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Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review *

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-third session from 6 to 17 May 2019. The review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was held at the 3rd meeting, on 7 May 2019. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was headed by the Minister for Human Rights, Marie-Ange Mushobekwa. At its 10th meeting, held on 10 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Cameroon, Croatia and Qatar.

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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/COD/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/COD/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/COD/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo 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 Minister for Human Rights stated that the national report submitted for the third cycle of the universal periodic review had been prepared as part of a participatory process. Thus, all stakeholders, including State institutions, the National Human Rights Commission and non-governmental human rights organizations, had been consulted both for data collection and during the validation workshop held in Kinshasa on 27 January 2019.

6. The Minister recalled that 190 recommendations had been addressed to the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in 2014, and highlighted the progress made in the implementation of those recommendations, including the designation of nine members of the National Human Rights Commission by their respective entities, as approved by resolution No. 001/CAB/P/AN/AM/2015 of the Congolese National Assembly, followed by their appointment pursuant to Presidential Order No. 15/023 of 4 April 2015, and their swearing-in on 23 July 2015 before the Constitutional Court.

7. The progress achieved also included the adoption by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of three laws to implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, namely Act No. 15/022 of 31 December 2015 amending and supplementing the Decree of 30 January 1940 on the Criminal Code, Act No. 15/024 of 31 December 2015 amending and supplementing the Decree of 6 August 1959 on the Code of Criminal Procedure, and Organic Act No. 17/003 of 10 March 2017 amending and supplementing Act

8. The adoption and promulgation of Act No. 15/013 of 1 August 2015 on means of giving effect to women's rights and gender parity had also been a major step forward. Articles 4, 5, 6 and 33 of the Act guaranteed women's participation in political life.

9. The establishment of various commissions of inquiry into cases of serious human rights violations, the reform of the justice system, the conviction of several perpetrators of sexual violence, including from within the Congolese National Police and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and measures to combat trafficking in persons were highlighted as examples of significant progress.

10. The Minister also noted some difficulties and obstacles encountered in the implementation of the recommendations adopted during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, which included the resurgence of armed groups in the far east of the country, the terror sown and maintained for several months by the Kamuina Nsapu group in Kasai, the intercommunity conflict in Tanganyika Province between Pygmies and Bantus, the spread of Ebola virus disease in the north of the country and the turmoil linked to the electoral process in some provinces, which had destabilized the country over the previous four years.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

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

12. Slovenia noted progress on birth registration, free primary school education and access to health-care services. It urged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to uphold the highest standards in human rights.

13. South Africa welcomed the successful transition to the new administration, the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission, the State's cooperation with the treaty bodies and measures taken to protect children and combat human trafficking.

14. Spain welcomed the adoption of the Family Code, legislation to protect women's rights and the national plan and strategy to protect children's rights.

15. The Sudan appreciated the fact that all sectors of society had participated in the preparation of the national report, and the adoption of legislation to protect human rights.

16. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and encouraged the proper functioning of the Commission.

17. Switzerland, while welcoming the release of political prisoners, expressed concern about persistent impunity, even for grave human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence.

18. Togo welcomed the adoption of the new Criminal Code and the Family Code, the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission and the establishment of the Court of Cassation and the Council of State.

19. Turkey welcomed the peaceful transition in the wake of the 2018 elections and the State's efforts to ensure security in the east of the country and to combat corruption.

20. The United Kingdom welcomed recent successes in bringing perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence to justice, but urged the Government to increase efforts to end impunity for human rights violations.

21. The United States welcomed President Tshisekedi's decision to close illegal detention centres and release prisoners of conscience. The United States urged the country to take measures to combat impunity.

22. Ukraine welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It was concerned about the high rate of sexual and gender-based violence and the lack of protection for victims.

23. Uruguay welcomed legislative progress to protect persons from discrimination, including the reform of the Family Code.

24. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the State's ratification of treaties, cooperation with treaty bodies and measures related to the rights to work, water and education.

25. Yemen noted the National Strategic Development Plan 2017–2050 and the strategies for judicial reform, protection of persons with disabilities and to end child marriage.

26. Zambia welcomed the legislative measures that had been taken, but remained concerned about the exploitation of children in the mining sector, corporal punishment and the use of violence against opposition supporters.

27. Zimbabwe welcomed legislative measures to promote the rights of vulnerable groups. It noted the programmes to provide clean water and to promote youth employment.

28. Afghanistan welcomed the enhancement of the legal framework, including the ratification of treaties and steps to harmonize domestic legislation with international human rights standards.

29. Albania welcomed measures to strengthen the judiciary. It encouraged the Government to adopt a moratorium on the death penalty and to pursue its efforts to eliminate sexual violence against children.

30. Algeria welcomed legislative reforms related to the right to work, social security and women's rights, including the Family Code and measures related to women's and children's right to health.
31. Angola congratulated the Government for the success of the recent elections and expressed the hope that the country would advance through peace, reconciliation and the realization of human rights.
32. Argentina welcomed the endorsement by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the Safe Schools Declaration.
33. Australia welcomed the 2018 national elections. It remained concerned about the rights of women and girls, child labour and illicit weapons flows.
34. Austria was concerned about violations of civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
35. Azerbaijan welcomed the State's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
36. Belgium made recommendations.
37. Benin noted legislative and institutional reforms, including improvements in the status of women, the administration of justice and social security.
38. Bhutan commended the enactment of legislation, particularly on improving the judicial system, and the appointment of members to the National Human Rights Commission.
39. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed developments concerning the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the reconciliation process.
40. Botswana noted the request for international cooperation assistance on peace, security and institutional and human capacity-building in the field of human rights.
41. Brazil encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to increase its efforts to ensure the demobilization of its children and their social reintegration.
42. Bulgaria noted the adoption of the National Action Plan to End Child Marriage and the Sectoral Strategy for Education and Training.
43. Burkina Faso applauded the adoption in 2015 of a law on means of implementing women's rights and gender parity.
44. Burundi welcomed the adoption and implementation of the National Policy on Justice Sector Reform 2018–2020 to improve the administration of justice.
45. Cabo Verde was concerned about the persistence of conflict in the State, which resulted in violence and human rights violations, including sexual violence against women and children.
46. Canada was encouraged by progress following the presidential pardon granted to several hundred prisoners who had been arbitrarily detained.
47. Chad commended the significant progress achieved as part of the institutional and normative reform in the area of human rights.
48. Chile was concerned about the continuation of tribal violence which, through armed clashes between neighbouring villages, had led to the loss of hundreds of lives and to population displacement.
49. China commended the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan 2017–2050 and the efforts to eradicate poverty, increase employment, improve social security, combat gender-based violence and protect vulnerable groups.
50. The Congo noted with satisfaction the participatory approach adopted during the preparation of the national report and the progress made in the implementation of free primary education.
51. Costa Rica took note of the progress achieved, especially during the elections in December 2018, which had led to the peaceful transfer of power on 24 January 2019.
52. Replying to the questions from States, including one about child soldiers, the Minister for Human Rights said that, on 4 October 2012, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had signed a plan to combat the recruitment and use of children in times of war and peace, and other grave violations of children's rights by its armed forces and security services, with a view to ending the recruitment of children by armed forces and groups. The results had not been long in coming: in October 2017, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been removed from the United Nations blacklist for the recruitment of children. The recruitment of child soldiers in the country therefore remained the preserve of armed groups, but the Congolese Government was pursuing its efforts by continuing to push for the demobilization of children, including in armed groups. In 2017, for example, 1,031 children had been demobilized and separated from armed groups thanks to the combined efforts of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The children had been reintegrated into their respective families.
53. With regard to the fight against sexual violence, the Congolese military justice system had prosecuted police and military officers,

including many officers who had committed sexual violence, war crimes or crimes against humanity. To date, nearly 4,000 officers of the Congolese National Police and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been convicted of those serious offences. Some influential political actors, including elected officials, had also been convicted of the same acts. Zero tolerance was therefore being shown in the fight against sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, with the resurgence of armed groups in the country a few months previously, sexual violence had been used as a weapon of war. Following the elections of 30 December 2018 and the inauguration of the new President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, several armed groups had nevertheless decided to lay down their arms, which would undoubtedly have an impact on reducing sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

54. Concerning the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, the Protection Cell for Human Rights Defenders had been established. The Cell was responsible for ensuring their protection and listening to the problems they encountered in the conduct of their activities. If a human rights defender was arrested, the Cell was responsible not only for reporting the situation but also for communicating with all the relevant authorities so that the person concerned could be released. Those structures were not yet operational, owing to the particularly difficult situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

55. The bill on the protection of human rights defenders had been passed in its original form in the Senate and was being discussed by the National Assembly. It would be passed and promulgated during the current legislature, as the President of the Republic had promised that he would do everything possible to protect human rights defenders and ensure effective freedom of the press in the country. On 3 May 2019, the day dedicated to press freedom worldwide, the President had stressed that journalists would no longer be arrested for press offences; the bill on the decriminalization of press offences would therefore be submitted to Parliament.

56. With regard to the fight against impunity, the prosecution and conviction of officers of the Congolese National Police and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for serious human rights violations was a step forward, even though several perpetrators of such violations were still at large. The three laws implementing the Rome Statute also reflected the will of the Congolese authorities to punish the perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

57. The establishment by the Congolese Government of various commissions of inquiry over the previous two years to shed light on cases of serious human rights violations and identify those responsible was also part of efforts to combat impunity. The outcome of the investigations launched by the Government could be used by the Congolese judiciary to prosecute persons suspected of serious human rights violations.

58. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations Office at Geneva noted that the Congolese Government had already carried out a number of reforms, such as the division of the Supreme Court into three judicial bodies, namely the Constitutional Court, the Court of Cassation and the Council of State. The establishment of new courts of appeal in the new provinces, the holding of the forum on justice in 2015, which had led to the adoption of a national policy on judicial reform for the period 2017–2026, and the establishment of the National Judicial Training Institute had been important steps towards strengthening the capacity of the judicial system.

59. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the 2018 update of the national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

60. Czechia welcomed the organization of the December 2018 general elections and the subsequent peaceful transition of power.

61. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its efforts to promote and protect human rights.

62. Denmark welcomed the adoption by the armed forces and the Congolese National Police of an action plan to combat sexual violence.

63. Djibouti commended the strengthening of the normative and institutional framework aimed at improving democracy and the rule of law.

64. Egypt commended the success of the 2018 elections and the efforts to strengthen the human rights legislative and institutional framework, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

65. Equatorial Guinea commended efforts at national reconciliation and measures taken for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

66. Eritrea noted the efforts made to overcome the recent challenges posed by the Ebola virus, which had dire consequences for public health.

67. Estonia noted the incorporation of the Rome Statute into national legislation and steps taken to improve legal protection of the rights of women and girls.

68. Ethiopia commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the efforts made to enact human rights-related laws and the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan.

69. Fiji commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for incorporating activities related to climate change and gender resilience into its National Agricultural Investment Programme.

70. France welcomed the measures taken by President Tshisekedi, in particular the release of political prisoners and the commitment to combat impunity.

71. Gabon commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for measures taken to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and to combat poverty and insecurity.
72. Georgia welcomed the efforts made to combat the recruitment of child soldiers and commended the appointment of the President's representative on combating sexual violence.
73. Liechtenstein welcomed the delegation and made recommendations.
74. Ghana noted with satisfaction the various bills discussed in the parliament, including on protection for and responsibilities of human rights defenders and on access to information.
75. Haiti recognized the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to improve the living standards of the population, despite the challenges it was facing.
76. Honduras praised the progress achieved since the previous review and the voluntary commitments the Democratic Republic of the Congo had made.
77. Iceland urged the new Government to strengthen existing human rights mechanisms, address impunity and take measures to prevent the recurrence of violence.
78. India noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the adoption of the National Strategic Development Plan and socioeconomic initiatives.
79. Indonesia welcomed the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission and the involvement of numerous stakeholders in the review process.
80. Iraq welcomed the elections held in December 2018 and the efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.
81. Ireland remained deeply concerned about reports of the human rights violations committed before, during and after the elections of December 2018.
82. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
83. Kenya congratulated the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the peaceful transfer of power and noted its ratification of several human rights instruments.
84. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the social protection strategy and various programmes to improve children's right to education and social rights.
85. Latvia noted the measures taken to improve human rights. It regretted the lack of cooperation with the special procedure mandate holders.
86. Lebanon commended the prohibition of the recruitment of children in the armed and security forces. It supported efforts to end sexual abuse of children, especially by ensuring that perpetrators were held accountable and providing support for victims.
87. Lesotho commended progress in the protection of children's rights to health and education. It noted the training on and dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Protection Act and measures to increase immunization rates.
88. Libya welcomed institutional and legislative measures, including the presidential and legislative elections, and the efforts to implement women's rights and gender equality and to protect the rights of the child.
89. Germany commended the release of political prisoners. It was concerned about human rights violations during the elections, including with regard to freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, arbitrary arrests and killings.
90. Luxembourg welcomed the positive developments achieved by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the incorporation of the Rome Statute into national law.
91. Madagascar noted with satisfaction the steps taken to protect human rights, including the adoption of the action plan to combat sexual violence.
92. Maldives congratulated the Government for the first peaceful democratic transfer of power since the country's independence. It welcomed efforts to rebuild a democratic nation that respected the rights of its people.
93. Mali appreciated the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to strengthen the normative and institutional framework, particularly on women's rights, gender equality and children's rights.
94. Malta noted the Government's efforts to improve human rights and commended its decision to prioritize child protection by ratifying several international instruments.
95. Mauritania welcomed the progress made, particularly with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities. It encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue its efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
96. Mauritius welcomed the National Strategic Development Plan, the creation of 290,000 jobs for young people and the raise in the minimum wage.

97.Mexico recognized the importance of the adoption of the law on the implementation of women's rights and gender parity, and the creation of an interministerial commission on child labour in mines.

98.Montenegro welcomed the Government's willingness to provide protection to human rights defenders. It was concerned about violence throughout the country and the fact that the death penalty had not yet been abolished.

99.Morocco welcomed the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission and the Commission's efforts to promote awareness of human rights.

100.Mozambique welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

101.Myanmar noted that the national report reflected several tangible steps taken by the Government, particularly with regard to the legal and institutional frameworks.

102.Namibia thanked the Democratic Republic of the Congo for having accepted all of the recommendations made during the second review cycle.

103.The Netherlands welcomed recent steps to enlarge the democratic space, as demonstrated, inter alia, by the release of political prisoners.

104.Nigeria commended efforts to promote national reconciliation and the adoption and implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan.

105.Norway noted efforts to protect human rights defenders, but remained concerned about their situation, including those working on environmental issues.

106.The Philippines acknowledged the efforts behind the country's removal from the list of countries identified as using children in armed conflict.

107.Poland praised the peaceful conduct of the recent general elections, which should reinvigorate efforts to uphold human rights.

108.Portugal welcomed the ratification since the previous review of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

109.The Republic of Korea welcomed the efforts for reconciliation and to guarantee respect for the human rights of all.

110.Sweden welcomed legislative and other measures taken to fight impunity and address cases of war crimes, but remained concerned at a number of human rights violations in the country.

111.The Russian Federation noted progress made in protecting human rights, as reflected by the decrease in documented human rights violations.

112.Rwanda hailed the adoption of important legislation to address sexual and gender-based violence and welcomed recent positive political developments.

113.Senegal congratulated the Government on the successful holding of presidential elections, which had made possible a peaceful transfer of power.

114.Serbia welcomed activities by the National Human Rights Commission to promote and protect human rights, including human rights education, training and awareness-raising.

115.Tunisia hoped that the result of the elections would be an opportunity to consolidate security and stability in the country. It welcomed legislative measures to promote women's rights.

116.Uganda welcomed the operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission, the increase in the minimum wage and efforts to promote women's rights.

117.Sierra Leone commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the measures taken to build an institutional framework for the protection of human rights, in particular regarding the judiciary.

118.The Minister for Human Rights concluded by stressing that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had taken note of the remarks made by States and considered it a privilege to be a member of the Human Rights Council. The country had made a commitment to behave in an exemplary manner.

II.Conclusions and/or recommendations

119. The following recommendations will be examined by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-second session of the Human Rights Council:

119.1 Continue the practice of becoming a party to the international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);

119.2 Consider acceding to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (Switzerland);

119.3 Ratify the two outstanding major human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Lesotho);

119.4 Ratify the remaining three main human rights instruments (Mozambique);

119.5 Consider ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);

119.6 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);

119.7 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and abolish the death penalty in domestic legislation (Uruguay);

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

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

119.10 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, 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 Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);

119.11 Commute the sentences of individuals currently on death row, consider initiating a political and legislative process aimed at the abolition of the death penalty and subsequently ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Republic of Moldova);

119.12 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 (France) (Germany) (Rwanda);

119.13 Consider accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Georgia);

119.14 Consider accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Italy);

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

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

119.17 Speed up the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Afghanistan);

119.18 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Portugal);

119.19 Take the necessary measures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);

119.20 Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);

119.21 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);

119.22 Take action to prevent extrajudicial executions and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal);

119.23 Ratify and implement the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

119.24 Consider ratifying the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and ensure that Congolese domestic law takes into consideration the obligations set out in that Convention (Senegal);

119.25 Ratify and domesticate the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (Uganda);

119.26 Bring to a successful conclusion the ratification process of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, and ensure that its provisions are reflected in national legislation by promulgating or amending the relevant laws on the protection and assistance of displaced persons (Chad);

119.27 Increase national unity to promote the international human rights institutions (Sudan);

119.28 Fulfil its reporting obligations under the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Afghanistan);

119.29 Issue a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures (Ukraine);

119.30 Cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);

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

119.32 Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the expert team supporting the investigation of the murder of the United Nations investigators in the Kasai region in 2017 (Czechia);

119.33 Continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court in its investigations into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2002 (Liechtenstein) (Luxembourg);

119.34 Continue collaboration with the United Nations system and international partners in consolidating peace, stability and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Maldives);

119.35 Continue to work with both local and international players in bringing lasting peace to that war-torn country (Sierra Leone);

119.36 Expedite parliamentary approval of draft legislation for the promotion and protection of human rights (South Africa);

119.37 Continue developing its national legislation constantly in line with international standards (Azerbaijan);

119.38 Implement a measurable, time-bound national action plan for assistance to the victims of anti-personnel mines that guarantees them equal rights and meets their needs in terms of disability, health, social assistance, education, employment, development and poverty reduction (Argentina);

119.39 Continue institutional reforms and capacity-building, particularly in promoting gender equality and the status of women and children (Bhutan);

119.40 Accelerate the signing of the decree to operationalize the national council for children and guarantee unconditional free access for children to health and education (Liechtenstein);

119.41 Strengthen the national institutions and mechanisms responsible for coordinating and following up on the implementation of the recommendations of previous universal periodic reviews and other United Nations human rights mechanisms (Kenya);

119.42 Ensure the effective implementation of Law No. 09/001 of 10 January 2009 on the protection of children, with a view to establishing the National Council for Children as soon as possible (Malta);

119.43 Keep mobilizing resources and seek the necessary national support to enhance its capacity to promote and protect human rights (Nigeria);

119.44 Continue its efforts to improve access to basic social needs and continue institutional reforms in the areas of public administration, the army and the police, and the judicial system for the promotion of human rights (Yemen);

119.45 Provide adequate annual financial assistance to the Fatherhood Programme, called “Baba Bora” in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other similar programmes in the country in order to change the mentality on masculinity and promote gender equality, with the view to expanding such programmes throughout the whole country (Haiti);

119.46 Continue developing and implementing programmes and projects to improve youth employment (Philippines);

119.47 Establish a national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);

119.48 Take effective action to prevent acts of torture committed by the security forces and establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Spain);

119.49 Fulfil its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and immediately establish an independent national mechanism for the prevention of torture with a mandate to visit all places of detention (Czechia);

119.50 Put in place a national mechanism for the prevention of torture in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);

119.51 Put in place as soon as possible the national preventive mechanism following the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Mauritius);

- 119.52 Set up a national preventive mechanism against torture (Montenegro);
- 119.53 Designate or establish an independent national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Sierra Leone);
- 119.54 Strengthen support for the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with its needs (South Africa);
- 119.55 Establish a national and independent mechanism for the prevention of torture and cooperate with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the country (Costa Rica);
- 119.56 Strengthen measures to operationalize the National Human Rights Commission (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 119.57 Strengthen the resources of the National Human Rights Commission and ensure its independence (France);
- 119.58 Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is sufficiently resourced (Namibia);
- 119.59 Consider ways to reinforce the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);
- 119.60 Continue implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan to promote the social and economic rights of the people (Myanmar);
- 119.61 Implement the new national action plan on women and peace and security (for the years 2018 to 2022) (Norway);
- 119.62 Expedite the finalization of the action plan to combat trafficking in persons and provide for its immediate implementation (Philippines);
- 119.63 Continue efforts to raise awareness and provide education and training on human rights (Libya);
- 119.64 Strengthen awareness-raising, education and training on human rights (Mauritania);
- 119.65 Fully implement the national action plan to end child marriage by promoting nationwide awareness-raising campaigns aimed at preventing child pregnancy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 119.66 Step up efforts to train duty bearers on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Philippines);
- 119.67 Enhance human rights education and training for government officials, police officers and security forces to prevent human rights violations and disproportionate use of force by State agents (Republic of Korea);
- 119.68 Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the investigation report on the situation in Kasai to prevent any violations of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights (Austria);
- 119.69 Take every measure possible to find a lasting solution to the humanitarian and human rights challenges that continue to beset the country (Lesotho);
- 119.70 Conduct regular inspections of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo missions to guarantee that human rights standards and provisions of humanitarian law are met (Germany);
- 119.71 Enhance its efforts to eliminate all negative forces on its territory and where relevant repatriate them to their countries of origin (Rwanda);
- 119.72 Ensure equality of rights by passing legislation that criminalizes discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and allows access to justice for those affected (Uruguay);
- 119.73 Adopt the necessary measures to prevent and punish all acts of discrimination and violence, in particular against LGBTIQ persons, and persons with albinism, ensuring their protection and due compensation (Argentina);
- 119.74 Revoke articles 175 and 176 of the Criminal Code that discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and reject legislative proposals that criminalize consensual relations between adults of the same sex (Chile);
- 119.75 Combat all forms of violence against persons with albinism and against any child accused of witchcraft, and punish the perpetrators of such acts (Gabon);
- 119.76 Immediately repeal all provisions, including articles 175 and 176 of the Criminal Code, resulting in discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics (Iceland);
- 119.77 Adopt legislative measures to combat discrimination against the pygmy populations, as well as holding prior consultations to obtain their free and informed consent before the adoption of measures that may have consequences for their way of life (Mexico);
- 119.78 Take concrete measures in order to tackle stigma and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (Portugal);
- 119.79 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and raise people's living standards to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);

119.80 Strengthen measures on social protection and legal assistance for victims of gender-based violence, as well as towards adolescents forced to enter into marriage (Honduras);

119.81 Provide better support and services to the victims of sexual and gender-based violence, especially women and children (Indonesia);

119.82 Continue strengthening the legal framework on business and human rights, including by developing and adopting a national action plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to stop violations related to the exploitation of natural resources (Kenya);

119.83 Ensure the exercise of economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression (Costa Rica);

119.84 Formally abolish the death penalty (Australia);

119.85 Take steps towards the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica);

119.86 Commute the sentences of individuals that are currently on death row and initiate a political and legislative process aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein);

119.87 Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty (Iceland);

119.88 Continue measures aimed at correcting the situation and the work of the judiciary and the penitentiary system (Russian Federation);

119.89 End the use of violence and disproportionate force against opposition supporters, and release those who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained while exercising their right to demonstrate peacefully (Zambia);

119.90 Lift media restrictions implemented over the electoral period, and bring to justice those responsible for threats against journalists, the political opposition and human rights defenders (Australia);

119.91 Ensure that members of political parties, journalists and human rights defenders can carry out their activities without intimidation, reprisal or harassment (Canada);

119.92 Ensure protection of human rights defenders and journalists, with emphasis on freedom of expression and assembly (Czechia);

119.93 Fully protect everyone's rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association (Estonia);

119.94 Take the legislative measures necessary to ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression comply with the requirements set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ensure their effective implementation (Republic of Moldova);

119.95 Adopt two laws on access to information and freedom of the press (France);

119.96 Ensure journalists, opposition leaders, human rights defenders and other civil society actors are able to freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly without fear of harassment, intimidation or reprisals (Ireland);

119.97 Step up efforts to guarantee freedom of expression, assembly and association and adopt effective measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);

119.98 Adopt a clear legal framework on the right to assembly, in order to avoid violations of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, such as criminalizing peaceful protesters (Germany);

119.99 Ensure that media broadcasters remain free of political pressure, and protect journalists, including by prompt, effective investigations into concerns about their safety (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

119.100 Adopt legislation recognizing and effectively protecting the work of human rights defenders, and ensure exhaustive and independent investigations into the allegations of human rights violations against them (Uruguay);

119.101 Adopt the law on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders (Burkina Faso);

119.102 Adopt the law on human rights defenders (France);

119.103 Take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders (Norway);

119.104 Review the draft non-governmental organization and human rights defenders' bills to ensure that they do not lead to restrictions on civil society (Sweden);

119.105 Guarantee the constitutional right of each citizen to participate in public affairs and to demonstrate peacefully by adopting by the end of 2019 a law guaranteeing the right to demonstrate, in accordance with international standards (Belgium);

119.106 Adopt concrete measures to ensure full respect of freedom of assembly, association and expression (Spain);

119.107 Consider initiating a new legal framework in accordance with international law and standards, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly (Ghana);

119.108 Protect the rights of journalists and human rights defenders as well as those of political opponents by improving the legislative framework related to the freedom of expression, association and assembly (Luxembourg);

119.109 Take the necessary steps to ensure that laws and regulations are in full accordance with the Democratic Republic of the Congo's international obligations with respect to freedom of assembly, association and expression (Maldives);

119.110 Continue reforms aimed at building a strong civil society, enjoying independent, pluralistic media with free access to public information and legal protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Poland);

119.111 Adopt and promulgate the law fixing the implementation measures of the freedom to demonstrate, to ensure the freedoms of assembly and association in accordance with the Constitution and international obligations (Sweden);

119.112 Withdraw all media closure measures and no longer resort to the practice of limiting or cutting off communications systems (such as the Internet and short messaging services), including during moments of tension or popular mobilization (Belgium);

119.113 Ensure accountability for human rights violations through independent investigations and prosecution, and access to justice and full reparation for victims (Ukraine);

119.114 Ensure the functioning of an independent judicial system and facilitate victims' effective access to justice (Estonia);

119.115 Continue institutional reforms in the areas of public administration and the judicial system (Ethiopia);

119.116 Investigate and prosecute those involved in the illegal exploitation of tin, tantalum, tungsten and gold in Shabunda Territory (Fiji);

119.117 Strengthen human resources to improve the work of the judicial system (Iraq);

119.118 Continue to deepen democracy (Botswana);

119.119 Work with democratic civil society and the international community towards effectively reaching peace in the country (Cabo Verde);

119.120 Pursue progress to end and prevent conflict-related sexual violence, especially against women and children, primarily through holding the perpetrators to account and by the provision of adequate support and services to survivors (Slovenia);

119.121 Strengthen the national strategy against sexual violence by involving survivors and ensuring their access to justice, health services and income generating activities and ensure that perpetrators of these crimes are prosecuted and convicted (Luxembourg);

119.122 Strengthen the capacity and independence of the judicial system to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, including through training programmes for police officers and health professionals, and providing effective and necessary support for victims (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

119.123 Address the accumulation and illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons through improved stockpile management, effective prosecution of unauthorized sellers and distributors, and progression of legislative controls (Australia);

119.124 Conduct prompt and impartial inquiries into the allegations of extrajudicial executions (Austria);

119.125 Take the necessary measures to improve respect for human rights by investigating the allegations of extrajudicial killings and human rights violations and abuses by law enforcement officials, and ensure accountability for these violations and the protection of civilians in conflict zones (Canada);

119.126 Investigate, prosecute and convict persons responsible for harassment, threats or intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders (Republic of Moldova);

119.127 Investigate and prosecute perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence and the recruitment and use of child soldiers in Shabunda Territory (Fiji);

119.128 Shed light on the serious human rights violations committed by armed groups and certain members of the security forces and prosecute their perpetrators (France);

119.129 Ensure accountability for perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity, regardless of rank or affiliation (Iceland);

119.130 Ensure that law enforcement officials and members of the security forces strictly adhere to obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights law (Iceland);

119.131 Carry out investigations and prosecute all cases of abuses of human rights, including when they were committed by members of the security forces, and facilitate victims' access to justice (Italy);

119.132 Strengthen efforts to end impunity for human rights violations by undertaking prompt, impartial and effective investigations into reported cases and bringing perpetrators to justice (Republic of Korea);

119.133 Intensify efforts to ensure that all alleged perpetrators of crimes against international human rights and humanitarian law are brought to justice (Sweden);

119.134 Take all necessary measures to end impunity for serious human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, and in this regard, cooperate with international mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court (Slovenia);

119.135 Swiftly remove any individuals involved in human rights violations or abuses from positions in the Government and security forces and hold them criminally accountable, including those responsible through command responsibility (United States of America);

119.136 Investigate and punish judicial corruption and implement reforms designed to promote judiciary independence and impartiality (United States of America);

119.137 Guarantee investigations and sanction effectively cases of human rights violations in order to combat impunity (Argentina);

119.138 Ensure that perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations, including against journalists, online media professionals, bloggers and human rights defenders, are brought to justice (Austria);

119.139 Set up a vetting mechanism as part of security sector reform efforts with a view to carrying out investigations to bring to justice and sanction officials involved in serious human rights violations, including perpetrators of recruitment and use of children (Belgium);

119.140 Strengthen actions to combat impunity in relation to human rights violations, including those committed by the security forces (Spain);

119.141 Adopt all necessary measures to combat the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations and undertake an inclusive process of transitional justice to clarify the truth, provide reparation to victims and ensure reconciliation (Chile);

119.142 Establish mechanisms of transitional justice, combat impunity of the perpetrators of violations of human rights and strengthen cooperation with the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica);

119.143 Launch credible investigations into all alleged gross human rights violations and crimes under international law, including those involving senior military officials, to end the cycle of impunity (Ghana);

119.144 Bring to justice the perpetrators of grave human rights violations, including sexual and gender violence, and put in place appropriate mechanisms of transitional justice in the area of truth, justice, reparation and reform (Switzerland);

119.145 Accelerate efforts towards full implementation of the 2017–2026 National Policy on Justice Sector Reform (Namibia);

119.146 Strengthen, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16, efforts to end the cycle of impunity and ensure the prosecution of all suspected perpetrators of human rights violations, especially in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Kasais (Netherlands);

119.147 Carry out information campaigns on the new provisions of the Family Code in order to promote cultural change towards a more equitable gender-based society (Uruguay);

119.148 Continue with implementation of measures for further improvement in the socioeconomic conditions of its people (India);

119.149 Continue strengthening social programmes for the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

119.150 Improve access to basic social services, especially for the most vulnerable members of the population (Zimbabwe);

119.151 Improve access to basic social needs (Benin);

119.152 Continue efforts to improve access to basic social needs (Bhutan);

119.153 Continue its efforts in the fight against poverty and the promotion of national reconciliation (Nigeria);

119.154 Strengthen the legal and institutional framework to guarantee adequate and sufficient access to drinking water in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

119.155 Ensure that business operations comply with international human rights law, labour law and environmental law (Fiji);

119.156 Consider regularizing unauthorized mining areas, taking into account safety and policy considerations (Ghana);

119.157 Take drastic and concrete measures to guarantee the integral payment of taxes by all mining commercial companies (Haiti);

119.158 Continue strengthening efforts to implement the national health development plan (South Africa);

119.159 Allocate more funds to the health sector to allow for better care in services relating to sexual violence, emergency obstetrics and neonatal, among others (Angola);

119.160 Step up efforts to ensure the implementation of public policies to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS (Brazil);

119.161 Intensify efforts to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus (Iraq);

119.162 Seek the support of the international community to put an end to the deadly Ebola scourge in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sierra Leone);

119.163 Continue efforts to introduce strong public health policy and programmes aimed at raising awareness among communities to constitute a solid foundation to combat communicable diseases (Eritrea);

119.164 Strengthen the constitutional provisions relating to education, including its provision free of charge, explicitly guarantee equitable and inclusive access to education for all, and prohibit discrimination, particularly in the educational sector (Afghanistan);

119.165 Further strengthen its efforts to ensure free primary education for all children, in line with its national policy on education and by engaging with relevant United Nations agencies (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

119.166 Intensify efforts in the field of education to ensure access to free and quality education for all, including indigenous and rural populations, in accordance with article 43 of the Constitution (Djibouti);

119.167 Continue with the expansion of free primary education for all children (Estonia);

119.168 Guarantee effective measures allowing access to free primary education for all children, including children with disabilities, those living in rural areas and migrant children (Gabon);

119.169 Take steps to ensure access to education, health and other basic services by all its children (India);

119.170 Continue to support and allocate an adequate budget to education programmes for children, especially children from poor families in rural and urban areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

119.171 Continue to encourage girls' entry into all fields of study (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

119.172 Encourage steps taken to ensure gender equality in education, particularly concerning combating school dropout and preventing repetition, and take the necessary measures to increase the enrolment of girls and women in education and higher education (Lebanon);

119.173 Implement specific measures and carry out campaigns to reduce early pregnancy and ensure the reinsertion of young mothers into the educational system (Togo);

119.174 Continue efforts in education and health for the benefit of the majority of the population (Libya);

119.175 Take further measures to end child recruitment and child labour by making free school education and reintegration of child soldiers a priority (Germany);

119.176 Take measure to rehabilitate former child soldiers and reintegrate them into society (Portugal);

119.177 Take measures to reintegrate young mothers into the education system (Malta);

119.178 Redouble efforts to narrow the gap in literacy between girls and boys and to put in place specific measures to combat the obstacles to the education of children (Mauritius);

119.179 Continue efforts to facilitate access to education (Morocco);

119.180 Continue utmost efforts to provide access for all children to primary and secondary education, eliminate illiteracy and invest in improving the quality and competences of teachers (Poland);

119.181 Continue to take positive measures to further protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and people with disabilities (China);

119.182 Ensure protection in legislation and in practice of the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, in particular women, children, the disabled, the elderly and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);

119.183 Legalize the termination of pregnancies in cases of rape, incest and severe fetal impairment (Denmark);

119.184 Take measures to eliminate discriminatory practices against women, including ensuring respect for women's land inheritance (Norway);

119.185 Create an effective mechanism to prevent gender-based violence (Ukraine);

119.186 Step up actions to effectively combat sexual violence against women within the framework of the women, peace and security agenda (Spain);

119.187 Eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and citizens in general (Cabo Verde);

119.188 Strengthen the implementation of measures and provisions to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, strengthening educational activities and public awareness campaigns in order to combat traditional discriminatory practices (Honduras);

119.189 Finalize the review of the national strategy to combat gender-based violence by defining specific measures for tackling domestic violence (Senegal);

119.190 Ensure consistent implementation of enforcement of the laws on sex discrimination and violence against women and girls, including consequences for those who discriminate against women and girls or engage in abuse (United States of America);

119.191 Strengthen efforts with respect to the protection of victims of sexual violence, in particular by speeding up the implementation of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo plan of action (Austria);

119.192 Create a support programme to give victims of sexual and gender-based violence access to justice and health care, and establish a national reparation fund (Belgium);

119.193 Improve the training of security forces in combating human rights violations, especially sexual violence against women and girls, and end impunity (Brazil);

119.194 Strengthen the fight against sexual violence by prosecuting the perpetrators of such violence and by providing compensation to the victims (Burkina Faso);

119.195 Strengthen its efforts in the fight against sexual violence, improve the provision of support and services to survivors, ensure the protection of survivors and witnesses, and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and that reparation is granted (Canada);

119.196 Take all necessary measures to combat sexual violence against women and children during conflicts (Congo);

119.197 Protect people from sexual violence, particularly in armed conflicts, and provide medical services and access to justice for victims (France);

119.198 Increase efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and violence in school, and take sufficient steps to reintegrate and rehabilitate victims of sexual and gender-based crimes (Liechtenstein);

119.199 Continue preventing and combating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape, through national legislation (Indonesia);

119.200 Carry out independent, credible and impartial investigations into allegations of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict to ensure those responsible may be brought to justice (Ireland);

119.201 Intensify efforts to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence and promulgate the corresponding legal framework to offer adequate protection (Mexico);

119.202 Take bold measures to address gender-based and sexual violence (Mozambique);

119.203 Adopt effective measures to combat sexual and gender-based violence in order to reduce impunity (Norway);

119.204 Intensify the implementation of policies and programmes to combat sexual violence, particularly in conflict situations, and strengthen measures for victim protection (Philippines);

119.205 Continue all possible efforts in adopting legislation and implementing operational frameworks focusing on protecting women and children from violence, including sexual violence and harassment, also in the context of the security sector reform (Poland);

119.206 Take all necessary measures to protect women and children from all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, in conflict-affected provinces (Republic of Korea);

119.207 Allocate a budget for the implementation of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Congolese National Police action plans to combat sexual violence (Sweden);

119.208 Strengthen measures to combat sexual and gender-based violence, including through the implementation of the action plan of the security services to combat sexual violence (Rwanda);

119.209 Institute a legal framework that criminalizes and punishes domestic violence and marital rape, trains officials in responding to such crimes, and extends services to survivors (Australia);

119.210 Take additional measures that are more effective in eliminating and preventing sexual violence against children (Georgia);

119.211 Step up efforts to prevent and combat all forms of domestic violence against women (Georgia);

119.212 Step up efforts to combat gender-based violence, including domestic violence, child, early and forced marriage and sexual violence against children in areas affected by the conflict (Italy);

119.213 Adopt and implement, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 5, legislation that addresses domestic violence, and take concrete steps to end domestic violence and marital rape (Netherlands);

119.214 Pursue efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);

119.215 Increase political representation of women in the national and provincial legislatures (Zimbabwe);

119.216 Take all necessary measures to step up the participation of women in public life (Albania);

119.217 Increase the participation of women in public life, in particular their representation at the highest levels of government (Algeria);

119.218 Expedite the updating of the national gender policy and increase the participation of women in political life (South Africa);

119.219 Take further steps to advance women's participation in political and public life (Bulgaria);

119.220 Increase the political participation of women, fight against traditional discriminatory practices and eliminate gender-based stereotypes at all levels of society (Costa Rica);

119.221 Pursue the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase women's participation in political and public life and women's economic empowerment (Djibouti);

119.222 Continue its efforts to empower women and increase their representation in political life (Egypt);

119.223 Step up efforts for the participation of women in political and public life and their representation in decision-making bodies (Ethiopia);

119.224 Encourage the participation of women in politics (France);

119.225 Ensure better representation of women in national political and decision-making bodies (Gabon);

119.226 Review the current electoral law with the aim of removing all obstacles that prevent many Congolese women from standing as candidates for elected positions, for instance, removing the \$1,000 payment required from candidates for women only, in full consultation with women's organization (Haiti);

119.227 Continue measures to empower women and girls through provision of equal socioeconomic opportunities and encourage their participation at the political and decision-making levels (India);

119.228 Implement the law on gender parity and enforce women's representation in government (Germany);

119.229 Continue measures to promote gender equality and women's role in political and public life (Myanmar);

119.230 Take measures to improve gender parity in political life and in peace negotiations in line with the national action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security (Namibia);

119.231 Take measures in order to increase the participation of women in public life, especially in terms of their representation at the highest levels of government and in the judicial system (Serbia);

119.232 Enhance efforts to increase women's participation in public life and address sexual and gender-based violence (Uganda);

119.233 Take steps to eliminate child labour, including in illegal mines, and establish structures to support affected children (Australia);

119.234 Adopt a comprehensive national child policy covering the areas included in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols (Benin);

- 119.235 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Denmark);
- 119.236 Continue its efforts to protect and promote children's rights (Egypt);
- 119.237 Take effective measures to prevent children from being accused of witchcraft, criminalize the persecution of accused children, and bring perpetrators of violence against and ill-treatment of children accused of witchcraft to justice (Liechtenstein);
- 119.238 Take appropriate measures to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against children, including those with disabilities and those accused of witchcraft (Italy);
- 119.239 Ensure the enforcement of existing norms on children accused of witchcraft to guarantee that perpetrators who commit offences against children are brought to justice (Malta);
- 119.240 Establish public structures for the reception of children removed from mines and for counselling, support and stabilization of those children (Zambia);
- 119.241 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the home (Zambia);
- 119.242 Combat all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of children, ensure that such cases are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted, and provide victims with adequate protection and support, including through strengthened social services, awareness-raising and access to justice (Bulgaria);
- 119.243 Take the necessary measures to ensure that children are not exploited in artisanal mines (Canada);
- 119.244 Ensure compliance with the norms that sanction child labour in the mining sector through awareness campaigns, regular inspections and the effective imposition of penalties provided by law (Chile);
- 119.245 Fight effectively against the phenomenon of children accused of sorcery (Congo);
- 119.246 Run a nationwide awareness campaign on the phenomenon of children accused of witchcraft and ensure that those responsible for such offences against children are punished (Iceland);
- 119.247 Eliminate all forms of exploitation of child labour in the mining industry (Switzerland);
- 119.248 Continue its support to the legal framework and strategies for awareness-raising for children in order to combat the issue of child labour (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 119.249 Establish a strong legislative framework to prohibit and sanction all corporal punishment of children (Madagascar);
- 119.250 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all kinds of settings, including the home (Montenegro);
- 119.251 Continue efforts to protect the rights of children, notably with regard to the fight against child labour (Morocco);
- 119.252 Continue efforts to promote child rights and protect children from sexual violence (Tunisia);
- 119.253 Take further steps to protect children from being engaged in military activities (Eritrea);
- 119.254 Implement inclusive measures to ensure non-discrimination against persons with disabilities, children living in rural areas, children living in the street, and adolescents in detention (Algeria);
- 119.255 Strengthen the protection of the human rights of people with disabilities (Botswana);
- 119.256 Finalize the special law on the protection of persons with special needs (Lebanon);
- 119.257 Pursue legislative measures for the promotion and protection of human rights, notably those relating to the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 119.258 Consider the adoption of special laws, in accordance with the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, that would more effectively address the issues concerning children with disabilities (Serbia);
- 119.259 Take legal measures enabling effective protection of minorities, including religious ones, which would be complemented by educational campaigns on the importance of freedom of religious beliefs (Poland);
- 119.260 Continue developing the draft law on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples to promote respect for their ancestral lands, according to the uses and customs of all pygmy indigenous peoples (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 119.261 Ensure that the rights of indigenous people are guaranteed and respected (Madagascar);
- 119.262 Pass the proposed law from 2014 on the fundamental principles for promoting and protecting the rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's indigenous peoples (Norway);
- 119.263 Take steps to promulgate legislation aimed at promoting and protecting all forms of human rights, including

rights to peaceful demonstration and the rights of indigenous pygmy people (Sierra Leone);

119.264 Put in place measures to address the issue of birth certificates for children, especially returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons (Angola);

119.265 Take all necessary measures to ensure universal, free birthregistration, including by reviewing the civil registration law, implementing “catch-up” policies and strengthening cooperation with health centres and maternity centres (Bulgaria);

119.266 Finalize the process of establishing an inter-institutional national committee mandated to address issues of statelessness (Kenya);

119.267 Reform the relevant laws to address statelessness, and facilitate birth registration and the issuance of identity documents (Mexico).

120. 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

[French Only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was headed by Ms. Marie-Ange Mushobekwa, Minister for Human Rights, composed of the following members:

- Mr. Zénon MUKONGO NGAY, Ambassadeur et Représentant permanent de la République Démocratique du Congo auprès de l’Office des Nations Unies et des Institutions Spécialisées à Genève;
- Mr. Jean-Baptiste INGOLI BOLAMBA, Secrétaire Permanent a.i. du Comité interministériel des Droits de l’Homme;
- Ms. Thérèse Tshibola-tshia-Kadiebue, Ministre Conseiller à la Mission permanente;
- Mr. François ASSUMANI WAKILONGO, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministère des Droits Humains;
- Mr. Eric ILUNGA M’VIDIE, Chargé d’Etudes et des questions politiques et électorales, Ministère des droits humains;
- Mr. Serge NDAIE, Premier Conseiller à la Mission permanente;
- Mr. Dodie NKULU, Conseiller au Ministère des droits humain.