



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 March 2021

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Forty-seventh session

21 June–9 July 2021

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Oman

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-seventh session from 18 January to 8 February 2021. The review of Oman was held at the 8th meeting, on 21 January 2021. The delegation of Oman was headed by the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Said al-Saidi. At its 14th meeting, held on 26 January 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Oman.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Oman: Malawi, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.
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 Oman:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Fiji, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Oman through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation said that he was pleased to share with Working Group the progress achieved by Oman in the field of human rights since the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2015. He reaffirmed the firm support of Oman for the review mechanism, highlighting that he and the delegation had chosen to be present physically and not only virtually – despite the current challenging global conditions resulting from the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic – as the review represented an opportunity to share the State’s efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights.
6. Oman, since its initiation of the process of preparing its first report, had paid the utmost care to the universal periodic review, as it provided an opportunity to review, evaluate and develop national laws and measures on human rights, in order to align them with international standards. The Council of Ministers had established a ministerial committee, composed of all the relevant ministries and government institutions, tasked with preparing the report and examining and implementing recommendations from the previous review cycles.
7. According to that methodology, the Council of Ministers had decided to create a legal committee to follow up on the recommendations that Oman had accepted from the second review cycle. Of the 233 recommendations from the second review cycle, Oman had accepted 169 fully or partially and had noted 28, while 36 did not receive the required unanimous support. On implementation, the legal committee had held a series of meetings, workshops and forums with civil society institutions and government agencies to discuss their proposals for the best ways to follow up on the results of the second review, and the process for preparing the third report in a collective manner in form and content.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/37/OMN/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/37/OMN/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/37/OMN/3.

8. Oman had faced a terrible tragedy on 10 January 2020, when the Sultan, Qaboos bin Said, had passed away. He had been the founding father of modern Oman, and had played an important role in establishing the foundations of peace, security, justice and cooperation between different countries and peoples.

9. On 11 January 2021, the new Basic Law of State (Constitution) had been adopted. The Law envisaged secure and effective protection for human rights and respect for international and regional treaties, and recognized that the rules of international law were among the guiding principles of State policy in that area. It guaranteed the rights and freedoms of individuals within a framework of the rule of law and emphasized justice, equality and fairness as fundamental principles, and the principle of shura. It reaffirmed the principles of the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law as a basis for governance, and the role of the State in ensuring that citizens and residents enjoyed rights and freedoms – in particular the rights to equality, education, life and dignity, security and privacy – and provided that prisons were institutions for reform and rehabilitation that were subject to judicial supervision, prohibiting any infringement of the rights to dignity and health.

10. In the new Basic Law of State, a chapter was devoted to the Council of Oman, covering its legislative and oversight powers and reaffirming its role and contribution to the comprehensive development of the nation.

11. Another chapter was devoted to the judiciary, setting out the guarantees that judges enjoyed while exercising their work in complete independence and without interference from any other party; specifying that such interference was considered to be a crime punishable by law; and confirming the role of lawyers in achieving justice and the rule of law and ensuring the right of defence, with lawyers having all the necessary guarantees for the exercise of that right before the courts.

12. Oman had made sincere efforts in implementing the recommendations that it had accepted, in order to enhance human rights. Among those achievements was its accession to three core human rights treaties – the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance – and the withdrawal of its reservation to article 15 (4) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Oman had also made efforts to implement the observations and recommendations of the treaty bodies, and had submitted its reports for the period 2016–2020 to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

13. Oman had put in place adequate legislation and established institutions to protect human rights, with a large amount of national legislation in the area having been passed and institutions available that guaranteed the enjoyment of human rights by Omani citizens and residents, in compliance with international conventions and with the Basic Law of State.

14. Oman considered that enhancing the human rights capacity and conducting training and awareness was the most appropriate way to promote human rights. For that reason, the national human rights commission worked to promote and safeguard human rights by taking preventive measures, seeking to entrench human rights in the various segments of society, receiving individual complaints from citizens and non-citizens and taking the necessary measures to provide remedies in coordination with the authorities concerned.

15. The Oman Commission for International Humanitarian Law had been established with the aim of providing education on and raising awareness of international humanitarian law, in order to strengthen cooperation and ensure the implementation of its provisions.

16. Oman was committed to continuing to provide humanitarian and development aid to developing countries. Indeed, the head of the delegation chaired the board of directors of Oman charitable associations, which provided urgent relief in the event of natural disasters, earthquakes and famine in various parts of the world.

17. In terms of challenges and priorities, the implementation of national strategies had been hindered by the sharp decline in oil prices, the absence of effective and transparent

cooperation mechanisms with some labour-sending countries in working to achieve effective human rights practices, and the outbreak of the pandemic and its negative impact on the economy and health.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 99 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Kazakhstan highlighted the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which accorded men and women the same rights with respect to movement of persons.

20. Kenya applauded the accession by Oman to three core human rights treaties.

21. Kuwait commended Oman for its progress in the protection and promotion of human rights, including its accession to a number of international human rights instruments.

22. Kyrgyzstan commended Oman for its development of a number of national strategies, establishment of specialized agencies and achievements in the health sector.

23. Latvia thanked the delegation of Oman for the presentation of its national report.

24. Lebanon commended Oman for its accession to three core human rights treaties.

25. Libya commended Oman for its progress in various areas, including prosperity, human development and living standards.

26. Luxembourg thanked the delegation of Oman for the presentation of its national report.

27. Malaysia welcomed the achievement of gender parity in the education sector and the efforts made to ensure inclusive education for all.

28. Maldives welcomed the accession by Oman to three core human rights treaties, and the progress made in establishing a complaints mechanism accessible to women victims of discrimination or violence.

29. Malta congratulated Oman on its accession to the Convention against Torture.

30. Mauritania commended Oman for its commitment to international human rights instruments and fundamental freedoms, and welcomed measures addressing COVID-19.

31. Mauritius commended Oman for the Oman Vision 2040, which was in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and congratulated Oman for its efforts in combating terrorism.

32. Mexico thanked Oman for the presentation of its national report.

33. Montenegro acknowledged the extensive efforts made on legislation, encouraged Oman to withdraw its reservation to article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and urged it to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

34. Myanmar commended Oman for its creation of a legal committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations from the universal periodic review, its accession to three core treaties and its withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

35. Nepal noted the development of various pieces of legislation and urged Oman to continue to improve conditions for migrant workers and to pursue initiatives to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into its national plans and strategies.

36. The Netherlands welcomed the promotion by Oman of peaceful coexistence through its foreign policy, its accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights and its withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

37. Nicaragua thanked the delegation for its presentation and acknowledged the progress made.

38. Nigeria commended Oman for its efforts in combating trafficking in persons, extremism and discrimination, and in strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights.

39. Pakistan commended Oman for the legislative and administrative steps taken, noting its accession to three core human rights treaties, its social protection and its adoption of the national health strategy 2050.

40. Panama highlighted the adoption of the Children's Code and the climate action plan and the improvements made in health and education.

41. The Philippines noted initiatives to combat trafficking in persons and expressed appreciation for efforts made towards the political and economic empowerment of women and progress achieved in improving the treatment of migrant workers.

42. Portugal saluted Oman for its recent accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

43. Qatar welcomed the accession by Oman to three core international human rights conventions and the development of the Oman Vision 2040.

44. The Republic of Korea commended Oman for its accession to international human rights instruments, and for the withdrawal of its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

45. Romania commended Oman for its accession to international human rights treaties, but expressed concern about its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding divorce, child custody, gender-based violence and marital rape.

46. The Russian Federation expressed appreciation for the accession by Oman to three core international human rights conventions.

47. Saudi Arabia commended Oman for its human rights achievements at the legislative and institutional levels.

48. Senegal welcomed the adoption of legal instruments at the normative and institutional levels to promote and protect human rights, particularly on the empowerment of women, and the implementation of accepted recommendations from the universal periodic review.

49. Serbia commended Oman for the measures taken aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Oman Human Rights Commission, and for its efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycles.

50. Singapore commended Oman for the advances achieved on women's rights, and for its efforts to empower and involve women in the public and private sectors and to develop national strategies to safeguard children's rights.

51. Slovenia commended Oman for having established national institutions such as the Oman Human Rights Commission and committees to combat trafficking in persons and on family affairs. It expressed concern about domestic, sexual and gender-based violence against women, and discriminatory provisions in legislation.

52. Somalia noted the outstanding achievements of the education system, and the commitment of Oman to providing universal health coverage for its citizens.

53. Spain welcomed Oman and commended it for its accession to international conventions on human rights and for certain improvements for foreign workers.

54. Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for the accession by Oman to three core human rights treaties and its withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It commended Oman for the measures taken to combat trafficking in persons and the high global standards achieved in human development.

55. The State of Palestine commended Oman for its accession to core international human rights instruments, and for having eliminated trafficking in persons by adopting various legal measures.

56. The Sudan commended Oman for its accession to three core international human rights instruments, which demonstrated its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.

57. Switzerland welcomed the delegation and wished it a constructive review.

58. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the development of normative, constitutional and institutional frameworks aimed at promoting and protecting human rights.

59. The delegation of Oman stated that the principle of non-discrimination within the educational system was guaranteed and protected by legislation. Legislation also provided for free and compulsory education for all children until the completion of their basic education and for preschool education, and guaranteed equal gender opportunities with no discrimination whatsoever at all stages of education.

60. Oman was working on a new labour law and a regulation on domestic workers. The labour law would, among other measures, expand the protection framework for all and prohibit the retention by employers of workers' official documents. The new law would also strengthen the system of social dialogue, provide for the resolution of labour disputes and develop contracting mechanisms in accordance with international labour standards. The regulation on domestic workers would play a positive role in promoting and organizing work in the sector, regulating working hours, vacations and other entitlements.

61. In order to strengthen the social protection system, Oman was working on a project to make health insurance mandatory for all workers without exception. The Royal Oman Police had issued a decision amending certain provisions of the implementing regulations of the Foreigners' Residency Act, enabling workers to transfer without prior permission to another employer upon expiry or termination of their work contract. Oman was committed to studying and applying international labour standards in accordance with national requirements.

62. Thailand commended Oman for its accession to three important international human rights treaties, and for its initiatives to promote the role of women, which had resulted in their appointment to high-ranking positions.

63. Timor-Leste expressed appreciation for the efforts made in the area of human rights, the adoption of the Children's Code and the initiatives launched in support of rural women.

64. Tunisia welcomed the accession by Oman to human rights instruments, the set of laws and decrees on combating money-laundering and financing of terrorism, and the national strategies on health, education, the advancement of women and children, social work and the climate.

65. Turkey commended Oman for the steps taken to increase the political representation of women, improve expatriate workers' rights and support citizens who had lost their job.

66. Turkmenistan expressed appreciation for the establishment of new human rights institutions and welcomed the strengthened cooperation of national institutions with international human rights mechanisms and institutions.

67. Uganda commended Oman for its high regional and international ranking on various development indices and for the creation of the Oman Human Rights Commission, and urged it to implement its voluntary pledges.

68. Ukraine commended Oman for its accession to three human rights treaties, noted progress in combating trafficking in persons and urged protection of the rights of women, persons with disabilities and refugees.

69. The United Arab Emirates applauded the national strategy aimed at empowering women and enhancing their participation in the sustainable development process.
70. The United Kingdom recognized the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons, but stated that it remained concerned about amendments to the Penal Code limiting freedom of expression.
71. The United States of America commended Oman for its progress regarding expatriate workers' rights, and encouraged it to introduce reforms regarding trafficking in persons and women's rights and to repeal laws used to punish blasphemy.
72. Uruguay commended Oman for its accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other human rights treaties.
73. Uzbekistan welcomed measures taken by Oman to provide free COVID-19 testing and treatment for all, and its accession to three core human rights treaties and continued engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms.
74. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Oman for its accession to three core human rights treaties, its provision of social security for low-income families and its progress in health and women's rights and gender equality.
75. Viet Nam welcomed progress made with legislative development and initiatives to promote and protect human rights.
76. Yemen welcomed the comprehensive national report, which detailed the progress that Oman had made towards the promotion and protection of human rights.
77. Afghanistan recognized progress in promoting children's rights, and expressed concern over the absence of legislation on asylum seekers and refugees.
78. Algeria expressed appreciation for the efforts of Oman in preparing its third universal periodic review report, and its accession to several core human rights treaties in 2020.
79. Argentina presented recommendations.
80. Armenia noted the accession of Oman to human rights treaties and the harmonization of national legislation with them, and acknowledged measures taken to promote women's rights and inclusion.
81. Australia welcomed reforms regarding workforce participation by women, and expressed concern about the harassment and detention of journalists and government critics and the mistreatment of detainees.
82. Bahrain commended Oman for the adoption of policies to promote and protect human rights, which were reflected in the development of national legislation.
83. Bangladesh expressed appreciation for efforts made to empower women and improve migrant workers' rights, including cooperation with countries of origin to raise awareness.
84. Belgium acknowledged progress in implementing recommendations from the universal periodic review, but asserted that more efforts should be made regarding the rights of women.
85. Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Oman to bring domestic law into line with the international treaties that it had ratified, and welcomed the smooth transition of power and the achievements in combating trafficking in persons, discrimination and violence.
86. Brazil encouraged Oman to adopt an official moratorium on the death penalty, implement comprehensive anti-discrimination measures and ensure equality for all religious groups.
87. Brunei Darussalam welcomed efforts that Oman had made regarding the importance of education in laws, regulations and ministerial decrees, becoming a global centre for higher education.

88. Bulgaria recognized that some challenges remained in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to specific groups, and urged Oman to harmonize the new national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
89. Burkina Faso welcomed the criminalization of harmful traditional practices against children, such as female genital mutilation, and encouraged Oman to continue awareness-raising campaigns against violence against girls and women.
90. Burundi welcomed plans and programmes such as the Oman Vision 2040 and those related to the right to education, and measures to eliminate female genital mutilation and to improve the rights of persons with disabilities.
91. Canada welcomed efforts to reform the labour law, but expressed concern at amendments made in 2018 to the Penal Code, urging Oman to review its legislation to protect freedom of association and assembly.
92. Chile welcomed the accession of Oman to two core international human rights instruments, the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
93. China welcomed the national health strategy 2050, which responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons, and measures taken on education and on the rights of vulnerable groups.
94. Cuba welcomed the enactment of various laws and other legal provisions, in various areas with a direct impact on the protection of human rights.
95. Cyprus noted progress in strengthening the human rights institutional framework, the accession of Oman to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and reforms to the labour law regarding migrant workers.
96. Czechia expressed appreciation for the accession of Oman to three core human rights treaties, and welcomed the active protection of freedom of religion.
97. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Oman for having strengthened the sociopolitical and judicial system to ensure human rights, despite economic and social challenges.
98. Denmark commended Oman for the withdrawal of its reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, while expressing concern at the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence against women.
99. Djibouti welcomed the implementation by Oman of accepted recommendations and its accession to three core human rights treaties.
100. Egypt welcomed the accession by Oman to three major international human rights instruments and the withdrawal of reservations, and expressed appreciation for efforts made by some institutional bodies.
101. Eritrea welcomed developments related to gender equality, the rights of child and social services, and efforts to combat trafficking in persons and discrimination, legislative and institutional measures, and the withdrawal of reservations to treaties.
102. The delegation of Oman shared that the Ministry of Social Development had approved the Social Action Strategy (2016–2025) based on a human rights approach. The focus of the strategy included the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities. The strategy included a number of programmes and projects and incorporated a gender perspective.
103. Observations and recommendations from previous reviews had been taken into consideration, particularly those related to the need to amend legislation governing the press and the media in accordance with international standards, and had been delivered in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of State that guaranteed freedom of opinion and expression through speech, writing and other means.
104. Freedom of the press, printing and publication was guaranteed in accordance with the law, which prohibited only expression that could lead to disorder, offend human dignity and

rights of others and/or threaten State security. The Press and Publications Law currently in force guaranteed the right to appeal to the Administrative Court against decisions of the Minister of Information to prohibit certain publications.

105. Estonia welcomed the accession of Oman to the Convention against Torture and encouraged it to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It expressed appreciation for the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and for the clarification of provisions of the Children's Code.

106. Ethiopia noted the accession of Oman to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture, and the adoption of development strategies. It welcomed the submission by Oman of reports to treaty bodies and the establishment of a national monitoring committee.

107. Fiji congratulated Oman for its accession to the Convention against Torture, and for the voluntary pledges made during the third universal periodic review.

108. Finland welcomed the engagement of Oman in the universal periodic review process and made recommendations.

109. France thanked the delegation for its report and called for full respect of human rights.

110. Georgia welcomed the efforts made by Oman to bring its domestic legislation into line with ratified international treaties, and the positive steps taken towards women's empowerment through its national strategies.

111. Germany stated that it remained concerned about restrictions on the freedom of the press and freedom of opinion, assembly and association in Oman.

112. Ghana welcomed the recent accession of Oman to the Convention against Torture and wondered what action was planned to implement the Convention.

113. Greece encouraged Oman to ratify other international human rights instruments, and urged it to withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to promote equality between women and men.

114. Honduras hailed in particular the accession of Oman to the Convention against Torture.

115. Iceland welcomed the national report and the steps outlined therein, and expressed hope for their continued implementation.

116. India welcomed the accession of Oman to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and legislative measures to protect workers' rights.

117. Indonesia commended Oman for its accession to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture.

118. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Oman for its ongoing efforts to promote and protect the rights of children, and for having issued, by royal decree, the implementing regulations of the Children's Code.

119. Iraq welcomed the institutional framework for human rights and the accession of Oman to three core international conventions.

120. Ireland welcomed the progress made in combating trafficking in persons and the criminalization of female genital mutilation, and expressed concern about limits on freedom of expression under the Penal Code of 2018.

121. Japan commended Oman for its efforts to empower women through the Social Action Strategy and to promote children's rights through the National Strategy for Children (2016–2025).

122. Jordan expressed appreciation for efforts made to adopt a plan of action to incorporate human rights into policies, which took into account national specificities and current challenges.

123. Italy commended Oman for its accession to three core international treaties.

124. The delegation of Oman highlighted that many of the questions raised during the interactive dialogue had been answered in the delegation's statements. Nevertheless, concerning the right of peaceful assembly, the delegation clarified that the legislation guaranteed freedom of assembly, provided that it was peaceful, and that it provided for punishment only when such assembly could breach public order and public morals. Any violations of the laws regulating peaceful assembly were investigated by the competent judicial authorities, with the required guarantees for the exercise of the right of defence.

125. Freedom of association was guaranteed by law, provided that such association was for legitimate objectives and by peaceful means. Only association involving hostile activities, formed in secrecy or of a military character were prohibited, and no one could be forced to join. Hence, the Civil Society Associations Act set out the conditions and circumstances necessary to guarantee the right of individuals to establish such associations and regulated those rights to ensure conformity of activities with the provisions of law. Under the Act, the Ministry of Social Development had the authority to consider requests to form civil society associations, and provided assurances to those whose requests were rejected in accordance with the law. Article 11 of the Act provided for the right to lodge grievances with the administrative courts against decrees of the Ministry of Social Development affecting civil society associations.

126. The Penal Code had been issued in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law of State, including by ensuring that it did not conflict with the treaties and agreements that Oman had joined.

127. Concerning the death penalty, due consideration was given to adherence to international standards, and it was strictly regulated. The death sentence was prescribed for the most serious crimes only, involving aggravated circumstances and the loss of lives. It was intended as an extreme punishment associated with the victim's right to life. It was not imposed on persons under the age of 18 years, or on pregnant women until after delivery. Safeguards for convicted persons were provided for under the Criminal Procedure Law through many restrictive procedures, including the requirement that a death sentence be passed by three judges by consensus only, the need to seek the opinion of a committee, including two legal experts, and the right of pardon for the Sultan. Oman rarely carried out the death penalty, and there had been no executions since the second review cycle.

128. Regarding the right of women to pass on their nationality to their children, the Nationality Act guaranteed that children born in Oman enjoyed nationality in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There were therefore no cases of statelessness among children born in Oman.

129. As for the right of an Omani woman married to a foreigner to pass on her nationality to her children, the acquisition of Omani nationality was through blood ties to the father's side, given that Oman was among those countries that did not adopt the principle of dual nationality. Children with an Omani mother and foreign father still had equal rights to Omani children, with access to medical care and free education.

130. With regard to the Oman Human Rights Commission, Oman believed in the importance of an independent institution concerned with human rights. The Commission had been established in 2008. The committees included representatives of all sectors, in order to comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and its resources were allocated from the State's general budget.

131. The Ministry of Labour issued the rules and regulations safeguarding the rights of domestic workers and regulating the conditions of their work, housing and treatment, and had created a complaints mechanism to handle those cases in order to protect their rights. The Ministry had also issued a circular prohibiting the seizure of passports and guaranteeing their right to keep hold of their passport. Nevertheless, the Ministry had received a number of complaints in that regard and had taken measures against those who were found guilty, as demonstrated through court rulings.

132. Oman was constantly striving to develop measures and procedures to combat trafficking in persons, and prevention, prosecution and protection of victims constituted the

three basic pillars of the anti-trafficking legislation. The anti-trafficking action plan for the period 2018–2020 entailed major goals, including various actions and campaigns.

133. The head of delegation concluded by reaffirming the commitment of Oman to cooperating with the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review mechanism, and reiterated its appreciation to all the States that had participated in its third review, to the secretariat and to all those who had contributed to the review's success in the special circumstances of the pandemic.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

134.1 **Consider ratifying the core international human rights instruments that it has not yet ratified (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

134.2 **Consider ratifying the core international human rights instruments and optional protocols that it has not yet ratified (Georgia);**

134.3 **Take all appropriate action in order to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

134.4 **Maintain its substantive progress in the ratification of international human rights instruments, through the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two optional protocols (Chile);**

134.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to complement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

134.6 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**

134.7 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);**

134.8 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two optional protocols (Honduras);**

134.9 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its optional protocols (Finland);**

134.10 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);**

134.11 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and commute all death sentences to prison sentences (Romania);**

134.12 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**

134.13 **Ratify and fully implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

134.14 **Ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

134.15 **Expedite the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uzbekistan);**

134.16 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mauritius);**

134.17 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Slovenia);**

- 134.18 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Brazil);**
- 134.19 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czechia);**
- 134.20 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Luxembourg);**
- 134.21 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Germany);**
- 134.22 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Indonesia);**
- 134.23 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to further promote and protect civil and political rights (Japan);**
- 134.24 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Republic of Korea);**
- 134.25 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ukraine);**
- 134.26 **Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);**
- 134.27 **Ratify and implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in the spirit of Royal Decree No. 6/2021 promulgating the new Basic Law of State (Switzerland);**
- 134.28 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);**
- 134.29 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**
- 134.30 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras) (Senegal);**
- 134.31 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Argentina);**
- 134.32 **Consider acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Malta);**
- 134.33 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**
- 134.34 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and incorporate its provisions into national legislation (Estonia);**
- 134.35 **Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Panama);**
- 134.36 **Sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Honduras);**
- 134.37 **Withdraw all remaining reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Estonia);**
- 134.38 **Withdraw its reservations to article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, regarding the nationality of children, and article 16, relating to appropriate measures to improve women's rights in all matters relating to marriage and family relations (Netherlands);**
- 134.39 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and review current provisions that are**

discriminatory against women, including rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance and transmitting nationality onto their children and spouses (Italy);

134.40 **Withdraw its reservations to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

134.41 **Extend an open and standing invitation to the mandate holders of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Finland) (Panama);**

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

134.43 **Intensify cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms (Ukraine);**

134.44 **Continue to strengthen local legislation within the framework of the international conventions to which Oman has acceded (Maldives);**

134.45 **Take steps to implement the international covenants to which Oman has acceded (Pakistan);**

134.46 **Continue efforts aimed at aligning national legislation with international human rights standards (Romania);**

134.47 **Continue efforts aimed at harmonizing national legislation with the international treaties already ratified (Somalia);**

134.48 **Work to fulfil the obligations arising from the recent accession of Oman to international conventions in the field of human rights (Sudan);**

134.49 **Carry out measures to strengthen the national human rights institution (Nepal);**

134.50 **Bring its national legislation fully into line with its international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Russian Federation);**

134.51 **Continue its efforts towards effective implementation of its international obligations (Kyrgyzstan);**

134.52 **Continue the efforts made to strengthen the human rights system and the work of the national human rights committee, in cooperation with the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and the universal periodic review mechanism (Tunisia);**

134.53 **Bring its national human rights commission into compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste) (Ukraine);**

134.54 **Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks to address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change adaptation and mitigation frameworks, and ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups and local communities are meaningfully engaged in their implementation (Fiji);**

134.55 **Strengthen and develop the role of specialized national mechanisms to promote and protect human rights (Uganda);**

134.56 **Increase guidance, education, training and capacity-building programmes in the field of human rights (Algeria);**

134.57 **Continue its efforts and achieve further progress in realization of programmes and mechanisms aimed at protecting and improving human rights in all fields (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

134.58 **Continue implementing programmes to raise awareness of human rights, including among enforcement authorities (Malaysia);**

- 134.59 **Enhance its efforts to provide human rights training and awareness-raising programmes to law enforcement officials, the judiciary and the media (India);**
- 134.60 **Incorporate the definition of racial discrimination into national legislation (Ukraine);**
- 134.61 **Continue to strengthen its successful policies on gender equality (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 134.62 **Analyse the constitutional article that prohibits discrimination against citizens on grounds of sex with a view to adjusting this definition of discrimination in accordance with that contained in article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which prohibits direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres (Argentina);**
- 134.63 **Abolish any legislation that criminalizes or limits the exercise of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, especially their right to gender identity and expression (Chile);**
- 134.64 **Further promote gender equality and take measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups (China);**
- 134.65 **Continue its efforts to create appropriate conditions and legislative and institutional mechanisms for gender equality (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 134.66 **Step up efforts to promote equal rights for different social groups (Eritrea);**
- 134.67 **Decriminalize homosexuality and guarantee the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from all forms of harassment and from arbitrary detention (France);**
- 134.68 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 134.69 **Continue to carry out strategic programmes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in order to make individual and community health a reality (Nicaragua);**
- 134.70 **Continue the efforts made to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to human rights (Sudan);**
- 134.71 **Continue its national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (Egypt);**
- 134.72 **Continue to enact and implement laws with regard to combating terrorism, in compliance with human rights law (Bahrain);**
- 134.73 **Abolish the death penalty (Czechia);**
- 134.74 **Establish an official moratorium on imposing and carrying out the death penalty, as a step towards its complete abolition (Australia) (Estonia) (Finland) (France) (Italy) (Latvia) (Malta) (Portugal) (Uruguay);**
- 134.75 **Translate, de jure, the de facto suspension that has been implemented since 2015 on the execution of the death penalty, through the formal adoption of an indefinite moratorium (Spain);**
- 134.76 **Consider establishing an official moratorium on executions and take positive steps to abolish the death penalty (Argentina) (Fiji);**
- 134.77 **Guarantee the independence of the judiciary (France);**
- 134.78 **Bring the juvenile justice system into line with Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ukraine);**

- 134.79 **Ensure access to justice for all, in particular vulnerable and minority groups, including women and migrant workers (Ghana);**
- 134.80 **Continue to adopt the necessary measures to combat extremism, hate and discrimination, and protect persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);**
- 134.81 **Pursue the dissemination and implementation of the announced initiative of the Sultan Qaboos Declaration Project on United Human Values with the aim of contributing to the achievement of understanding, tolerance and respect among peoples at the international level (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 134.82 **Continue efforts to strengthen moderation and religious tolerance, especially through the education sector (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 134.83 **Strengthen the practices of valuing social dialogue and promoting the concept of tolerance in Omani culture (Turkmenistan);**
- 134.84 **Continue to strengthen tolerance of and coexistence in the religious and cultural diversity of the people and facilitate space for expression in its education system and civil life in general (Indonesia);**
- 134.85 **Continue the efforts made to support the policy of moderation and religious tolerance through educational programmes (Jordan);**
- 134.86 **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration, refraining from criminalizing dissenting opinions from those of the Government (Chile);**
- 134.87 **Complete the enactment of legislation on promoting freedom of opinion and expression (Kenya);**
- 134.88 **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, assembly and association by amending the Penal Code and other laws such as the Press and Publications Law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 134.89 **Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of all residents of Oman (Latvia);**
- 134.90 **Continue its efforts to ensure the right to freedom of expression and opinion for all (Libya);**
- 134.91 **Implement legal reforms to eliminate constraints on the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly (Australia);**
- 134.92 **Recognize the right to peacefully exercise freedom of expression, association and assembly and remove or revise legal provisions criminalizing those rights (Italy);**
- 134.93 **Withdraw the references in the national legislation that criminalize the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, ensuring that it is compatible and consistent with international human rights obligations and standards (Uruguay);**
- 134.94 **Bring national legislation into line with international standards on freedom of opinion and expression, including the new Penal Code, the Press and Publications Law, the Cybercrime Law and the Telecommunications Law (Belgium);**
- 134.95 **Ensure that the Penal Code and other relevant legislation are aligned with international standards and codify and protect rights of free speech, as well as freedom of association and assembly (Canada);**
- 134.96 **Amend the 2002 Telecommunications Law and the 2011 Cybercrime Law to bring them into line with international standards on the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Denmark);**

- 134.97 **Review the Penal Code and remove all restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly (Estonia);**
- 134.98 **Proceed with amending the provisions of the executive regulations of the Press and Publications Law (Lebanon);**
- 134.99 **Guarantee freedom of expression, association and assembly and end the detention of people for exercising freedom of opinion and expression (France);**
- 134.100 **Promote and protect freedom of opinion and expression, both online and offline, including by considering amending current national legislation (Greece);**
- 134.101 **Protect and uphold the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland);**
- 134.102 **Ensure that the new law on the media and the new law on civil society associations are drafted and implemented in accordance with international standards on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, of peaceful assembly and of association (Switzerland);**
- 134.103 **Take further measures to allow greater scope for action by civil society organizations (Cyprus);**
- 134.104 **Ensure an enabling environment for civil society (Ukraine);**
- 134.105 **Continue the legislative initiatives aimed at enabling a conducive environment for the civil society and favourable for a more open manifestation of individual opinions (Romania);**
- 134.106 **Amend criminal defamation provisions in the Penal Code as well as the Cybercrime Law and the Civil Societies Law to increase respect for fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, on- and offline (United States of America);**
- 134.107 **Expedite the enactment of the information bill into law (Kenya);**
- 134.108 **Take immediate measures so that human rights defenders and all civil society stakeholders may carry out their activities without being subject to threats or acts of harassment by law enforcement authorities (Luxembourg);**
- 134.109 **Take measures to protect freedom of association, assembly and expression and remove any impediments to the work of political opposition parties, human rights defenders and independent civil society organizations (Ireland);**
- 134.110 **Ensure further facilitation of the association registration system (Kuwait);**
- 134.111 **Guarantee the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression, expand its dialogue with civil society and create an enabling environment for civil society organizations (Czechia);**
- 134.112 **Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers, especially for forced labour offences (Kazakhstan);**
- 134.113 **Further strengthen its efforts in combating human trafficking, including the protection and rehabilitation of the victims of human trafficking (Myanmar);**
- 134.114 **Continue with its various awareness campaigns against human trafficking (Nicaragua);**
- 134.115 **Strengthen measures to combat human trafficking and ensure the protection of the rights of victims, as well as the rights of migrant workers (Nigeria);**

- 134.116 Strengthen efforts made to combat human trafficking, guaranteeing victims' rights and providing them with protection and assistance (Qatar);
- 134.117 Strengthen the Sultanate's efforts to implement the national plans to combat human trafficking (State of Palestine);
- 134.118 Continue its work in strengthening mechanisms at the national level to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (Kyrgyzstan);
- 134.119 Strengthening effective implementation of the anti-trafficking law (Ukraine);
- 134.120 Redouble its efforts to end human trafficking (Burundi);
- 134.121 Extend, from 2021, the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons, and continue to strengthen the pillars of preventing and combating trafficking, protecting victims, and engaging in inter-institutional and international cooperation (Cuba);
- 134.122 Strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including by intensifying investigations, prosecuting perpetrators and assisting victims with adequate remedies (Malaysia);
- 134.123 Allocate adequate resources to the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking for it to fulfil its mandate (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 134.124 Maintain social policies that support the family in line with societal values (Algeria);
- 134.125 Continue to ensure that the labour rights of all workers are protected by laws, including domestic migrant workers (Malta);
- 134.126 Take the necessary measures to combat unemployment, especially among young people and people living in rural areas (Somalia);
- 134.127 Amend the labour law to extend protections such as a minimum wage and maximum working hours to domestic workers (United States of America);
- 134.128 Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of workers, in particular foreign workers, by taking further necessary institutional and legislative steps in this field (Viet Nam);
- 134.129 Continue efforts to conclude the adoption of the bills on domestic workers, non-governmental organizations and persons with disabilities (Lebanon);
- 134.130 Broaden the scope of labour legislation to include domestic workers and criminalize forced labour (Luxembourg);
- 134.131 Take further measures to guarantee foreign nationals a choice of job and employer through the "no objection" condition introduced recently (Eritrea);
- 134.132 Sustain effort aimed at expanding social protection and basic services for its nationals (Pakistan);
- 134.133 Continue its ongoing efforts to promote and strengthen human rights, in particular by focusing on economic growth and by improving the well-being of the population (Turkmenistan);
- 134.134 Continue to strengthen its social programmes for its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 134.135 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and improve people's living conditions, so as to provide a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all rights (China);

- 134.136 **Make further efforts towards the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including by strengthening social protection measures (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**
- 134.137 **Continue efforts to confront the spread of COVID-19, and address the economic and social difficulties resulting from it (Qatar);**
- 134.138 **Continue efforts aimed at advancing the right to health under the national health strategy 2050 (Sri Lanka);**
- 134.139 **Continue providing health care and social welfare services (State of Palestine);**
- 134.140 **Strengthen protection of the rights of older persons, particularly in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argentina);**
- 134.141 **Continue efforts to ensure the successful implementation of the national health strategy 2050 (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 134.142 **Continue paying the closest attention to the right to health, in order to consolidate and expand the progress achieved within the framework of the national health strategy 2050, and prioritize primary and community care (Cuba);**
- 134.143 **Intensify efforts to improve access to health care for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health-care services and information (Fiji);**
- 134.144 **Take further steps to increase people’s access to health care, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 134.145 **Improve the accessibility and quality of education for all children, including those in situations of vulnerability, and reduce the school dropout rate (Montenegro);**
- 134.146 **Proceed with the implementation of the National Strategy for Education 2040 (Saudi Arabia);**
- 134.147 **Persist in implementing a policy of providing educational, health and other social services for all children, including children of registered and unregistered migrants and refugees (Serbia);**
- 134.148 **Continue improving the quality of education and its accessibility to all children, especially girls and children with disabilities (State of Palestine);**
- 134.149 **In line with the recommendation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, enshrine the right to education for all in the Basic Law and continue efforts to eradicate illiteracy, especially by enshrining nine years of compulsory education in its legislation (Argentina);**
- 134.150 **Continue efforts in the promotion and protection of the right to education for all (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 134.151 **Take additional measures to improve access to and the quality of education for all children by continuing to address the issue of school dropouts, regardless of children’s abilities or disabilities, social background or gender (Japan);**
- 134.152 **Proceed with the implementation of the National Strategy for Education 2040, especially the fifth principle, “Education on human rights and duties” (Jordan);**
- 134.153 **Continue to improve legal frameworks to empower women (Maldives);**
- 134.154 **Continue implementing measures to promote gender equality and eliminate harmful traditional practices (Nepal);**
- 134.155 **Continue working to protect the rights of women, children and older persons (Nicaragua);**

- 134.156 Continue strengthening efforts to fully eliminate discrimination against women in law and practice (Romania);
- 134.157 Continue to take measures to empower women within the framework of the Social Action Strategy and revise its national legislation to ensure its full compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Russian Federation);
- 134.158 Continue implementing national strategies with the aim of eliminating discriminatory societal stereotypes towards women, in coordination with international and civil society partners as appropriate (Singapore);
- 134.159 Further empower women and ensure their participation in planning and implementing national policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Thailand);
- 134.160 Establish a road map for the protection of women's rights in all fields, with a view to ensuring gender equality (Turkey);
- 134.161 Ensure that national legislation is in line with international human rights standards, including by reviewing current legislation and reforming all provisions that discriminate against women, such as on marriage, divorce and inheritance rights, as well as the right to confer their nationality on their children and spouses (Latvia);
- 134.162 Continue its efforts to further promote the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Viet Nam);
- 134.163 Continue efforts to protect and promote women's rights, in particular by promoting the active presence of women in society and combating stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men, and to this end strengthen cooperation with community and religious leaders as well as the media, including through awareness-raising campaigns (Armenia);
- 134.164 Remove all discriminatory provisions against women in legislation relating to marriage and divorce, child custody and inheritance rights (Belgium);
- 134.165 Continue to improve the rights of women and children, civil and political rights, and fundamental freedoms (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 134.166 Take the necessary measures to combat gender-based violence (Kazakhstan);
- 134.167 Create specific laws to address gender-based violence, including a definition of this type of violence; protect women who are at risk; and take the necessary measures to reduce illiteracy and school dropout rates for girls, especially nomadic and migrant girls, girls with disabilities and girls living in rural areas (Mexico);
- 134.168 Adopt legislation defining and criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence against women (Montenegro);
- 134.169 Modify the Penal Code to expressly criminalize all acts of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape, as well as the offences provided for in the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Panama);
- 134.170 Criminalize all forms of violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour" (Portugal);
- 134.171 Enhance further the laws that prohibit emotional and physical violence directed against women (United Arab Emirates);
- 134.172 Ensure that reports of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, are duly investigated and prosecuted, perpetrators are adequately

punished and victims have access to appropriate redress, including compensation (Belgium);

134.173 Intensify efforts to strengthen the legislative framework on gender-based violence, including by defining gender-based violence, and strengthen legal protections for victims (Fiji);

134.174 Prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, including by facilitating access for women to justice (Greece);

134.175 Take further measures to prevent violence against women, including domestic violence (Japan);

134.176 Criminalize female genital mutilation in the Penal Code (Burkina Faso);

134.177 Promote and protect the rights of women and girls, in particular by effectively prohibiting domestic violence and eliminating female genital mutilation (France);

134.178 Continue efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation (Greece);

134.179 Strengthen efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation by increasing public awareness of the harmful consequences of its practice (Italy);

134.180 Take steps to implement national strategies to increase the wider participation of women in decision-making and adopt policies to reduce the gender wage gap (Mauritius);

134.181 Continuing to improve the legal frameworks for women empowerment (Saudi Arabia);

134.182 Continue cooperation with civil society organizations to prepare more women empowerment programmes (United Arab Emirates);

134.183 Enhance support for the participation of women in the public sphere and decision-making institutions (Bahrain);

134.184 Continue to strengthen policies and programmes for the empowerment of women in accordance with its sociocultural ethos (Bangladesh);

134.185 Strengthen legislative and policy measures for the advancement of the rights of women and girls and for their empowerment (Bulgaria);

134.186 Adopt legislation to explicitly criminalize domestic violence and intimate partner violence, including marital rape (Denmark);

134.187 Continue to promote gender equality by taking effective measures aimed at increasing the participation of women in political and public life (Djibouti);

134.188 Repeal articles 225 and 226 of the Penal Code and immediately release women and girls convicted of *zina* (Luxembourg);

134.189 Enhance the implementation of the Social Action Strategy, which is pivotal in the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment (Ethiopia);

134.190 Pursue efforts in the promotion and empowerment of women in the country by ensuring the full and equal participation of women in political and public life and in decision-making at the local and national levels (Ghana);

134.191 Continue to take measures to further empower women (India);

134.192 Continue efforts to enhance women empowerment, including by facilitating their further participation in the labour market (Islamic Republic of Iran);

134.193 Continue to strengthen efforts to empower women and enhance their participation in the development process (Iraq);

- 134.194 Further encourage the active social and economic roles of women (Turkey);
- 134.195 Implement further reforms that improve women's economic empowerment and workforce participation, as well as reforms that eliminate discrimination against women in matters of family law (Australia);
- 134.196 Continue taking efforts to increase women's representation in the workforce (Malaysia);
- 134.197 Follow up on the enactment of national laws and plans aimed at empowering women, particularly by integrating them into a social work strategy and enhancing women's participation in the sustainable development process (Bahrain);
- 134.198 Reduce persistent gender pay gaps, both in the public and private sectors (Senegal);
- 134.199 Support strategies that are aimed at continuing its efforts to enhance women's awareness and raise their scientific and developmental capabilities and skills (Libya);
- 134.200 Amend the Penal Code to legalize abortion in cases of rape, incest or severe fetal malformations and decriminalize it in all other situations (Luxembourg);
- 134.201 Proceed with the implementation of the Social Action Strategy and the National Strategy for Children in order to enhance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Qatar);
- 134.202 Continue efforts to improve laws related to child protection mechanisms, especially in care institutions and foster care (Saudi Arabia);
- 134.203 Implement a holistic strategy to combat child abuse in all settings, including strengthening awareness-raising and education efforts on this matter (Singapore);
- 134.204 Better implement the laws related to child protection mechanisms, especially in care institutions (United Arab Emirates);
- 134.205 Strengthen awareness-raising and education programmes and formulate a comprehensive strategy for preventing and combating child abuse in all settings (Afghanistan);
- 134.206 Further increase protection of children against any form of violence and abuse and enshrine the right to education for all children in the Basic Law (Czechia);
- 134.207 Increase efforts to combat child labour and all other forms of child exploitation (Jordan);
- 134.208 Continue efforts to protect persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mauritania);
- 134.209 Continue its endeavours to enact the bill for persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Myanmar);
- 134.210 Continue to strengthen its laws for persons with disabilities (Nicaragua);
- 134.211 Enhance protection for persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through the enactment of appropriate national legislation (Sri Lanka);
- 134.212 Set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities (Timor-Leste);

- 134.213 Consider the possibility of expediting the enactment of the draft law for persons with disabilities (Tunisia);
- 134.214 Consolidate national efforts to protect persons with disabilities within the framework of a national strategy (Algeria);
- 134.215 Intensify efforts to end all forms of multiple and intersectional discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities (Bulgaria);
- 134.216 Set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities and their integration into all areas of social life, including education, sports and leisure activities (Bulgaria);
- 134.217 Continue efforts to consolidate and coordinate best practices in promoting the rights of children with disabilities (Libya);
- 134.218 Continue to implement policies aimed at supporting and accelerating the integration of persons with disabilities into society, as well as their active participation in the life of the community, and allocate sufficient resources to this end (Djibouti);
- 134.219 Further strengthen measures promoting the interests of persons with disabilities including through the adoption of a disability act (Ethiopia);
- 134.220 Intensify efforts to legislate on the protection of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iraq);
- 134.221 Continue the integration of persons with disabilities, particularly in the basic education phase and in the rest of the education and training paths (Jordan);
- 134.222 Substantially modify the sponsorship system known as *kafalah* to reduce the risk of migrant workers being subject to labour exploitation, including forced labour, by disassociating their status as migrants from a particular employer and allowing them to renew their own residence permits (Mexico);
- 134.223 Continue efforts for the protection of the rights of migrant workers, including women domestic workers, by ensuring access to remedies and complaint mechanisms (Nepal);
- 134.224 Make comprehensive efforts to protect the rights of workers by conducting awareness campaigns and abolishing sponsorship systems for foreign domestic workers (Kenya);
- 134.225 Sustain efforts to create a better working environment for migrant workers, including the possible abolition of the *kafalah* system (Philippines);
- 134.226 Take concrete steps towards the inclusion of migrant domestic workers in labour legislation (Philippines);
- 134.227 Ensure that access to justice and remedies are available to all, including vulnerable groups such as migrant workers (Philippines);
- 134.228 Strengthen cooperation with countries of origin of migrant workers to better safeguard their rights and welfare, including through formal bilateral agreements (Philippines);
- 134.229 Continue its efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers, including by ensuring the effective implementation of the abolition of the “no objection” certificate (Republic of Korea);
- 134.230 Intensify efforts to expand labour law protections, including for migrant workers (Sri Lanka);
- 134.231 Intensify efforts aimed at ensuring the rights of expatriate workers (Sudan);

- 134.232 Continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of the rights of workers, in particular migrant and domestic workers, by ratifying and implementing the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and facilitating the right to lodge criminal complaints with the authorities (Switzerland);
- 134.233 Redouble its efforts to protect the rights of workers, especially women and migrants, ensure their access to social services and justice, and provide victims of human trafficking with adequate assistance and remedies (Thailand);
- 134.234 Continue efforts made to protect the rights of foreign workers, and to adopt appropriate measures and legislation in this regard (Tunisia);
- 134.235 Take further steps to ensure the basic rights of expatriate workers (Turkey);
- 134.236 Pursue its efforts to enhance the working conditions of expatriate labourers by issuing legislation and regulations to promote and protect the rights of expatriate workers in the labour law (Turkmenistan);
- 134.237 Increase cooperation with countries of origin of migrant workers, in order to ensure the protection of their rights (Uganda);
- 134.238 Provide labour law protection for domestic workers and strengthen anti-trafficking legislation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 134.239 Enact reforms to end the *kafalah* employment sponsorship system (United States of America);
- 134.240 Implement further reforms to the *kafalah* system to protect the rights of foreign workers (Australia);
- 134.241 Continue efforts to introduce further measures to protect the rights of migrant workers, in particular women migrant workers, including strengthening measures for their social and legal protection (Bangladesh);
- 134.242 Adopt the bill on domestic workers (Burkina Faso);
- 134.243 Replace the *kafalah* system in order to improve conditions for migrant workers and reform existing labour laws to include domestic workers (Canada);
- 134.244 Revise the *kafalah* system to reduce the risk of migrant workers being subject to labour exploitation (Italy);
- 134.245 Continue efforts to enhance the working conditions of expatriate workers (Cyprus);
- 134.246 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of expatriate workers (Czechia);
- 134.247 Intensify efforts at the national level for the protection of the rights of workers (Georgia);
- 134.248 Continue improving the protection of labour rights, in particular regarding foreign and domestic workers, by ratifying and implementing the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Germany);
- 134.249 Continue to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat abuse of migrant domestic workers in the country by ensuring full implementation of international and domestic laws (Ghana);
- 134.250 Continue taking measures to strengthen the legal protection available to foreign workers, including the introduction of a wage protection system (India);
- 134.251 Provide comprehensive protection of human rights to foreign workers regardless of their category under national legislation and encourage

cooperation with countries of origin with a human rights-based approach (Indonesia);

134.252 Adopt national asylum legislation that complies with international standards (Senegal);

134.253 Reconsider its reservations regarding the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);

134.254 Adopt national asylum legislation in line with the international standards and provide safeguards against refoulement (Afghanistan);

134.255 Strengthen cooperation with human rights mechanisms and international organizations in order to build its capacity in the field of human rights (Yemen);

134.256 Grant women the same rights as men with respect to the nationality of their sons and daughters (Mexico);

134.257 Support the development in the field of article 18 of the Nationality Act (Kuwait);

134.258 Consolidate fundamentally, through an appropriate legal regime, the evolution that the situation of women in Omani society has undergone, through a new framework for the protection of their autonomy in the field of family law and the transmission of nationality, as well as continuing to advance the equality of women in all areas of society (Spain);

134.259 In follow-up to recommendations from the previous cycle, review legislation that is discriminatory on the grounds of gender, particularly with regard to rights in marriage, divorce and inheritance, guaranteeing the right of mothers to transfer nationality to their children (Uruguay);

134.260 Promote legal reforms ensuring equal rights for women and men regarding marriage, divorce, inheritance and transmission of nationality to their children (Brazil);

134.261 Ensure full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including article 9 (2), granting women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children, and article 16, granting women equal rights in matters relating to marriage and family relations (Canada);

134.262 Amend legislation so as to allow Omani women to pass on their citizenship to their children (Cyprus);

134.263 Review current legislation and reform as necessary all discriminatory provisions, including regarding rights in marriage, divorce and inheritance, and the right of women to confer their nationality on their children and spouses (Iceland);

134.264 Permit Omani women to pass their nationality to their children and spouses on an equal basis with men (Ireland).

135. 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.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

136. Oman assumed the following voluntary commitments:

136.1 Cooperate and meet its obligations in the area of human rights with the United Nations agencies, mechanisms and committees in order to facilitate their activities and the implementation of their programmes;

- 136.2 **Make comprehensive efforts at the national level to protect the rights of workers by taking the necessary institutional and legislative steps;**
- 136.3 **Continue efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those that have a bearing on human rights;**
- 136.4 **Raise the level of political awareness and disseminate a culture of political participation;**
- 136.5 **Develop the operational mechanisms of human rights commissions and agencies in accordance with the best international standards;**
- 136.6 **Fulfil its obligations arising from accession to the Convention against Torture, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;**
- 136.7 **Enact the bill concerning persons with disabilities and the information bill.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Oman was headed by H.E. Dr Abdullah bin Mohamed bin Said Al Saidi, Minister of Justice and legal Affairs and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Idris Al Khanjari, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN and other IOs in Geneva;
 - H.E. Hamid Ali Al MAANI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head of International Affairs Department;
 - Ambassador Abdullah Al Riyami, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN and other IOs in Geneva;
 - Mr Saif Nasser Saif Al Humaidi, Ministry of Justice and legal Affairs, Head of Minister's Office;
 - Mr Saleh Ali Nasser Al Mahruqi, Ministry of Justice and legal Affairs, Adviser;
 - Mr Jamal Salim Al Nabhani, Ministry of Justice and legal Affairs, Adviser;
 - Dr Hamda Hamed Hilal Al Saadi, Professor in the University of Technology and Applied Sciences;
 - Mrs Jamila Salim Mabkhoot Jaddad, Ministry of Social Development, Assistant Director General for Family development;
 - Mr Abdulah Murad Al Mullahi, Ministry of Labour, Director of Department of International Organizations and External Affairs;
 - Mr Ahmed Khalfan Al RAQADI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr Mohamed Nacer Al Hani, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN and other IOs in Geneva;
 - Miss Imène HANNACHI, Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN and other IOs in Geneva.
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