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Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review *

Pakistan

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Pakistan was held at the 11th meeting, on 13 November 2017. The delegation of Pakistan was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. At its 17th meeting, held on 16 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Pakistan.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Pakistan: Egypt, Iraq and Latvia.

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 Pakistan:

- (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/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.6/28/PAK/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Pakistan through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan stated that its national report for the third universal periodic review had been prepared through an extensive and inclusive process involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and academia.

6. In the last four years, democracy had flourished in Pakistan with an elected and sovereign parliament, an independent judiciary, free media and a vibrant civil society.

7. The real commitment of any Government for the cause of human rights needed to be contextualized in the given domestic environment. In the previous 15 years, terrorism and extremism had not only endangered the national security and social fabric of Pakistan, but also jeopardized the human rights of its citizens.

8. The reporting period of the universal periodic review (2012–2016) marked a critical turnaround in terms of progress in security and terrorism. In December 2014, following the barbaric terrorist attack on a public school in Peshawar, Pakistan had taken decisive counter-terrorism measures and cleared the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of terrorists, which had enabled it to undertake much needed administrative, judicial and security reforms there.

9. One consequence of the counter-terrorism challenges Pakistan had been facing was the decision to implement the death penalty. Mounting public pressure in the wake of the Peshawar school attack had forced the Government to lift the moratorium on the death penalty. Pakistan imposed the death penalty in line with its Constitution and international norms for only the most serious crimes, with

due process of law and fair trial standards followed diligently.

10. Pakistan had made extraordinary efforts and sacrifices to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. To date, Pakistan had lost nearly 10,000 soldiers and police personnel, and around 50,000 civilians. The total economic cost for Pakistan over the past decade had been around \$75 billion.

11. Pakistan had ensured the steady mainstreaming of human rights in the overall policy priorities and national discourse. Some of the progress achieved in that respect was in line with recommendations from the previous review. Those included the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, provincial human rights departments, human rights committees at district level and the launch of the national Action Plan for Human Rights.

12. Pakistan had taken important legislative measures to meet its international human rights obligations, including ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Pakistan continued to regularly report to the treaty bodies on the implementation of the relevant conventions.

13. The Minister stressed that minorities had the Constitutional right to freely profess their religion and visit their places of worship. A case in point was the flourishing Christian missionary school system, to which even the most devout Muslims sent their children to receive education.

14. An undeniable fact of history was that the global fault lines of the cold war and ideological competition among foreign powers had travelled to Pakistan, creating forces of extremism and sectarianism that targeted people of all faiths and beliefs.

15. The Government was taking serious action against hate speech, which had led to allegations of blasphemy and religious discrimination. The Minister gave examples of such actions in Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh.

16. Pakistan agreed that all human rights were equal, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. However, for a developing country like Pakistan, economic and social rights were of paramount importance. Pakistan had strengthened social protection networks, which provided subsistence allowances to poor widows, orphans, persons with disabilities and the unemployed. The microcredit financing scheme, Benazir Income Support Programme, continued to provide immediate relief to women of low-income families.

17. The Minister expressed his gratitude for the advance questions and indicated that the delegation of Pakistan would try to respond to them during the interactive dialogue.

18. The Secretary for Human Rights stated that, despite severe constraints, Pakistan had enhanced its promotion and protection of human rights through institutional, legal and policy measures.

19. Of particular note was the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and its provincial offices; treaty implementation cells and independent and well-funded human rights institutions at the federal and provincial levels, such as the National Commission for Human Rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women; and the human rights cell in the Supreme Court. Grass-roots, district-level human rights committees acted as human rights monitoring mechanisms and provided free legal aid and financial assistance.

20. Legislative work was also under way. There were laws prescribing penalties for anti-women practices, such as rape and acid crime, on the one hand, and laws providing social support, such as the Benazir Income Support Programme, on the other. The Hindu Marriage Act and the Christian Marriage Act were recognition of the communities' right to regulate their own marriages.

21. Vision 2025 focused on ending discrimination against women and providing an enabling environment for their socioeconomic potential.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

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

23. The Sudan commended the Climate Change Act, 2017 and the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights.

24. Sweden made recommendations.

25. Switzerland welcomed the amendment of the Penal Code regarding "honour" crimes and rape. It regretted the resumption of executions in 2014 and was concerned about the high number of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic commended the legislative and institutional developments and the work of the National Commission for Human Rights.

27. Thailand applauded the increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility and improvements in women's rights.

28. Tunisia commended the plans to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals to promote the economic and social rights of the people of Pakistan.

29. Turkey welcomed the 10-year socioeconomic plan of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the eleventh five-year plan and Vision 2025.

30. Uganda welcomed the national institutional framework for human rights and stated that adequate capacity for action was

necessary.

31. The United Arab Emirates commended the establishment of the National Centre on Ageing in all provinces.
32. The United Kingdom recognized the positive steps taken, but remained concerned about the overall human rights record of Pakistan.
33. The United States commended the adoption of the Hindu Marriage Act and noted increased action against sex trafficking.
34. Uruguay welcomed the cooperation that the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances had received from interested parties.
35. Uzbekistan welcomed the legal and institutional changes to strengthen human rights and democracy in the country.
36. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).
37. Viet Nam welcomed the adoption of the Climate Change Act and the national Action Plan for Human Rights.
38. Yemen commended the national Action Plan for Human Rights launched after wide consultations with all stakeholders.
39. Zimbabwe noted the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights.
40. Afghanistan called for genuine cooperation in dealing with terrorism, in line with the recent discussions in the region.
41. Albania praised the reforms on gender equality and welcomed the recognition of the rights of intersex and transgender persons.
42. Algeria welcomed the strengthening of the National Commission on the Status of Women at the national and provincial levels.
43. Angola congratulated the engagement with human rights mechanisms and policy reforms in the economic, judicial and social sectors.
44. Argentina praised the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
45. Australia welcomed the efforts of Pakistan to address violence against women and girls.
46. Austria made recommendations.
47. Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the national development strategy.
48. Bahrain commended the launch of the National Action Plan to combat terrorism and the efforts to protect women from violence.
49. Bangladesh appreciated the draft national policy on ending violence against women and girls and the commitment to eradicate poverty.
50. Belarus commended Vision 2025 and the existence of a broad network of human rights institutions at the federal and local levels.
51. Belgium made recommendations.
52. Bhutan welcomed the fact that the National Assembly had passed an act to constitute the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.
53. The Plurinational State of Bolivia commended the efforts in the field of education and poverty alleviation through the National Rural Support Programme.
54. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the laws against rape and “honour” crimes and the Hindu Marriage Act.
55. Brazil welcomed the positive developments concerning the rights of transgender persons, but was concerned about religious intolerance.
56. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the Ashiana Housing Scheme to provide affordable housing.
57. Bulgaria encouraged improvements to be made concerning the protection of children’s rights and assistance to persons with disabilities.
58. Burundi noted the development of the National Action Plan to combat terrorism and the establishment of the National Counter Terrorism Authority and encouraged Pakistan to continue its efforts in the fight against terrorism.
59. Canada welcomed the accession of Pakistan to the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and expressed concern about reports of forced conversions.
60. Chad encouraged Pakistan to continue to reinforce its cooperation and dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

61. Chile welcomed the efforts to protect the rights of the elderly and the recognition of the rights of transgender and intersex persons.
62. China commended efforts in the implementation of the right to development, poverty alleviation and increasing employment.
63. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the adoption of the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights.
64. Croatia welcomed the adoption of laws against rape and "honour" crimes, but remained concerned about violence against women.
65. Cuba recognized the commitment of Pakistan in defending, promoting and safeguarding universal human rights.
66. Cyprus remained concerned by the high incidence of violence against women and human rights defenders.
67. Czechia appreciated the human rights overview presented by Pakistan.
68. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea appreciated the adoption of the national Action Plan for Human Rights.
69. Denmark noted the interlinkages between child, early and forced marriages of especially young girls and sexual exploitation.
70. Djibouti welcomed advances in legislation on women's rights, particularly modification of criminal law.
71. Ecuador welcomed the establishment of the protection, education and assistance centres for children to provide psychological support and legal assistance.
72. Egypt noted the adoption of the national Action Plan for Human Rights following broad consultations with stakeholders, including civil society.
73. Estonia urged Pakistan to prevent underage and forced marriage and forced conversion through marriage of women belonging to minority groups.
74. Ethiopia commended the developments in legislation, policies and institutions and the launch of the national Action Plan for Human Rights.
75. France welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and the adoption of the national Action Plan for Human Rights.
76. Georgia encouraged Pakistan to accelerate its efforts to combat hate crimes and eliminate violence against minority groups.
77. Germany noted, as a significant retrograde step, the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty followed by executions.
78. Ghana welcomed the development of the national policies on sanitation and drinking water for inclusive development.
79. Greece noted the efforts made in the field of human rights, but stated that setbacks and challenges remained.
80. Guatemala welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights.
81. Haiti encouraged Pakistan to engage all stakeholders before taking a position on the recommendations.
82. The Holy See appreciated the efforts made by Pakistan, but noted the multiple attacks on religious minorities.
83. Honduras commended the Supreme Court's decision in favour of transgender persons.
84. Iceland welcomed the progress made in promoting human rights, including legally recognizing transgender persons.
85. India made recommendations.
86. Indonesia commended the strengthening of the Election Commission and the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, among others.
87. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the national Action Plan for Human Rights and encouraged further improvements on that issue.
88. Iraq commended the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and the independent National Commission for Human Rights.
89. Ireland encouraged efforts towards the full operationalization of the National Commission for Human Rights and called for its mandate and responsibilities to be defined in line with the Paris Principles.
90. Italy welcomed the launch of the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the promotion of interfaith dialogue.
91. Japan commended the efforts made to further the rights of persons with disabilities and to promote women's social participation.
92. Kazakhstan noted the significant legal, policy and institutional steps that had been taken since the last universal periodic review.
93. Kuwait noted the actions to consolidate democracy, strengthen human rights institutions and provide awareness and educational programmes.

94. Kyrgyzstan commended the strengthening of the legislative and institutional frameworks and the practical measures to promote human rights.
95. Latvia welcomed the amendments to the criminal law in 2016, but noted the occurrences of “honour” killings.
96. Lebanon noted the adoption of the law to protect women from violence in Punjab.
97. Libya noted the developments in the political and legal reforms and the adoption of the national Action Plan for Human Rights.
98. Lithuania welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights as a step towards strengthening human rights institutions.
99. Luxembourg was concerned about the protection of human rights defenders and journalists.
100. Malaysia noted the efforts to enhance maternal and neonatal health-care services, promote food security and alleviate poverty.
101. Maldives commended the efforts to promote and protect the rights of children, women and older persons.
102. Mauritania welcomed Vision 2025 to meet the socioeconomic needs of people and the Green Pakistan Programme to address the negative impacts of climate change.
103. Mexico welcomed the legislative reforms to combat violence and discrimination against women and the establishment of a national human rights institution.
104. Mongolia encouraged further strengthening of human rights institutions to allow for their effective functioning.
105. Montenegro noted the laws that had been adopted to prevent “honour” killings and rape and encouraged intensifying efforts on those issues.
106. Morocco welcomed the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the establishment of the Ministry on Human Rights.
107. Namibia commended the development of various legal, policy and institutional measures to enhance the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
108. Nepal noted the efforts made to consolidate democracy and create an environment for better realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
109. The Netherlands remained concerned about violence and discrimination against religious, ethnic and gender minorities.
110. New Zealand made recommendations.
111. The State of Palestine commended the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights.
112. Nigeria was encouraged by the counter-terrorism efforts of Pakistan aimed at eliminating terrorism.
113. Norway welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights.
114. Oman commended the commitment to provide better health services and the initiatives to advance education.
115. Paraguay encouraged Pakistan to pursue its policy on gender equality.
116. The Philippines hoped that the National Climate Change Policy would contribute to combating climate change.
117. Poland was concerned about violence and discrimination against, in particular, religious minorities.
118. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights.
119. The delegation of Pakistan stated that the Women’s Parliamentary Caucuses were consensus-building mechanisms across party lines that promoted the adoption of laws, policies and programmes in favour of women and vulnerable groups.
120. Recent achievements included: the Elections Act, encouraging the participation of women in elections as both candidates and voters; a review of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to identify the changes necessary in the relevant laws; the introduction in the Senate of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill; the enactment of the laws against rape and “honour” crimes; adoption of the law on the protection of children and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child Act to bring the legal system into conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the adoption of the National Health Vision (2016–2025) to set national priorities with clear budgeted targets; and the introduction of the bill on compulsory child immunization.
121. Achievements at the provincial level included the adoption of the Punjab Protection of Women against Violence Act; acts on domestic violence in Sindh and Baluchistan; the Punjab Fair Representation of Women Act; and the Punjab Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act.
122. Institutions, such as the Inter-provincial Ministerial Group, were working for the promotion and protection of human rights across the country.

123. The delegation stated that the application of the death penalty was in full compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It was applicable only for the most serious crimes. It could not be imposed on an individual under the age of 18.

124. The blasphemy laws were non-discriminatory in nature, dealt with offences against all religions and were applied to Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and a number of safeguards were in place to prevent their abuse.

125. Freedom of expression was preserved through article 19 of the Constitution. The safety of journalists was of paramount importance in view of the instrumental role played by them in ensuring freedom of the press, fostering a culture of accountability and protecting citizens' rights.

126. Pakistan was committed to preventing any torture or ill-treatment by agents of the State. Allegations of torture had been fully investigated and disciplinary action taken against those responsible.

127. Regarding the problems faced by women and girls in getting speedy justice, the Ministry of Human Rights was undertaking broad training of prosecutors and court officials.

128. Qatar welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and the national development agenda 2030.

129. The Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of laws to protect the rights of women and children.

130. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the national Action Plan for Human Rights, although it regretted the end of the moratorium on the death penalty.

131. The Russian Federation welcomed the inclusion of topics on tolerance, human rights and democracy in education and the efforts to combat extremism and discrimination.

132. Saudi Arabia commended the measures to combat terrorism, including the law on preventing abuse of cyberspace by terrorists and extremists.

133. Senegal welcomed the creation of the Ministry of Human Rights and specific mechanisms for vulnerable groups.

134. Sierra Leone applauded the legal reforms to ensure the human rights of people living in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

135. Singapore commended the efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Vision 2025 and the eleventh five-year plan.

136. Slovakia was concerned about alleged torture, the death penalty and the situation of certain groups that were stateless.

137. Slovenia appreciated the National Curriculum Council's intentions to reform the school curriculum by including themes such as tolerance, human rights and democracy.

138. South Africa noted the active role of Pakistan in, and firm commitment to, the development agenda and the right to development.

139. South Sudan noted the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.

140. Spain welcomed the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and efforts to protect transgender persons and women.

141. Sri Lanka welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

142. Nicaragua praised the policies and measures to strengthen development and social inclusion, combat discrimination and tackle climate change.

143. Concerning minorities, the delegation of Pakistan stated that the Constitution protected their right to profess their religion and visit their places of worship. The Constitution and legislation prohibited any discrimination on the basis of caste, colour or creed.

144. Pakistan had been leading global efforts to combat intolerance and hate speech. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was formulating a policy on national interfaith harmony to ensure the political participation of minorities. Festivals had been officially celebrated for the Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Kalash communities. There was a five-per-cent job quota for minorities in all federal services.

145. For the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, the delegation highlighted that, in conformity with health-related Sustainable Development Goals, the National Health Vision (2016–2025) provided a comprehensive approach to improve access to quality health services. The launching of the Prime Minister's National Health Programme was a major step towards achieving universal health coverage. Enhancing access to good quality education was part of Vision 2025; the education budget had more than doubled since 2010.

146. Pakistan took its international human rights obligations very seriously and continued to strengthen cooperation and engagement with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures. Pakistan had had three of its reports reviewed by treaty bodies in 2017.

147. Since 1979, Pakistan had hosted more than twice the number of refugees than all the European countries put together in the past five years. Neither the problems of Pakistan nor the Afghan refugee situation should be underestimated or overshadowed. Pakistan

was committed to pursuing voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees in safety and with dignity.

148. The delegation encouraged India to stick to the focus of the universal periodic review, which was a constructive process. It invited India to honour its obligations to the United Nations, especially on Jammu and Kashmir, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

149. The Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomed the substantive exchange of views and inputs from member and observer States. He reiterated that the protection and promotion of human rights was anchored in the national constitutional framework of Pakistan and that the promotion of human rights was a national duty to its people.

150. He underlined that it was important to understand some of the challenges concerning implementation of recommendations in the broader historical context. After the incidents of 11 September 2001, Pakistan had once again become a frontline State in the war against terrorism; erstwhile Jihadists turned terrorists had entered the country. The spillover of those wars had had a far-reaching impact on society in Pakistan.

151. Pakistan would remain committed to promoting a comprehensive human rights agenda, both by consolidating the progress that had been achieved and by further improving the implementation framework.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

152.1 Ratify the international conventions and protocols on human rights in order to enable its people to enjoy all their rights (Chad);

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

152.3 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in order to definitively abolish the death penalty (Spain);

152.4 Consider ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, meanwhile, declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, commuting death sentences to imprisonment (Uruguay);

152.5 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the Convention against Torture (Côte d'Ivoire);

152.6 Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);

152.7 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the Convention against Torture, as well as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);

152.8 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Senegal); Accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Honduras);

152.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and continue strengthening the legislation aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (Uruguay);

152.10 Develop indicators and a timeline for the implementation of the recent legislation on women's rights and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany);

152.11 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);

152.12 Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);

152.13 Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras); Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan);

152.14 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Afghanistan);

152.15 Accede to and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

(Sierra Leone); Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Iraq) (Japan) (Montenegro) (Paraguay) (Senegal);

152.16 Take the necessary measures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognize the competence of the Committee (Argentina);

152.17 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and adapt its national legislation to international standards in this regard (Chile);

152.18 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia) (Uruguay);

152.19 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark) (Ghana) (Lebanon) (Poland);

152.20 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish its national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia);

152.21 Prevent and eliminate all acts of torture and accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Luxembourg);

152.22 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Tunisia);

152.23 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);

152.24 Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);

152.25 Accede to and adapt its national legislation to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);

152.26 Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);

152.27 Accede to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Honduras);

152.28 Accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol (Estonia);

152.29 Ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);

152.30 Ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Guatemala);

152.31 Acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);

152.32 Continue its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to protect and promote these rights (State of Palestine);

152.33 Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Estonia);

152.34 Extend a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Afghanistan);

152.35 Present a standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs (Republic of Korea);

152.36 Respond positively to pending requests for special procedure visits and extend a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);

152.37 As a follow-up to the recommendations in paragraphs 106.10 and 106.39 from the first cycle and paragraph 122.77 from the second cycle, establish a systematic consultation and follow-up mechanism with civil society and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of recommendations formulated in the framework of the universal periodic review (Haiti);

152.38 Accelerate the domestication of the provisions of the international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe);

152.39 Continue efforts to review national laws to ensure that they are in line with their international human rights obligations (Cuba);

152.40 Continue to codify all legislation related to human rights, with a view to transforming it into one national system (Turkey);

152.41 Continue to implement its commitments on the promotion of human rights (Libya);

152.42 Continue to mobilize resources and redouble efforts towards the fulfilment of its human rights obligations (Nigeria);

152.43 Mainstream human rights in development planning by incorporating cross-cutting issues and promote the right to development (Sudan);

152.44 Continue to apply and strengthen programmes and public policies on social development, inclusion, the reduction of poverty and inequality, and non-discrimination (Nicaragua);

152.45 Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission for Human Rights, in accordance with international human rights standards (State of Palestine);

152.46 Continue its current approach on consolidation of human rights institutions (Kuwait);

152.47 Continue strengthening the operational efficiency of various human rights institutions (Morocco);

152.48 Give continuity to the strengthening of the national human rights institutions (Nepal);

152.49 Take all the necessary measures to ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is in line with the Paris Principles (Portugal);

152.50 Fully staff and fund the national human rights institutions outlined in its Action Plan for Human Rights in order to better collect and analyse disaggregated data in support of laws, policies and safeguards related to women and girls (Canada);

152.51 Continue efforts to enhance the operational effectiveness of its national human rights institutions as well as strengthen activities to promote education and awareness of human rights (Bhutan);

152.52 Further enhance the operational effectiveness of the national human rights institutions in accordance with their mandates through the provision of adequate human and financial resources (South Africa);

152.53 Adjust the mandate and responsibilities of the National Commission for Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient financial resources to carry out its activities effectively (Guatemala);

152.54 Enhance the independence and effectiveness of the National Commission for Human Rights through provision of adequate human and financial resources (Indonesia);

152.55 Step up measures to strengthen the work of local human rights institutions, including the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women and the National Commission for Minorities (Saudi Arabia);

152.56 Increase the level of funding of the National Commission on the Status of Women, in order for it to better protect and promote the rights of women (Croatia);

152.57 Strengthen the national and provincial commissions on the status of women through increased funding and support, given the importance of this issue (Philippines);

152.58 Continue its efforts to implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights (Sudan);

152.59 Continue to take steps to implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights (Sri Lanka);

152.60 Strengthen awareness-raising and implementation of the national Action Plan for Human Rights (Ethiopia);

152.61 Pursue the successful implementation of the national Action Plan for Human Rights and Vision 2025, which are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

152.62 Make greater efforts to implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the national policy framework on human rights (Bhutan);

152.63 Finalize the national policy framework on human rights, in consultation with stakeholders (Sri Lanka);

152.64 Continue the implementation of the national Action Plan for Human Rights, and finalize the draft national policy framework on human rights (Indonesia);

152.65 Implement the national Action Plan for Human Rights and the national policy framework on human rights referred to in chapter XII of the national report (United Arab Emirates);

152.66 Establish a national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, as well as explicitly criminalize the recruitment and use of children in hostilities (Portugal);

152.67 Continue to strengthen its efforts on human rights education, training and awareness-raising (Viet Nam);

152.68 Continue to promote human rights education, training and awareness-raising (Malaysia);

152.69 Continue efforts in the area of human rights education and training (Morocco);

152.70 Strengthen human rights training and education in school programmes and training programmes for the security forces (Algeria);

152.71 Continue to provide improved human rights education and training for judicial and law enforcement officials (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

152.72 Strengthen the promotion of human rights education, training and capacity-building for government officials and other relevant stakeholders (Indonesia);

152.73 Continue adopting effective measures to fight against discrimination (Saudi Arabia);

152.74 Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat all forms of discrimination, in line with its obligations and international standards (Honduras);

152.75 Maintain efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, considering their specific needs and capacities, through the empowerment of their rights and fair reparation mechanisms (Ecuador);

152.76 Develop programmes and policies for comprehensive development and improvement of the situation of the most needy groups (Egypt);

152.77 Identify gaps for further protection and harmonization of vulnerable groups, including religious minorities (Ethiopia);

152.78 Continue implementing measures to safeguard the rights of women, children and other marginalized and vulnerable segments of society (Nepal);

152.79 Support legislative policies to protect vulnerable groups with the necessary financial resources to ensure their implementation (United Arab Emirates);

152.80 Continue to adopt measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

152.81 Continue its efforts to improve the protection of human rights, especially by eliminating discrimination based on sex, race, caste and religion (Holy See);

152.82 Institute specific legislative measures aimed at eliminating the practice of discrimination against minority groups, including women and girls (Uganda);

152.83 Adopt the necessary legislative or regulatory measures to combat all forms of discrimination, particularly against ethnic or religious minorities (Côte d'Ivoire);

152.84 Make greater efforts to investigate complaints and prosecute those that commit crimes against ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Hazaras, Dalits, Christians, Hindus and Ahmadis (Argentina);

152.85 As a follow-up to the recommendation in paragraph 122.38 from the second cycle, amend discriminatory laws and vigilantly counter discrimination against marginalized groups, including women and girls and ethnic and religious minorities, and provide a safe and just environment for all citizens in Pakistan (Haiti);

152.86 Adopt effective measures to prevent and punish all forms of discrimination against minority groups by adding clear provisions to articles 25 to 27 of the Constitution to ensure the prohibition of discrimination on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as by adding clear protection provisions in criminal laws concerning public assembly, obscenity and public nuisance (Netherlands);

152.87 Ensure that minority groups, including scheduled castes, are not discriminated against in education, health care, employment and other basic services and that perpetrators of hate crimes against them face the full force of the law (Sierra Leone);

152.88 Protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and take the necessary measures to guarantee their protection and a life free from discrimination (Mexico);

152.89 Adopt legislative measures to decriminalize homosexuality and consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Chile);

152.90 Accelerate the enactment of laws for the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in particular the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill (France);

152.91 Rapidly adopt and implement the two draft bills recently tabled in the National Assembly to ensure the rights of transgender persons (Spain);

152.92 Ensure that the 2017 law, which is presently being reviewed, on the recognition of the rights of intersex and transgender persons pays the necessary attention to both transgender women and men (Albania);

152.93 Enact and enforce legislation to afford legal protection from violence and discrimination to all its citizens, including women, girls, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community and religious minorities, including through effective prosecutions in accordance with the rule of law (Australia);

152.94 Allocate sufficient resources for the Sustainable Development Goals (Syrian Arab Republic);

152.95 Strengthen efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Egypt);

152.96 Continue to invest in green energy projects in order to provide clean and modern energy to all its people (Islamic Republic of Iran);

152.97 Consider conducting an assessment of the effects of air, water and soil pollution on children's health with a view to designing a well-resourced strategy to address the situation (Ghana);

152.98 Intensify its efforts to combat terrorism (Nigeria);

152.99 Respond comprehensively toward both terrorism and terrorists (Afghanistan);

152.100 Dismantle special terrorist zones, safe havens and sanctuaries, and take verifiable actions, including on terror financing (India);

152.101 Step up efforts to prevent child casualties in counter-terrorism operations, using every method to protect their rights (Paraguay);

152.102 Protect the rights of the child more effectively, particularly during counter-terrorism activities, and by desisting from issuing death sentences and executing juveniles (Poland);

152.103 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Iceland);

152.104 Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty (Estonia);

152.105 Restore the moratorium on the death penalty (France);

152.106 Re-establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Czechia);

152.107 Re-establish the moratorium on the death penalty (Lithuania);

152.108 Reimpose the moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);

152.109 Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty and consider abolishing capital punishment (Brazil);

152.110 Reinstate the moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition (Greece);

152.111 Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Norway);

152.112 Introduce a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to repealing it (Switzerland);

152.113 Reinstate the moratorium on executions, with a view to ultimately abolishing the death penalty (Cyprus);

152.114 Establish without delay a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its definitive abolition (Luxembourg);

152.115 Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its legal and practical abolition (Chile);

152.116 Reintroduce the moratorium on the death penalty for all cases as a first step towards its full abolition (Portugal);

152.117 Immediately abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on all pending executions (Slovakia);

152.118 Consider re-establishing the moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);

152.119 Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards its complete abolition and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sweden);

152.120 Halt the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, and take steps towards its abolition, including ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);

152.121 Reconstitute its moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards its complete abolition and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

152.122 Immediately repeal legislation that provides for the possibility to impose the death penalty for cases related to freedom of speech, in particular section 295C of the Penal Code, in order to ensure compliance with articles 6 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);

152.123 Initiate a legislative process to revise the Penal Code in order to limit the death penalty to cases in which the accused has committed an intentional killing as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty (Republic of Moldova);

152.124 Set a clear timeline for the review of legislation carrying the death penalty with the aim of limiting the scope of crimes to which it applies (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

152.125 Re-establish the moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its abolition, particularly when the alleged perpetrators are minors or belong to minorities (Mexico);

152.126 Reinstatement the moratorium on executions, and ban the death penalty for defendants who suffer from mental illness or who were minors at the time of their alleged crimes (Germany);

152.127 Pending abolition of the death penalty, reinstate the moratorium on executions and introduce a statutory prohibition on the death penalty and execution of persons with mental disabilities and those who were juveniles at the time of the crime (Republic of Moldova);

152.128 Review the list of crimes punishable by death and bring the enforcement of capital punishment into line with international standards, with a view to the reintroduction of the moratorium and the eventual abolition of the death penalty (Austria);

152.129 Reestablish the moratorium on the application of the death penalty, reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and, ultimately, consider abolishing the death penalty (Namibia);

152.130 Ensure due process and full enforcement of laws to avoid extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings and arbitrary detentions, including adopting all necessary measures, including legal and judicial measures, in order to bring an end to impunity and to prevent the recurrence of such activities (New Zealand);

152.131 Make enforced disappearance a criminal offence and ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial executions are thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice (Switzerland);

152.132 Conduct an independent inquiry into all suspected cases of enforced disappearances of human rights defenders and hold accountable those responsible (Germany);

152.133 Legislate a specific definition of torture as recommended by the Committee against Torture in June 2017 (Canada);

152.134 Take all the necessary steps to ensure that all perpetrators of torture are prosecuted and brought to justice (Slovakia);

152.135 Pursue the efforts to remove all measures that could give rise to situations analogous to torture or cruel or inhuman treatment from its national legislation, and establish the necessary safeguards to prevent torture and abolish the death penalty (Paraguay);

152.136 Take the necessary measures to improve detention facilities, including renewing its Prisons Act, which was enacted in 1894 (Republic of Korea);

152.137 Strengthen the functioning of the independent judiciary to enhance transparency and efficiency in judicial proceedings (Islamic Republic of Iran);

152.138 Ensure the right to a fair trial for all and ban traditional and informal justice systems (Republic of Korea);

152.139 Bar military courts from trying civilians and allow their monitoring by international observers and human rights organizations (India);

152.140 Allow due legal processes and judicial review by high courts and the Supreme Court for cases tried by military courts (India);

152.141 Ensure due process is afforded to all persons accused of criminal offences, as well as protection from public persecution (Australia);

152.142 Strengthen the reform process of the criminal justice system in accordance with international standards, particularly regarding the right to a fair trial, the right to appeal to civilian courts and the right to a public hearing, and abrogate the jurisdiction of the military courts over civilian cases in terrorism-related offences (Slovenia);

152.143 Advance the efforts made to facilitate equitable access to justice for all, especially the poor and marginalized (Cuba);

152.144 Align with the comprehensive recommendations made by the Committee against Torture and those mentioned by the Human Rights Committee in its review of Pakistan in 2017, regarding the rule of law and access to justice (Greece);

152.145 Track and report the investigation and prosecution of security forces that commit human rights violations and abuses (United States of America);

152.146 Continue measures to increase the overall ratio of tax to gross domestic product, in particular implementing recommendations from the final report of the Tax Reforms Commission, including steps to provide a proper mechanism to improve tax collection at the national and provincial levels in an open and transparent manner, with a view to ensuring that everyone pays their fair share (Haiti);

152.147 Finalize and fully implement the national policy on interfaith harmony, in order to, among other things, protect the rights of religious minorities (Namibia);

152.148 Adopt and implement legal and practical measures to ensure the protection of religious minorities, including Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus and Sikhs, in line with paragraph 34 of the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee (Netherlands);

152.149 Strengthen the protection of religious minorities, in particular by guaranteeing freedom of manifestation of their religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance (Poland);

152.150 Amend its national legislation on defamation and blasphemy in accordance with international human rights law (Lithuania);

152.151 Modify or abolish blasphemy laws that limit the right to freedom of religion or belief (Mexico);

152.152 Review the procedures applicable to the blasphemy laws with a view to containing abuses (France);

152.153 Revise the blasphemy laws so that they cannot be abused against religious minorities (Czechia);

152.154 Enact legislation ensuring the right to freedom of religion or belief for all religious groups and take effective measures to prevent the abuse of blasphemy legislation and the use of violence against religious minorities (Austria);

152.155 Repeal the blasphemy laws and restrictions and end their use against Ahmadi Muslims and others, and grant the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (United States of America);

152.156 Repeal or modify the blasphemy laws in order to bring them into line with the principles related to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and, in particular, with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);

152.157 Consider repealing the blasphemy laws, or at least amending them, to protect persons from eventual abuses or false accusations and to moderate the penalties (Holy See);

152.158 Guarantee freedom of religion or belief by considering the decriminalization of blasphemy, and adopt measures to protect the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities (Italy);

152.159 Abolish, or profoundly reform, the blasphemy laws and guarantee freedom of religion and belief for all in law and in practice (Luxembourg);

152.160 Ensure the protection of the right to freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly by decriminalizing blasphemy and respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of all religious minorities, including the Ahmadis, Shia Muslims, Christians and Baha'is (New Zealand);

152.161 End the harassment of minorities and place procedural and institutional safeguards to prevent the misuse of the blasphemy laws (India);

152.162 Implement measures to prevent violence, persecution and discrimination on the basis of religion and, in particular, prevent the misuse of the blasphemy laws by requiring all cases to undergo prior judicial review before charges may proceed (Canada);

152.163 Continue active work to ensure inter-confessional harmony within Pakistan (Russian Federation);

152.164 Continue adopting policies and measures to promote dialogue and tolerance among religions (Qatar);

152.165 Strengthen measures with regard to the elimination of violence and discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities (Georgia);

152.166 Investigate all reports of violence against religious minorities and bring those responsible to justice (Norway);

152.167 Amend chapter XV of the Penal Code to ensure the protection of the minorities of all religions and beliefs (Denmark);

152.168 Take effective measures to protect persons belonging to minorities, including the Ahmadi community (France);

152.169 End forced conversions and marriages of minorities, including Hindu, Sikh and Christian women, and prosecute all cases (India);

152.170 Intensify efforts aimed at efficiently safeguarding the freedom of expression (Cyprus);

152.171 Stop targeting political dissidents and legitimate criticism in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (India);

152.172 Take steps to protect freedom of expression, including online freedoms (Australia);

152.173 Prevent impunity for crimes against journalists and media workers (Sweden);

152.174 Protect independent journalists and the media against any intimidation or violence, including enforced disappearance (Czechia);

152.175 Investigate all reports of attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Norway);

152.176 Implement measures to protect the right to life and freedom of expression of journalists and human rights defenders, ensuring that the perpetrators of violence against them are brought to justice (Greece);

152.177 Bring to justice anyone who threatens, abducts or attacks human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers or others who work to promote democracy (Canada);

152.178 Introduce strong legislation prohibiting attacks against journalists, effectively investigate such acts and prosecute the perpetrators, as previously recommended (Austria);

152.179 Provide updated information regarding the judicial status of cases of murdered journalists for the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity (Sweden);

152.180 Continue the adoption and implementation of administrative legal measures for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders, and ensure that the perpetrators of violence against them are referred to the courts (France);

152.181 Continue its efforts to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to ensure that all allegations of improper use of criminal laws against journalists and dissenting voices, including human rights defenders, are investigated in an effective, impartial and prompt manner (Ireland);

152.182 Enforce the measures adopted to ensure the participation of minorities in public affairs (Egypt);

152.183 Strengthen measures to ensure the participation of minorities in all spheres of national life (Zimbabwe);

152.184 Strengthen the protection of minorities by having a fully inclusive electoral roll without discrimination or religious bias and by establishing an independent National Commission for Minorities from all faith communities, which should appoint its own representatives (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

152.185 Pass an anti-trafficking law that prohibits and penalizes all forms of human trafficking (United States of America);

152.186 Update national laws to cover all forms of trafficking, and eliminate cross-border trafficking in persons and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);

152.187 Implement fully the national strategic framework against trafficking in persons and human smuggling, ensuring adequate human and financial resources (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

152.188 Combat human trafficking and forced labour through the establishment of systematic and regular monitoring mechanisms (Iraq);

152.189 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly the exploitation of children, by reinforcing the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);

152.190 Continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional mechanisms to combat and prevent trafficking of persons, especially that of children (Maldives);

152.191 Continue to raise the level of protection of human rights of vulnerable groups, with particular reference to eliminating child labour (Turkey);

152.192 Undertake the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the national framework programme to combat child and bonded labour (Russian Federation);

152.193 Develop a clear implementation and monitoring plan for all national and provincial legislation on bonded labour (Ireland);

152.194 Strengthen the monitoring of national labour conditions to eliminate the practice of bonded labour and unlawful child labour (Republic of Korea);

152.195 Implement programmes to create jobs to ensure the realization of the right to work (Islamic Republic of Iran);

152.196 Continue to promote the implementation of the necessary basic, legal and social structures to enable people to live a decent life (Libya);

152.197 Continue to achieve economic growth aimed at raising the standard of living of the population and improving the social, health and educational situation of poor people (Yemen);

152.198 Continue providing financial support to low-income families (China);

152.199 Continue to provide financial and other forms of support to women and other vulnerable groups (Azerbaijan);

152.200 Further strengthen existing flagship programmes for social safety nets (Azerbaijan);

- 152.201 Continue its policies to eradicate poverty (South Sudan);
- 152.202 Continue to take measures to ensure social equity and reduce poverty in the country (Uzbekistan);
- 152.203 Introduce further measures to sustain and reinforce progress made in poverty reduction (Viet Nam);
- 152.204 Continue its efforts to alleviate poverty and promote economic and social sustainable development (China);
- 152.205 Continue the successful programmes on employment, food and assistance for the most vulnerable in its fight against poverty (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 152.206 Combat poverty, including through the effective implementation of the Benazir Income Support Programme (South Africa);
- 152.207 Strengthen its efforts to promote food security and eradicate all forms of malnutrition, and ensure quality education to all children through inclusive policies (Albania);
- 152.208 Further strengthen cooperation with other countries and relevant international organizations by sharing good experiences in the fields of poverty reduction, education for all and universal medical care (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 152.209 Continue its efforts to ensure its people have access to affordable housing (Brunei Darussalam);
- 152.210 Continue the existing efforts in order to provide better health services to all (Oman);
- 152.211 Strengthen its public health system with a view to providing free, quality, basic health services to all and reduce child mortality (Angola);
- 152.212 Allocate sufficient resources to strengthen public health, aiming to provide affordable and quality basic medical services (Belarus);
- 152.213 Ensure the availability of good quality medicines at an appropriate price, especially for the disadvantaged, the vulnerable and the poor (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 152.214 Continue the successful social policies on education and health for the benefit of women, girls and older persons (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 152.215 Prioritize policies and programmes on nutrition, vaccination and health workers to reduce maternal, neonatal, and child mortality, and make sufficient budgetary allocations (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 152.216 Take additional tangible steps to protect children, in particular to address their critical nutritional and health-care needs (Kyrgyzstan);
- 152.217 Expand further the ongoing efforts to provide medical facilities and access to vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, in rural areas, as part of the overall effort to achieve universal health coverage in Pakistan (Malaysia);
- 152.218 Continue improving maternal and neonatal health services through interventions at national and provincial levels (Sri Lanka);
- 152.219 Ensure women's rights concerning their sexual and reproductive health through an enabling policy (Iceland);
- 152.220 Take effective measures to improve women's access to health services, in particular reproductive health services (Kazakhstan);
- 152.221 Continue the positive experience of incorporating international human rights standards into the national education system (Azerbaijan);
- 152.222 Increase its efforts to improve the education system, as a tool to enhance peaceful coexistence in the country (Holy See);
- 152.223 Step up efforts to ensure provision of free and quality primary and secondary education (Georgia);
- 152.224 Continue the current efforts to ensure that all children, without discrimination, enjoy the right to education (Kazakhstan);
- 152.225 Intensify efforts to ensure that all children enjoy the right to education and protection from discrimination and violence (Kyrgyzstan);
- 152.226 Implement federal and provincial laws on the right to education to ensure universal access (Norway);
- 152.227 Strengthen efforts to ensure the access of children to compulsory education (Bahrain);
- 152.228 Step up efforts to ensure the access of all children to quality education, regardless of social status, gender or ethnicity (Bulgaria);

152.229 Undertake more efforts to ensure equal access to elementary and secondary education for both genders (Oman);

152.230 Increase government spending on education to provide compulsory public and private education (Syrian Arab Republic);

152.231 Take measures to further promote the right to education, including by ensuring that school facilities and well-trained teachers are adequately present throughout the country (Thailand);

152.232 Continue its efforts to increase enrolment rates at all levels of education, in particular continue to improve equal access to education for all children, regardless of gender, income level or background (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

152.233 Continue to invest resources to ensure that all children between the ages of 5 and 16, in particular girls in difficult regions, have access to quality basic and secondary education (Singapore);

152.234 Ensure better and greater access of women and girls to education with the aim of empowering them (Spain);

152.235 Take urgent measures to protect women and girls against discrimination and gender disparities, in particular by ensuring their access to education (Argentina);

152.236 Continue efforts to improve the literacy rate among women (Qatar);

152.237 Redouble its efforts to improve the condition of school facilities in rural areas (South Sudan);

152.238 Ensure that madrasas, within the territory of Pakistan, operate in line with the human rights obligations of Pakistan (Afghanistan);

152.239 Continue the implementation of the laws on the protection of women (France);

152.240 Continue efforts to promote and protect the role and status of women (Lebanon);

152.241 Continue efforts to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Tunisia);

152.242 Continue efforts aiming at empowering women, combating social and economic discrimination and protecting them from violence (Poland);

152.243 Continue implementation of initiatives to encourage the empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas (Bulgaria);

152.244 Consolidate the protection of women's human rights with new mechanisms and laws in this area (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

152.245 Launch government programmes to raise the awareness of women about their constitutionally guaranteed rights (Bahrain);

152.246 Continue progress towards equality between women and men, increasing and strengthening the representation of women in politics, economics, academia and the judiciary. This also implies effective equality before the law, including inheritance rights, equal access to justice, equality in the effective exercise of their rights to education and health, and equal remuneration and access to credit and other financial services (Nicaragua);

152.247 Work on implementing the women and peace and security agenda to ensure effective participation of women in all spheres (Spain);

152.248 Enforce effectively both the existing and new laws to promote and protect the rights of women and children, as well as members of religious minorities, in order to promote tolerance and an inclusive society (Thailand);

152.249 Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children by means of reinforcing the relevant legal framework, running awareness campaigns and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive appropriate help (Italy);

152.250 Continue to increase its efforts to prevent discrimination and violence against women (Japan);

152.251 Continue to implement additional measures to prevent discrimination against women and girls (Maldives);

152.252 Enhance activities aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and gender-based violence (Kyrgyzstan);

152.253 Strengthen its efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls to allow them to enjoy their rights under conditions of equality (Ecuador);

152.254 Address the societal acceptance of violence against women and ensure punishment for all perpetrators of violence against women (Czechia);

152.255 Expedite the finalization of the national policy on ending violence against women and girls (Bangladesh);

152.256 Speed up the finalization of its national policy on ending violence against women and girls (South Africa);

152.257 Intensify its efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls by ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (Djibouti);

152.258 Enact legislation on domestic violence in all provinces (Sweden);

152.259 Adopt legislation that criminalizes domestic violence in all provinces and ensure, promote and facilitate the effective implementation of this legislation by, inter alia, providing training for law enforcement officers (Belgium);

152.260 Complete the existing legislation in order to combat all forms of violence against women throughout its territory (Switzerland);

152.261 Ensure effective and monitored enforcement of existing federal and provincial legislation related to violence against women (Sweden);

152.262 Strengthen national legislation criminalizing violence against women in order to remove the existing loopholes that leave room for perpetrators to escape punishment (Uganda);

152.263 Implement, effectively and stringently, legislation criminalizing violence against women and domestic violence, including marital rape, and improve data collection mechanisms on violence against women (Slovenia);

152.264 Enforce effectively all relevant laws criminalizing violence against women and domestic violence (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

152.265 Set up effective legislative or others measures to protect women and children against domestic violence and all forms of ill-treatment (Luxembourg);

152.266 Abolish harmful customary practices against young girls in line with its commitments under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);

152.267 Redouble efforts to enforce laws criminalizing gender-biased violence, such as the recently adopted laws against rape and “honour” crimes (Brazil);

152.268 Take effective measures to ensure the full implementation of the laws against “honour” crimes and rape and raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years in all provinces (Austria);

152.269 Implement, fully and without delay, the law against “honour” crimes, which resolved an ambiguity that had allowed perpetrators to be pardoned by relatives of the victim (Croatia);

152.270 Adopt measures that will enhance the implementation of legislation combating “honour” killings, rape, violence against women and domestic violence (Cyprus);

152.271 Continue its efforts towards eradicating discrimination and violence against women and girls, including by fully implementing the laws against rape and “honour” crimes and thoroughly investigating and prosecuting all violations of those laws (New Zealand);

152.272 Increase the number and quality of gender-sensitive training events on violence against women for the judiciary and law enforcement agencies (Lithuania);

152.273 Work on raising the legal marriage age to 18 years (Bahrain);

152.274 Make 18 years the minimum age of marriage for women and men (Iceland);

152.275 Enact and enforce legislation that facilitates women’s social, political and economic empowerment, including in relation to child marriage and forced conversion (Australia);

152.276 Amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act to include an equal minimum age of marriage of 18 years for all individuals (Denmark);

152.277 Take concrete steps aimed at increasing the minimum marriage age for girls from 16 to 18 (Namibia);

152.278 Set the legal minimum age to marry at 18 years for males and females in all provinces, and ensure that the law is effectively enforced (Belgium);

152.279 Continue to adopt measures that would further promote and protect the rights of the child (Brunei Darussalam);

152.280 Develop a comprehensive child protection policy with a view to reflecting fully the realities of children in national plans and programmes (Mongolia);

152.281 Consider the implementation of the necessary safeguards for the protection of children against corporal punishment (Cuba);

152.282 Take the necessary measures to include international standards on juvenile justice in the workings of the national judiciary (Algeria);

152.283 Take measures to considerably reduce the number of stunted children and out-of-school children, and end child labour by developing indicators and a timeline for the implementation of the recent legislation against child labour (Germany);

152.284 Consider the implementation of programmes and policies for the empowerment of young people (China);

152.285 Continue to introduce new policies and measures that promote the social and economic inclusion of all persons with disabilities (Singapore);

152.286 Continue to implement policies that fully consider the rights of persons with disabilities when formulating and implementing all social activities and development plans (Japan);

152.287 Ensure that all refugees within the territory of Pakistan enjoy their basic human rights and are protected from arbitrary arrest, humiliation and enforced expulsion (Afghanistan);

152.288 Fulfil international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, including consular access for foreign nationals without discriminations (India);

152.289 Provide freedom to the people of “Pakistan-occupied Kashmir” by ending its illegal and forcible occupation (India).

153. 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 Pakistan was headed by H.E. Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Member of Senate;

Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Law;

Mr. Tahir Khalil Sindhu, Minister of Human Rights and Minorities, Punjab;

Mr. Farukh Amil, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary for Human Rights;

Mr. Ashgar Ali, Secretary for Law, Khyber Pakhtunkwa;

Mr. Muhammad Aftab Bhatti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony;

Mr. Shujjat Ali Rathore, Director General (Foreign Minister's office), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi, Director General (United Nations) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Mr. Usman Iqbal Jadoon, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Ms. Farhat Ayesha, Director (Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

Mr. Bilal Akram Shah, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Ms. Fareena Arshad, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Mr. Atif Raza, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Ms. Zunaira Latif, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;

Mr. Qazi Saleem Ahmed Khan, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva.