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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Lesotho

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-fifth session from 20 to 31 January 2020. The review of Lesotho was held at the 5th meeting, on 22 January 2020. The delegation of Lesotho was headed by the Minister of Law and Constitutional Affairs, Sixtus Habofanoeh Lehana. At its 9th meeting, held on 24 January 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on Lesotho.
2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lesotho: Argentina, Burkina Faso and Republic of Korea.
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 Lesotho:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/35/LSO/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.6/35/LSO/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/35/LSO/3 and Corr.1).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Lesotho through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation stated that the preparation of the national report had been both highly participatory and fully inclusive. A stakeholders' validation workshop had been held on 25 September 2019 for government ministries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, the judiciary, development partners and oversight bodies, such as the National Assembly and Ombudsman. During the workshop there had been constructive exchanges, which had contributed to the content and quality of the report. Deliberations on the report had been conducted in an open atmosphere.
6. As a means of honouring its international obligations, Lesotho had requested technical assistance to address some of its human rights challenges, such as training on human rights issues and State party reporting. Although Lesotho was a State party to all the major human rights instruments, it was, however, lagging behind in its obligations to report and pass the necessary national legislation to enact such international instruments. One of the reasons for such a state of affairs was the absence of any formal mechanism to deal with treaty body reporting. Efforts to set up a national mechanism on reporting and follow-up were under way.
7. In order to cooperate with treaty bodies and special procedures, the country had examined the concluding observations on its initial report under the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as its second periodic report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The recommendations contained in the Committees' concluding observations were being implemented. The next periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the second periodic report under the International

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the initial report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment were being drafted and would be submitted to the relevant treaty bodies in due course. Furthermore, Lesotho had extended a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, who had visited the country between 4 and 15 February 2019. The visit report had been submitted to the Human Rights Council at its forty-second session. The recommendations contained therein concerning water supply and the provision of sanitation services were being implemented incrementally.

8. Progress had been made with regard to the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. After the promulgation of the National Human Rights Commission Act in 2016, there had been concerns expressed by NGOs that the Act did not comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). A case had been lodged by the NGOs in that regard. The case had been dismissed by the High Court and an appeal lodged but later withdrawn when the Government and the NGOs had agreed to review the Act accordingly. A Cabinet memorandum, which spelled out the changes that would be made to the Act and regulations, had been tabled before Cabinet for consideration. Once it had been approved, drafting instructions had been provided to the Parliamentary Counsel.

9. As regards the rights of women, Lesotho had made progress in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Progress had been noted in education and non-agricultural wage employment. At the 27th African Union Summit, held in Rwanda in July 2016, Lesotho had won the 2016 African Gender Award as one of the continent's top performers in the advancement of the economic and social rights of women. Steps had been taken to curb trafficking in persons and gender-based violence, such as the development of the Domestic Violence Bill. However, despite those measures, gender-based violence remained a challenge for women in Lesotho.

10. As regards children's rights, the Government was in the process of amending the Child Protection and Welfare Act 2011. The Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill 2019 made child marriage a punishable offence. The Bill also abolished all forms of child labour.

11. With regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, the Disability Equity Bill had passed its second and third readings in the National Assembly and was currently in the Senate. It contained provisions on inclusive education.

12. As regards the rights to education and health, some of the challenges faced by the education sector were child, early and forced marriages, which contributed to the high drop-out rate for girls. There were ongoing sensitization campaigns aimed at encouraging both teachers and parents to allow pregnant girls to remain in class for as long as possible.

13. In order to improve rural women's access to sexual and reproductive health rights, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with NGOs, civil society organizations and development partners, had taken the following measures: recruiting and building the capacity of village health workers whose mandate included the distribution of family planning commodities and the provision of information on family planning at the community level. The Ministry of Health had also updated the community-based distributors' manual on the distribution of family planning commodities.

14. As regards conditions of detention, the Lesotho Correctional Service had established a health section comprising a HIV/AIDS coordinator, nursing officers, nursing sisters, nutrition officers, health inspectors and pharmacy technicians. In the correctional institution for women, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and antenatal and postnatal care were provided. The programme on sexual and reproductive health had been launched in September 2015. There was access to antiretroviral treatment for all inmates, including foreigners, and support teams had been formed in most institutions. Training for young persons on HIV/AIDS and life skills had also been carried out.

15. During the second cycle of the universal periodic review, Lesotho had noted all the recommendations that dealt with key populations, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as those on decriminalizing defamation. On those

issues, progress had been made. In the 2019/20 budget speech, the Government had undertaken to increase targeted HIV testing and services to key populations, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. The Government, through the Human Rights Unit of the Ministry of Law and Constitutional Affairs, had carried out an assessment of the legal environment concerning HIV/AIDS in 2014, supported by the United Nations Development Programme. The aim of the assessment had been to improve the availability of information, and legal and regulatory aspects governing HIV-related issues, while taking into account the rights of key populations, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

16. Lesotho had taken steps to repeal criminal defamation laws or insult laws, which impeded freedom of speech. The High Court, sitting as the Constitutional Court, had declared, on 21 May 2018, that criminal defamation was unconstitutional. The Constitutional Court held that criminalizing defamation had a dire effect on journalistic freedom of expression, resulting in self-censorship by journalists and consequently a less-informed public. Recommendations in that regard had been partially implemented.

17. As regards new developments, Lesotho was reforming the Constitution, Parliament, security legislation, the judiciary and public services, which were key for the long-term stability and economic transformation of Lesotho.

18. The challenges facing the country included the decline in agricultural production as a result of deteriorating rangeland conditions, soil erosion and periodic droughts. As a result, the country was experiencing worsening food deficits as a net food importing developing country, thus contributing to widening poverty and food insecurity. Despite such challenges, Lesotho looked to the future with enthusiasm.

19. The head of the delegation concluded by answering the advance questions of the United Kingdom.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 81 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Djibouti expressed its appreciation with regard to the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as well as the adoption of a number of human rights instruments.

22. Egypt commended the promotion of the rights of women and children with disabilities, hailed efforts in the sphere of education, health care and combating corruption, and welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission.

23. Eswatini welcomed and thanked the delegation of Lesotho for their comprehensive report, primarily on the implementation of the recommendations from the second review cycle.

24. Fiji welcomed achievements in implementing recommendations from the previous review cycle and commended Lesotho on developing its National Climate Change Policy 2017 and the National Resilience Strategic Framework 2017–2030 to prevent and mitigate disaster risks.

25. Ethiopia commended the decision by Lesotho to mainstream disaster risk reduction and resilience through the adoption of the National Resilience Strategic Framework and welcomed its plan in the health sector to reduce maternal mortality.

26. France expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by Lesotho to improve access to health and children's rights, but wished to call attention to the fact that the human rights situation remained fragile.

27. Georgia welcomed the measures taken by the Government to combat trafficking in persons, in particular the development of the regulations and the national action plan to implement the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011.

28. Germany appreciated the ongoing national reform process by Lesotho and the establishment of the National Reforms Authority, but expressed concern about the recent increase in police violence, which had led to several deaths in police custody.
29. Ghana commended the Government on its commitment to upholding the rule of law, promoting gender equality, empowering women, combating trafficking in persons, as well as promoting and protecting children's rights.
30. Honduras welcomed the ratification of all core international human rights treaties, as well as various instruments of the International Labour Organization, and expressed satisfaction at the progress made regarding gender parity in education.
31. Iceland hoped that the implementation of steps outlined in the national report would continue, in particular the commitment demonstrated to address gender-based violence and the changes made to ensure equality regarding the acquisition of citizenship.
32. India noted with appreciation the consultation process undertaken, which included the setting-up of an interministerial committee on the universal periodic review with a view to the preparation of the national report.
33. Indonesia hailed the multi-pronged efforts of Lesotho to improve the implementation of social policies, as well as the country's efforts to mainstream policies and actions in the field of disaster risk reduction.
34. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the steps taken to promote children's rights through the ongoing law reform process to harmonize the definition of "child" in all relevant legislation and align it on the definition found in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
35. Iraq commended Lesotho on the consultative process that had accompanied the preparation of the national report and welcomed its accession to all core international human rights instruments and the National Strategic Development Plan II.
36. Ireland recognized that the current national reform process would be important for further promotion of human rights and encouraged Lesotho to continue efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission.
37. Italy praised the efforts carried out since the second cycle review, in particular the adoption of the Gender and Development Policy and the guidelines on herd-boys, as well as the initiatives that were designed to sensitize public opinion on the importance of preventing child, early and forced marriages.
38. Kuwait commended Lesotho on its efforts in the field of human rights and also wished to express its appreciation for the development of the Food and Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2019–2023.
39. Libya welcomed the positive steps taken in the area of human rights promotion, which included the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, as well as the country's institutional and legal reforms.
40. Mali appreciated the Government's efforts to enable the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in 2016, but wished to point out that certain provisions of the law had to be reviewed.
41. The Marshall Islands commended Lesotho on its legal and constitutional reforms to adopt national legislation to enact all international human rights treaties ratified by it and hailed efforts to amend the Child Protection and Welfare Act.
42. Mauritius applauded the various legislative amendments and policies implemented to strengthen the human rights of citizens of Lesotho in order to improve their conditions of living, and hailed the passage of the National Human Rights Commission Act.
43. Mexico expressed its appreciation for the progress made by Lesotho, such as the reforms to the Marriage Act and the Child Protection and Welfare Act, which were aimed at eliminating child marriage.

44. Montenegro noted positive developments with regard to the ratification of the core human rights treaties, but wished to underscore its concerns over the worst forms of child labour, exploitation of children and child marriage.
45. Morocco supported the constitutional reforms undertaken, particularly in the fight against trafficking in humans, the adoption of the strategy to combat corruption, and efforts to promote the rule of law and access to justice.
46. Mozambique commended Lesotho on its efforts regarding the submission of overdue reports to the different international and regional human rights treaty bodies, as it sought to promote and protect the human rights of its people.
47. Myanmar commended the efforts of Lesotho to align its legislation with United Nations human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
48. Namibia commended Lesotho on its efforts to advance the economic and social rights of women, as well as the rights of children, and welcomed the ongoing campaign aimed at eliminating child marriages.
49. Nepal welcomed the initiatives taken by Lesotho, for example the re-establishment of the National AIDS Commission and the National Health Strategy for Adolescents and Young People to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.
50. The Netherlands appreciated the Government's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but remained concerned about the high level of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as the widespread problem of gender-based violence.
51. New Zealand hailed the wide-ranging constitutional and security sector reforms of Lesotho and acknowledged its ongoing commitment to fighting corruption, but was concerned about a lack of health-care access for poor and rural women.
52. Lesotho referred to recommendations made from the floor, including the abolition of the death penalty, the submission of overdue State party reports, national enactment of international treaties, the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, child labour, trafficking in persons, the situation of persons with disabilities, the policy to address climate change and the rights of migrants.
53. When responding to some of the statements, Lesotho indicated that, since the death penalty was provided for in the Constitution as a limitation on the right to life, its abolition had been tabled for national debate as part of the national reform process. Ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, would depend on the outcome of the national reforms.
54. The Niger welcomed the initiatives taken by Lesotho aimed at reducing poverty and ensuring the economic development of the country despite various difficulties, among which was the lack of resources and capacities.
55. Nigeria noted with encouragement the efforts of Lesotho to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights, and commended the Government on its determination to combat corruption and enhance good governance.
56. Pakistan welcomed the efforts of Lesotho to reduce extreme poverty, food insecurity and unemployment, and hailed the National Youth Policy 2017, designed to stimulate environmental awareness among young persons and their responsibilities towards environmental sustainability and poverty reduction.
57. The Philippines expressed its appreciation for the adoption of national strategies that gave due priority to inclusive and sustainable growth, socioeconomic development and the strengthening of governance and accountability.
58. Portugal thanked Lesotho for the presentation of its national report and commended it on ratifying or acceding to all the core human rights treaties, as well as a number of International Labour Organization instruments.

59. Rwanda welcomed measures aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, including the implementation of previous recommendations and efforts to address the backlog of cases in the courts through the Integrated Case Management System.
60. Senegal welcomed measures to remedy prison overcrowding and widespread HIV/AIDS cases and steps to incorporate recommendations relating to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
61. Serbia welcomed the cooperation of the relevant authorities with United Nations mechanisms on organizing training courses to raise awareness of United Nations human rights standards, and commended national efforts to accelerate action to eliminate food insecurity and malnutrition.
62. Seychelles highlighted the Gender and Development Policy, the drafting of the Older Persons Protection Bill, and the adoption of the National Climate Change Policy and a national action plan to implement the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.
63. Sierra Leone welcomed the progress made in achieving Goals 1 and 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals to address poverty and inequality, as well as the emphasis on promoting gender equality, and congratulated Lesotho for winning the 2016 African Gender Award.
64. Slovenia encouraged Lesotho to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. It raised concerns about the reports on persistent discrimination and violence against women and girls and abuse against children.
65. Solomon Islands congratulated Lesotho on many achievements, including the ratification of all core human rights treaties.
66. Somalia commended Lesotho for consulting with civil society during the drafting of its national report. It welcomed the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and its national action plan, as well as the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.
67. South Africa was encouraged by the efforts to address gender-based violence, including through the Gender and Development Policy, to conduct consultations on the draft law against domestic violence and to establish regional partnerships to address trafficking in persons.
68. South Sudan made recommendations.
69. Spain welcomed the outreach campaigns on trafficking in persons, the process to outlaw child marriage and the commitment to providing funding for education, and congratulated Lesotho on achieving gender equity in primary education.
70. The Sudan commended the efforts to promote human rights since the previous review cycle and praised Lesotho for its ongoing cooperation with the Human Rights Council.
71. Thailand hailed the National Strategic Development Plan II, the Gender and Development Policy, the human rights-based response to HIV and measures to combat trafficking in persons, child marriage, child labour and hunger. It was ready to continue its technical cooperation programme with Lesotho.
72. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the law reform to harmonize the definition of “child” and to prohibit child marriage and the efforts aimed at providing refugees with access to basic health care and education.
73. Togo commended Lesotho for its efforts in the field of human rights since the previous review cycle, including ensuring protection for refugees. It urged the international community and technical partners to support Lesotho.

74. Tunisia noted the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and national laws and programmes on trafficking in persons, poverty elimination and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

75. Ukraine appreciated the information, contained in the national report, on the implementation of the recommendations on women's rights, trafficking in persons, the rights to health and education, anti-corruption legislation and cooperation with the treaty bodies and special procedures.

76. The United Kingdom welcomed recent collaboration between the Government and civil society organizations on the reforms and the process to establish the National Human Rights Commission. It urged Lesotho to address lengthy delays in the judicial system. It was concerned about reports of torture and police brutality.

77. The United Republic of Tanzania applauded the progress made by Lesotho since the last review cycle.

78. The United States of America was concerned about allegations of police brutality and urged Lesotho to ensure accountability for such crimes. It noted that media freedom remained fragile and encouraged Lesotho to reaffirm its obligations to protect freedom of expression.

79. Uruguay praised the efforts to bring legislation into line with the ratified human rights instruments and to promulgate the constitutional amendments making it possible to have dual nationality and prohibiting corporal punishment of children.

80. Vanuatu welcomed the National Strategic Development Plan II, which covered cross-cutting issues such as poverty, gender, HIV/AIDS and disability, as well as the ten-year Gender and Development Policy.

81. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued efforts to implement the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the National Health Strategy for Adolescents and Young People and to combat trafficking in persons.

82. Zambia applauded the enactment of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the launch of a campaign calling for an end to child marriage.

83. Zimbabwe noted the National Strategic Development Plan II to address a number of challenges, such as those concerning climate change, the environment and disabilities, as well as the constitutional reforms to ensure political stability and economic transformation.

84. Algeria commended Lesotho for its ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa and measures to combat trafficking in persons, particularly through the act of 2011.

85. Angola hailed progress in promoting gender equality and empowerment, particularly in education and non-agricultural employment, and welcomed measures to combat trafficking in persons. It encouraged Lesotho to further strengthen measures against the perpetrators of trafficking in persons.

86. Argentina congratulated Lesotho on its actions to establish a national mechanism for the presentation of reports and follow-up on the implementation of treaty body recommendations, and encouraged Lesotho to continue working towards reaching this objective.

87. Australia acknowledged the work to establish a national human rights institution and encouraged Lesotho to continue this reform. It said that gender-based violations, abuses and allegations of torture by security forces had continued to have an impact on people.

88. Azerbaijan praised Lesotho for implementing the recommendations of international organizations on correctional institutions and adopting the Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill.

89. The Bahamas commended the work geared towards the establishment of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and congratulated Lesotho on its efforts invested in the promotion of human rights, particularly the right to education.
90. Barbados praised Lesotho for its actions to advance the economic and social rights of women and the steps taken to mitigate climate change.
91. Benin noted with satisfaction the adoption of a number of legislative and institutional reforms, particularly to protect the rights of women and children and to ban child marriage without exception.
92. Botswana welcomed the review of the Chieftainship Act and cooperation with the treaty bodies and special procedures, including the submission of its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.
93. Brazil encouraged Lesotho to enact the bill on domestic violence and continue its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. It welcomed the re-establishment of the National AIDS Commission, the National Action Plan for HIV/AIDS and measures to protect vulnerable groups from violence.
94. Burkina Faso applauded the constitutional amendments to reinforce gender equality and the strategic plan on sexual and reproductive health.
95. Burundi praised the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan II, programmes to enhance the rights of persons with disabilities and the elaboration of the Gender and Development Policy in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals, and international and regional instruments.
96. Canada welcomed the commitment to end child marriage, but was concerned about the use of force by law enforcement officers. It encouraged Lesotho to offer training to the police aimed at preventing arbitrary arrests and torture and to allocate resources to improve access to drinking water.
97. Chile noted with interest the National Strategic Development Plan II and congratulated Lesotho on its efforts to participate in capacity-building activities for reporting and follow-up on the recommendations of the treaty bodies.
98. China applauded the efforts to adopt the National Strategic Development Plan II, to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, to improve health care and education, to combat poverty and trafficking in persons and to promote the rights of women and children.
99. The Congo commended progress in ensuring gender equity in primary education and in protecting the rights of migrants, and urged the country to redouble its efforts to operationalize its National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles.
100. Costa Rica welcomed progress in eradicating child marriage and urged Lesotho to continue its efforts. It said that Lesotho should make greater efforts in tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic, improving access to health care and combating trafficking in persons.
101. Côte d'Ivoire praised the adoption of the sectorial policies and the National Strategic Development Plan II and ratification of the core human rights instruments. It urged Lesotho to continue its work.
102. Cuba highlighted the development of the Gender and Development Policy involving a multisectoral approach and the participation of governmental and non-governmental actors.
103. Denmark commended the steps to incorporate human rights education in the primary school curriculum, but was concerned about reports of widespread sexual and gender-based violence, including the lack of protection against child marriage.
104. Lesotho referred to the recommendations made from the floor, including those on cruel and inhuman treatment, freedom of expression, children's rights, health services, overcrowding in detention centres, police brutality, the passing of a law on access to information, food insecurity, forced child marriage, rural women's access to health care, international reporting obligations, free primary education and migrant children.

105. Targeted steps towards the adoption of anti-torture legislation had been taken. The Cabinet had approved the drafting of a policy on torture, which would lead to the drafting of a consolidated and comprehensive law in line with the obligations of Lesotho to prevent and punish torture and to provide redress to its victims. As regards its reporting obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Lesotho had drafted an initial report. Lesotho had requested to report through the simplified reporting procedure.

106. The Access and Receipt of Information Bill had been drafted to ensure that citizens had access to information but it had still not been tabled before Parliament. Aware of food deficit in Lesotho, the Government subsidized farmers with seeds, fertilizers and tractors. At the community level, heads of households, including women, were trained in keyhole vegetable gardening for subsistence and commercial purposes. In order to ensure that hunger did not contribute to school dropout rates, there was a school feeding programme, which ensured the provision of food to all children in public schools.

107. In an effort to address and eliminate cases of child, early and forced marriages, in cases in which they were reported, children were rescued. The Government also worked with NGOs, such as the Beautiful Dream Society, to rehabilitate and provide shelter and schooling for such children.

108. In order to improve rural women's access to sexual and reproductive health rights, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with NGOs and civil society organizations, had taken the following measures: recruitment of village health workers whose mandate included the distribution of family planning commodities, and the establishment of mobile clinics to provide health services, including family planning services, in villages.

109. The head of the delegation appreciated the opportunity provided by the universal periodic review mechanism for Lesotho to reflect and assess, in a self-critical manner, its achievements and to identify existing gaps and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights. He thanked all those who had made the process a success.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

110. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Lesotho and enjoy the support of Lesotho:**

110.1 **Submit outstanding State party reports under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Marshall Islands);**

110.2 **Adopt national anti-torture legislation to ensure full implementation of the Convention against Torture (Bahamas);**

110.3 **Submit reports to the different human rights treaty bodies in a timely fashion (Mozambique);**

110.4 **Continue its efforts to convey as soon as possible its periodic report on commitments generated by international human rights instruments (Senegal);**

110.5 **Establish a mechanism to ensure timely reporting and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations from the various treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

110.6 **Implement all the recommendations that emanate from the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (South Sudan);**

- 110.7 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 110.8 **Submit outstanding State party reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 110.9 **Implement recommendations emanating from the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and finalize the draft action plan in this regard (Zimbabwe);**
- 110.10 **Submit outstanding State party reports under the international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe); Strengthen the independent National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Honduras);**
- 110.11 **Consider effective implementation of the National Strategic Development Plans (India);**
- 110.12 **Strengthen efforts for operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission (India);**
- 110.13 **Strive to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission (Kuwait);**
- 110.14 **Consider the immediate operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles, as well as the possibility of bilateral and cross-regional exchanges and collaboration with other national human rights institutions (Indonesia);**
- 110.15 **Establish a national human rights institution (Iraq);**
- 110.16 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the independence of the National Human Rights Commission in order to align it with the Paris Principles (Mali);**
- 110.17 **Establish an independent National Human Rights Commission that is compliant with the Paris Principles (Marshall Islands);**
- 110.18 **Make the National Human Rights Commission operational in accordance with the Paris Principles (Morocco);**
- 110.19 **Endeavour to domesticate the ratified international and regional human rights instruments (Mozambique);**
- 110.20 **Enhance efforts to establish a National Human Rights Commission in compliance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**
- 110.21 **Bring national legal provisions into line with international standards on freedom of expression under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**
- 110.22 **Create a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, and urge the international community to provide the necessary technical assistance (Niger);**
- 110.23 **Sustain efforts in upholding human rights and seek the necessary support to enhance its capacity in this regard (Nigeria);**
- 110.24 **Continue to undertake reforms for improving policies and programmes geared towards respecting and promoting human rights (Pakistan);**
- 110.25 **Ensure the allocation of adequate resources to the National Human Rights Commission (Philippines);**

- 110.26 **Finalize the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, in compliance with the Paris Principles, and ensure that its mandate also focuses on economic, social and cultural rights (Portugal);**
- 110.27 **Strengthen its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**
- 110.28 **Strengthen efforts to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission (Fiji);**
- 110.29 **Continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights in the country (Somalia);**
- 110.30 **Fully operationalize the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (South Africa);**
- 110.31 **Expedite the establishment of processes to domesticate international human rights instruments ratified by the country (South Africa);**
- 110.32 **Finalize the Older Persons Protection Bill to ensure the protection and promotion of their human rights (South Africa);**
- 110.33 **Enhance efforts to establish the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (South Sudan);**
- 110.34 **Continue efforts to consider the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in line with Paris Principles (Tunisia);**
- 110.35 **Fully comply with the State's obligations under international human rights instruments to which it is a party, including by timely submission of periodic reports to the respective treaty bodies and domestication of its human rights obligations (Ukraine);**
- 110.36 **Fully implement the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011, including by taking measures to ensure investigation, prosecution and conviction of human traffickers in fair trials, including officials complicit in trafficking crimes (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 110.37 **Consider the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 110.38 **Finalize the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in compliance with the Paris Principles (Vanuatu);**
- 110.39 **Take steps so that the National Human Rights Commission can exercise its mandate in line with the Paris Principles (France);**
- 110.40 **Speed up the process of establishing national mechanisms to address the backlog of State party reports (Angola);**
- 110.41 **Ensure that the country develops an operational human rights institution that will promote and protect the rights of all citizens (Angola);**
- 110.42 **Expedite the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia);**
- 110.43 **Continue to take steps with a view to the creation of the National Human Rights Committee in compliance with the Paris Principles, the adoption of the implementation plan for inclusive education and the adoption by Parliament of the draft legislation on equality for persons with disabilities (Benin);**
- 110.44 **Continue its efforts towards the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the development of the Human Rights Action Plan (Georgia);**
- 110.45 **Proceed with the steps to establish a national mechanism on reporting and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations from the treaty monitoring bodies (Georgia);**

- 110.46 Speed up the process of establishing a national mechanism and follow-up to address the backlog of State party reports (Kuwait);
- 110.47 Take effective measures to ensure the implementation of the 2018–2028 Gender and Development Policy as a possible way of addressing gender equalities (Botswana);
- 110.48 Expedite the process of establishing and operationalizing the National Human Rights Commission (Burundi);
- 110.49 Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile);
- 110.50 Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);
- 110.51 Operationalize the National Human Rights Commission through the effective entry into force of the law setting up this body (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 110.52 Enhance efforts in mitigating the negative effects of practices that could lead to discrimination between men and women (Indonesia);
- 110.53 Adopt norms that will guarantee to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons the full enjoyment of their rights on the basis of equality in all spheres, combating discrimination and negative stereotypes that still exist in the society (Argentina);
- 110.54 Not to relent in its determination to combat corruption and ensure good governance (Nigeria);
- 110.55 Continue to give due priority to vulnerable sectors in community-based disaster resilience and climate adaption efforts (Philippines);
- 110.56 Ensure that the implementation of its climate change policies and resiliency frameworks are gender-responsive and disability-inclusive, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, to address the economic, cultural and social impacts and challenges that climate change represents, for the full and effective enjoyment of human rights for all (Fiji);
- 110.57 Ensure that a human rights approach is reflected in the Government's 2020 submission of the reviewed nationally determined contributions (Fiji);
- 110.58 Continue investing resources for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 110.59 Continue the fight against corruption, including looking into the possibility of establishing a special court for grand corruption cases (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 110.60 Fully implement the National Climate Change Policy and put in place a comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate its implementation (Vanuatu);
- 110.61 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly of children and women (Egypt);
- 110.62 Further intensify the conduct of public awareness-raising activities on combating trafficking in persons (Philippines);
- 110.63 Harmonize all legal frameworks to ensure access to justice for all the victims of trafficking (Spain);
- 110.64 Modify the law on combating human trafficking in such a way that the use of force, coercion or fraud should not be prerequisites for criminalizing the trafficking of children as an offence (Spain);
- 110.65 Take further measures to prevent human trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Timor-Leste);

- 110.66 Undertake impartial investigations into allegations of police brutality, corruption, and human rights violations and abuses, including reported extrajudicial killings and torture by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service, and continue to operationalize the Police Complaints Authority (United States of America);
- 110.67 Immediately end undue restrictions on freedom of expression and adopt a zero-tolerance stance towards intimidation of the press, including the arbitrary arrests of journalists and harassment of radio stations (United States of America);
- 110.68 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking by systematically bringing perpetrators to justice (France);
- 110.69 Conduct trainings for police officers on human rights and prevention of arbitrary arrests and torture (Zambia);
- 110.70 Conduct independent and impartial investigations into claims that police and security forces have committed human rights violations, including torture and unlawful killings, and initiate prosecutions (Australia);
- 110.71 Step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking (Congo);
- 110.72 Take effective measures to prevent further acts of torture and other forms of police violence, and to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice (Germany);
- 110.73 Strengthen mechanisms to investigate cases of forced labour, in particular the Child and Gender Protection Unit, and increase efforts to ensure the lawful prosecution of perpetrators of trafficking, exploitation and abuse (Germany);
- 110.74 Consider taking measures to investigate all cases of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment and punish the perpetrators accordingly (Ghana);
- 110.75 Continue to strengthen the justice system and other mechanisms to prevent, remedy and ensure accountability for human rights violations, including by adopting measures to assure their administrative and budgetary autonomy (Brazil);
- 110.76 Enact legislation on access to information (Seychelles);
- 110.77 Take urgent action to promote open and transparent Government, ensuring access to information by promulgating a freedom of information law and honouring information requests (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 110.78 Adopt all the necessary measures to guarantee the freedom of expression and information, ensuring that the journalists and the media can carry out their work in a safe environment, free from intimidation and reprisals, in accordance with international standards (Uruguay);
- 110.79 Enact legislation that ensures freedom of the press (Canada);
- 110.80 Take measures to strengthen the efficiency and the effectiveness of the judiciary system (Italy);
- 110.81 Allocate additional resources to address overcrowding, inadequate sanitary conditions and lack of medical care in prisons and detention centres (Canada);
- 110.82 Mobilize resources for the construction of the industrial estates in order to create job opportunities (Ethiopia);
- 110.83 Continue ongoing measures for reduction of extreme poverty, food insecurity and employment (India);

- 110.84 Continue to implement the National Nutrition Policy (2016) to address malnutrition using evidence-based action plans (Pakistan);
- 110.85 Step up efforts to fight poverty and hunger, as well as to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation (Sudan);
- 110.86 Continue to strengthen efforts to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, including through agricultural investments and multi-stakeholder partnerships at domestic and international levels (Thailand);
- 110.87 Continue their successful social policies to provide the greatest well-being and quality of life possible to their people with the essential support and cooperation of the international community (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 110.88 Prioritize the guarantee of access to water and sanitation to schools at all levels, including preschools and day-care centres, as well as in rural areas (Bahamas);
- 110.89 Intensify efforts to address extreme poverty and food insecurity, including through ensuring effective implementation of the National Nutrition Policy and establishment of the Food and Nutrition Council (Botswana);
- 110.90 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, and improve living standards in order to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 110.91 Continue working to increase the efficiency and coverage of social protection programmes through the strengthening of institutional coordination and legal frameworks, as well as the consolidation of existing social assistance programmes (Cuba);
- 110.92 Implement effectively the Food and Nutrition Strategy and the Action Plan 2019–2023 in order to guarantee food security and the right to food for the entire population (Cuba);
- 110.93 Continue the efforts for enhancing access to health-care services, particularly for HIV/AIDS care (India);
- 110.94 Exercise the rights to health and sanitation of the people effectively, particularly by improving drinking water quality (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 110.95 Continue the country's efforts in the field of strengthening the health system and expanding the circle of providing health services to all groups of society (Libya);
- 110.96 Allocate the necessary resources for the provision of qualified medical staff and health-care facilities for people in remote areas (Mauritius);
- 110.97 Design a national plan to guarantee access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, for, among others, people with disabilities, women, girls and teenagers (Mexico);
- 110.98 Enhance efforts to ensure access to health care by pregnant women in order to reduce maternal mortality (Myanmar);
- 110.99 Continue measures to curb the spread of AIDS in its efforts to improve access to health services (Nepal);
- 110.100 Take action to improve maternal health and ensure equitable access to health services (New Zealand);
- 110.101 Strengthen its legislation and guidelines on health policies, as well as their implementation, to improve access to health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, by people living with disabilities, women and young people, in particular (Portugal);

- 110.102 Take further measures to improve health-care infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training and resources devoted to maternal health (Solomon Islands);
- 110.103 Advance efforts to safely get mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth, with special attention paid to improving health-care access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds (Solomon Islands);
- 110.104 Strengthen efforts to ensure access to health services for people in rural areas (South Africa);
- 110.105 Continue the policy to include hygiene and menstrual hygiene management as part of national policy (Spain);
- 110.106 Continue efforts to provide health care and to promote the reproductive health of women, particularly in the rural areas (Tunisia);
- 110.107 Take effective steps to curb the HIV pandemic (Ukraine);
- 110.108 Strengthen health legislation and the application of the policies and guidelines aimed at improving access, especially for persons with disabilities, women and young people, to health services, including to sexual and reproductive health services (Algeria);
- 110.109 Maintain and intensify all measures to enhance the right to education for all and organize outreach campaigns to promote increased access for children in rural areas (Djibouti);
- 110.110 Continue legislative measures aimed at ensuring quality and inclusive education (Libya);
- 110.111 Continue its measure to effectively implement the Inclusive Education Policy, and allocate sufficient funds in this regard (Myanmar);
- 110.112 Attribute greater resources for subsidizing preschool education, as well as secondary and tertiary education (Spain);
- 110.113 Continue efforts to implement national strategies aiming at ensuring the right to education for all (Sudan);
- 110.114 Further strengthen its School Nutrition Policy (Ethiopia);
- 110.115 Continue efforts to guarantee the right to education for all (Tunisia);
- 110.116 Enact the Domestic Violence Bill, support its immediate implementation and strengthen coordinated essential services and referral pathways between the health, social services, police and justice sectors in order to respond to gender-based violence (Iceland);
- 110.117 Advance policies and actions that aim at providing an equal and encouraging environment for the participation of women in decision-making positions (Indonesia);
- 110.118 Increase efforts to put an end to all forms of discrimination against women (Iraq);
- 110.119 Adopt the 2018 Domestic Violence Bill into law and continue efforts to combat gender-based violence in Lesotho (Ireland);
- 110.120 Harmonize the dual legal systems to address discriminatory provisions against women and girls, enact the Domestic Violence Bill and fully implement the Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill to prevent child, early and forced marriage (Italy);
- 110.121 Continue measures to combat gender-based violence (Libya);
- 110.122 Step up activities in providing adequate legal protection of women against all forms of discrimination, and provide them with equal opportunities and empowerment (Montenegro);

- 110.123 Continue the necessary efforts to reduce cases of human trafficking, especially in cases of women and children (Morocco);
- 110.124 Speed up the process of enacting the Domestic Violence Bill and support its immediate implementation (Namibia);
- 110.125 Redouble efforts in strengthening policy measures and programmes to prevent and address gender-based violence (Philippines);
- 110.126 Intensify efforts to combat gender-based violence, including through the adoption and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Bill (Rwanda);
- 110.127 Adopt effective legislative measures to combat gender-based violence (Sierra Leone);
- 110.128 Intensify efforts to combat violence against women and promote gender equality, as well as to enhance the rights of children and persons with disabilities (Sudan);
- 110.129 Strengthen the enforcement of relevant laws to combat and punish acts of domestic violence, violence against women, and discrimination against women (Thailand);
- 110.130 Enact the Domestic Violence Bill and support its implementation (Timor-Leste);
- 110.131 Proceed to promulgate the law against domestic violence and to ensure its effective implementation (Togo);
- 110.132 Ensure effective implementation of legal and institutional progress in the field of women's rights (France);
- 110.133 Strengthen efforts in addressing domestic violence and all forms of violence against women and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice and duly punished (Zambia);
- 110.134 Deepen efforts and measures that aim to address gender-based violence (Barbados);
- 110.135 Continue its efforts to finalize the adoption of the law against domestic violence (Georgia);
- 110.136 Redouble its efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and ensure that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice (Burkina Faso);
- 110.137 Take all necessary steps to prevent and combat violence against women, including murder and sexual exploitation and violence (Burkina Faso);
- 110.138 Redouble its efforts to combat human trafficking, the main victims of which are women and children (Burundi);
- 110.139 Develop and implement public awareness campaigns against domestic violence and ensure that the draft Domestic Violence Bill is passed and implemented (Canada);
- 110.140 Continue to promote gender equality, combat human trafficking and further protect the rights of women and children (China);
- 110.141 Run information and awareness-building campaigns to combat stigmatization relating to menstruation (Costa Rica);
- 110.142 Intensify its efforts to protect children, including through the finalization of the review of the Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011 (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 110.143 Fully implement the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and strengthen the efforts to investigate cases of child labour and trafficking in persons and to prosecute the offenders (Italy);
- 110.144 Continue efforts to eliminate child marriage (Egypt);
- 110.145 Continue to address child labour issues by implementing an action plan for strengthening and enforcing laws that prohibit child labour (Marshall Islands);
- 110.146 Implement policies aimed at improving child health and education (Mauritius);
- 110.147 Increase the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both girls and boys, by amending conflicting legislation, such as the Marriage Act of 1974, which allows girls to marry at 16 years of age (Namibia);
- 110.148 Enact as soon as possible the Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill 2019 (Slovenia);
- 110.149 Enact the law on the protection and well-being of children, to protect children from forced and child marriage (Spain);
- 110.150 Take measures to strengthen current legislation against child marriage (Togo);
- 110.151 Continue setting up a comprehensive system to protect children's rights and develop a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against them (Ukraine);
- 110.152 Implement the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and address the factors that promote child labour (United States of America);
- 110.153 Take the concrete measures necessary to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (Vanuatu);
- 110.154 Implement policies aimed at improving child health and strengthening measures to reduce child mortality, including in remote regions (Zambia);
- 110.155 Provide sufficient funds and subsidies to ensure the access of children to preschool, secondary and higher education and take special measures to ensure that children remain in schools, especially in rural areas (Algeria);
- 110.156 Continue positive steps to end child marriage (Azerbaijan);
- 110.157 Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that institutions, such as the children's court and the Child and Gender Protection Unit, effectively protect the rights of children (Barbados);
- 110.158 Continue to evaluate and refine the policies and strategies that have been put in place in order to implement free, compulsory and inclusive education for children (Barbados);
- 110.159 Step up efforts to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic violence, sexual exploitation, mutilation of body parts and child labour, including by developing and enhancing national programmes and strategies (Brazil);
- 110.160 Strengthen mechanisms to combat child labour by amending the legislative framework to ensure that all children under the age of 18 are protected from all forms of forced labour and hazardous employment conditions (Canada);
- 110.161 Take all necessary steps to prevent and combat the ill-treatment of children, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse (Chile);

110.162 **Adopt the Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill without further delay (Denmark);**

110.163 **Continue to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic and sexual exploitation and abuse (Ghana);**

110.164 **Continue strengthening programmes of social protection, focusing on persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

110.165 **Ensure progress in the preparation of legal and administrative measures that will ensure full access to education for persons with disabilities (Argentina);**

110.166 **Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and discrimination against persons with disabilities (Costa Rica);**

110.167 **Increase awareness of the officials working on migration and law enforcement officials (Iraq);**

110.168 **Amend legislation to ensure universal, free and accessible birth registration, and adequate safeguards against statelessness for children born in the territory, as well as safeguards in the process of renunciation and change of citizenship (Portugal).**

111. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Lesotho and have been noted by Lesotho:**

111.1 **Redouble efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Djibouti);**

111.2 **Ratify the International Labour Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Honduras);**

111.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras) (Montenegro) (Mozambique) (Senegal) (Ukraine) (Chile) (Costa Rica) (Germany) (Denmark);**

111.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Honduras);**

111.5 **Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**

111.6 **Take all necessary measures to formally abolish the death penalty, including by removing the death penalty from the Constitution of Lesotho and by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ireland);**

111.7 **Enact a general law to prevent, investigate and punish torture and other cruel treatment or degrading punishment, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Mexico);**

111.8 **Work towards abolishing the death penalty through the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**

111.9 **Envisage the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Niger);**

111.10 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Serbia) (Congo);**

111.11 **Become a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Seychelles);**

- 111.12 Accelerate the process of accession to the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone)**;
- 111.13 **Ratify the Convention against Torture (Somalia)**;
- 111.14 Proceed to ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo)**;
- 111.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ukraine)**;
- 111.16 Consider ratifying the **Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay)**;
- 111.17 Reconsider ratifying the **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay)**;
- 111.18 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia)**;
- 111.19 Consider ratifying the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Azerbaijan)**;
- 111.20 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica)**;
- 111.21 **Ratify the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party (Côte d’Ivoire)**;
- 111.22 **Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, fully implement the Child Protection and Welfare Act, and ensure effective law enforcement (Germany)**;
- 111.23 Consider ratifying the outstanding core international human rights treaties and conventions, including the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana)**;
- 111.24 **Criminalize homophobia and transphobia to prevent violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Honduras)**;
- 111.25 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include a prohibition on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland)**;
- 111.26 **Amend section 3 of the Marriage Act of 1974 for it to be inclusive of same-sex couples (Iceland)**;
- 111.27 **Include in the legislation a provision prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and reform laws that criminalize consensual sexual relations between same-sex persons, such as the Penal Code of 2010, and the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, section 187 (5) (Mexico)**;
- 111.28 **Review and amend the legislative framework to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity are included as protected grounds for non-discrimination (Netherlands)**;

- 111.29 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relationships between adults, and introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);
- 111.30 Repeal provisions in the Penal Code that criminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults, and amend relevant legislation to ensure discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is explicitly prohibited (Australia);
- 111.31 Implement legal reforms to protect the human rights of all persons irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Germany);
- 111.32 Guarantee legal status to persons with disabilities by fully adopting the draft law on equal opportunities establishing a disability benefit (France);
- 111.33 Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty, including by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);
- 111.34 Consider positively the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Fiji);
- 111.35 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France);
- 111.36 Abolish the death penalty (Chile);
- 111.37 Put an end to threats and intimidations against journalists and human rights defenders and promote freedom of expression, which is guaranteed in the Constitution, by retracting the notion of the “crime of sedition” from the Penal Code (France);
- 111.38 Repeal legislation that could lead to self-censorship, including the Sedition Proclamation of 1938 and the Internal Security Act of 1984 (Denmark);
- 111.39 Amend legislative provisions that discriminate against women and girls in areas relating to marriage, inheritance and family (Namibia);
- 111.40 Resist calls to further liberalize abortion, and instead implement laws aimed at protecting the right to life of the unborn (Solomon Islands);
- 111.41 Amend or repeal section 18 (4) (c) of the Constitution of Lesotho, which allows for discrimination against women with respect to adoption, marriage, divorce, burial and devolution of property on death (Canada);
- 111.42 Affirm that the right to life applies from conception until natural death, and as such that the unborn child has the right to protection of his or her life at all points (Solomon Islands);
- 111.43 Amend or repeal section 18 (4) (c) of their Constitution in order to protect women and persons with disabilities from discrimination (Bahamas).
112. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Lesotho was headed by Minister of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Honourable Sixtus Habofanoeh Lehana and composed of the following members:

- Honourable Attorney General, Adv. Haae Phoofolo (KC);
 - Deputy Attorney General, Adv. Tsebang Putsoane;
 - Principal Secretary of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights, Mr. Tanki Mothae;
 - Ambassador H.E Refiloe Litjobo;
 - Chief Legal Officer of Law, Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights Ms. Polo Chabane;
 - Chief Legal Officer of Education Mr. Santi Mofoka;
 - Senior Legal Officer Ms. Thato Monyake;
 - Legal Officer Ms. Bokang Lethunya;
 - Minister Counsellor Mrs. Nthabiseng Lelisa.
-