



# General Assembly

## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 6

### Universal periodic review

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

### Costa Rica

#### 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 Costa Rica was held at the 11th meeting, on 13 May 2019. The delegation of Costa Rica was headed by the Minister of Communication, Nancy Gabriela Marín Espinoza. At its 17th meeting, held on 16 May 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Costa Rica.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Costa Rica: Afghanistan, Chile and Togo.

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 Costa Rica:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/33/CRI/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/CRI/2);

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay was transmitted to Costa Rica 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 delegation stated that Costa Rica was honoured to participate in the universal periodic review process. Over the past five years, the country had experienced many positive changes, but a number of challenges remained. The promotion and protection of human rights was at the core of Costa Rican democracy, with a robust institutional structure, strong oversight bodies and an active civil society. Furthermore, international norms related to the protection of those rights had a supra-Constitutional character.

6. Regarding the right to a healthy environment, the country had achieved one of the highest levels of coverage of indoor potable water in Latin America and was investing heavily in improving sanitation. It had managed to reverse the trend in deforestation, reaching forest cover of more than 52 per cent of the national territory. Ninety-five per cent of electricity production was free of carbon emissions and the aim of the National Decarbonization Plan was to reach a zero net emissions economy by the year 2050. In addition, the National Plan for Development and Public Investment 2019–2022, in which citizens had participated in the preparation, included 138 indicators that were linked directly or indirectly to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. The Constitution protected the right to equality and non-discrimination. Costa Rica had made progress in enhancing the human rights of different groups. It had adopted new labour legislation to reduce judicial delays and had prohibited all forms of discrimination in employment based on age, ethnicity, sex, religion, race and other factors. It had also taken important steps to guarantee the rights of elderly persons, including by ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. It had established the National Council for Older Persons to coordinate actions for the care of older persons in situations of social

vulnerability.

8. In order to combat poverty and extreme poverty, Costa Rica had implemented a number of innovative tools, such as the Multidimensional Poverty Index, to measure the different types of deprivation suffered by families living in poverty. It had also adopted the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction, which used a multisectoral and inter-institutional approach to guarantee access to a comprehensive set of programmes and services.

9. Regarding the situation of persons deprived of their liberty, Costa Rica had promoted the use of alternative measures to detention, including electronic monitoring. As a result, it had reduced prison overcrowding from 48.1 per cent in 2016 to 31.1 per cent in 2018.

10. The current Cabinet was the first in the country's republican history to be composed of an equal number of men and women. In addition, the most recent legislative elections had resulted in the highest representation of women in the Legislative Assembly in the country's history. In 2018, combating violence against women had been declared a national priority and all State entities had been requested to initiate or strengthen programmes to that end. In an effort to combat domestic violence, the judiciary had created an integrated victim support service platform that included psychological, medical and legal assistance services, all of which were provided free of charge.

11. With regard to access to health, the inclusion of the human papillomavirus vaccine for all 10-year-old girls had been approved. The number of teenage pregnancies had decreased in recent years; further reducing that number was one of the goals of the National Strategic Plan for Adolescent Health. The use of emergency oral contraception had been approved; it would be available without the need for a medical prescription. The application of therapeutic abortion was still pending and Costa Rica hoped to ensure its effective application and the issuance of the technical guidelines regulating it in 2019.

12. Regarding the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the symbolic act of raising the flag of diversity for the first time at the Presidential Palace in 2014 had been followed by at least 12 executive decrees and directives that allowed same-sex couples to access social security, pension inheritance and equal treatment in health centres and prisons. Following the advisory opinion issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in response to a consultation by Costa Rica, from May 2020 civil marriage for same-sex couples would become a reality in the country. The Electoral Court had issued an administrative order to allow transgender persons to change their name on their identity documents, in accordance with their gender identity. The Government had issued the same order for all other official documentation. The Presidential Commissioner for issues related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, created in 2018 within the Office of the President of the Republic, coordinated the initiatives of the Government in that field.

13. The Legislative Assembly had approved a number of laws to enhance human rights protection in the country, including a law to increase from 10 to 25 years, starting from the age of majority of the victim, the statute of limitations for sexual offences against children; a law on access to justice for indigenous peoples; a law strengthening the legal protection of girls and adolescent women in situations of gender-based violence associated with abusive relationships; and a law promoting the personal autonomy of persons with disabilities.

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

14. During the interactive dialogue, 85 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

15. Pakistan appreciated the efforts of Costa Rica to combat domestic violence and noted the establishment by the judiciary of an integrated victim support service platform. It welcomed the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction, also known as the Bridge to Development strategy.

16. The Republic of Korea noted with satisfaction concrete policies on gender equality, education and public health. It hoped that Costa Rica would continue addressing the remaining challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. The Republic of Moldova congratulated Costa Rica for presenting its first voluntary national review on the Sustainable Development Goals. It welcomed the ratification of several human rights instruments and the progress made on women's rights and empowerment.

18. Rwanda welcomed the steps taken by Costa Rica to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle, including through the adoption of human rights legislation and policies, particularly to promote gender equality and social cohesion.

19. Senegal noted the ratification by Costa Rica of several international human rights instruments. It also welcomed measures to update labour legislation, reduce poverty, combat racial discrimination and protect foreign workers' rights.

20. Singapore commended the efforts of Costa Rica to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, its policies to protect women and girls and its commitment against racism and xenophobia, in particular the 2015 Constitutional amendment recognizing the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of the State.

21. Slovenia applauded Costa Rica for its leadership in the adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Slovenia was concerned about the low prosecution rate of cases of violence against women.

22. South Africa welcomed the commitment of Costa Rica to the Sustainable Development Goals, the promotion of the rights of people of African descent and the establishment of a mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples.

23. Spain welcomed the establishment of the high-level commission responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Criminalization

of Violence against Women Act and noted with satisfaction the progress on access to drinking water and sanitation.

24. The State of Palestine welcomed the efforts made by Costa Rica in the area of education, including several legislative initiatives in that regard, and the improvement of the juvenile justice system.

25. Switzerland welcomed the adoption by Costa Rica of the National Policy for Addressing and Preventing Violence against Women 2017–2032.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic thanked Costa Rica for its national report and made recommendations.

27. Togo welcomed legal and institutional measures to ensure equal rights for the whole population, particularly women, children, refugees and migrants. It encouraged Costa Rica to strengthen national action for refugees.

28. Trinidad and Tobago commended Costa Rica for its ambitious climate action. It noted the adoption of the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments), the Bridge to Development strategy to reduce extreme poverty and the Get a Job programme for youth employment. It encouraged Costa Rica to develop an action plan to implement the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030 and to further combat human trafficking.

29. Tunisia noted that Costa Rica had strengthened its legislative and institutional human rights framework and its labour and social security systems. It welcomed national action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

30. Ukraine welcomed the ratification by Costa Rica of almost all the universal and regional human rights instruments, the reaffirmation of its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men.

31. The United States of America commended the significant progress made by Costa Rica in reducing child labour and its work to address the situation of migrants and asylum seekers. It encouraged the Government to improve legal processes for those seeking refuge.

32. Uruguay welcomed the ratification by Costa Rica of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as its efforts to promote gender equity.

33. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the adoption of the national policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. It noted the remaining challenges, such as the persistent discrimination against and stigmatization of indigenous peoples, people of African descent, migrants and other vulnerable groups.

34. Yemen welcomed the efforts of the Government to promote the rights of women and children, to provide social protection and to promote economic development in the country.

35. Afghanistan congratulated Costa Rica for its progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the previous cycle and commended it for the amendment of the Constitution in 2015 to recognize the country's multi-ethnic and multicultural nature.

36. Albania welcomed the efforts of Costa Rica to modernize its labour legislation, its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and its significant developments in gender equality. Albania encouraged Costa Rica to continue its efforts to eliminate violence against women.

37. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the 2014–2015 national policy against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and the actions taken to combat poverty and mitigate the effects of the unequal distribution of wealth.

38. Angola congratulated Costa Rica on its strong commitment against racism, its promotion of women's rights and its role in the protection of biodiversity and encouraged it to continue its efforts to reduce unemployment and trafficking in weapons.

39. Argentina congratulated Costa Rica on the adoption of the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030 as the basis for compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals.

40. Armenia praised Costa Rica for being the first country to sign a national pact for the Sustainable Development Goals. It welcomed the adoption of the Comprehensive Migration Policy 2013–2023 and of measures to promote gender equality.

41. Australia recognized the efforts of Costa Rica to improve its national human rights framework, making it a regional leader in that regard. While the progress it had made since the second cycle review was commendable, further action was needed.

42. The delegation of Costa Rica noted that the country had increasingly become a country of asylum. It was making great efforts to ensure that migrants and refugees could fully integrate and to provide them with better living conditions. It had signed or ratified several international instruments on the matter, including the ILO Domestic Workers Convention and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The implementation of the Comprehensive Migration Policy 2013–2023 had resulted in substantive progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, including on their access to work, education and social security. In order to better protect migrants' rights, Costa Rica had also established an Administrative Migration Tribunal, the third of its kind in the world.

43. Human trafficking was regulated in the General Act on Migration, with penalties ranging from 4 to 8 years' imprisonment, and 10 years in aggravated cases.

44. In 2015, the first article of the Constitution had been amended to recognize the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of Costa Rican society. Other legal instruments had also been updated to ensure that public investment programmes respected the differences within and the needs of its diverse society.

45. Despite those improvements, promoting the human rights of the indigenous peoples present in the country remained a challenge. In order to make the right to free, prior and informed consent operational, Costa Rica had established, through a participatory process, a consultation mechanism in line with the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2019, the Government had also adopted guidelines for the participatory and intercultural development of public policy for indigenous peoples 2019–2024.

46. In order to accelerate the restitution of ancestral lands occupied by non-indigenous people, Costa Rica had developed the National Plan for the Recovery of the Indigenous Territories of Costa Rica 2016–2022, which was currently in its first phase of implementation. The delegation strongly condemned the murder on 18 March 2019 of the indigenous leader Sergio Rojas Ortiz. The President had requested an immediate investigation into that homicide in order to bring the perpetrators to justice.

47. Since the previous review, Costa Rica had taken a number of steps to improve the quality of life of people of African descent. In 2014, it had created the Presidential Commissioner for issues related to persons of African descent to coordinate government action to promote the development of the population of African descent. In 2015, it had launched the International Decade for People of African Descent and the National Recognition, Justice and Development of Afro-descendants Plan 2015–2018.

48. Azerbaijan underlined the progress made by Costa Rica in implementing the recommendations from the previous review cycle, particularly by ratifying several international treaties and amending its Constitution to recognize the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of the State.

49. The Bahamas noted concerns about the conservation of maritime areas. It welcomed the leadership of Costa Rica in presiding over the 2017 United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

50. Barbados commended Costa Rica for its promotion of human rights, as reflected in the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030, the education regulations and policies aimed at combating racism.

51. Belarus noted the strengthening by Costa Rica of its human rights institutions and its cooperation with OHCHR. It also noted challenges, including regarding migrants and refugees, discrimination against persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.

52. Belgium acknowledged the progress made by Costa Rica since the previous review cycle. However, it considered that further progress could be made to protect human rights in accordance with international human rights treaties.

53. Benin noted the recognition by Costa Rica of the multi-ethnic and multicultural nature of the country, the Labour Law Reform Act and the prohibition of all discrimination at work, and the implementation of a national development plan.

54. Bhutan noted with appreciation the ratification by Costa Rica of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention and of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Constitutional amendment to guarantee respect for cultural diversity.

55. The Plurinational State of Bolivia valued the recognition by Costa Rica of the multi-ethnic and multicultural nature of the country, which was now reflected in the Constitution, and welcomed the efforts to establish a mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples.

56. Brazil commended the adoption of the law promoting the personal autonomy of persons with disabilities and the declaration that combating violence against women was a national priority. It also welcomed the progress in the production of disaggregated statistical data.

57. Bulgaria noted with appreciation the adoption of the 2014–2025 national policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and its 2015–2018 action plan. It commended Costa Rica for its outstanding environmental record.

58. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken by Costa Rica to fight discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It encouraged Costa Rica to take further action towards achieving equality.

59. Chile congratulated Costa Rica for the ratification of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. It highlighted the development of national policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

60. China welcomed the adoption by Costa Rica of the National Plan for Development and Public Investment and the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction 2015–2018.

61. Colombia welcomed the progress made by Costa Rica in the area of the rights of older persons and of persons with disabilities, particularly the establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.

62. The Congo commended Costa Rica for the adoption of the law establishing the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and for its efforts to protect the environment.

63. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the strengthening by Costa Rica of its institutional and legislative human rights framework, in particular

the adoption of the national policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, as well as its action plan 2015–2018.

64. Croatia welcomed the enactment of the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030 and noted the commitment of Costa Rica to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and protect the rights of older persons.

65. Cuba noted the updating of the legislative and institutional framework of Costa Rica, particularly with regard to discrimination against women and indigenous peoples.

66. Denmark recognized the legal framework of Costa Rica for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights, but noted that the bill on the autonomous development of indigenous peoples had been pending for more than 20 years.

67. The Dominican Republic recognized the commitment of Costa Rica to human rights, demonstrated by the ratification of several international human rights instruments.

68. Ecuador welcomed the Constitutional reform that recognized the multi-ethnic and multicultural nature of Costa Rica and the creation of the general mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples.

69. Egypt commended the Government's efforts to promote gender equality and to combat violence against women. It welcomed the establishment of the mechanism for consultation with indigenous people, and the efforts to integrate migrants and refugees into society.

70. El Salvador noted the creation by Costa Rica of the Inter-institutional Commission for Follow-up to and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations and the reform of the Constitution recognizing the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of the country.

71. Fiji noted that Costa Rica had constitutionally recognized the right to a healthy environment and commended its leadership on norm-setting and implementing policies related to climate change, as well as its initiatives to include a gender perspective in environmental policies.

72. France welcomed the measures taken by Costa Rica to combat racism and discrimination and to improve respect of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, migrants and refugees.

73. Gabon appreciated the inclusion of the rights of rural women in the strategies and policies to promote gender equality. It welcomed the National Rural Development Plan and the efforts to prevent gender-based violence and the economic exploitation of children.

74. Georgia praised the ratification of international human rights instruments, the amendment of the Constitution to guarantee respect for cultural diversity and the establishment of the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men.

75. Germany recognized the efforts of Costa Rica to protect children, including the adoption of the Improper Relationships Act. It encouraged Costa Rica to implement that Act.

76. Greece commended Costa Rica on its efforts to promote gender equality, including the establishment of a gender-balanced Cabinet in the Government, and welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments.

77. Guyana commended Costa Rica for the submission of its reports to the treaty bodies and for its Executive Decree establishing a mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples. It also welcomed the Labour Law Reform Act.

78. Haiti welcomed the efforts of Costa Rica to protect the environment and promote the rights of people of African descent. It congratulated Costa Rica on its leadership in promoting the International Decade for People of African Descent.

79. The Holy See appreciated the role of Costa Rica in promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It also recognized the efforts to enhance quality education, women's participation in social life and the protection of migrants and refugees.

80. Honduras praised the establishment by Costa Rica of a mechanism for consultation with indigenous people and the adoption of the national policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

81. Iceland welcomed the initiatives of Costa Rica to promote gender equality, to eradicate gender-based violence, to create the Presidential Commissioner for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues and to promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

82. India welcomed the adoption of the National Policy for Effective Equality between Women and Men and the establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. It noted the considerable progress made in the field of education.

83. Indonesia welcomed the efforts of Costa Rica to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through an inclusive development agenda and noted with appreciation the publishing of the National Plan for Development and Public Investment.

84. The Islamic Republic of Iran highlighted the fact that steps should be taken to ensure that the needs of minors and women were taken into account in detention centres, and noted the lack of a legal framework to combat discrimination.

85. Iraq welcomed the adoption by Costa Rica of the National Plan for Development and Public Investment, the national labour strategy and the Labour Law Reform Act. It encouraged Costa Rica to take further steps to promote human rights.

86. The delegation of Costa Rica stated that the Government considered the human rights of children and adolescents a priority, as

reflected in its National Agenda for Children and Adolescents 2015–2020. The Agenda included action in areas such as education, family and health and promoted equality and non-discrimination.

87. Costa Rica had reduced the school dropout rate and was working to eradicate the worst forms of child labour, trafficking in children and commercial sexual exploitation. In 2015, the Government had launched the “Educating for a new citizenship” policy to promote respect for cultural, ethnic and gender differences.

88. The Inter-institutional Commission for Follow-up to and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations had been strengthened. It was composed of more than 25 institutions and functioned with the participation of civil society. The delegation thanked Paraguay and the United Nations for their assistance with installing the information technology platform to facilitate follow-up to the implementation of recommendations from international and regional human rights mechanisms (SIMORE).

89. Ireland commended the progress made by Costa Rica towards guaranteeing equality for and preventing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It recognized the challenges posed by increased levels of migration from neighbouring countries and the steps taken to address them.

90. Kazakhstan welcomed the efforts of Costa Rica in the fields of education, health care and protection of the rights of children, women, persons with disabilities and indigenous people. It noted the adoption of the national policy against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia.

91. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the steps taken by Costa Rica to address poverty and gender issues, as well as the ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

92. Madagascar welcomed the implementation by Costa Rica of the policy for access to justice of persons of African descent. However, it noted the prevalence of structural discrimination against indigenous persons and persons of African descent, refugees and persons with disabilities.

93. Maldives commended the institutional and legislative measures taken by Costa Rica for the promotion and protection of human rights and was encouraged by the Government’s commitment to gender equality.

94. Malta took positive note of the strides Costa Rica had made in promoting sustainable development, in particular through the National Plan for Development and Public Investment and the Plan for Decarbonization.

95. Mexico recognized the progress made by Costa Rica, particularly the mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples and the ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.

96. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of the national policy for a society free from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. It expressed concern about the limited operational capacities of the Inter-institutional Commission for Follow-up to and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations.

97. Myanmar noted several measures to improve gender equality and commended Costa Rica for having formed the first gender-balanced Cabinet in its history, in which nearly half of the members were women.

98. Nepal commended Costa Rica on its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and noted with appreciation the launch of the National Integration Plan and the national health-care policy for persons of African descent.

99. The Netherlands commended Costa Rica for the steps taken to implement the advisory opinion from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding same-sex couples. It remained concerned at the lack of availability of safe, regulated abortion.

100. Nicaragua thanked Costa Rica for the presentation of its national report.

101. Qatar noted the National Plans for Development and Public Investment and for Rural Development, the efforts to ensure quality education and prevent school dropout and the initiatives of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

102. Panama highlighted the Constitutional recognition of the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of the State. It also noted that Costa Rica was a strong advocate of international law and a point of reference in the region on the eradication of statelessness.

103. Paraguay thanked Costa Rica for its cooperation in installing in the country the SIMORE mechanism for follow-up to recommendations. It commended Costa Rica for its ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention.

104. Peru recognized the commitment of Costa Rica to human rights in the country and highlighted its constant support for the universal human rights system.

105. The Philippines commended Costa Rica for its ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention. It also welcomed the development and implementation of national plans concerning women, children and indigenous peoples.

106. Portugal congratulated Costa Rica for the establishment of the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. Portugal welcomed the efforts of Costa Rica to protect the human rights of minorities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

107. Italy welcomed the progress made by Costa Rica in the field of gender equality and prevention of violence against women. It appreciated the initiatives to improve the rights of persons with disabilities and to guarantee inclusive education.

108. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the commitment of Costa Rica to gender equality, children's rights, the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and freedom of expression. It urged the Government to finalize the Indigenous Autonomy Bill and implement the National Plan for the restitution of indigenous land.

109. The delegation of Costa Rica thanked all the delegations for their statements and for recognizing the progress it had achieved. It had taken note of the concerns expressed during the interactive dialogue. The Government would study the recommendations carefully and hoped to accept most of them.

110. The delegation also thanked civil society organizations for their participation in the review and the United Nations system in Costa Rica and OHCHR for their assistance. Over the forthcoming five years, Costa Rica would make every effort to translate the commitments made in the universal periodic review into concrete action for the benefit of the whole population, particularly those in vulnerable situations.

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

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

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

**111.2 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**111.3 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (El Salvador) (Syrian Arab Republic) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (Congo) (Mexico) (Paraguay); Ratify the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador);**

**111.4 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to better align its domestic legislation with international norms (Senegal);**

**111.5 Reconsider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia); Consider ratifying and joining the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay); Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras); Consider ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Afghanistan); Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan);**

**111.6 Fully implement ratified international human rights instruments and fulfil the country's obligations under those documents (Ukraine);**

**111.7 Take further steps for the harmonization of legislation and policies with international humanitarian law (Kyrgyzstan);**

**111.8 Ensure that the Inter-Agency Committee for the Oversight and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations has the means, including the necessary financial, human and material resources, to carry out its mandate effectively and can guarantee that the standing body for consultation with civil society is fully operational (Ireland);**

**111.9 Strengthen the Inter-institutional Commission for Follow-up to and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations and continue implementing the Recommendation Monitoring System (Paraguay);**

**111.10 Take measures aimed at ensuring increased efficiency and accountability of public service (Azerbaijan);**

**111.11 Criminalize racial discrimination and enforced disappearance in its national legislation (Yemen);**

**111.12 Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and expedite the adoption of comprehensive legislation to combat discrimination within the country (Afghanistan);**

**111.13 Establish as a criminal offence all forms of racial discrimination in accordance with international and regional norms relating to human rights (Albania);**

**111.14 Criminalize racial and xenophobic discrimination in national legislation (Angola);**

**111.15 Adopt the necessary measures, including of a legislative nature, to strengthen the fight against racial discrimination and the stigmatization of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees (Ecuador);**

**111.16 Amend its criminal law to increase the penalties for racial discrimination and to consider it as an aggravating circumstance, especially against indigenous peoples and persons of African descent (Greece);**

**111.17 Adopt bill No. 19.288 on the prevention, eradication and punishment of racism and all forms of discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

- 111.18 Adopt a comprehensive legislative mechanism against all forms of discrimination (Madagascar);
- 111.19 Adopt a comprehensive normative framework to fight against discrimination and racism, and take concrete actions to combat hate speech and structural discrimination against groups in vulnerable situations, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico);
- 111.20 Adopt a comprehensive legal framework to combat discrimination (Montenegro);
- 111.21 Establish an integrated normative framework to fight against racial discrimination (Nicaragua);
- 111.22 Criminalize racial discrimination and conclude the adoption process of the 2017 Act, which is still under discussion, with the aim of addressing in a comprehensive manner all different forms of discrimination (Spain);
- 111.23 Strengthen the National Policy for a Society Free from Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia and the implementation of its Plan of Action (El Salvador);
- 111.24 Apply the lessons learned from the challenges of its 2015–2018 National Policy for a Society Free from Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia to ensure more effective implementation of the next phase of its 2020–2025 Action Plan (Singapore);
- 111.25 Strengthen the implementation of measures to address marginalization and discrimination against persons of African descent, including through enhancing institutional capacity to systematically document, investigate and prosecute acts of discrimination (Rwanda);
- 111.26 Continue with and increase efforts at tackling discrimination against people of African descent and all minorities (Guyana);
- 111.27 Continue with the efforts to fight against all forms of discrimination against vulnerable groups, including indigenous persons (France);
- 111.28 Continue efforts towards addressing discrimination against minorities and indigenous people in order to achieve equality for all in society (Nepal);
- 111.29 Continue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including against indigenous peoples (Italy);
- 111.30 Continue measures aimed at fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ persons and at preventing, investigating and punishing acts of discrimination and violence against them (Argentina);
- 111.31 Adopt legislation criminalizing hate crimes for reasons of sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);
- 111.32 Continue working towards the elimination of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and the eradication of gender-based violence against lesbians, bisexuals and transgender and intersex persons (Chile);
- 111.33 Strengthen national strategies to prevent violence and discriminatory actions against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Colombia);
- 111.34 Improve records and other data on the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals (Iceland);
- 111.35 Disaggregate data based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics with a view to understanding clearly the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Malta);
- 111.36 Adopt measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish hate crimes against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons (Montenegro);
- 111.37 Draft and implement an action plan to eliminate all forms of social and institutional discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, which includes a monitoring process (Netherlands);
- 111.38 Carry out complementary efforts to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons effectively enjoy their rights embodied in Costa Rican legislation, focusing especially on their access to the health system and employment (Uruguay);
- 111.39 Continue efforts to combat hate speech against foreigners and foster a culture of diversity and tolerance (Tunisia);
- 111.40 Punish the promotion of racial stereotypes and prejudices by the media, eradicate structural racial discrimination and xenophobia, particularly of migrants, and combat it in educational centres (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 111.41 Strengthen efforts to fight prejudice against persons living with HIV/AIDS (Congo);
- 111.42 Develop a national action plan on business and human rights (Switzerland);
- 111.43 Continue to strengthen maritime conservation systems and monitoring of protected areas (Bahamas);



- 111.44 Continue to implement the national development strategies and achieve sustainable economic and social development in order to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 111.45 Continue to build institutional capacity, data and knowledge to integrate environment and climate considerations more fully into the national regulatory framework and develop new capacities and systems for implementation and compliance monitoring across major sectors (Fiji);
- 111.46 Develop, in collaboration with elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and indigenous and other marginalized groups, measures to address disaster risk reduction and combat the negative effects of climate change (Fiji);
- 111.47 Punish police repression during peaceful protests and educate law enforcement and human rights justice operators (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 111.48 Reduce prison overcrowding and improve prison conditions by building new facilities, renovating existing facilities, and evaluating policy measures to reduce the prison population (United States of America);
- 111.49 Avoid the indiscriminate use of preventive detention, eradicate prison overcrowding and improve precarious prison conditions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 111.50 Improve the conditions of overcrowded detention facilities and operate them in compliance with relevant international standards (Republic of Korea);
- 111.51 Step up efforts to reduce overcrowding and poor conditions in places of detention (Greece);
- 111.52 Continue to pursue policies and laws that advance the global cause of human rights, including in the area of disarmament (Bahamas);
- 111.53 Counter corruption and the lack of independence of the judiciary through transparent elections of magistrates (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 111.54 Ensure women's equal access to justice, including by eliminating economic barriers and expanding public legal aid services (Azerbaijan);
- 111.55 Ensure that judges, prosecutors and police officers handle cases of gender-based violence and discrimination against women in a gender sensitive manner (Iceland);
- 111.56 Continue to support the institutional policy for access to justice for persons of African descent (South Africa);
- 111.57 Punish those responsible for attacks and hate speech against human rights activists (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 111.58 Further strengthen its commitments and take specific actions for independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations against human rights defenders, including the killing of environmental and indigenous human rights defenders, and bring to justice those suspected of criminal responsibility for these crimes (Afghanistan);
- 111.59 Establish public policies that create a safe and respectful environment for the work of human rights defenders and ensure prompt and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations against human rights defenders, including the killing of environmental and indigenous human rights defenders (Belgium);
- 111.60 Consider implementing measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders (Chile);
- 111.61 Investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for the murder of human rights defender and indigenous leader Sergio Rojas Ortiz (Iceland);
- 111.62 Adopt effective measures to prevent, investigate and punish threats, intimidation and violence against human rights defenders, particularly environmental human rights defenders, with a view to strengthening their protection (Slovenia);
- 111.63 Adopt comprehensive and active measures to investigate trafficking in persons, prosecute those involved in it and ensure appropriate punishment of perpetrators (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 111.64 Continue the efforts made so far to combat trafficking in persons through the identification of victims, including migrant and refugee children (Tunisia);
- 111.65 Strengthen its efforts to eliminate human trafficking by investigating and prosecuting those responsible for the crime in a systematic and active manner (Republic of Korea);
- 111.66 Systematically and actively investigate and prosecute those responsible for human trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are punished appropriately, and advance with the process of adopting a dedicated national action plan against human trafficking (Republic of Moldova);
- 111.67 Systematically and actively investigate and prosecute those responsible for human trafficking and ensure their appropriate punishment (Greece);

111.68 Strengthen measures to investigate and prosecute offences related to trafficking in persons and improve mechanisms for victim protection, including through collaboration with other States (Indonesia);

111.69 Build institutional capacity for care and protection of victims of human trafficking, and strengthen measures to proactively identify and refer victims to appropriate support services (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

111.70 Promote and implement the measures ordered by the Constitutional Chamber with respect to the recognition of de facto marital unions and marriage between people of the same sex, on the same basis and with the same rights as those recognized for heterosexual couples (Colombia);

111.71 Adopt legislation that introduces a legal right to paid paternity leave and promotes the equitable distribution of parental responsibilities between women and men (Iceland);

111.72 Promote equitable distribution of parental responsibilities between men and women, including by adopting legislation which would establish paid paternity leave (Slovenia);

111.73 Protect the family and its development as a principal unit for the development of societies (Egypt);

111.74 Take the necessary measures to address the low rate of women's participation in the labour market and the widening gap in wages between women and men (Syrian Arab Republic);

111.75 Take further measures to increase the representation of women in the labour force (Australia);

111.76 Continue promoting gender equality, notably when it comes to women's participation in the labour market, and reducing the wage gap between men and women (Gabon);

111.77 Reduce the wage gap between men and women (Iraq);

111.78 Continue efforts aimed at further promoting access to employment for young persons, women and members of indigenous peoples (Kazakhstan);

111.79 Continue to implement measures, such as quotas, to facilitate access to the labour market for persons with disabilities (Angola);

111.80 Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector and monitor compliance with employment quotas in the public sector (Bulgaria);

111.81 Ensure the application of social protection and national occupational health policies to all persons working in the informal economy (India);

111.82 Continue its efforts towards eradicating poverty through effective implementation of its National Strategy for Poverty Reduction 2015–2018 (Bhutan);

111.83 Step up efforts and further implement government strategies to reduce poverty and extreme poverty (Belarus);

111.84 Strengthen efforts to reduce poverty (Iraq);

111.85 Continue to pursue the strengthening of systems to deepen social inclusion and the enjoyment of human rights by persons of African descent, indigenous persons, migrants and refugees (Barbados);

111.86 Continue consolidating the achievements made in the promotion of the rights and well-being of women, children and adolescents (Dominican Republic);

111.87 Pursue efforts to protect the human rights of older persons (Qatar);

111.88 Guarantee the right to adequate housing for indigenous peoples and the restitution of their ancestral lands (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

111.89 Eradicate contamination of pipelines and provide equal access to drinking water and sanitation in the 70 per cent of the settlements of the country that claim it (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

111.90 Take all necessary steps to improve access to health, social welfare, safe drinking water and sanitation for members of vulnerable groups (Croatia);

111.91 Adopt policies aimed at improving the enjoyment of the right to access to clean water (Holy See);

111.92 Continue to intensify its efforts to provide adequate sanitation facilities for communities in need (Maldives);

111.93 Redouble efforts to guarantee the right to water to the entire population, particularly in rural areas (Mexico);

111.94 Ensure the availability of water, its sustainable management, as well as sanitation for all people (Spain);

111.95 Adopt as soon as possible a technical regulation to clarify article 121 of the Criminal Code, which authorizes abortion when the life or health of the woman is at risk, with the aim of guaranteeing its effective implementation within

the public health system, in line with targets 3.7 and 5.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland);

111.96 Reform the Criminal Code to decriminalize abortion in case of fetal malformations incompatible with extrauterine life and in case of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest (Belgium);

111.97 Adopt clear medical guidelines on access to therapeutic abortion in accordance with Costa Rican law, international standards, and best practices promoted by the World Health Organization (Canada);

111.98 Decriminalize abortion and take measures to ensure that all women have access to legal abortion and high-quality post-abortion services (Iceland);

111.99 Address the issue of child and teenage pregnancies by legalizing abortion at least in case of an inviable fetus, rape, incest, or when the pregnancy poses a threat to the woman's life, and invest in prevention by granting free access to emergency contraception and organizing awareness campaigns and comprehensive sexuality education (Netherlands);

111.100 Ensure the adoption of the protocol allowing access to therapeutic abortion and facilitating access to emergency contraception through the public health system (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

111.101 Ensure respect for the rights to sexual and reproductive health, including with regard to the voluntary termination of pregnancy (France);

111.102 Formulate public policies aiming at reducing the high rates of teenage pregnancy (Panama);

111.103 Integrate an intercultural perspective into sexual and reproductive health services to guarantee the rights of indigenous, Afrodescendent and migrant women to, among others, dignified treatment during childbirth (Peru);

111.104 Prohibit any practice that modifies a person's sex characteristics without irrefutable medical reasons and the full and informed consent of the person affected (Iceland);

111.105 Work towards ending protocols that aim to "normalize" intersex bodies through harmful and medical practices including non-consensual surgeries (Malta);

111.106 Increase efforts to reduce the societal stigma faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and eradicate involuntary surgical procedures to "normalize" the bodies of intersex people (Australia);

111.107 Continue its efforts for the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, namely by recognizing the right of intersex persons to gender identity self-determination and gender expression, inter alia by prohibiting the performance of surgical or pharmacological interventions on children before the manifestation of their gender identity (Portugal);

111.108 Take further concrete measures for the comprehensive care of people living with HIV, particularly women (Myanmar);

111.109 Adopt awareness programmes to combat prejudice against people with HIV/AIDS and guarantee them equal access to medical care and treatments (Panama);

111.110 Ensure the availability of preschool education for children living in unfavourable conditions (State of Palestine);

111.111 Ensure the availability of preschool education for children living in unfavourable socioeconomic conditions and reduce dropout and repeat rates in secondary education (Armenia);

111.112 Ensure free access to primary education (Qatar);

111.113 Take measures to progressively introduce free higher education (Bulgaria);

111.114 Reduce early school dropout and repetition rates in secondary education, including by addressing the socioeconomic causes of these dropouts (Algeria);

111.115 Take concrete actions to secure a safe environment free from discrimination in schools for all boys, girls and adolescents (Chile);

111.116 Promote access to education for minorities by eliminating all obstacles and all structural discrimination against them (Congo);

111.117 Strengthen actions to increase continuity of studies for children at all levels of education (Cuba);

111.118 Improve access to, and the quality of, education for children, especially those living in rural areas and those belonging to minorities, and implement effective strategies to reduce school dropout and exclusion rates (Holy See);

111.119 Continue to bridge the gap that exists in the education system for indigenous people with respect to school attendance and completion and also learning achievements and equal opportunities (Maldives);

111.120 Continue efforts towards reducing school dropout (El Salvador);

111.121 Continue to strengthen programmes on awareness-raising, training and capacity-building on human rights issues

(Philippines);

111.122 Provide training on human rights to health personnel, members of the judiciary, police forces and prison officers (Portugal);

111.123 Draft and adopt a supporting action plan to the National Policy for De Facto Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030 (Ukraine);

111.124 Ensure the effective implementation of the National Policy for De Facto Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030 and the National Policy for Addressing and Preventing Violence against Women 2017–2032 (Republic of Moldova);

111.125 Elaborate a plan of action for implementation of the Gender Equality Policy (Denmark);

111.126 Take specific measures to effectively address discriminatory gender stereotypes in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Azerbaijan);

111.127 Take temporary and special measures in order to address multiple forms of discrimination against women (Togo);

111.128 Strengthen measures to guarantee the equality of women and men in the political sphere (Côte d'Ivoire);

111.129 Continue with the efforts to encourage gender parity in public administration (France);

111.130 Continue its practice of incorporating civic participation in the implementation of the National Policy for De Facto Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030, the National Policy for Addressing and Preventing Violence Against Women 2017–2032, and the Procedural Guidelines for the Participatory and Intercultural Development of Public Policy for Indigenous Peoples 2019–2024 (Singapore);

111.131 Provide sustainable financing for the effective implementation of the National Policy for De Facto Equality between Women and Men 2018–2030, the National Policy for Addressing and Preventing Violence against Women 2017–2032, and the Procedural Guidelines for the Participatory and Intercultural Development of Public Policy for Indigenous Peoples 2019–2024, given their long duration over the next decade (Singapore);

111.132 Continue its efforts in providing capacity-building on gender equality (Kyrgyzstan);

111.133 Promote awareness on the rights of women in the rural areas (Myanmar);

111.134 Strengthen the territorial National Plan for Rural Development 2017–2022 with the objective of improving the conditions of women in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

111.135 Expedite the agenda of building and strengthening a culture of equality and respect in which all human rights of all people, most specially women, are protected (South Africa);

111.136 Speed up the implementation of the National Policy for Addressing and Preventing Violence against Women, in line with target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, so that the number of femicides and of women victims of domestic violence decreases rapidly and sustainably (Switzerland);

111.137 Continue efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women (Tunisia);

111.138 Counter the increase in gender-based violence through legal services and advice, and guarantee access to justice for women and reduce impunity in these cases (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

111.139 Continue efforts to ensure effective protection against all violence and discrimination against women (Albania);

111.140 Systematically address gender-based violence and expand the provision of legal aid and shelters for women and girls in need (Australia);

111.141 Reinforce policies to protect women and girls from discrimination and gender-based violence (Barbados);

111.142 Continue its efforts in reducing discrimination and preventing violence against women (Bhutan);

111.143 Ensure the effective protection of women and girls by strengthening domestic mechanisms and implementing laws addressing gender violence (Canada);

111.144 Strengthen measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish cases of violence against women and domestic violence (Rwanda);

111.145 Further protect the rights of women, children, people with disabilities, elderly people and other vulnerable groups, and continue efforts to combat violence against women (China);

111.146 Take measures to combat violence and discrimination against women, and offer greater opportunities for their participation in economic and social life, in particular in rural areas (Cuba);

111.147 Strengthen public policies aimed at fighting violence against women (France);

- 111.148 Take steps to address and prevent violence against women and domestic violence (Georgia);
- 111.149 Take strong measures to reduce the high rates of femicide and violence against women, including through the use of public campaigns and family programmes and adopt clear guidelines for therapeutic abortion services, legalize abortion in cases of rape, incest or health hazards to the mother and prevent and sanction cases of obstetric violence against women (Germany);
- 111.150 Strengthen efforts to tackle all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Guyana);
- 111.151 Eliminate all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and femicide (India);
- 111.152 Continue to strengthen measures to address violence against women (Philippines);
- 111.153 Step up efforts to combat domestic violence and ensure that victims of violence have access to social and legal services (Italy);
- 111.154 Continue its efforts to prevent, detect and address domestic violence and sexual abuse (Pakistan);
- 111.155 Institutionalize the provision of public legal services and expand their scope, and promote capacity-building and awareness activities for women to ensure their access to justice (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 111.156 Allocate sufficient resources for the full functioning and effectiveness of the High-level Commission responsible for ensuring the observance of the Criminalization of Violence against Women Act, and redouble efforts to combat femicide (Spain);
- 111.157 Further strengthen implementation of its national policy relating to child-related programmes and activities (Croatia);
- 111.158 Take all legal measures so that the National Council on Children and Adolescents enhances its planning, evaluation and monitoring (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 111.159 Reinforce those public policies related to children within the framework of the National Evaluation System (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 111.160 Adopt further measures to ensure the effective implementation of rehabilitation programmes for children (State of Palestine);
- 111.161 Take steps to guarantee the effective implementation of juvenile rehabilitation programmes (Bulgaria);
- 111.162 Put an end to child and forced marriage (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 111.163 Take additional measures against child, early and forced marriage (Italy);
- 111.164 Make available funding aimed at raising social mobilization against the sexual exploitation of children, especially with a focus on the need to report such offences (Malta);
- 111.165 Continue efforts aimed at strengthening the protection of children from sexual exploitation (Ukraine);
- 111.166 Continue combating domestic violence, which persists in particular vis-à-vis children (Albania);
- 111.167 Improve respect for the rights of children by combating domestic violence (France);
- 111.168 Take urgent actions to eradicate physical punishment as a valid practice for the upbringing of minors (Nicaragua);
- 111.169 Consider implementing human rights programmes for parents in order to reduce domestic violence (Peru);
- 111.170 Take concrete measures to combat child labour, including by strengthening child labour control mechanisms and increasing support for poor families (Algeria);
- 111.171 Continue adopting effective measures to combat child labour by, inter alia, strengthening child labour oversight mechanisms and increasing support to poor families (Belarus);
- 111.172 Implement additional measures and secure the necessary resources to combat the worst forms of child labour, including sexual exploitation (Brazil);
- 111.173 Strengthen the fight against the worst forms of child labour, in particular those affecting migrant children and indigenous children (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 111.174 Combat child labour, in particular by strengthening the control mechanisms pertaining thereto (Gabon);
- 111.175 Continue implementing the Government's road map to protect children from forced labour and sexual exploitation (Georgia);
- 111.176 Continue adopting effective measures to combat child labour by, inter alia, ensuring that the law protecting

children against economic exploitation is vigorously enforced, strengthening child labour oversight mechanisms, and increasing support for poor families so that they can keep their children in the education system (Ireland);

111.177 Continue to protect minors from situations of violence, forced labour or sexual exploitation (South Africa);

111.178 Ensure that indigenous peoples enjoy their rights recognized in the ILO Convention No. 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Paraguay);

111.179 Update and promote the approval of the Law on Autonomous Development of Indigenous Peoples (Denmark);

111.180 Take the necessary actions to enact the Law on Autonomous Development of Indigenous Peoples, which has been pending before the Legislative Assembly (Dominican Republic);

111.181 Speed up the implementation of the general mechanism for consultation with indigenous peoples and ensure its proper functioning in order to promote the necessary conditions for the realization of their individual and collective rights (Togo);

111.182 Involve traditional indigenous authorities in the decision-making mechanisms on matters concerning them (Peru);

111.183 Continue the Intercultural and Participatory Construction of Public Policies for Indigenous Peoples 2019–2024, which mainly seeks to promote the necessary conditions for the realization of individual and collective rights for indigenous peoples (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

111.184 Increase efforts for the social and political participation of indigenous peoples, including their access to land (Cuba);

111.185 Continue to take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to ensure that indigenous peoples are properly consulted on territorial management, as well as any other forms of legislation that concern their rights (Holy See);

111.186 Take steps to guarantee full and effective protection of the rights of indigenous peoples through participatory and inclusive processes, including compliance with cautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the implementation of recommendations made by other specialized bodies (Canada);

111.187 Enforce the law on indigenous land rights and facilitate peaceful resolution of land disputes by ensuring the availability and efficacy of conflict resolution mechanisms and the presence of effective, impartial law enforcement (United States of America);

111.188 Implement Indigenous Law 6172 to recognize and protect indigenous land and take the necessary measures to support and guarantee indigenous people's right to the restitution of their land, and update and pass the indigenous autonomy bill, now pending for almost 25 years (Germany);

111.189 Ensure the effective implementation of laws and the national action plan relating to the land rights of the indigenous population (Philippines);

111.190 Increase attention to the indigenous population and eliminate disparities among the population (Yemen);

111.191 Continue its actions and initiatives to protect the rights of the most vulnerable persons in society, such as indigenous adolescent mothers (Benin);

111.192 Continue efforts towards greater respect for the cultural norms and practices of the indigenous populations and for greater access to all aspects of social services, in particular, health and education (Guyana);

111.193 Create a public policy that incorporates the rights of indigenous peoples (Nicaragua);

111.194 Continue efforts for the prompt processing of the Bill on the Protection of the Right to Nationality of the Indigenous Person and Guarantee of Integration of the Indigenous Cross-Border Person (Dominican Republic);

111.195 Eliminate the structural discrimination against indigenous peoples and people of African descent, and ensure their access to education (Syrian Arab Republic);

111.196 Address ongoing racial inequality, particularly for indigenous and Afro-Costa Rican communities, and adopt a coordinated strategy to combat child labour and sexual abuse among disadvantaged and migrant communities (Australia);

111.197 Continue efforts to promote respect for, and the promotion of, the rights of indigenous populations and people of African descent (Egypt);

111.198 Provide adequate human and financial resources to the Presidential Commissioner on African Affairs with a view to establishing a permanent institution for the promotion and respect of economic, social and cultural rights of persons of African descent in Costa Rica (Haiti);

111.199 Continue the actions of the International Decade for People of African Descent (Peru);

**111.200 Increase coordination and cooperation between the different actors that contribute to the human development of persons with disabilities (Pakistan);**

**111.201 Take further steps in order to respect the rights of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by combating institutionalization, stigma, violence and overmedicalization, and by developing community-based and people-centred mental health services which promote inclusion in the community and respect their free and informed consent (Portugal);**

**111.202 Promote the implementation of the mechanism for follow-up to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, currently suspended, with special attention to access to public services (Spain);**

**111.203 Improve access to legal protections and strengthen emergency services to better address the needs of asylum seekers, particularly Nicaraguans (United States of America);**

**111.204 Continue enhancing measures aimed at combating discrimination, particularly by investigating and punishing aggressions and discriminatory and xenophobic attitudes against migrants and refugees (Argentina);**

**111.205 Promote the necessary administrative and legal changes to reduce the time limits for the consideration of asylum applications and eliminate the fees and charges requested of the applicants (Brazil);**

**111.206 Continue strengthening national institutions for receiving and providing care for migrants and guarantee migrants effective access to work, health care and education (Colombia);**

**111.207 Implement measures to safeguard the rights, physical integrity and well-being of migrants and refugees, including fighting human trafficking and implementing public awareness campaigns (Germany);**

**111.208 Strengthen existing mechanisms to fight xenophobia and all forms of hate against migrants and refugees in the country, especially by using social media (Haiti);**

**111.209 Strengthen resources for the functioning of the National Coalition against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons and strengthen the institutional capacities for State intervention regarding care and protection of victims (Honduras);**

**111.210 Intensify efforts to protect the fundamental rights of and access to essential services for migrants and refugees (Indonesia);**

**111.211 Enhance measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and welfare of all migrants (Nepal);**

**111.212 Create effective mechanisms against xenophobia and all kinds of hatred towards migrant persons (Nicaragua).**

**112. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

### **III. Voluntary pledges and commitments**

113. Costa Rica pledges to draft a plan of action for the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, within the framework of its national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up.

## **Annex**

[Spanish Only]

### **Composition of the delegation**

The delegation of Costa Rica was headed by S.E. Sra. Nancy Gabriela Marín Espinoza, Ministra de Comunicación, and composed of the following members:

- Jefe de Delegación Alterna, S.E. Sra. Elayne Whyte, Embajadora, Representante Permanente;
- Sr. Enrique Sánchez Carballo, Diputado, Expresidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Asamblea Legislativa;
- Sr. Víctor Barrantes Marín, Viceministro de Gobernación y Policía;
- Sr. Norman Lizano Ortiz, Embajador en Misión Especial;
- Sra. Shara Duncan Villalobos, Embajadora, Representante Permanente Adjunta;
- Sra. Maricela Muñoz Zumbado, Ministro Consejero;
- Sr. Alexander Peñaranda Zarate, Ministro Consejero;
- Srta. Diana Murillo Solís, Consejero;

- Srta. Mariana Castro Hernández, Consejero;

- Srta. Melissa Lorincz Sosa, Agregado, Oficial de derechos humanos de la Dirección General de Política Exterior.