence.

7. Regarding follow-up to the universal periodic review, the Intersectoral Technical Committee, composed of members of all departments of the central Administration, the Ombudsman's Office, the Supreme Court of Justice, Parliament and the Centre for Human Rights, had been set up in June 2018, and had been responsible for drafting the national report.

8. All relevant departments of the Administration were being trained, with the technical assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to gather statistical data and other reports and information relevant to recommendations received through the

universal periodic review and from treaty bodies, special procedures and regional human rights organs and bodies. The establishment of such ministerial coordination bodies would strengthen plans and inform the possible creation in the future of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up with respect to the recommendations issued by all human rights mechanisms.

9. Under the Constitution, freedom of expression, thought, ideas and opinions were recognized, and under Act No. 6/1997 on the press, publishing and audiovisual media, the free establishment of all media without prior censorship was authorized. The Government was open to discussions of proposals to review that Act with a view to better compliance with its objectives.

10. Various newspapers, television networks, WhatsApp and the Internet currently functioned in the country. There were no restrictions on access to social media, although the Government acknowledged the persistence of some technical operational difficulties. Concerning the online newspaper *Diario Rombe* and the radio station *Radio Macuto*, the Government applied the relevant law, namely Act No. 6/1997, and accorded primacy to the right to honour and the good name and reputation of persons and institutions, as recognized by the Constitution.

11. As mandated at the third National Economic Conference, the Government had set the review of Act No. 1/1999 as a political priority for the country.

12. The main measures taken by the State to ensure an independent judicial system included professionalizing the judiciary, providing training to strengthen the capacity of legal actors and bolstering the role of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary. Additionally, in order to minimize as far as possible cases of abuse of power, the disciplinary regime to which judicial bodies were subjected would be further strengthened.

13. The security forces were undergoing a progressive process of professionalization. To that end, the EMIGO military academy and the Judicial Institute had been created and were being strengthened. The Government was open to cooperation with the international community on those issues, including with the United Nations and with the States development partners.

14. Regarding the issue of child labour, the country had ratified the relevant international human rights instruments and the Presidency had established a national commission on the rights of the child.

15. Detainees were guaranteed free legal assistance and a specific budget had been allocated to the Bar Association of Equatorial Guinea to that effect, as established by law. Persons arrested remained in police custody for up to 72 hours, after which period, by law, a judicial authority must issue an explicit authorization to detain. New penitentiary facilities had been built in Bata and in Oving Asem, Mongomo. Moreover, the Government had established clinics in prisons to ensure basic health care, and the Ministries of Justice and of Health had reached an agreement for prisoners to be treated in the main hospitals. The Government had recognized that there had been deaths in custody and was ready to allow impartial observers to visit jails and prisons in coordination with national oversight bodies, to provide observations and guidance.

16. Whenever there had been cases in which there had been sufficient evidence of abuse by the security forces, disciplinary action had been taken and the perpetrators had been removed from their functions, made available to the courts and punished in accordance with the law.

17. The right to peaceful assembly was provided for in the national binding agreement between the Government and political parties, as well as in the outcome document of the national political dialogue that had recently been held in Malabo.

18. Freedom of association and the right to strike, to demonstrate and to lodge a complaint were enshrined in the Constitution, and the exercise of those rights was regulated by Act No. 12/1992 on trade unions and Act No. 5/2015 on freedom of assembly and demonstration. The Government was open to proposals to review legislation to better fulfil the objectives of those laws.

19. In order to combat trafficking in persons, the Government had decided to give priority to raising awareness of the issue both among society in general and among the bodies responsible for tackling it, particularly the Directorate-General of Human Rights. In cooperation with the Ombudsman's Office and UNDP, a five-year project on preventing and combating trafficking in persons in Equatorial Guinea had been agreed upon.

20. Regarding the issuing of a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the Government did not oppose visits by special procedure mandate holders when requests for such visits were issued appropriately.

21. The legal system of Equatorial Guinea recognized unequivocally the principle of equal rights and non-discrimination based on gender, and the country had ratified the main international human rights instruments on that issue. There was no discrimination between men and women, and article 13 of the Constitution guaranteed that both genders are equal. A bill on gender-based violence, which would address domestic violence and sexual harassment, had been drafted by the Senate and was currently pending.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

23. Mozambique commended Equatorial Guinea for its adoption of the Better Health for All programme under the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, and for its accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

24. Myanmar noted the State's efforts since the previous universal periodic review cycle to improve the quality of life and education and to combat poverty and gender inequality, and commended it for its achievements in increasing primary and secondary school enrolment rates.

25. Namibia congratulated Equatorial Guinea on its national report, on its inclusive approach towards the implementation of accepted recommendations from the previous review, and on its ratification of several international conventions.
26. The Netherlands expressed concern about the lack of progress on legislative reform, particularly regarding the independence of the judiciary, about the delay in the ratification of several international instruments and about limitations on certain fundamental freedoms.
27. Nicaragua recognized the action of the public institutions of the Government, which had led to real improvements in the human rights of the population.
28. Nigeria commended efforts by Equatorial Guinea to strengthen its legal and institutional framework on human rights, including engagement with human rights mechanisms, and its efforts and strategies to combat corruption.
29. Paraguay acknowledged the Government's willingness to complete investigations of allegations of torture, but it remained concerned about reports of extrajudicial executions despite a moratorium on the application of the death penalty.
30. The Philippines noted measures to enhance social security and health care. It welcomed the openness of Equatorial Guinea in acknowledging challenges regarding gender-based violence and discrimination against women and its commitment to address those issues.
31. Qatar noted the measures taken through the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 to combat poverty and improve the living standards of the population, especially in education and health.
32. The Republic of Korea commended the State for progress made in translating the concept of gender equality, which was enshrined in the Constitution of 2012, into concrete legal initiatives such as the pending bill on the protection framework for gender-based violence.
33. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts of Equatorial Guinea to implement the recommendations stemming from the second cycle of the universal periodic review, but noted that the human rights situation remained challenging.
34. Rwanda welcomed positive steps taken to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle and commended Equatorial Guinea for its efforts to improve the socioeconomic status of its citizens and to address inequality.
35. Senegal welcomed the adoption and implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, specifically the strengthening of public finances and monitoring systems as part of that plan.
36. Serbia commended the State for the organization by the Directorate-General of Human Rights, in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), of workshops on regional and international human rights instruments and mechanisms, which should facilitate the implementation of recommendations received from the United Nations.
37. Sierra Leone noted that despite the country's delay in ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it was taking steps to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities. It commended the State for the adoption of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020.
38. Slovenia expressed appreciation for the efforts made to empower women and girls and to protect and promote the rights of the child, while expressing concern about restrictions on fundamental freedoms, especially affecting human rights defenders and journalists.
39. South Africa welcomed the ratification by Equatorial Guinea of international human rights instruments.
40. Spain praised the measures adopted since the previous review cycle and thanked the delegation for the responses that it had given to its advance questions.
41. The Sudan welcomed the efforts made to promote and protect human rights and the implementation of several recommendations from the previous review cycle. It praised the State on the national plan to combat poverty and the programmes launched to reach economic targets.
42. While expressing its general concern about the human rights situation in the country, Switzerland took note of the moratorium on the implementation of death penalty and encouraged Equatorial Guinea to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
43. Timor-Leste commended the State for the establishment of the National Codification Commission, whose role was to initiate legislative reform. It noted a set of strategies to eradicate gender-based disparities and prevent violence against women. It encouraged the adoption of the draft personal and family code.
44. Togo welcomed efforts to increase the well-being of the most marginalized groups, including older persons, women, children and persons with disabilities. It acknowledged the moratorium on death penalty, which had been in place since 2014, and the construction of modern prisons, which would improve conditions of detention.
45. Tunisia praised the State for its ratification of several international conventions and for the moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty. It noted the national plan to combat poverty, which would guarantee sustainable development.
46. Turkey noted that Equatorial Guinea had one of the highest national incomes per capita in Africa and encouraged the strengthening of the rule of law in line with its economic wealth. Turkey commended the State for its accession to the United Nations Convention

against Corruption.

47. Uganda commended the State for the progress made in protecting human rights but noted with concern the high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS, especially among young people, and encouraged the Government to strengthen its efforts to tackle that scourge.

48. Ukraine noted of the temporary amnesty on the death penalty. It encouraged Equatorial Guinea to strengthen its efforts towards guaranteeing gender equality and women's rights by taking effective steps to eliminate domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse.

49. The United Kingdom urged Equatorial Guinea to build on efforts to tackle human trafficking. It remained concerned at the limited human rights progress since the country's 2014 review and noted the persistence of severe restrictions on democratic space.

50. The United States remained concerned by reports of arbitrary detention and violence by security forces, including alleged extrajudicial killings and the use of torture. It urged the Government to end the intimidation of civil society, journalists and political opposition members.

51. Uruguay acknowledged the efforts made to ratify international instruments and urged Equatorial Guinea to continue ratifying other human rights conventions and enhancing its efforts to ensure human rights for all persons without any discrimination.

52. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the State for the increase in access to basic services, action taken in support of families of persons with disabilities with limited resources, the construction of university campuses and the A Roof for All Major Programme, which had delivered thousands of homes.

53. Zambia raised concerns regarding female prisoners vulnerable to sexual assault and sexual violence by prison guards and fellow prisoners. It was also concerned at the continued harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents.

54. Zimbabwe acknowledged the adoption of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020. It highlighted the budgetary allocations to the social sector, including the construction of hospitals, polyclinics and education and health-care centres.

55. Algeria expressed appreciation for the State's accession to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights through the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020.

56. Angola noted efforts made to align the national legislative framework with the country's international human rights obligations. It welcomed the fight against corruption and commended the State for its efforts to diversify the national economy.

57. Argentina welcomed the creation in June 2018 of the Intersectoral Technical Committee in order to establish an inclusive process to follow up on the implementation of review recommendations.

58. Australia was deeply concerned about the narrowing political space. It urged Equatorial Guinea to institute legislative change, and to bring domestic law into compliance with international human rights obligations.

59. Belgium expressed appreciation for the efforts that Equatorial Guinea had made to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle. However, several major sources of concern remained.

60. Benin welcomed measures taken with a view to strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework, particularly the adoption of a national plan to combat poverty and regulatory measures to improve the situation of persons with disabilities.

61. The Plurinational State of Bolivia noted and welcomed efforts to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

62. Botswana expressed appreciation for the incorporation of persons with disabilities into the social security mechanism and the creation of a special service for persons with disabilities in the National Social Security Institute. It further welcomed strategies aimed at eradicating gender-based disparities.

63. Brazil congratulated Equatorial Guinea for its efforts to ensure the rights to adequate housing, health and education of its population. Brazil urged the country to take measures to combat HIV/AIDS and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

64. Burkina Faso welcomed efforts to implement recommendations received during the previous cycle which had led to establishing a legislative and institutional framework to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the field.

65. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea thanked countries that had made helpful suggestions and recommendations and highlighted that the State's objective was to improve its laws and institutions.

66. Regarding the death penalty, the Government had decided to abolish the death penalty and had prepared a decree, which had been put before Parliament for approval. The abolition of the death penalty had therefore practically been achieved.

67. There had been great progress in the field of education. Very few pupils now dropped out of school and training was provided for teachers at all levels. Nevertheless, one of the Government's goals was to resolve remaining issues leading to school dropouts. A university campus in Malabo had been completed and construction of other campuses had nearly been finalized.

68. At the third National Economic Conference, it had been decided to undertake a sweeping review of all the laws of Equatorial Guinea to ensure that they met the needs of the country and the requirements of the international community. Equatorial Guinea was committed to protecting all of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

69. The State was present on all fronts and was striving to improve living conditions, including by ensuring water, housing, electricity, health, education and sanitation for all persons in the country. Equatorial Guinea was developing an action plan to combat poverty and would strive to improve social protections.

70. Approximately 80 per cent of the country's economy was dependent on fossil fuels. As decided during the third National Economic Conference, the country was looking to diversify its economy through the development of agriculture, tourism and fishery. The National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 included a political commitment to improve infrastructure. Though the country had already achieved a great deal in terms of development of its infrastructure and other capacities, it had not yet reached the desired level for an emerging economy, which was why the Government would extend the Horizon plan to 2035.

71. Measures were being taken to improve prisons. The separation of men and women prisoners was ensured in the country's prisons.

72. Equatorial Guinea would review the criteria relating to human rights defenders. A human rights defender should not, at the same time, act as a political leader, and there should be no confusion between the two fields. In situations where human rights defenders took on the role of political actors and attacked institutions, the security forces could come into conflict with them.

73. No journalist was persecuted or was in detention in Equatorial Guinea. However, as already indicated, the country would improve the press law and broaden it to bring it into line with current standards. Moreover, civil society laws would be enacted to enhance the cooperation between civil society and the State.

74. A number of human rights institutions existed in Equatorial Guinea, and the Government would try to ensure that its national human rights commission complied with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The only existing challenge was that according to the country's legislation, all public functions in the country had to be approved by the President, which could be a difficulty in the establishment of such an institution. Nevertheless, the issue would be carefully examined.

75. The country will also ratify additional international human rights instruments. However, as was decided by other members of the African Union, Equatorial Guinea would not become a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

76. The rights of migrant workers would be protected and the Government paid particular attention to persons with disabilities and their inclusion in society.

77. Burundi expressed appreciation for the adoption of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, whose implementation had already helped raise living standards. It further welcomed measures taken to improve access to free, high-quality health care for all.

78. Cabo Verde welcomed the State's accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and measures to improve the status of women and children. It urged the authorities to improve access to employment and revenue for all.

79. Canada commended the Government for the amnesty of July 2018 and the pardon for political prisoners in October 2018. It urged an enlargement of the democratic space, especially for civil society organizations.

80. Chad welcomed the establishment of the National Codification Commission, with a view to initiating legislative reform and ensuring that the country's legal framework was in conformity with the demands of a modern and effective justice system, and the ratification of international instruments.

81. Chile welcomed efforts by the Directorate-General of Human Rights to increase public officials' awareness of human rights protection. Chile asked about the process and deadlines for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

82. China welcomed the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 and efforts to drive socioeconomic development, eliminate poverty, boost education and health programmes, raise school enrolment and actively prevent and treat malaria and HIV/AIDS.

83. Congo noted the moratorium on the application of death penalty and welcomed the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, the results of which pointed to an improvement in people's living standards.

84. Costa Rica was deeply concerned by allegations of the restriction of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, reports of torture, political persecution and arbitrary detention, and the lack of independence of the judiciary.

85. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the ratification of and accession to certain international instruments, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and urged the Government to pursue such efforts.

86. Croatia acknowledged the State's adherence to several human rights instruments, and efforts made concerning accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It expressed concern at the high levels of early marriages and adolescent pregnancies.

87.Cuba expressed appreciation for progress made by Equatorial Guinea in updating legislation in various areas and efforts to reduce poverty and make progress in such fields as health care and education.

88.The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, the National Multisectoral Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equity and policy measures for the protection of persons with disabilities.

89.Denmark commended the State for the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty but remained concerned about reports of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders. It stressed that protection of civil society and human rights defenders was critical for the protection of human rights.

90.Djibouti welcomed the State's accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office, tasked with protecting individual and collective rights in relation to the public administration.

91.The Dominican Republic welcomed State's efforts within its institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the moratorium on the application of the death penalty.

92.Egypt welcomed the efforts made to combat poverty and corruption, and empower women and enhance gender equality. It further welcomed the efforts made in the fields of education and health and in combating torture and improving prison conditions.

93.Ethiopia welcomed the progress made in access to basic services, housing, water and electricity and infrastructure development through public investment. It called on the international community to increase its support in accordance with the needs of the country.

94.Fiji welcomed the achievements made in the fight against climate change, highlighting that it was necessary to develop and implement effectively the various legislative and policy frameworks on climate change and the environment.

95.France expressed concern about the closure of the political space, the obstacles to the work of civil society and the inadequacy of social services. At the same time, it welcomed the announcement of the abolition of the death penalty in the near future.

96.Gabon welcomed the integration of persons with disabilities into the social security system. It noted with satisfaction strategies aimed at preventing violence against women, eliminating gender inequality and ensuring free health care for all, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

97.Georgia welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments. It commended the State for the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office under the Constitution while noting that it had yet to meet the criteria of the Paris Principles.

98.Germany welcomed the moratorium on the death penalty. It expressed concern about ill-treatment of human rights defenders and continuing restrictions on fundamental political rights and the activities of NGOs and political parties.

99.Ghana welcomed the measures taken by Equatorial Guinea to provide high-quality health care for its people, including for persons with disabilities. It noted the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 and encouraged the Government to continue implementing the positive social interventions contained therein.

100.Haiti noted efforts to improve the conditions of the people of Equatorial Guinea, despite the numerous challenges faced by the country, including a slowdown of economic growth.

101.Honduras expressed appreciation for efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle, in particular action within the framework of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020.

102.Iceland noted that the situation of human rights defenders, activists and members of the opposition had not improved since the previous review. It also expressed concern about reports of unlawful killings, violence against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and widespread impunity.

103.Indonesia welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments and the adoption of a national plan to combat poverty. It also appreciated the implementation of Decree No. 41/2016, which had contributed to the country's ongoing progress in reducing the rate of infant mortality.

104.Iraq welcomed the efforts made to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities and to combat poverty.

105.Ireland welcomed the announcement of a draft bill to abolish the death penalty and called on the authorities to take the necessary steps to ensure its swift implementation. It remained concerned about lack of progress, particularly regarding freedom of expression and of association.

106.Italy welcomed the State's accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, important measures to combat human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and violence against women and to promote gender equality, and the adoption in 2014 of a moratorium on the death penalty.

107.Kyrgyzstan noted efforts to accede to international instruments in the fields of gender equality and the protection of the rights of the child. It supported legislative steps in those areas while expressing the belief that more could be done.

108.Latvia noted measures taken since the previous review in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights and encouraged Equatorial Guinea to make further efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations and commitments.

109.Libya commended the efforts made by Equatorial Guinea to implement recommendations from the previous cycles and to

strengthen the rule of law, and its accession to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

110. Madagascar welcomed the State's efforts to implement the recommendations that it had accepted during the previous review cycle and encouraged it to continue in that vein.

111. Mali welcomed measures taken to improve access to education for all children, including the creation of a special service within the Ministry of Education to support students with disabilities. It encouraged Equatorial Guinea to continue its efforts to strengthen the capacity of public institutions for the defence of human rights.

112. Mauritania welcomed progress achieved by Equatorial Guinea, particularly noting the implementation of the Major Programme on Water for All, which was aimed at ensuring access to drinking water and the sanitation network through the expansion of networks in the main cities and provincial capitals.

113. Mexico welcomed progress since the previous review cycle, in particular the moratorium on the death penalty and the proposed draft bill to abolish the death penalty, which was currently before Parliament.

114. Montenegro commended the State for its activities to promote human rights through training and education. It expressed concern about the high prevalence of domestic violence, and urged Equatorial Guinea to ensure the full protection of children's rights by explicitly prohibiting the corporal punishment of children and child labour by law.

115. Portugal welcomed the delegation and thanked it for the presentation of the national report.

116. Maldives acknowledged progress made by Equatorial Guinea in providing access to education for children and positively noted the increase in school enrolment for primary education, including among children with disabilities.

117. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea noted the questions raised and recommendations made on issues including the ratification of international instruments, corruption, the death penalty, improvement of the judiciary, freedom of information, the work of NGOs and human rights defenders, opening of political space, employment for all, the combat against poverty, strengthening of the education system, the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, climate change, discrimination and violence against women, protection of persons with disabilities and migrants and improvement of the gathering of statistics in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. The delegation indicated that those issues would be further examined and provided clarification with respect to certain questions.

118. Regarding the ministerial order prohibiting pregnant girls from attending school, the measure was applied only to girls in primary school, who were very young and should not be together with other young girls while pregnant. On early marriage, no one in the country could be legally married before the age of 18 years and measures would be adopted to ensure that the situation did not change.

119. With respect to questions regarding indigenous peoples, there were no indigenous peoples in the country. Regarding discrimination against persons with leprosy, there were no longer any persons suffering from that affliction in the country and most concerns involved persons with HIV/AIDS.

120. Regarding the issue of climate change, the third National Economic Conference's committee on environmental sustainability had made 25 recommendations on climate change and its adverse effects.

121. In conclusion, the delegation thanked the other delegations for their participation.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

122. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Equatorial Guinea and enjoy the support of Equatorial Guinea:

122.1 Ratify other international human rights instruments to which Equatorial Guinea is not yet a party (Senegal);

122.2 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, in follow-up to the recommendation in paragraph 135.18 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle (A/HRC/27/13) (Burkina Faso);

122.3 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Philippines);

122.4 Speed up the process of accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mozambique);

122.5 Take the necessary measures to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);

122.6 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);

122.7 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);

122.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia) (Montenegro) (Togo) (Brazil) (Angola);

122.9 Ratify and implement the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Germany);

122.10 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and take all necessary steps to abolish the death penalty (Australia);

122.11 Follow up on the announcement by President Obiang Nguema by acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);

122.12 Continue its action and initiatives with a view to acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin);

122.13 Put in place a permanent moratorium on executions and accelerate efforts towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);

122.14 Continue its efforts to abolish the death penalty, through accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and maintain the temporary amnesty on the application of the death penalty until ratification (Georgia);

122.15 Formally abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);

122.16 Take concrete steps towards the total abolition of the death penalty and, as a matter of priority, sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);

122.17 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);

122.18 Accede to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) (South Africa);

122.19 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960) (Madagascar);

122.20 Intensify efforts towards aligning its national legislation with the provisions of the international human rights treaties to which it is party (Namibia);

122.21 Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles that is completely independent of the Government (Chile);

122.22 Create an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Portugal);

122.23 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles that is completely independent of the Government and has adequate funding for its operation (Costa Rica);

122.24 Establish an independent national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Senegal);

122.25 Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);

122.26 Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mexico);

122.27 Make progress with regard to human rights institutions by creating an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Spain);

122.28 Take measures to guarantee the independence of the national human rights institution in order to be in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Togo);

122.29 Strengthen the prerogatives of the national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles (Tunisia);

122.30 Take adequate measures to grant full independence to the National Human Rights Commission and ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles (Chad);

122.31 Continue its efforts to ensure the proper functioning and full independence of the institutions in charge of human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);

122.32 Continue its efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);

122.33 Ensure that the national human rights institution functions in line with the Paris Principles and is fully independent of the Government (Maldives);

122.34 Implement a national plan for the implementation of human rights recommendations aligned with the Sustainable

Development Goals (Cabo Verde);

122.35 Seek cooperation from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an inclusive process for follow-up to recommendations stemming from human rights mechanisms (Paraguay);

122.36 Improve public access to information on laws and policy measures relevant to human rights and national reports to human rights mechanisms and bodies (Republic of Korea);

122.37 Continue taking targeted steps to improve national legislation related to respect for human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);

122.38 Revitalize the national statistical system for the availability and use of data, thereby allowing planning, implementation and evaluation with a view to ensuring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

122.39 Establish a statistical system for data generation (Cabo Verde);

122.40 Continue developing the action that Equatorial Guinea is already implementing geared towards training and awareness-raising on human rights for the population (Nicaragua);

122.41 Strengthen efforts to address the social and cultural challenges of respect for human rights (Ethiopia);

122.42 Continue efforts in human rights training and awareness programmes (Libya);

122.43 Continue to intensify conduct of awareness-raising, training and capacity-building programmes on human rights (Philippines);

122.44 Strengthen awareness-raising and human rights education (Mauritania);

122.45 Intensify efforts to promote awareness and training in human rights (Qatar);

122.46 Take the necessary political and legislative steps to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Dominican Republic);

122.47 Take all measures to combat stigmatization of and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and promote and protect their human rights (Iceland);

122.48 Continue the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 (Sudan);

122.49 Continue to implement the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020 and to promote sustainable economic and social development (China);

122.50 Strengthen further the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, particularly in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights (Philippines);

122.51 Continue to intensify its efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative framework to address cross-sectoral environmental challenges including climate change mitigation and adaptation (Fiji);

122.52 Ensure that women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous and other marginalized groups effectively participate in the development and implementation of necessary frameworks related to climate change and disaster risk management (Fiji);

122.53 Continue to build institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework (Fiji);

122.54 Consider abolishing the death penalty (Mozambique);

122.55 Consider the total abolition of the death penalty (Turkey);

122.56 Adopt the necessary measures to repeal the death penalty from its national legislation (Argentina);

122.57 Formally and finally abolish the death penalty (Cabo Verde);

122.58 Abolish the death penalty (Iceland);

122.59 Consider formally abolishing the death penalty (Italy);

122.60 Continue adopting all the necessary measures to eradicate the commission of acts of torture and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Spain);

122.61 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with a view to ensuring full accountability and preventing recurrence (Australia);

122.62 Fully implement Act No. 6/2006 prohibiting torture and prosecute security staff responsible for violations (Canada);

122.63 Effectively combat impunity, especially for acts of torture and sexual violence, including when these acts are perpetrated by law enforcement agencies (France);

122.64 Ensure that perpetrators of acts of torture in police stations and prisons be sanctioned by law and brought to justice (Madagascar);

122.65 Prevent and combat torture after arrest and during interrogations in police stations and sexual violence against women prisoners and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and bring to justice all law enforcement officials who are suspected of having participated in those acts (Montenegro);

122.66 Intensify efforts to improve detention conditions and to reform generally the work of the penitentiary system (Russian Federation);

122.67 Address effectively allegations of political persecution and arbitrary arrest and the overall conditions that undermine the dignity of persons in detention (Sierra Leone);

122.68 Improve conditions of detention, in particular by allowing all detainees access to a judge and by abolishing all forms of arbitrary and secret detention, as previously recommended (Switzerland);

122.69 Step up its efforts to ensure better prison and detention conditions for persons deprived of their liberty in conjunction with migration proceedings (Burkina Faso);

122.70 Enhance efforts to combat unlawful and arbitrary detention and improve conditions of detention in prisons, including by separating women, men and children (Uganda);

122.71 Take concrete measures to ensure respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the entire population, especially by investigating and prosecuting those responsible for arbitrary detention, torture, executions and other human rights violations (Argentina);

122.72 Continue efforts undertaken in the area of administration of justice and take additional measures to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Switzerland);

122.73 Continue efforts to ensure the independence of the judiciary (Dominican Republic);

122.74 Adopt concrete legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the independence of the judiciary, particularly in relation to the executive branch (Brazil);

122.75 Create relevant mechanisms to ensure the independence of the judiciary from the executive branch (Costa Rica);

122.76 Pursue efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Egypt);

122.77 Guarantee the right to a fair trial by ensuring the independence of the judiciary (France);

122.78 Ensure the separation of powers, especially the full independence of the judiciary (Germany);

122.79 Ensure that the independence of the judiciary is fully guaranteed in its legal framework and is in line with the principles of international law (Ireland);

122.80 Ensure the independence of the judiciary and guarantee due process rights of all people, including those in custody (Italy);

122.81 Strengthen the independence of the judiciary so as to ensure that the courts have sufficient guarantees to carry out their work in the best way possible (Mexico);

122.82 Pursue its efforts to efficiently combat corruption (Turkey);

122.83 Continue taking all the necessary measures to guarantee full exercise of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in order to have political pluralism and effective and real freedom of the press (Spain);

122.84 Strengthen its efforts in bringing its laws and practices into line with international standards for press freedom and freedom of expression (Timor-Leste);

122.85 Review national legislation to ensure freedom of expression and press freedom in conformity with international standards (Maldives);

122.86 Introduce a freedom of information law in line with international standards to ensure progress on target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals, concerning public access (Ghana);

122.87 Consider introducing a freedom of information law in line with international standards to ensure that target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals is achieved (Haiti);

122.88 Remove all restrictions on journalistic activity, including by stopping the government practice of pre-publication censorship (Iceland);

122.89 Increase efforts to guarantee citizens' freedom of expression and political opinion and ensure protection for

human rights defenders (Italy);

122.90 Ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders in law and practice, so that they can carry out their work free from harassment or reprisals (Republic of Korea);

122.91 Put in place adequate means to guarantee that human rights defenders can safely exercise their legitimate work (Spain);

122.92 Adopt measures to enable NGOs and human rights defenders to work safely and independently (France);

122.93 Investigate all threats and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and activists and bring to justice those responsible (Zambia);

122.94 Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for civil society human rights defenders, including by conducting prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into allegations of intimidation and reprisal against them and by bringing perpetrators to justice (Ireland);

122.95 Take the necessary steps to respect citizens' rights to free speech and freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Costa Rica);

122.96 Take steps to promote political tolerance by ending alleged political persecution, arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment of prisoners, in line with the amnesty measures announced by the Government (Ghana);

122.97 Release any political dissidents, human rights defenders or journalists that have been detained for legitimately exercising their freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly (Australia);

122.98 Guarantee freedom of expression for activists, journalists and political opponents, including the right to participate in free, fair, equitable and transparent elections, organized by competent, independent and impartial national electoral bodies (Canada);

122.99 Take measures with a view to effectively applying Act No. 1/2004 on the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons (Sierra Leone);

122.100 Strengthen measures aimed at guaranteeing the effective application of the law on the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons (Honduras);

122.101 Fully implement the national plan to combat trafficking in persons and human smuggling, including developing procedures to proactively identify victims and ensure adequate victim protection and care (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

122.102 Strengthen measures to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking (Côte d'Ivoire);

122.103 Continue to consolidate social justice and the provision of more employment opportunities and support for vulnerable groups (Qatar);

122.104 Continue strengthening its social protection programmes in favour of the population, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

122.105 Continue its fight against poverty and corruption (Nigeria);

122.106 Expedite the adoption of the national plan to combat poverty and mechanisms to monitor its implementation (South Africa);

122.107 Promote social justice and combat poverty (Sudan);

122.108 Expand its poverty alleviation programme to further consolidate social well-being and equity (Zimbabwe);

122.109 Establish a specific plan for combating poverty, particularly with regard to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4 of the 2030 Agenda, to improve access to education and health care in rural areas (Cabo Verde);

122.110 Allocate sufficient resources for poverty reduction, basic health care and primary education, in order to respond to the people's economic and social rights (Canada);

122.111 Continue giving priority to action to eradicate poverty (Cuba);

122.112 Continue to promote economic and social development with a view to eliminating poverty and raising the people's living standards (Djibouti);

122.113 Continue developing action that it has already initiated to defend the rights of the population to access to water and sanitation, through the development of a network in towns, the capital and provincial capitals (Nicaragua);

122.114 Continue efforts in education and health development programmes to benefit the largest proportion of the population (Libya);

122.115 Continue efforts to improve access to and the quality of health care and education, particularly in rural areas,

including the expansion of literacy programmes (Cuba);

122.116 Develop and fully implement the Equatorial Guinea Malaria Vaccine Initiative and share good experiences in this regard (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

122.117 Continue efforts to ensure that all citizens enjoy the right to health without discrimination (Egypt);

122.118 Take concrete measures in order to address stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, including through awareness-raising campaigns (Portugal);

122.119 Step up its efforts for HIV/AIDS education in schools nationwide (Myanmar);

122.120 Step up efforts to reduce the prevalence of HIV/Aids (Congo);

122.121 Launch mass awareness campaigns to combat discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS and to encourage them to use the health services in order to lower prevalence rates in the population (Angola);

122.122 Continue strengthening policies and programmes in the health sector for prevention and education with respect to HIV (Dominican Republic);

122.123 Continue efforts to combat the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women through awareness-raising campaigns (Gabon);

122.124 Combat stigma and discrimination against persons affected by HIV/AIDS and implement a countrywide sexual and reproductive health education policy in the school system that specifically focuses on HIV/AIDS (Portugal);

122.125 Continue to strengthen its educational policies for the development and wellness of its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

122.126 Continue with the implementation of measures that support an inclusive approach to preschool and primary education, and reduce dropouts in secondary and higher education, especially among girls (Serbia);

122.127 Ensure that education development programmes include equal access to education by everyone, including children living with HIV/AIDS, young pregnant girls, children that lack financial means and children with disabilities (Myanmar);

122.128 Pursue efforts to combat school dropout and to improve the quality of education (Tunisia);

122.129 Strengthen efforts to improve access to education among vulnerable persons, including by removing all impediments to access to education for girls, and indigenous people (Uganda);

122.130 Strengthen legislation on the right to free and compulsory education (Algeria);

122.131 Strengthen the legal framework to effectively ensure free education up to 12 years of age (Congo);

122.132 Not relent in its efforts to provide quality education and health-care services for its people (Nigeria);

122.133 Strengthen legal provisions regarding the right to free and compulsory education (Honduras);

122.134 Step up its efforts to realize the National Economic and Social Development Plan for Horizon 2020, particularly by providing access to quality basic educational services (Indonesia);

122.135 Make efforts to ensure access to education (Iraq);

122.136 Tackle the risk of girls' school dropout by addressing early child marriage (Myanmar);

122.137 Take further measures to increase the number of women in vocational and university education (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

122.138 Continue to strengthen efforts aimed at promoting gender equality including through educational campaigns, while paying specific attention to the needs of rural woman (South Africa);

122.139 Redouble efforts to address inequalities based on gender, particularly in the area of politics and in the field of access to land (Gabon);

122.140 Redouble efforts to guarantee gender equality (Honduras);

122.141 Design a national strategy for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights with a view to empowering women economically and encouraging their participation in public and political life (Costa Rica);

122.142 Strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women, including through the adoption of legislation on gender equality that clearly prohibits discrimination against women (Rwanda);

122.143 Prohibit all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Kyrgyzstan);

- 122.144 Step up efforts to ensure responsive measures to address violence against women (Philippines);
- 122.145 Step up efforts to strengthen the participation of women in political and public life and their representation in decision-making bodies (Ethiopia);
- 122.146 Remove all obstacles preventing more Equatorial Guinean women from being elected to decision-making positions in accordance with article 13.2 of the Constitution and in full consultation with women stakeholders (Haiti);
- 122.147 Ensure the implementation of a legal framework that clearly prohibits discrimination and violence against women, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Netherlands);
- 122.148 Speed up the adoption of national legislation in connection with preventing and combating violence against women (Russian Federation);
- 122.149 Continue combating violence against women, especially sexual violence (Tunisia);
- 122.150 Take more measures aimed at curbing gender-based violence, especially violence against women and girls (Namibia);
- 122.151 Address all forms of violence against women and criminalize domestic violence (Zambia);
- 122.152 Introduce awareness-raising, training and education, and prevention campaigns to combat violence against women (Zimbabwe);
- 122.153 Strengthen the strategies aimed at eradicating gender disparities and preventing violence against women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 122.154 Ensure the implementation of strategies to fight and prevent violence against women and that equal opportunities are given to women and girls to address gender disparities (Botswana);
- 122.155 Further protect the rights of women and continue to fight violence against women (China);
- 122.156 Invest further efforts in preventing and reducing all forms of violence against women, as well as in providing adequate assistance to victims (Croatia);
- 122.157 Penalize marital rape and sexual harassment (Iceland);
- 122.158 Strengthen its legal framework to protect women's rights and prevent sexual violence against women, including through collaboration with other countries (Indonesia);
- 122.159 Take the necessary measures to combat domestic violence (Iraq);
- 122.160 Step up efforts aimed at protecting women's and girl's rights, including by taking appropriate measures to prevent and combat early, child and forced marriage and domestic violence (Italy);
- 122.161 Vigorously combat early marriage (Congo);
- 122.162 Adopt educational and adequate measures to combat early marriage of girls in rural areas (Angola);
- 122.163 Encourage greater participation of women in the political sphere at the national and local levels (Indonesia);
- 122.164 Endeavour to fight stunted growth of children under 5 years of age (Botswana);
- 122.165 Continue broadening the regulatory framework and the implementation of measures on the rights of persons with disabilities, with a view to ensuring their full social integration, including regarding health care, education and employment (Cuba).
123. The following recommendations will be examined by Equatorial Guinea, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-second session of the Human Rights Council:
- 123.1 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, in follow-up to the recommendation in paragraph 135.16 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle (Burkina Faso);
- 123.2 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Germany) (Ukraine);
- 123.3 Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Paraguay);
- 123.4 Ratify other relevant international human rights instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Spain);
- 123.5 Step up internal consultations for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and

the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Costa Rica);

123.6 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);

123.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cabo Verde) (Ukraine) (Denmark);

123.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and fully implement Act No. 6/2006 prohibiting torture and guaranteeing reparation, including compensation (Germany);

123.9 Intensify its efforts to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);

123.10 Intensify efforts to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);

123.11 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Rwanda);

123.12 Accelerate the process of ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Burundi);

123.13 Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (Senegal);

123.14 Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, adopted by the African Union in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2007 (Zambia);

123.15 Extend standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures (Ukraine);

123.16 Accept a visit from the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

123.17 Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);

123.18 Apply effectively the 1998 United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Portugal);

123.19 Guarantee the full independence of the Office of the Ombudsman in its appointment and function in line with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);

123.20 Continue its efforts to put in place the rule of law in all its facets to allow the society of Equatorial Guinea to better benefit from the economic and commercial development of the country (Turkey);

123.21 Investigate and hold accountable security forces and other government officials for human rights violations and abuses, including reported extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests and detentions of journalists, civil society actors and political opposition members (United States of America);

123.22 Fully apply Act No. 6/2006 on the prohibition of torture and conduct independent inquiries against the alleged perpetrators of acts of torture, followed by legal proceedings as need be (Belgium);

123.23 Put an end to detention outside of any legal framework by setting up an independent body for the control of places of deprivation of liberty (France);

123.24 Repeal or amend legislation that infringes upon freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly and institute a legal framework that protects these fundamental freedoms and punishes those who violate them (Australia);

123.25 Promote freedom of expression for the press and media and cease the imprisonment of journalists by decriminalizing defamation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

123.26 Take effective measures to better protect the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, and investigate and prosecute all threats and attacks against human rights defenders (Germany);

123.27 Enact legislation to ensure full and adequate protection for human rights defenders so that they can exercise their activities in a democratic space free of restrictions (Switzerland);

123.28 Adopt and enact laws that efficiently recognize and protect all human rights defenders, ensure comprehensive, prompt and independent investigations of all allegations of human rights violations against human rights defenders and bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes (Uruguay);

123.29 Adopt and implement legislation that recognizes and protects human rights defenders (Ghana);

123.30 Adopt the necessary steps to guarantee freedom of expression for human rights defenders and journalists,

particularly by investigating and prosecuting threats and reprisals against human rights defenders and journalists (Argentina);

123.31 Adopt and apply legislation recognizing and protecting the fundamental rights of human rights defenders (Belgium);

123.32 Remove undue restrictions on civil society and the media by reforming Act No. 1/1999 to be consistent with international obligations on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and to streamline registration processes (United States of America);

123.33 Amend Act No. 1/1999 to facilitate the swift registration of civil society organizations that have submitted applications and evaluate all applications on their merits (Australia);

123.34 Bring legislation on freedom of expression and association into line with international standards, including through the amendment of NGO regulation Act No. 1/1999 (Netherlands);

123.35 Remove laws restricting NGO activity and reform Act No. 1/1999 regulating NGOs in order to facilitate their registration and enable their full and independent functioning (Iceland);

123.36 Take effective steps to prevent and punish cases of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders (Chile);

123.37 Adopt effective measures to prevent and punish cases of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders (Denmark);

123.38 Take all measures to protect and support opposition members, journalists, human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, and civil society organizations, investigate all attacks against them and bring the perpetrators to justice (Iceland);

123.39 Enact a law clearly prohibiting discrimination against women and cancel the ministerial ruling of 18 July 2017 prohibiting girls from enrolling in and/or attending school during pregnancy (Canada);

123.40 Guarantee the rights to education and health, especially for children, including by ending the policy of excluding pregnant minors from school (France);

123.41 Complete the process of adopting the personal and family code and the process of drafting and adopting the bill on gender-based violence (Gabon);

123.42 Continue its policy of combating disparities between men and women, by adopting the draft personal and family code (Côte d'Ivoire);

123.43 Expedite the approval of the family code, which is aimed at eradicating gender-based disparities and preventing violence against women (Sierra Leone);

123.44 Speed up the approval of the personal and family code (Ukraine);

123.45 Accelerate the drafting and adoption of a law on gender equality that clearly prohibits discrimination against women, in line with the treaties and conventions ratified by the country, ensuring that it is adequately disseminated, known and respected (Chile);

123.46 Provide adequate annual financial assistance to programmes in the country aimed at changing the understanding of masculinity and promoting gender equality, and consider expanding such programmes throughout the country (Haiti);

123.47 Incorporate domestic and intrafamily violence as a crime, in particular violence against women and children, and adopt the necessary measures to ensure the training of the competent authorities (Mexico);

123.48 Adopt without delay a law prohibiting the infliction of corporal punishment on children in all settings, including in the family (Senegal);

123.49 Prioritize the protection of children's rights, eradicate corporal punishment in all settings, including at home, and repeal defence arguments to justify it (Algeria);

123.50 Prioritize the protection of the rights of the child, eradicating corporal punishment and domestic violence and enhancing access to education services (Kyrgyzstan).

124. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Equatorial Guinea and have been noted by Equatorial Guinea:

124.1 Abolish the death penalty, by revising the Constitution and by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);

124.2 Abolish the death penalty and investigate all unlawful killings and extrajudicial executions committed by law enforcement agencies' personnel, and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);

124.3 Consider acceding to and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay);

124.4 Take further steps towards accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Germany);

124.5 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);

124.6 Allow elected members of political parties, including Citizens for Innovation, to take their seats immediately (United States of America).

125. 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

[English Only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Equatorial Guinea was headed by Don Alfonso NSUE MOKUY, Third Vice-Minister of the Government in charge of Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- S.E. M. Don Salvador ONDO NKUMU, Minister of Justice, Culte and Penitentiary Institutions;
- S.E.M. Lázaro EKUA AVOMO, Ambassador et Representant Permanent en Suisse;
- S.E.Mme. Doña Jesús NKARA OWONO, Vice Minister of Education, University Teaching and Sports;
- S.E.M. Doña María Jesús NKARA OWONO, Vice Minister of Education, University Education and Sports;
- Honorable M. Don Jose Pablo NVO OWONO AVIRI, Deputy of Congress and member of the National Commission of Human Rights;
- M. Nicanor Ondo Monsuy Andeme, Second Secretary of the Embassy in Suisse;
- M. Don Manuel MBA CHAMA, General Director of Human Rights;
- Mme. Doña Claudia AYECABA ONDO, General Director of Protocol;
- Mme. Doña Venerenda CYANA NGUEMA, Executive Secretary of the Third Vice Minister of the Government in charge of Human Rights;
- Mme. Doña Rosa MBA NSUE, Human Rights Focal Point for the United Nations System in Malabo;
- M. Don Manuel MBA NCOGO, in charge of press and communication;
- Mr. Clarencio Ndong NGUEMA OBONO, in charge of press and communication;
- M. Antonio SIMON HOSSEN, Assistant of the Embassy in Suisse;
- M. Don Filiberto NSUE ESONO, Security of the Third Vice Minister of the Government in charge of Human Rights;
- Mme. Doña Anastasia NSE ADA, Member of the Civil Society.