



# General Assembly

## Human Rights Council

### Fortieth session

25 February–22 March 2019

Agenda item 6

### Universal periodic review

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

### Malaysia

#### Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-first session from 5 to 16 November 2018. The review of Malaysia was held at the 8th meeting, on 8 November 2018. The delegation of Malaysia was headed by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim. At its 14th meeting, held on 13 November 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Malaysia.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Malaysia: Cuba, Nepal and South Africa.

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 Malaysia:

- (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MYS/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.6/31/MYS/2);
- (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MYS/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Malaysia 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 delegation highlighted the fact that Malaysia had undergone an unprecedented and peaceful transition of power through its recent general elections. A renewed focus on human rights would be firmly espoused at home and in Malaysia's international engagement. To that end, the theme for the opening statement was related to "Embracing Change".

6. Since the elections, the Government had placed greater importance and emphasis on cooperating constructively with the relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the national human rights institution, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia. The national report had been prepared in close consultation with those stakeholders.

7. Malaysia was committed to acceding to the remaining six international human rights instruments and was considering accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Extensive deliberations with stakeholders were already under way. Furthermore, Malaysia had agreed to the requests for country visits by the special procedure mandate holders during the reporting cycle.

8. The decision to abolish the death penalty and to introduce a moratorium on all pending sentences had proven to be a new narrative on human rights. To safeguard freedom of expression and speech, the Government was working to repeal the Anti-Fake News Act and the Sedition Act. Malaysia had established a special committee to review the provisions of other laws, namely the Printing

Presses and Publications Act and the Communications and Multimedia Act.

9. In the interests of creating a more vibrant and mature democracy, Malaysia had revamped weak institutions and lowered the voting age to 18 years. As part of that change, the Election Commission was composed of civil society representatives, with transparency and accountability at the heart of that arrangement.

10. The independence of the judiciary was extremely important; questionable appointments belonged to the past.

11. Steps were being taken to raise the socioeconomic standards of the population and to carry out development programmes, providing infrastructure and utilities to help further reduce the poverty gap. The quality of life of the indigenous people had been elevated through income-generating activities, providing modern infrastructure in traditional settlements, education opportunities and medical assistance.

12. Rural community centres had been established all over Malaysia. In Sarawak, all of those facilities had been built at strategic locations in remote areas, including for the Penan community. All the centres provided basic and essential facilities to implement programmes by government agencies in a coordinated manner.

13. As for the rights of women and children, Malaysia stated that it had spared no efforts to ensure the best interests of the child. In that regard, the Government had been working towards ensuring the emotional and mental growth and safety of children. Moreover, the state Chief Ministers, along with the Government, had agreed to set the minimum marriageable age at 18 years, and had adopted a new policy to provide access to birth registration, regardless of the child's nationality or the legal status of their parents. The National Policy on Women had also been updated. The 30 per cent target related to women's representation in decision-making positions had been exceeded.

14. Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, Malaysia had shifted towards a rights-based approach. Under its eleventh Malaysia Plan, it would create a friendly physical environment and enhance training for persons with disabilities.

15. The recently increased minimum wage was also applicable to foreign workers, and was periodically reviewed at regular intervals. Although Malaysia was not a State party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Government had been continuously working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Malaysia hosted around 160,000 persons of concern.

16. The Government had provided access to health care and education for those in possession of a UNHCR card. Additionally, in cooperation with UNHCR, it had established a joint task force to address migration management issues.

17. The National Human Rights Action Plan had been launched and would be reviewed periodically. The annual report of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia would be debated in both houses of Parliament, a parliamentary committee would be responsible for appointing commissioners to preserve the Commission's independence.

18. At the regional level, the Government had pledged to enhance the capacity of the Office of the Malaysian Representative to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. The appointment of a new representative to that body would be held in an open and transparent manner.

19. Malaysia was proud to announce key steps it would take within the third universal periodic review cycle and beyond. The Government had taken a fresh look at the recommendations it had previously noted, and it believed that there was room for progress in that area. It would conduct half-yearly reviews to examine the progress in implementing the recommendations of the universal periodic review. To that end, it would be working closely with the main stakeholders from the public sector and civil society organizations. A working group would be developing a cross-cutting database, encompassing recommendations from the international human rights system and the Sustainable Development Goals. With the direct involvement of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, the United Nations country team and civil society organizations, it would help to evaluate the country's human rights performance.

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

20. During the interactive dialogue, 111 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Slovakia noted that Malaysian legislation allowed for some restriction of freedom of expression beyond international human rights standards.

22. Slovenia was concerned that child marriages continued to be permitted and noted efforts to deal with the issue.

23. South Africa commended Malaysia for its readiness to assist other countries to strengthen their governance capacity.

24. Spain made recommendations.

25. Sri Lanka noted the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan in March 2018.

26. The State of Palestine welcomed measures to promote the right to health, including measures to ensure access to health care in remote areas.

27. The Sudan commended efforts to advance values of moderation, tolerance and mutual respect between and among societies.

28. Sweden congratulated Malaysia on its ambitious human rights agenda and emphasized the need for continued efforts.

29. Switzerland welcomed the announcement to abolish the death penalty.
30. The Syrian Arab Republic made recommendations.
31. Thailand welcomed ongoing efforts to draft a gender equality bill and combat human trafficking.
32. Tunisia made recommendations.
33. Turkey appreciated the pledge made by Malaysia to ratify all core United Nations human rights instruments and positively noted the decision to repeal the Anti-Fake News Act.
34. Turkmenistan proposed that Malaysia support the rights of persons with disabilities, secure economic, social and cultural rights, implement the National Human Rights Action Plan on the advancement of women and align its legislation with human rights principles.
35. Ukraine acknowledged the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and recent moves to completely abolish capital punishment.
36. The United Arab Emirates noted progress on enhancing women's rights and equality.
37. The United Kingdom welcomed the intention to repeal the Sedition Act and urged the fostering of a more inclusive society that protects the rights of all its citizens.
38. The United States of America was concerned about discrimination and exploitation faced by migrant workers, indigenous peoples, refugees and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
39. Uruguay commended the measures taken to bolster the labour rights of women and to improve their living standards, urging for full gender equality.
40. Uzbekistan welcomed the establishment of the Women's Advisory and Consultative Council.
41. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed programmes enhancing interaction between sectors of society and religious groups and respect among faith groups.
42. Viet Nam commended the achievements in health coverage and access to health-care services, especially for migrant workers.
43. Yemen commended the adoption of an economic and development plan focusing on improving standards of living and health care.
44. Afghanistan commended efforts regarding women's empowerment in decision-making positions in the public sector and regarding human rights education programmes.
45. Albania welcomed efforts to reduce extreme poverty and on literacy, and congratulated Malaysia on its decision to abolish the death penalty.
46. Algeria welcomed the moratorium on the death penalty, efforts to fight poverty and the creation of institutions for the protection of women and children.
47. Angola made recommendations.
48. Argentina urged the abolishment of the death penalty.
49. Australia welcomed the announcements to abolish the death penalty and the review of the minimum age of marriage.
50. Austria commended the pledges to ratify the remaining core human rights treaties and to abolish the death penalty.
51. Azerbaijan appreciated the measures to empower women in line with the national policy on women and the action plan for the advancement of women.
52. Bahrain applauded the Child Care and Child Protection Unit and the career programme for integrating people with special needs into society.
53. Bangladesh commended progress in poverty eradication, the empowerment of women, adequate housing, the rights of indigenous people and legislative reforms.
54. Belarus welcomed efforts to eliminate poverty and improve living standards, and noted measures to improve social security and access to health and education.
55. Belgium welcomed the announcement to abolish the death penalty.
56. Benin welcomed the measures and initiatives to improve the situation of women in education, health and the economy.
57. Bhutan noted judicial reforms, poverty eradication and improving accessibility to health care.
58. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the work of the committee studying the viability of accession to core international human rights instruments.

59. Brazil appreciated the interest in acceding to core human rights instruments and the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty.
60. Brunei Darussalam appreciated measures to improve access to and the quality of maternal and child health services.
61. Cambodia commended Malaysia's achievements in poverty reduction, economic development, the promotion of sociocultural rights and women's progress in several areas.
62. Cameroon appreciated the pledge made by Malaysia to ratify all remaining core United Nations human rights instruments.
63. Canada commended Malaysia's commitment to repeal and amend laws limiting freedom of expression and to abolish the death penalty.
64. Chad made recommendations.
65. Chile was concerned about discrimination against migrant children and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
66. China welcomed Malaysia's efforts to attain sustainable development and to protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
67. The Comoros appreciated efforts to combat poverty and welcomed initiatives to empower women.
68. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed efforts to strengthen the legal protection of women against gender-based violence.
69. Croatia welcomed the plans to abolish the death penalty and to halt all pending capital punishments.
70. Cuba highlighted efforts to improve the quality of and access to education and health care and efforts to combat communicable diseases.
71. The delegation of Malaysia stated that the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 had recently been amended to remove the mandatory death penalty for drug-trafficking offences. The Government had taken the initiative to abolish the death penalty regarding other laws that prescribed such punishment. That would necessitate parliamentary action.
72. Malaysia stated that the Prevention of Crime Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act were not arbitrarily used against any person or group, and that no person would be arrested or detained solely for his or her political belief or political activity. A number of safeguards protected the rights of detainees, such as the requirement to immediately notify the detainee's next of kin, the right to file a writ of habeas corpus and the right to make representations to the Advisory Board. Various measures had been put in place to protect the rights of detained minors.
73. The Peaceful Assembly Act had been enacted to promote freedom of assembly, and the Government was considering the possibility of amending it to strengthen the right to freedom of assembly. Freedom of expression was guaranteed by the Constitution. However, the Constitution also provided for the control of activities that might impinge upon the rights of other citizens.
74. Malaysia strictly prohibited any form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment by law enforcement agencies, as stated in their standing orders, standard operating procedures and guidelines. Any investigation or interrogation was conducted with strict adherence to those orders and procedures. The Integrity and Standards Compliance Department had been established within the Royal Police. Malaysia had been applying the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
75. The Government had amended its Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Anti-Smuggling of Migrants Act to protect victims and was revising its law to curb forced labour. Malaysia had taken the decision to do away with outsourcing companies to reduce the risk of trafficking by employment agencies.
76. The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development had been providing shelter for victims of trafficking. They had been provided with adequate care and services in line with international standards and best practices.
77. The Government had established the Counter-Messaging Centre to fight terrorism narratives online, and was developing the National Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism.
78. The Government was committed to eliminating discrimination against women. To that end, the draft proposal of the gender equality bill was elaborated and the study on sexual harassment would be concluded by February 2019. Malaysia aimed to raise awareness and improve the effectiveness of implementing sexual and reproductive health education.
79. Female circumcision on babies was allowed as a part of a cultural obligation, whereas Malaysia objected to and did not practise female genital mutilation.
80. The Government had tabled a motion to increase the minimum age of marriage in relevant legislation concerning Muslim, non-Muslim and customary laws.
81. The establishment of community-based rehabilitation centres, industrial training and rehabilitation centres and independent living centres and the improvement of access to public transportation were among the measures that had been taken for persons with disabilities. The Government emphasized the concept of an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society.
82. Cyprus acknowledged the efforts against human trafficking and to promote religious tolerance.

83. Czechia congratulated Malaysia on its initiative to end the practice of the death penalty and looked forward to its complete abolition.
84. Denmark made recommendations.
85. Djibouti welcomed the sustainable development efforts due to a balanced development of rural and urban areas.
86. Ecuador highlighted efforts to reduce poverty and income inequality.
87. Georgia encouraged Malaysia to continue its active engagement with the special procedures.
88. Fiji commended Malaysia for its pledge to accede to international human rights instruments.
89. Finland welcomed the invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to visit in 2019.
90. France welcomed the recent announcement of a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition.
91. Gabon welcomed initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and empowering women.
92. Egypt commended the Government's efforts to enhance diversity in society and interreligious harmony and tolerance.
93. Germany commended the decision to abolish the death penalty and the directive to all state governments to set the legal minimum age for marriage at 18 years.
94. Ghana welcomed the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan and welcomed the interministerial discussions on possible accession to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
95. Greece welcomed the pledges made to ratify various international human rights instruments and commended the decision to abolish the death penalty.
96. Haiti made recommendations.
97. Honduras made recommendations.
98. Hungary commended Malaysia for its work on reducing absolute poverty and improving access to health care.
99. Iceland appreciated the announcement on a moratorium on executions and the abolition of the death penalty.
100. India appreciated the measures taken by Malaysia in the areas of income inequality, access to health care, adequate housing and quality education.
101. Indonesia welcomed the progress in drafting a gender equality bill.
102. Pakistan appreciated efforts for the empowerment of women and for gender equality and commended the increase of women holding decision-making positions in the public sector.
103. Iraq welcomed the efforts made in the areas of poverty, housing and education for all.
104. Ireland encouraged Malaysia to make progress in the area of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights and noted with concern the continued criminalization of same-sex relationships.
105. Italy commended the amendment to the Dangerous Drugs Act, abolishing the mandatory death penalty for drug trafficking.
106. Japan welcomed the amendment of the Domestic Violence Act and other measures aimed at protecting women from gender-based violence.
107. Jordan made recommendations.
108. Kazakhstan noted the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan, the efforts to combat human trafficking and the implementation of programmes for the empowerment of women.
109. Kenya made recommendations.
110. Kuwait made recommendations.
111. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Malaysia for, inter alia, its poverty eradication programme and the establishment of the Women's Advisory and Consultative Council.
112. Latvia welcomed the measures taken to enhance the legal protection of women from gender-based violence and to end discrimination against women in marriage and the family.
113. Lebanon welcomed legislative measures taken, including amendments to the electoral law.
114. Libya praised the efforts to protect minorities, strengthen the judicial system and improve living standards.
115. Lithuania welcomed the decision to abolish the death penalty.

116. Madagascar welcomed legislative amendments to strengthen the legal protection of women against violence.
117. Maldives welcomed the establishment of a Women's Advisory and Consultative Council and empowerment programmes for vulnerable women.
118. Mauritania welcomed measures to improve social integration and access to health care, social services and housing.
119. Mauritius recognized initiatives and programmes on poverty alleviation and access to health care and quality education.
120. Mexico commended the substitution of death sentences and the amendments to the law on dangerous drugs.
121. Montenegro welcomed the strengthening of interreligious and interracial dialogue and urged Malaysia to ensure equal opportunities for men and women in all areas and to eradicate child marriages.
122. Morocco congratulated Malaysia on lowering the voting age to 18 years for Malaysian citizens and welcomed the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan.
123. Myanmar noted the efforts on the empowerment of women and the protection of the rights of children.
124. Nepal was encouraged by the imposition of a moratorium on the death penalty and appreciated efforts towards gender parity and the empowerment of women.
125. The Netherlands complimented Malaysia for steps taken to abolish the death penalty and welcomed the Government's intention to accede to the six international human rights treaties and relevant protocols without reservations.
126. Nigeria welcomed efforts made by Malaysia to enhance the well-being of its people aimed at achieving sustainable development.
127. Norway noted the Government's intention to improve the human rights situation in Malaysia.
128. Oman commended the accession of Malaysia to the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
129. The Islamic Republic of Iran encouraged Malaysia to redouble its efforts in combating human trafficking.
130. Paraguay urged Malaysia to continue bringing its legislation into line with international standards, and expressed concern about female genital mutilation.
131. Peru applauded the programmes to strengthen the interaction between religions and to promote respect between ethnic and religious groups.
132. The Philippines welcomed the Government Transformation Programme and efforts to promote human rights education and training.
133. Portugal made recommendations.
134. Qatar welcomed the adoption of a national framework for human rights and measures taken to facilitate access to education.
135. The Republic of Korea appreciated the efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and children.
136. The Republic of Moldova commended the decision to abolish the death penalty and the cooperation with the special procedures.
137. Romania acknowledged the removal of a mandatory death sentence for drug offences and the recent introduction of a moratorium on executions.
138. The Russian Federation noted measures to integrate human rights education in schools and to promote interfaith and inter-ethnic tolerance and dialogue.
139. Saudi Arabia welcomed the efforts made by Malaysia to eradicate poverty, especially the extension of the Poverty Reduction Programme to cover low-income families.
140. Senegal congratulated Malaysia on its programme to foster interactions between races and religions and for ensuring greater respect for different religions and ethnic groups.
141. Serbia welcomed the recognition by Malaysia of the need to continuously monitor and track the implementation of accepted recommendations.
142. Singapore commended the efforts made by Malaysia to achieve sustainable development and acknowledged its progress in advancing the rights of women and girls.
143. The delegation of Malaysia highlighted that the doctrine of judicial precedent was actively applied and mentioned the decision of the Federal Court, in the case of Indira Gandhi a/p Mutho, that the consent of both parents is required before a certificate of conversion to Islam can be issued in respect of a child.
144. Malaysia was considered to be a country of destination, with more than 1.5 million documented foreign workers. On workers' rights, several initiatives had been taken regarding the management of foreign workers, including a proposal to establish a single online application system for foreign workers.

145. Malaysia viewed forced labour and child labour as serious crimes, and conceded that they remain prevalent, albeit sporadic, in plantations. Together with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Malaysia was developing a strategic compliance planning method for labour inspection.

146. The Government had amended the Private Employment Agencies Act 2017 in order to better regulate the recruitment and placement activities of private employment agencies.

147. The Sarawak Land Code had been amended to legally recognize the rights of the indigenous people over their native territorial domain. A moratorium had been imposed on approving the use of State land for new oil palm plantations. The lives of members of the Penan community had been gradually improved through livelihood restoration programmes. Another three development agencies had been established to spearhead the socioeconomic development of indigenous populations in remote areas.

148. Malaysia underscored that it was committed to improving the well-being of rural communities, including the Orang Asli (Aboriginal People) in Peninsular Malaysia and the indigenous people in Sabah and Sarawak. It had implemented economic development programmes for the Orang Asli in areas such as agriculture, fishing, entrepreneurship and human capital development. The Government had initiated a constructive dialogue with representatives of the Aboriginal People's community over the issue of land rights. Malaysia had focused efforts on improving the well-being of rural women and increasing literacy levels in rural and remote areas.

149. Malaysia was revising the policy on compulsory education from 6 to 11 years of schooling to encourage more pupils to complete their schooling with secondary-level certification. It had embarked on a comprehensive transformation of education through the implementation of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013–2025, aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals and the eleventh Malaysia Plan. Malaysia had introduced measures to narrow the rural-urban gap and had provided school assistance, in particular to students from lower-income families and to those with special needs. A policy for alternative education had been established to enable non-citizen children without proper documentation to access education. Furthermore, Malaysia was reviewing corporal punishment under the Education Regulations (Pupil Discipline) 2018.

150. The head of delegation appreciated the opportunity to engage with the international community in a constructive manner within the universal periodic review.

## **II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

**151. The following recommendations will be examined by Malaysia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council:**

**151.1 Ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties and ensure their proper implementation (Republic of Moldova); Finalize the ratification of and accession to outstanding core human rights instruments (South Africa); Advance in the ratification, accession and adherence to the basic, core human rights treaties, as mentioned by the delegation (Spain); Expedite the ratification and implementation of the remaining six international human rights instruments, thereby publicly indicating the Government's commitment to human rights (Cyprus); Take steps to accede to the core international conventions on human rights and fundamental freedoms to which Malaysia is not yet a party (Italy); Ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties (Lithuania); Ratify and implement all remaining core human rights treaties (Norway);**

**151.2 Expedite the ratification of the main international legal instruments on human rights to ensure greater protection of the rights of the most vulnerable population (Angola);**

**151.3 Ratify key human rights treaties without reservations and take all the necessary actions to this end without delay (Finland);**

**151.4 Ratify without reservations the core international human rights instruments as well as the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (France);**

**151.5 Continue efforts to accede to international treaties related to civil, political and cultural rights (Iraq);**

**151.6 Accelerate the process of ratification of the key international human rights instruments (Kazakhstan);**

**151.7 Strengthen its human rights framework, in particular by fulfilling its pledge to ratify core United Nations human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Republic of Korea);**

**151.8 Continue the efforts of adhering to international legal instruments in the field of human rights, inter alia the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Romania);**

**151.9 Speed up its deliberations on the signature and ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

**151.10 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention against Torture (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**151.11 Adopt measures to adhere to the different international instruments related to human rights, especially the international covenants and their optional protocols (Uruguay);**

**151.12 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Belgium); Join the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Benin); Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended (Switzerland);**

**151.13 Set a clear time frame for the ratification, without reservation, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, all other core international human rights treaties including their optional protocols, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Czechia);**

**151.14 Ratify or accede to the human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Honduras);**

**151.15 Join the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Hungary);**

**151.16 Ratify 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 (Kenya);**

**151.17 Consider early ratification of core international human rights instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Nepal);**

**151.18 Ratify the main human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Paraguay);**

**151.19 Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, bring its national law on communication and media into conformity with international human rights law and refrain from judicial and administrative harassment of journalists and human rights defenders (Slovakia);**

**151.20 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Albania);**

**151.21 Promptly ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture (Australia);**

**151.22 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

**151.23 Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees before the next review of the country by this Working Group (Greece);**

**151.24 Continue exploring possibilities to extend its international commitments, in particular consider ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

**151.25 Take more effective measures for securing economic, social and cultural rights by acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Myanmar);**

**151.26 Move forward towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

**151.27 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Montenegro);**

**151.28 Accede at the earliest possible date to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Fiji);**

**151.29 Speed up the discussion on accession to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and accede to the Convention as soon as possible (Ghana);**

**151.30 Complete, as soon as possible, the necessary internal steps in order to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Greece);**



**151.31 Consider ratifying core international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

**151.32 Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sri Lanka);**

**151.33 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Honduras);**

**151.34 Adopt more robust measures to protect the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, including by acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

**151.35 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as early as possible (Japan);**

**151.36 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mexico);**

**151.37 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

**151.38 Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which are instrumental to promoting greater respect for the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Turkey);**

**151.39 Withdraw all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and abandon discriminatory laws against all women regardless of their ethnic or religious background (Norway);**

**151.40 Consider accession to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Afghanistan);**

**151.41 Proceed to the signing of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Spain);**

**151.42 Take immediate legislative or administrative measures, including ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, to provide legal status to refugees and asylum seekers to allow them to reside, work and access education and health care in Malaysia (Canada);**

**151.43 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and take steps to resolve the conflicts of competence between civil and sharia courts, with a view to fully protecting human rights, as previously recommended (Austria);**

**151.44 Become a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Netherlands);**

**151.45 Ratify the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Comoros);**

**151.46 Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Peru);**

**151.47 Create a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of the recommendations from the universal periodic review (Portugal);**

**151.48 Consider issuing a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Republic of Moldova); Extend an open invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Ukraine); Extend an open standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders (Paraguay);**

**151.49 Respond positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider the extension of a standing invitation to all the special procedure mandate holders, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

**151.50 Continue taking measures to implement the accepted recommendations of the universal periodic review (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**151.51 Continue taking measures to implement universal periodic review recommendations (Cameroon);**

**151.52 Continue cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Brunei Darussalam);**

**151.53 Continue to cooperate with treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders (Chad);**

**151.54 Maintain its constructive dialogue and cooperation with the international community in the field of human rights (Cuba);**

151.55 Approve a broad anti-discrimination law that includes the protection of all rights for all people without discrimination (Uruguay);

151.56 Prioritize the early submission of anti-discrimination legislation to Parliament (Australia);

151.57 Continue efforts aimed at nation-building strategies and the development of a solid legislative, administrative and policy framework, notably to cater for the needs of the vulnerable groups (South Africa);

151.58 Continue with its efforts to strengthen domestic legislation to bring it into compliance with international obligations (Bhutan);

151.59 Incorporate in its legislation a definition of discrimination against women in conformity with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);

151.60 Take effective measures to ensure that civil law and sharia law are in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the local, state and federal levels (Croatia);

151.61 Continue undertaking efforts in addressing human rights issues in an institutionalized, systematic and holistic manner (Pakistan);

151.62 Take additional measures to strengthen education and training in the area of respecting and protecting human rights (Egypt);

151.63 Continue strengthening respect for economic and social rights (Egypt);

151.64 Continue its endeavours to promote human rights education and training (Islamic Republic of Iran);

151.65 Continue training and capacity-building programmes aimed at improving the skills and knowledge of health-care providers (Tunisia);

151.66 Strengthen human rights training at all levels of the Administration and relevant agencies (France);

151.67 Continue efforts in maintaining social cohesion in the country (Viet Nam);

151.68 Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly (Brunei Darussalam);

151.69 Continue promoting the rights of vulnerable groups and of minorities, considering their specific needs and capabilities, empowering them in their rights and through fair mechanisms for redress (Ecuador);

151.70 Guarantee the right of everyone to equal protection under the law, in conformity with Malaysia's international commitments (Iceland);

151.71 Continue to intensify efforts to prevent and combat disparities against children belonging to vulnerable groups (Sudan);

151.72 Continue efforts towards strengthening community integration through protecting cultural diversity (Iraq);

151.73 Continue its efforts to enhance the rule of law, to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to eliminate all forms of discrimination, in compliance with international standards (Italy);

151.74 Continue to support the issues of women, children and persons with disabilities (Libya);

151.75 Continue to adopt measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities and minority groups in rural areas (Maldives);

151.76 Continue and strengthen efforts in promoting the culture of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence among different religious communities (Cambodia);

151.77 Take the necessary measures to establish in its national legislation a comprehensive legal framework for effective protection against discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina);

151.78 Take necessary measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in law and in practice, against any form of violence, harassment or discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all their fundamental human rights and freedoms (Austria);

151.79 Review and repeal laws that directly or indirectly criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity and take action to prevent violence, discrimination or corporal punishment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);

151.80 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Chile);

151.81 Ensure respect for the fundamental rights of all, without discrimination, including in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by decriminalizing homosexuality (France);

151.82 Repeal all legislation that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to guarantee that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons can enjoy all human rights without facing discrimination with regard to work, health, education, housing and other policy (Germany);

151.83 Repeal all laws that criminalize persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);

151.84 Undertake efforts to guarantee and protect the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in line with international obligations (Ireland);

151.85 Take concrete steps to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination and violence, including through the enactment of explicit non-discrimination provisions in law, the development of public awareness programmes, and allow for the recognition of the gender of transsexual persons (Netherlands);

151.86 Intensify efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Uzbekistan);

151.87 Consider including measures aimed at ensuring increased efficiency and accountability of public service in its national development strategy (Azerbaijan);

151.88 Continue to implement the national development plan and endeavour to eliminate poverty and to achieve sustainable development (China);

151.89 Work on mainstreaming human rights in development planning and the promotion of the right to development (Jordan);

151.90 Work seriously against extremist doctrines and groups which constitute a fertile environment for terrorism (Syrian Arab Republic);

151.91 Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Portugal);

151.92 Ensure the adoption of the necessary legislation to abolish the death penalty in a timely manner (Republic of Moldova);

151.93 Continue to take steps for the abolishment of the death penalty and to revise the cases of persons on death row (Romania);

151.94 Complete legislative efforts aimed at abolishing the death penalty (Ukraine);

151.95 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty pending an act of Parliament to abolish it (Albania);

151.96 Ensure early submission to Parliament of legislation abolishing the death penalty and repealing the Sedition Act (Australia);

151.97 Continue with abolishing the death penalty and adopt a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty (Spain);

151.98 Take further steps in limiting capital crimes with the aim of abolishing the death penalty (Cyprus);

151.99 Intensify its efforts towards the abolition of the death penalty (Georgia);

151.100 Immediately place a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition (Fiji);

151.101 Fully abolish the death penalty without delay (Finland);

151.102 Maintain the recent moratorium on executions and completely abolish the death penalty (France);

151.103 Swiftly pass all necessary legislation to abolish the death penalty for all criminal offences (Germany);

151.104 Consider the adoption of a moratorium on executions (Italy);

151.105 Improve and implement legislation for the complete abolishment of the death penalty (Sweden);

151.106 Concretize the commitment of abolishing the death penalty as soon as possible (Switzerland);

151.107 Abolish the death penalty (Norway);

151.108 Introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Paraguay);

151.109 Take further steps to eliminate all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, including the practice of whipping and caning (Brazil);

151.110 Strengthen its national legislation with respect to the prevention of torture and ill-treatment and the elimination of the practice of whipping and caning (Czechia);

151.111 Abolish physical punishment, including caning and judicial beatings, in the legal system, both civil and sharia (Denmark);

151.112 Abolish all forms of corporal punishment in the legal system and withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular article 37 on torture and deprivation of liberty (Sweden);

151.113 Include in the criminal law a clear definition of torture, consistent with article 1 of the Convention against Torture (Paraguay);

151.114 Conduct systematically an independent and impartial investigation into allegations of human rights violations in prisons, with a view to putting an end to reported practices of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in prisons (Switzerland);

151.115 Continue providing physical, psychological and social integration assistance to victims of trafficking in persons (Saudi Arabia);

151.116 Continue efforts to protect the rights of women and children, in particular in the fight against human trafficking (Senegal);

151.117 Continue its efforts to combat child labour and trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels (Thailand);

151.118 Fully implement the 2016–2020 national action plan to combat human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

151.119 Increase efforts to prosecute and convict human traffickers, including complicit officials; protect victims; and reduce migrant workers' vulnerability to debt bondage (United States of America);

151.120 Intensify efforts to strengthen its policies and strategies aimed at fighting against trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Algeria);

151.121 Increase the funds allocated to support structures for victims of human trafficking, including children (Angola);

151.122 Ensure that anti-trafficking laws and policies are in accordance with international human rights standards (Cambodia);

151.123 Continue with efforts made to combat human trafficking, especially the exploitation of girls and women, further strengthening its fight against traffickers (Djibouti);

151.124 Establish a formal procedure throughout the country to promptly identify victims of trafficking and refer them to appropriate services for protection (Hungary);

151.125 Continue with efforts to combat human trafficking (Nigeria);

151.126 Amend and repeal legislation used to arbitrarily detain individuals without trial, including the Prevention of Crime Act, the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

151.127 Enhance protections for the right of freedom of religion or belief for all people in Malaysia, including the right to freely choose and practise their faith (United States of America);

151.128 Continue to implement policies on interreligious harmony, to further promote unity among religions and creeds (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

151.129 Take measures to fully guarantee the right to freedom of religion and belief (Albania);

151.130 Continue the implementation of measures aimed at strengthening inter-ethnic and interreligious interaction in the country (Belarus);

151.131 Guarantee freedom of religion or belief to all, stemming racial and religious intolerance, including against the Christian community (Croatia);

151.132 Amend the National Registration Act to remove all references to religion on identity cards, in follow-up to recommendations in paragraphs 146.87 and 146.152 of the Second Cycle (Haiti);

151.133 Take the necessary measures to ensure that all persons are free to exercise their right to freedom of religion and belief, especially the right to change their religion, without fear of judicial sanction, in follow-up to recommendations in paragraphs 146.87 and 146.152 of the second cycle (Haiti);

151.134 Make more efforts in the framework of freedom of religion and belief (Iraq);

151.135 Undertake administrative, policy and legislative measures to guarantee freedom of religion and belief for all in Malaysia, consistent with the Constitution (Kenya);

151.136 Enact legislation guaranteeing the right of access to information and ensure its full implementation (Slovakia);

151.137 Rescind or revise the Sedition Act, Security Offences Act and Communications and Multimedia Act, which

negatively affect freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly (United States of America);

151.138 Continue developing efforts in order to guarantee the freedoms and safety of human rights defenders (Uruguay);

151.139 Take further steps to ensure a free, independent, pluralistic and diverse media landscape, including by reducing political influence on media outlets (Austria);

151.140 Consider revising national legislation, including the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, in order to bring it into conformity with international human rights law regarding the right of freedom of expression online and offline (Brazil);

151.141 Amend existing provisions that limit the freedom of expression, the Evidence Amendment Act, Peaceful Assembly Act, and the cessation of arbitrary detention and apprehensions without charges following legislative reforms in accordance with international standards (Spain);

151.142 Build upon its efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of the freedom of opinion and expression by repealing the Sedition Act and bringing the Printing Presses and Publication Act, the Official Secrets Act and the Anti-Fake News Act into line with international human rights law (Czechia);

151.143 Accelerate consultations within the Government in order to review the following legislation: the Sedition Act, the Printing Presses and Publications Act, the Prevention of Crime Act, the Special Offence Act, the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Georgia);

151.144 Continue efforts in the area of free speech to create a safe and enabling environment for the media and civil society and, in this regard, repeal the Printing and Publication Act, as previously recommended (Ireland);

151.145 Review its legislation with the aim of ensuring that civil society, including human rights defenders and journalists, could freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, both online and offline, association and peaceful assembly (Lithuania);

151.146 Better protect journalists and human rights defenders, in particular by abolishing travel bans they are subject to and amending certain laws, such as the Peaceful Assembly Act and the Penal Code (Switzerland);

151.147 Revise the Peaceful Assembly Act in order to eliminate discrimination and hindrance to the freedom of association and peaceful assembly (Czechia);

151.148 Ensure that the judicial ethics committee carries out independent investigations on violations of the code of ethics (Algeria);

151.149 Ensure all foreign workers have the right to full access to justice and legal remedies (Bangladesh);

151.150 Amend all provisions of the federal Constitution that deny women equal rights with respect to the transmission of their nationality to their children (Belgium);

151.151 Take steps to harmonize laws and policies on nationality to ensure equal rights for Malaysian women and men in all situations (Haiti);

151.152 Protect the right to nationality and prevent statelessness of children born to Malaysian citizens by removing restrictions thereof (Kenya);

151.153 Provide active support to vulnerable groups of the population – elderly persons, persons with disabilities, single mothers and indigenous population – and facilitate the broadening of their rights and opportunities through education and training in skills in demand in order to develop human potential (Russian Federation);

151.154 Expand its existing economic empowerment programmes to cover more groups of vulnerable women, such as single mothers and indigenous women (Singapore);

151.155 Continue its development efforts to raise the level of health care and improve education services in all regions of the country (Yemen);

151.156 Continue ensuring the right to basic standards of health, education, nutrition and welfare of the entire population (Kuwait);

151.157 Not to relent in its efforts to improve the socioeconomic well-being of its people (Nigeria);

151.158 Continue its efforts to achieve sustainable and balanced development, and to focus on the implementation of the eleventh Malaysia Plan 2016–2020 to provide adequate housing for all while continuing to support low-income families (Qatar);

151.159 Exert further effort in order to support the societal sectors in need of adequate shelter (Oman);

151.160 Take further measures to protect social rights, including the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities (Uzbekistan);

**151.161 Continue the implementation of social protection programmes designed to reduce poverty (Syrian Arab Republic);**

**151.162 Continue to take further efforts and initiatives in the social and economic area aimed to eradicate poverty and to improve living standard of Malaysian people (Russian Federation);**

**151.163 Continue implementing programmes to eradicate poverty (Saudi Arabia);**

**151.164 Continue to support the poor groups and continue efforts to eliminate poverty in the framework of the 2030 Agenda (United Arab Emirates);**

**151.165 Continue realization of the strategies to eradicate poverty and improving the social protection of citizens (Belarus);**

**151.166 Continue placing poverty alleviation as one of its national priorities to promote sustainable economic and social development (Indonesia);**

**151.167 Share its experiences and lessons learned on poverty eradication with ASEAN countries through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

**151.168 Continue implementing the accepted recommendations with a special focus on the elimination of poverty and strengthening women's participation in political and social affairs (Lebanon);**

**151.169 Utilize information technology for creating employment opportunities for the youth (India);**

**151.170 Intensify measures to improve working conditions, security and safety, and further improve education on individual and collective rights for migrant workers (Viet Nam);**

**151.171 Continue guaranteeing access to health-care services, in line with target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Peru);**

**151.172 Undertake further measures to realize universal health coverage (Thailand);**

**151.173 Continue efforts in eradicating AIDS by increasing access to affordable first and second-line antiretroviral treatment (Viet Nam);**

**151.174 Continue implementing initiatives to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases (Cuba);**

**151.175 Continue efforts to improve the quality of health-care services and to increase allocations for health in the national budget (State of Palestine);**

**151.176 Enhance further access to health services including facilitating greater access to mental health and neonatal health care (Indonesia);**

**151.177 Continue to improve its national health-care system and ensure access to quality health care (Kuwait);**

**151.178 Pursue its effort to improve the coverage of and accessibility to health care, especially for vulnerable groups as well as people in remote and rural areas (Mauritius);**

**151.179 Make greater effort to improve health care (Oman);**

**151.180 Continue introducing and implementing measures to improve the situation of women, especially access to health care (Morocco);**

**151.181 Continue its efforts in promoting social and economic rights, particularly in health-care services (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

**151.182 Update the current reproductive health and social education syllabus to include, inter alia, education on healthy and respectful family life and interpersonal relationships, human rights, violence and gender-based violence, consent and bodily integrity, in line with United Nations technical guidelines on education (Slovenia);**

**151.183 Update the current reproductive health and social education syllabus to include education on health and respectful family life and interpersonal relationships, including on consent and bodily integrity, in line with the United Nations technical guidelines (Iceland);**

**151.184 Continue efforts to increase family planning and reproductive health services in both urban and rural areas (Tunisia);**

**151.185 Make the necessary efforts in implementing the fight against HIV/AIDS (Chad);**

**151.186 Strengthen efforts to reduce maternal mortality, through improved access to maternal health-care services (Sri Lanka);**

**151.187 Take effective measures to ensure that unmarried women and vulnerable groups have access to sexual and reproductive health care in government health centres (Fiji);**

151.188 Continue its efforts to provide education opportunities for all children, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups (Qatar);

151.189 Continue to improve access to quality education by ensuring that its technical and vocational education institutions are well resourced (Singapore);

151.190 Provide access to formal education for all children (Turkey);

151.191 Take further measures to promote the right to education, particularly for the underprivileged and disadvantaged (Bhutan);

151.192 Continue to redouble efforts to support education for all (Chad);

151.193 Further develop education to ensure that all people, particularly rural women and children, enjoy quality education (China);

151.194 Increase input into education to ensure schools in rural and remote areas have sufficient teaching resources (China);

151.195 Intensify efforts in the field of education to ensure equal access to quality education for all, in particular for the indigenous population (Djibouti);

151.196 Continue efforts to strengthen the right to education for all, particularly for groups who are underprivileged (Egypt);

151.197 Develop a specific programme to ensure the inclusion within the educational system of children with disabilities, as well as refugee and migrant children (Honduras);

151.198 Ensure quality education for all (India);

151.199 Continue efforts in order to provide free primary education to all children, irrespective of their status (Kazakhstan);

151.200 Invest additional efforts and take additional measures to ensure improvement of the situation of women and girls (Serbia);

151.201 Adopt gender equality legislation to reduce inequalities between men and women (Albania);

151.202 Further protect women's rights by providing more assistance to poor women, including women with disabilities (Azerbaijan);

151.203 Strengthen laws and policies aimed at providing women with safe protection and enhancing their roles in society (Bahrain);

151.204 Further improve and advance women's rights, in particular for those in disadvantaged circumstances, and ensure gender equality (Sri Lanka);

151.205 Continue to promote women's literacy (Gabon);

151.206 Expedite efforts for the adoption of a Gender Equality Bill to balance the roles of men and women in the nation's development (Pakistan);

151.207 Continue with its initiatives to ensure equality for women in law and in practice, in addition to combating all forms of gender-based violence (Ecuador);

151.208 Continue its efforts for gender equality and allow Malaysian women to pass on their citizenship to their children and spouses (Iceland);

151.209 Strengthen its legislation to ensure respect for women's and girls' human rights and to fully outlaw gender-based discrimination (Lithuania);

151.210 Define discrimination against women in national legislation in conformity with the provision in article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico);

151.211 Step up efforts towards the adoption of a law on gender equality (Mexico);

151.212 Eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including by criminalizing all forms of female genital mutilation and marital rape and prohibiting the whipping of women as a form of punishment, as well as child marriages (Portugal);

151.213 Continue efforts to effectively protect women and children from human rights violations, including gender-based violence, child marriage and child labour (Republic of Korea);

151.214 Build on its efforts since its last review to better protect women from domestic and sexual violence by

strengthening the relevant legal frameworks and policies (Singapore);

151.215 Criminalize marital rape by amending section 375 of the Penal Code (Canada);

151.216 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Cuba);

151.217 Prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation, as defined by the World Health Organization, in its criminal code, ensuring that the prohibition cannot be overruled by any fatwas or other rulings issued by religious authorities (Denmark);

151.218 Prohibit all forms of genital mutilation and redouble its efforts to eradicate early marriages and criminalize spousal rape (Honduras);

151.219 Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and withdraw all remaining reservations to articles 9 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Sweden);

151.220 Continue the efforts to guarantee the increase of the labour participation rate of women to 59 per cent in 2020, as stated in paragraph 89 of the national report (United Arab Emirates);

151.221 Intensify its efforts to ensure a better representation of women in political and public positions of high responsibility (Gabon);

151.222 Strengthen efforts to promote empowerment of women and gender equality, with the objective of increasing their participation in decision-making (Pakistan);

151.223 Continue efforts in promoting women's capacity to participate in all aspects of life as well as the nation's development (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

151.224 Implement anti-bullying campaigns in schools addressing all forms of bullying, including that based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression (Portugal);

151.225 Continue efforts to combat child abuse, including through the elimination of caning in education facilities (Ukraine);

151.226 Continue the enactment of legislation to protect children from all forms of ill-treatment and violence (Bahrain);

151.227 Continue with measures aimed at facilitating the schooling of children in rural and remote areas, and include in its Criminal Code the prohibition of all forms of female genital mutilation (Côte d'Ivoire);

151.228 Abolish corporal punishment in the legal system (Germany);

151.229 Continue efforts to improve the protection of children from abuse (Sudan);

151.230 Take further actions to protect children's rights, especially access to public education, protection from child labour and sexual exploitation and prevention of sexual crimes against children (Japan);

151.231 Continue to ensure the physical and emotional safety and welfare of children (Morocco);

151.232 Ensure that the legal age for marriage is set at 18 years of age with no exceptions, as established under international human rights standards (Slovenia);

151.233 Intensify efforts to raise the age of marriage to 18 years of age, in order to avoid early and forced child marriage (Argentina);

151.234 Take early action to raise the minimum age for marriage to comply with international child rights standards (Australia);

151.235 Introduce effective measures to prevent child marriage and ensure their implementation in all states of Malaysia (Austria);

151.236 Review all relevant laws to set the minimum legal age for marriage for all males and females at 18 years (Belgium);

151.237 Review state and federal laws to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 for everyone in Malaysia and adopt policies to discourage child marriage (Canada);

151.238 Continue actions to combat child marriage (Gabon);

151.239 Review all relevant legislation with a view to setting the minimum legal age for marriage for all persons at 18 years of age (Germany);

151.240 Ensure that the legal age for marriage is set at 18 years of age and do its utmost to eradicate and prevent child marriage (Hungary);

151.241 Promote and protect the rights of women and children, with particular attention to the fight against child, early



and forced marriage (Italy);

151.242 Intensify its efforts to fully eliminate child, early and forced marriages (Lithuania);

151.243 Intensify measures to address issues of child marriages (Myanmar);

151.244 Continue efforts to combat violence against children (Maldives);

151.245 Respect the human rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);

151.246 Continue to promote the rights of people with disabilities (Senegal);

151.247 Continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that public places are friendly to persons with disabilities (Cameroon);

151.248 Increase efforts to implement legal measures and public policies that guarantee the right to education to persons with disabilities (Ecuador);

151.249 Intensify efforts so that children with disabilities have sufficient access to education and health care (Fiji);

151.250 Continue the implementation of national strategies and plans by providing all public services to persons with disabilities and redoubling efforts to integrate children with disabilities into the school system (State of Palestine);

151.251 Develop programmes to strengthen the integration of children with disabilities and refugees in its school system (Greece);

151.252 Continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including by adjusting public places and transforming them into friendly spaces for persons with disabilities (Jordan);

151.253 Continue with efforts to fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities and facilitate their access to public places (Lebanon);

151.254 Continue its efforts to protect minorities (Libya);

151.255 Strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples through the incorporation of the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in judicial and administrative procedures (Peru);

151.256 Continue the implementation of plans and strategies to strengthen the economic and social well-being of indigenous peoples (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

151.257 Strengthen policies and measures for the well-being of the indigenous peoples in Malaysia to uplift their economic and social status and benefit from the country's economic development (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

151.258 Ensure the rights of indigenous peoples in law and in practice, in particular regarding their right to traditional lands, territories and resources (Norway);

151.259 Continue efforts aimed at enhancing the safety and advancing the welfare of migrant workers (Philippines);

151.260 Ensure that the right to health and education is available, irrespective of citizenship and immigration status (Philippines);

151.261 Continue efforts to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the recruitment system of migrant workers (Bangladesh);

151.262 In order to better safeguard the unity of the family, take steps to speed up the application process for permanent residence (Haiti);

151.263 Ensure that all migrant workers and their families have access to medical services, including for sexual and reproductive health (Honduras);

151.264 Explore best practices adopted by the receiving countries for migrant workers, in line with relevant ILO conventions (India);

151.265 Increase further efforts for social inclusion of migrant workers and integration with the local community, irrespective of their race and religion (Myanmar);

151.266 Take necessary measures to prevent and punish all forms of violence against migrant workers, including hate crimes and racism (Myanmar);

151.267 Continue to take further necessary measures to ensure protection of the rights of migrant workers (Nepal);

151.268 Intensify its efforts to ensure access to primary and secondary education to asylum seekers and refugees and to offer them equal education opportunity (Afghanistan).

**152. 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 Malaysia was headed by H.E. Mr. Dato' Seri Ramlan Ibrahim, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Dato' Amran MOHAMED ZIN, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- TPr Datuk. Hj. Rokibah binti ABDUL LATIF, Director General Federal Department of Town and Country Planning (PLANMalaysia);
- Datu Jaul SAMION, Deputy State Secretary, Sarawak State Government;
- Dr. Habibah binti ABDUL RAHIM, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Education;
- Dato' Indera Khairul Dzaimie bin DAUD, Deputy Secretary General (Policy and Control), Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Mrs. Hakimah binti MOHD YUSOFF, Deputy Director General of Islamic Development Division, Department of Islamic Development;
- Mr. Azmir Shah ZAINAL ABIDIN, Deputy Head of Division of International Affairs, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Mr. CHUA Choon Hwa, Undersecretary for Policy and Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development;
- Mrs. Betty binti HASAN, Undersecretary of Policy Division, Ministry of Human Resources;
- Mr. Hanzah bin ISHAK, Director of Intelligence and National Crisis Management Division, National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department;
- Mr. John K. SAMUEL, Undersecretary of Human Rights and Humanities Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia;
- Dr. Salahudin bin DATO' HIDAYAT SHARIFF, Head of Human Rights and International Organization Unit, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Mrs. Rohayati binti ABD. HAMED, Head of Sector, Education Policy Planning and Research Division, Ministry of Education;
- Dr. Punitha SILIVARAJOO, Director of Policy Section, Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department;
- Mrs. Hanani binti SAPIT, Head of Section, Strategic Evaluation Division, Implementation and Coordination Unit, Prime Minister's Department;
- Mrs. Arleen binti RAMLY, Deputy Director of International Affairs Division, Federal Court of Malaysia;
- Mr. Adlan MOHD SHAFFIEQ, Principal Assistant Secretary, Human Rights and Humanities Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia;
- Mr. Syed Edwan ANWAR, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Mohd Zuhairi bin MAT RADEY, Senior Principal Assistant Secretary, International Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Mrs. Noor Salwana binti KHAIRULLAH, Assistant Director, Education Policy Planning and Research Division, Ministry of Education;
- Mrs. Caroline anak CLEOPHAS JOSEPH, Principal Assistant Secretary, Sarawak State Government;
- Mr. Jiwari bin ABDULLAH, General Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability, Sarawak State Government;
- Mrs. Nazlinda binti ZAMANI, Principal Assistant Secretary, Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Rural Development;
- Mrs. Nor Aizam Aiza ZAMRAN, Senior Federal Counsel, Human Rights and International Organization Unit, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Mrs. Azrina Binti AZNAN, Principal Assistant Secretary, International Relations Division, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development;

- Mrs. Noor Haryantie binti NOOR SIDIN, Principal Assistant Secretary, International Affairs Division, Ministry of Human Resources;
- Mr. Ahmad Zafwan bin SULAIMAN, Principal Assistant Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, National Housing Department, Ministry of Housing and Local Government;
- Mr. Sagu anak UNTING, Senior Land Officer, Sarawak State Government;
- Mrs. Lonie anak PINDA, Legal Officer, Sarawak State Government;
- Mr. Muhammad Firdaus bin ABDUL RAHIM, Senior Assistant Registrar, International Affairs Division, Federal Court of Malaysia;
- Ms. Kalpana Devi RAJANTRAN, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. LOW Tze Hian, Assistant Secretary, Human Rights and Humanities Division, Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia.