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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Gambia

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-fourth session from 4 to 15 November 2019. The review of the Gambia was held at the 3rd meeting, on 5 November 2019. The delegation of the Gambia was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Abubacarr M. Tambadou. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 November 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on the Gambia.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Gambia: Bulgaria, Philippines 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 the Gambia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/GMB/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.6/34/GMB/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/GMB/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Gambia 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. On behalf of the President of the Gambia, the Government and the people of the Gambia, the delegation expressed its appreciation to the Human Rights Council and welcomed the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Gambia.
6. The national report had been prepared in consultation with all stakeholders, including relevant ministries and government departments, the Commonwealth Secretariat and civil society and non-governmental organizations. The report should be assessed with full appreciation for the nature and magnitude of the challenges with which the Government was confronted, following more than two decades of dictatorship. Despite those challenges, many of the recommendations from the previous review had been implemented over the previous three years.
7. Great emphasis was being placed on governance in the transition from dictatorship to democracy. The root causes of conflict were the decades of authoritarian rule characterized by gross human rights violations, a society deeply polarized on the basis of ethnic and political considerations, ethnic hatred manifested through hateful propaganda targeted at certain ethnic communities, political persecution, impunity and poverty.
8. Consequently, the first and most pressing challenge for the Government was sustaining peace in the country amid a real risk of intercommunal clashes motivated by ethnic and political considerations that had simmered beneath the façade of peaceful co-existence for over two decades. That required reassurances from all sides of the ethnic and political divide that there would be no witch-hunt against any person or community for the excesses of the previous administration, as well as reassurances for victims and their families that justice would be dispensed through due process of law. A balance needed to

be struck between fostering social cohesion and reconciliation through justice, and rebuilding a strong and robust democratic foundation anchored in respect for the rule of law and human rights.

9. The Government had resolved to improve the country's constitutional, legal and institutional framework in various governance areas in order to consolidate democracy and align the entire governance architecture with international justice and human rights standards. The priority was to put in place a new and resilient architecture to uphold the highest standards of human rights, justice and rule of law. This required embarking on an ambitious and comprehensive transitional justice process.

10. The Government stood firm in its conviction that without good governance there could not be durable peace or economic development. Good governance provided a conducive and permissive political, social and economic environment that allowed the Government to put in place policies, programmes and strategies that upheld human rights and justice, spurred economic growth and enabled the provision of basic services, while allowing the expression of individual creativity for private wealth creation. Good governance was therefore the first priority area in the national development plan for 2018–2021.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

11. During the interactive dialogue, 86 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

12. The Holy See expressed appreciation for the action taken to abolish the death penalty and stated that availability and quality of health services and education would reduce inequality.

13. Honduras congratulated the Gambia for progress made in establishing an interministerial team for the preparation of reports and for follow-up to the review.

14. Iceland welcomed the significant advances the Government had made since taking office, including the steps taken to abolish the death penalty, and looked forward to that abolition.

15. India encouraged the Gambia to continue its cooperation with the United Nations and other organizations to further strengthen its laws and align them with international human rights law.

16. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the progress made since the previous review, and noted the introduction of the School Improvement Grant and the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

17. The Islamic Republic of Iran congratulated the Gambia for the creation of the School Improvement Grant as a step towards the progressive introduction of free education.

18. Iraq commended the Gambia for the ratification of, among other instruments, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

19. Ireland welcomed the announcement of a moratorium on the death penalty and encouraged the Gambia to consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedures.

20. Italy commended the Gambia for the ratification of human rights instruments and for the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.

21. Latvia encouraged the Gambia to undertake further efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations and commitments and welcomed the State's cooperation with the special procedures.

22. Libya commended the Gambia for its efforts in implementing the recommendations from the previous review and the progress made in protecting human rights.

23. Madagascar congratulated the Gambia for its commitment to guaranteeing human rights by carrying out important constitutional reforms and encouraged it to continue with such efforts.
24. Maldives expressed appreciation for the constructive engagement with the review process and welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.
25. Mali congratulated the Gambia for ratifying the Convention against Torture, as recommended by Mali during the previous review.
26. Mauritania welcomed the presentation of the national report and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.
27. Mauritius commended the Gambia for enacting the National Human Rights Commission Act of 2017 and for the major efforts undertaken to reform the judiciary.
28. Mexico acknowledged the progress achieved, including the enactment of the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 that prohibited child marriage and established the minimum age for marriage as 18 years.
29. Montenegro encouraged the Gambia to further engage in the process of transitional justice, and expressed concern about restrictive legislation relating to freedom of expression.
30. Morocco expressed appreciation for the enactment of several legislative measures to implement recommendations from the previous review and measures to address delays in submitting reports to treaty bodies.
31. Mozambique noted the significant strides the Gambia had made in implementing the recommendations from the previous review, including by establishing the National Human Rights Commission.
32. Myanmar expressed regret that most of the international human rights conventions ratified or acceded to by the Gambia were yet to be enacted in domestic legislation. It was concerned that gender inequality remained a problem.
33. Namibia noted that the Gambia was party to nine core international human rights instruments and the Government's pledge to progressively realize the rights and freedoms contained therein.
34. Nepal noted efforts made to empower women and to abolish the death penalty.
35. The Netherlands expressed concern about attacks on and arrests of journalists and about the high prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence.
36. The Niger noted legal and institutional reforms for the protection of human rights and the adoption of the national development plan for 2018–2021.
37. The delegation of the Gambia stated that since the installation of the current administration three years previously, progress in areas of civil and political rights had been remarkable, most visibly in the area of freedom of expression. In its 2019 World Press Freedom Index, Reporters without Borders had ranked the Gambia ninety-second in the world, an increase of 30 places from the previous year. Those rankings were a reflection of the reality on the ground. Within the past three years, there had been a proliferation of private radio stations, private newspapers, private television stations and political programmes. The education tax levied on media houses and media practitioners had been lifted and a self-regulatory independent media council had been established. No media practitioner or journalist had been arrested or prosecuted over the past three years. The Government had honoured the judgments of the Economic Community of West African States regional court and paid the damages to practitioners for abuses suffered under the previous Administration.
38. A draft media services bill and a draft freedom of information bill would be presented to the National Assembly for enactment by the end of 2019.
39. The Gambia had ratified the Convention against Torture in September 2018. A new criminal code criminalizing torture was expected to come into force by the end of 2019. The Government was also committed to ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

40. There were a number of legal and procedural safeguards to guide law enforcement authorities in effective investigations and that sought to protect the dignity of persons upon arrest and detention, which were rigorously applied by law enforcement agencies. The national intelligence agency had been stripped of its powers of detention. A new approach to policing based on human rights was being undertaken and a human rights unit had been established in the police force to receive complaints and to respond to incidents of abuse and brutality. A police bill was being drafted to entrench the legal and procedural safeguards in the handling of suspects and to provide a code of conduct for police officers, while also serving to inform the public about what could be expected from the police.

41. A series of concrete measures, including workshops to raise awareness of the prohibition of torture, were being rolled out for law enforcement agencies with the support of international partners.

42. Prisons, while still not up to the desired standards, were far better places of detention than they were under the previous administration. The conditions of detention, including food, bedding and other basic amenities, had significantly improved over the past three years. International organizations were routinely given access to the prisons. New detention facilities were being constructed to mitigate overcrowding of detainees awaiting trial. The Prisons Act was being reviewed.

43. Several rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights were reflected in the 1997 Constitution and in other laws. The Gambia had met the Millennium Development Goals with respect to free primary school enrolment and gender parity.

44. With the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Commonwealth Secretariat, all laws that tended to discriminate against women were being reviewed. The delegation expressed the hope that by December 2019, 95 per cent of all discriminatory laws would have been identified and repealed.

45. Where rights, such as the rights to health or to work, had not been explicitly guaranteed in the Constitution, they had been reflected in legislation and policies.

46. Under the national health policy, entitled “Health is Wealth”, the health master plan and the national reproductive health policy, great strides had been made to provide affordable health care at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Under-5 mortality rates had been significantly reduced. Eighty-six per cent of women received antenatal care from a skilled health professional. Significant inroads had been made in the treatment of diseases such as malaria, HIV-related disease and tuberculosis, and in the area of mental health.

47. The Women’s Act of 2010 (as amended) prohibited the practice of female genital mutilation. In 2018, the Ministry of Justice had established a sexual and gender-based violence unit charged with handling all criminal cases of sexual violence and abuse. Members of the unit would receive specialized training in investigation and prosecution and in the handling of victims.

48. There had been an increase in women’s participation in national politics at all levels. The Women’s Bureau, a specialized government department, advised the Government on issues concerning women and girls. Similarly, there was the National Women’s Council, composed of 65 members representing the interests of women countrywide.

49. Empowering women by appointing them to decision-making positions beyond just the political sphere was at the heart of the Government’s policy and was reflected in the judicial appointments of women over the past three years. Women were also included in all of the transitional justice processes, particularly the transformative governance rebuilding activities.

50. Nigeria commended the Government for its ratification of several international human rights instruments and for its efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework.

51. Pakistan commended the Government for its measures to improve the status of women in political, social and economic life and for its commitment to the well-being of its people.

52. The Philippines noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments, and institutional and legal reforms that the Gambia had undertaken.
53. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
54. Rwanda welcomed the efforts of the Gambia to abolish the death penalty and the ongoing review of constitutional and legislative frameworks to protect human rights.
55. Saint Kitts and Nevis noted efforts made by the Government to review laws concerning the media and to draft a bill on freedom of information.
56. Senegal noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and encouraged the Gambia to continue its efforts to conclude ongoing reforms.
57. Serbia noted the cooperation of the Gambia with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and expressed its belief that such cooperation could be further strengthened.
58. Seychelles noted the establishment of a national human rights institution, legislative and policy reforms, and the constructive engagement with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.
59. Sierra Leone noted the Government's commitment to reform State institutions. It urged the Government to implement the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
60. Slovenia commended the Gambia for the implementation of recommendations related to freedom of expression, association and assembly. It expressed concern about the low rate of literacy among women and girls and about discrimination against them.
61. Solomon Islands noted the significant legislative reforms that had been undertaken since the previous review and the ratification of many international human rights instruments.
62. South Africa commended the Gambia for its political reforms and welcomed the ratification of several human rights instruments.
63. Spain noted that legislation was yet to be harmonized with international standards, that consensual same-sex relationships remained criminalized and that the practices of child marriage and female genital mutilation were widespread.
64. The State of Palestine commended the Government for the signature and ratification of international conventions and appreciated the Government's efforts to improve the status of women.
65. The Sudan noted the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
66. Switzerland welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the Convention against Torture, and the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
67. Timor-Leste noted the enactment of the National Human Rights Commission Act, the moratorium on the death penalty, and the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
68. Togo noted the moratorium on the death penalty and the commencement of the process for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
69. Tunisia noted the ratification of the Convention against Torture, and the enactment of laws, including the amended Women's Act.
70. Turkey noted the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the National Human Rights Commission, the creation of the national development plan for 2018–2021, and efforts to combat human trafficking.

71. Uganda noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission.
72. Ukraine noted the engagement of the Gambia with the international human rights mechanisms, and progress towards abolishing the death penalty. It expressed concern about child marriage and female genital mutilation.
73. The United Kingdom noted the drafting of a new constitution. It expressed concern about corruption, discrimination against women and minority groups, and laws repressing freedom of expression.
74. The United States expressed concern about impunity for security services, the practice of female genital mutilation and the criminalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status and conduct.
75. Uruguay encouraged the Gambia to ensure the effective abolition of the death penalty, and expressed concern about the unwillingness of the Gambia to decriminalize same-sex sexual relations.
76. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the ratification by the Gambia of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
77. Zambia commended the Gambia for the progress made in signing and ratifying numerous international human rights treaties since the change of government in 2017.
78. Algeria applauded the ratification of international human rights instruments, as well as the adoption of measures for the advancement of women.
79. Angola noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, as well as the adoption of key constitutional and legal reforms.
80. The delegation of the Gambia stated that hundreds of prisoners had been released by presidential pardon, and that there were no political prisoners or prisoners of conscience.
81. The Government adopted a policy of public engagement through consultations, participation and inclusiveness in the three main pillars of the transitional justice process, which were the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, the Constitutional Review Commission and the National Human Rights Commission. The policy was born out of the recognition that by giving the people ownership of the processes, they were more likely to accept the outcomes.
82. The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission had commenced public hearings, with the involvement of several witnesses, including victims and perpetrators. An initial contribution of \$1 million, from the proceeds of the sale of the former President's assets, had been made to the victims trust fund established by that Commission. The Commission, like all truth commissions, was not a court, and one of its primary objectives was to establish the truth in exchange for the granting of amnesty and the promotion of healing and national reconciliation. It was also mandated to identify for prosecution those who were alleged to bear the greatest responsibility for human rights violations.
83. A new constitution was being drafted that would faithfully and accurately reflect the wishes and aspirations of the people of the Gambia; it was expected to be promulgated in 2020, following a national referendum.
84. The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty had been ratified. A moratorium on the death penalty had been imposed and all death sentences had been commuted to life imprisonment. However, the death penalty continued to divide public opinion, as manifested during public consultations with the Constitutional Review Commission. The Government had made public its preference for total abolition.
85. Following clashes between the police and some protesters in Faraba Banta, a sand-mining region of the country, three civilians had been shot and killed by the police, and several others, including some police personnel, had been injured. An independent commission of inquiry had been established and the recommendations of the commission were being implemented, including the prosecution of the police officers allegedly

responsible for the death of the three protesters. Compensation would be paid to the injured protesters and to the families of those protesters who had been killed.

86. The Gambia experienced challenges in tackling trafficking in persons, and in implementing legislation prohibiting child marriage, child labour and female genital mutilation. The Government remained committed to addressing those challenges.

87. The Government was committed to reviewing the Criminal Code with a view to removing the criminal sanctions against the gay and lesbian community, while respecting the values of the cultural and religious society that made up the Gambia.

88. The anti-corruption legislation was not fit for purpose and new legislation was expected to be enacted in 2020.

89. Argentina noted the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and progress made towards abolishing the death penalty.

90. Australia welcomed the steps taken to improve the human rights framework, the commencement of hearings by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the ban on female genital mutilation.

91. Azerbaijan welcomed the increased cooperation of the Gambia with treaty bodies and special procedures, and the ratification of several international human rights instruments.

92. The Bahamas commended the Gambia for its commitment to realizing the rights of its citizens, as demonstrated through initiatives that included constitutional and legislative reforms.

93. Bangladesh noted the ratification of human rights instruments, the establishment of a ministry responsible for women's affairs, children and social welfare, and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

94. Belgium noted the progress made since the previous review, but also noted that further progress could be achieved by increasing the protection of human rights in line with international standards.

95. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the national policy on the promotion of women, as well as the establishment of an agricultural council.

96. Botswana noted the adoption of new constitutional, legislative and regulatory reforms to protect human rights, the cooperation by the Gambia with human rights mechanisms, and the State's renewed commitment to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

97. Brazil applauded the ratification of the Convention against Torture, the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and the adoption of a moratorium on capital punishment.

98. Burkina Faso welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It expressed concern about child marriage and female genital mutilation.

99. Burundi welcomed the national development plan for 2018–2021, and measures towards the improvement of the administration of justice and public health and for the benefit of women and children.

100. Canada noted the peaceful transition to democracy and the focus on the protection of human rights. It encouraged the Gambia to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission acted independently and effectively.

101. The Central African Republic congratulated the Gambia on its invitation to special procedure mandate holders and on reviewing legislation with a view to protecting freedom of expression.

102. Chile expressed its expectation that the process of reviewing, inter alia, the Criminal Code and the Children's Act, would meet the highest human rights standards.

103. China noted the implementation of the national development plan for 2018–2021, which improved the standard of living and promoted sustainable development, among other things. It also noted efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
104. The Congo welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and encouraged harmonization of national legislation with ratified international human rights instruments.
105. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
106. Croatia welcomed the improved conditions for enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and the establishment of a national media-law review committee.
107. Cuba noted the adoption of policies, legislation and programmes to support women's empowerment and to guarantee gender equality in primary education.
108. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the adoption and implementation of the National Social Protection Policy for 2015–2025 and the national development plan for 2018–2021.
109. The Democratic Republic of the Congo noted the ratification by the Gambia of the Convention against Torture.
110. Denmark noted the establishment of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and welcomed the adoption of the amended Women's Act.
111. Djibouti welcomed the ratification by the Gambia of several international instruments and the adoption of the programme of institutional and legal reforms, particularly regarding the Constitution and the Elections Act.
112. Egypt noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and expressed appreciation for efforts made by the Gambia to strengthen the legislative and institutional structure for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
113. Ethiopia noted the ratification by the Gambia of international human rights instruments and the Government's commitment to addressing its backlog in reporting to various international human rights mechanisms.
114. Fiji noted the ratification of international human rights instruments, including the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the moratorium placed on the death penalty.
115. France welcomed efforts by the Gambia to improve the human rights situation, particularly in combating torture and in the area of women's rights.
116. Gabon expressed appreciation for the strengthening of the legislative and institutional framework aimed at promoting women's rights.
117. Georgia expressed appreciation for the initiatives taken to promote children's rights, including the amendment of the Children's Act to criminalize child marriage and child labour.
118. Germany welcomed the progress made in the protection of human rights. It called for the completion of all legal reforms that had been set in motion.
119. Ghana welcomed the progress made in the protection of human rights despite the challenges inherited by the new democratic dispensation.
120. The delegation of the Gambia stated that in the health sector, all efforts were being made to ensure that all district hospitals were able to provide primary health care, especially for women and children, and were able to perform operations.
121. The Government continued to strengthen the focus on education for girls. Girls who had dropped out of school to get married had been given another opportunity to attend school, with the objective of reducing child marriage.
122. The national social protection agenda had been improved and a new programme had supported 15,000 households with cash transfers. The programme also supported persons with disabilities. Efforts were also being made to enact a draft national health insurance bill.

123. Children with disabilities in rural areas, particularly girls with disabilities, were in the process of being identified. Five teachers with relevant specialized skills in teaching children with disabilities and with capacities in Braille and sign language had been assigned to each of the regions. A policy of including children with mild and moderate disabilities in mainstream schools had been adopted. National mechanisms had been established to coordinate the implementation of supported universal periodic review recommendations. Those mechanisms were the interministerial task force that was also responsible for treaty body reporting and the National Human Rights Commission. The National Human Rights Commission would also have the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission upon the completion of its work. The Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission was not permitted to grant amnesty to persons who were alleged to have committed acts that constituted crimes against humanity.

124. Since taking office, the Government had organized three free, fair and transparent legislative and local government elections under the auspices of the Independent Electoral Commission. More than 200 candidates had contested 53 seats in the legislative assembly, 400 candidates had contested 120 local council seats and 38 candidates had contested 7 mayoral and chair seats in municipalities and administrative regions across the country. The record participation of ordinary Gambians in the political process was mainly due to the new permissive political environment and the drastic reduction of monetary deposits payable by candidates to secure their participation in the elections. In addition, concrete steps had been taken with regard to electoral law reform. While the Government recognized that the ongoing constitutional review process would deal with more fundamental aspects of the electoral process, a conscious decision had been taken to engage all stakeholders of the political process in a consultative, inclusive and participatory legislative review exercise so as to ensure an inclusive, fair, transparent and level playing field in future elections. Those consultations were ongoing and the Elections Act was expected to be revised in 2020.

125. The fear of government had all but dissipated. People were freely expressing themselves without fear of arrest or intimidation. Civil society organizations had been allowed the space to operate freely. Reports of arbitrary arrests by security forces had significantly decreased, as had reports of detention without trial, enforced disappearance, and State-sanctioned murder or torture.

126. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to uphold the highest standards of human rights. The objective was to ensure a gradual realization of all human rights with a view to building a modern democratic State anchored in respect for the rule of law, human rights and democratic pluralism. The Gambia would continue to count on the support and goodwill of the international community and would continue engaging with bodies such as the Human Rights Council.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

127.1 **Ratify international legal instruments on human rights that Gambia is not yet party to (Niger);**

127.2 **Continue to review and accede to international human rights treaties and conventions (State of Palestine);**

127.3 **Continue the practice of becoming party to international instruments in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights (Azerbaijan);**

127.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**

127.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

127.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**

- 127.7 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the earliest convenience (Ghana);
- 127.8 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as previously recommended (Mali);
- 127.9 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Montenegro);
- 127.10 Continue to seek necessary international support to enhance its capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);
- 127.11 Consider issuing a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Rwanda);
- 127.12 Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);
- 127.13 Continue its efforts to submit outstanding reports to the treaty bodies (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 127.14 Continue with the ongoing institutional and legal reforms contained in the national development plan 2018–2021 aimed at addressing the backlog of State reports to treaty bodies (Ghana);
- 127.15 Fully implement certain recommendations, which Gambia accepted during the second cycle of the universal periodic review (Madagascar);
- 127.16 Adopt, with the support of the international community, a comprehensive package of measures to implement constitutional and democratic reforms (Niger);
- 127.17 Guarantee the full incorporation of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the new Constitution's declaration of rights (Spain);
- 127.18 Prioritize completion of the constitutional review process, taking into account the need for inclusive consultations (Uganda);
- 127.19 Continue to incorporate international human rights conventions that have been ratified by Gambia into domestic legislation (Indonesia);
- 127.20 Ensure media and freedom of expression provisions contained within the Constitution comply with international standards, as outlined under article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);
- 127.21 Continue with efforts to permanently abolish the death penalty in all circumstances by amending the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Criminal Code (Ireland);
- 127.22 Remove the death penalty from the Constitution (Germany);
- 127.23 Integrate abolition of the death penalty into the Penal Code and the Constitution (Switzerland);
- 127.24 Continue ongoing legislative reforms to adopt a new criminal code and code of criminal procedure, in line with international standards (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 127.25 Continue legislative reform efforts to review laws, in order to ensure their compatibility with the international obligations (Libya);
- 127.26 Take further measures for the completion of the legislative reform process in line with international standards (Azerbaijan);
- 127.27 Continue with the ongoing review of domestic laws in line with international best practices (Ghana);

- 127.28 Bring national legal provisions into line with international standards on freedom of expression under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, inter alia by repealing section 173A of the Information and Communications Amendment Act (2013), and by amending sections 25 (4) and 209 of the Constitution (Netherlands);
- 127.29 Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment against children in all settings, including in the home, and repeal all legal defences for its use, including the application of the concept of “reasonable chastisement” (Mexico);
- 127.30 Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 or pass legislation expressly prohibiting direct or indirect sexual harassment (Namibia);
- 127.31 Pass legislation that promotes and guarantees freedom of expression, access to information and media pluralism (Namibia);
- 127.32 Urgently review and bring into conformity with international and regional human rights obligations restrictive laws on the right to freedom of expression, including the relevant sections of the Criminal Code (Iceland);
- 127.33 Table and pass the Freedom of Information Bill soonest and continue to amend and ensure that its Information and Communications Act is in line with international best practices, which is linked to sustainable development goal 16 (Saint Kitts and Nevis);
- 127.34 Reconsider national laws related to the status of women, in particular the law on women, with a view to removing any provisions that are discriminatory against women (Serbia);
- 127.35 Incorporate into its domestic legal framework the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified in 2015 (Mexico);
- 127.36 Speedily enact the disability bill and allocate sufficient funds for its effective implementation to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres (Seychelles);
- 127.37 Enact legislation to implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance effectively (Seychelles);
- 127.38 Take further steps to eradicate all draconian laws aimed at stifling freedom of expression and other media laws (Sierra Leone);
- 127.39 Speed up the repealing of all discriminatory provisions in the Criminal Code (Sierra Leone);
- 127.40 Adopt the draft disability bill and continue to strengthen the implementation of the disability advocacy strategy to integrate the interests of persons with disabilities in the country’s development agenda (South Africa);
- 127.41 Take effective measures by means of policy and legislative reforms to combat the violation of children’s rights (India);
- 127.42 Adopt a law to combat discrimination that takes into account the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and ensures that victims of discrimination have access to appropriate remedies (Togo);
- 127.43 Ensure speedy enactment of the international human rights conventions in domestic legislation (Ukraine);
- 127.44 Protect the right to freedom of expression by repealing the Seditious Act and the Official Secrets Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 127.45 Amend the Children’s Act of 2005 to ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and child labour, and ensure its effective enforcement (Zambia);

- 127.46 Complete all internal procedures to enact the disability bill to provide statutory protections for the human rights of persons with disabilities (Bahamas);
- 127.47 Enact domestic legislation to bring all international human rights treaties into force (Bahamas);
- 127.48 Enact anti-discrimination legislation containing a comprehensive list of grounds for discrimination in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and providing for access to remedy for victims of discrimination (Belgium);
- 127.49 Protect freedom of expression by ensuring that all provisions of the Information and Communications Act of 2013 are brought into conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 127.50 Consider reviewing laws which could unduly restrict freedom of expression (Brazil);
- 127.51 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international human rights law (Brazil);
- 127.52 Reform the Criminal Code to protect freedom of the press and freedom of expression (Canada);
- 127.53 Modify or repeal the laws that restrict freedom of expression and complete the process of legislative reform in line with the review carried out by the national media law review committee (Chile);
- 127.54 Amend the Children's Act of 2005 to ensure that it covers all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and child labour, and ensure its effective enforcement (Honduras);
- 127.55 Finalize the adoption of the freedom of information bill to facilitate the public's access to information (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 127.56 Finalize the adoption of the disabilities bill to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 127.57 Amend laws that restrict freedom of expression, including sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code (Denmark);
- 127.58 Amend or repeal all laws that unduly restrict freedom of expression, both online and offline, and decriminalize press-related offences such as defamation, libel, sedition and the publication of false information, in accordance with international standards (Ireland);
- 127.59 Ensure freedom of expression and press freedom by repealing repressive provisions of the Criminal Code, in particular sections 51 and 52, which criminalize hateful remarks against the President of the Republic or the administration of justice, and sections 59 and 181, which criminalize the publication of "false information" or "information that causes fear" (France);
- 127.60 Reform the Criminal Code and the Information and Communications Act to ensure that freedom of expression and freedom of the press are protected (Germany);
- 127.61 Reform legislation on personal data protection and privacy in order to provide safeguards on the use of personal data and provide equal access to technology and communications to all citizens (Germany);
- 127.62 Take necessary measures to strengthen the functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 127.63 Take the necessary measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is adequately funded, the proper execution of its mandate,

and that conditions are in place to ensure the complete independence of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Portugal);

127.64 Strengthen the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission (Sudan);

127.65 Adopt necessary measures to ensure the independence and efficiency of the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions (Togo);

127.66 Secure independent and effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission (Ukraine);

127.67 Adopt the child protection strategy with appropriate action plans (Montenegro);

127.68 Further intensify its national training and awareness-raising programmes on gender-related laws for duty bearers and the public (Philippines);

127.69 Continue to strengthen educational and gender-equality policies, towards the greatest possible development and well-being of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

127.70 Continue the adoption and implementation of national action plans for continuous progress of the human rights standards (Azerbaijan);

127.71 Accelerate the adoption of the child protection strategy, and enforce appropriate plans for its implementation (Iraq);

127.72 Continue to take active measures to better protect the rights of women, children and people with disabilities (China);

127.73 Strengthen its resilience on the comprehensive reform agenda it has embarked on since 2017 (Ethiopia);

127.74 Adopt measures to guarantee the equal representation of women and men in all positions in the public and private sectors (Honduras);

127.75 Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls for sustained socioeconomic development (Pakistan);

127.76 Continue to strengthen, through the recently established ministry of women, children and social welfare, efforts aimed at the promotion of gender equality, access to social protection and educational campaigns, while paying specific attention to the needs of rural women (South Africa);

127.77 Eliminate legal discrimination against women, guarantee the effective application of the law prohibiting domestic violence and the law on sexual crimes as well as decriminalize voluntary termination of pregnancy and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);

127.78 Pursue comprehensive efforts to combat discrimination against women (Tunisia);

127.79 Continue implementing measures such as the national gender and women empowerment policy (2010–2020), with a view to combating problems faced by women and girls to access their rights on an equal footing with men, including in relation to access to rights to property, reproductive rights and protection against violence and discrimination (Uruguay);

127.80 Continue with the measures to guarantee the representation of women and men on equal terms in all decision-making positions in the public and private sectors (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

127.81 Effectively incorporate a gender perspective in the framework of the Gambia National Development Plan (2018–2021), and continue implementing all relevant public policies for ensuring women and girls' equality and empowerment (Cuba);

- 127.82 Remove all severe restrictions and discrimination, in law and in practice, regarding full enjoyment of human rights for women and girls to ensure their equal access and equal rights with men, including the right to land ownership, the right to education and reproductive rights (Myanmar);
- 127.83 Continue its national policy efforts to realize the participation of women and men in an equal and equitable manner in the economic, political and social spheres (Bahamas);
- 127.84 Take further action to enforce the ban on female genital mutilation, educate communities on the law, and protect the rights of women and girls (Australia);
- 127.85 Continue its efforts in enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of its people, and ensure their full enjoyment of human rights (Nigeria);
- 127.86 Continue intensifying international partnerships and cooperation in particular on socioeconomic development programmes (Philippines);
- 127.87 Continue to implement the national development plan 2018–2021 (Sudan);
- 127.88 Strengthen the implementation of the national development plan and its follow up, including through collaboration with other States (Indonesia);
- 127.89 Continue to implement the national development plan 2018–2021, strengthen efforts in poverty alleviation and promote sustainable economic and social development (China);
- 127.90 Ensure that women, children and persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in the development of legislation, policies and programmes on climate change and disaster risk reduction (Fiji);
- 127.91 Abolish the death penalty in the legal system (Spain);
- 127.92 Abolish the death penalty (Timor-Leste);
- 127.93 Continue to strengthen measures towards abolishing the death penalty in its national legislation (Argentina);
- 127.94 Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards complete abolition of this practice, and commute all remaining death sentences (Australia);
- 127.95 Complete the process of abolishing the death penalty (Central African Republic);
- 127.96 Consider formally abolishing the death penalty (Fiji);
- 127.97 Intensify the efforts to abolish the death penalty (Georgia);
- 127.98 Maintain the moratorium on executions with a view to legally abolishing the death penalty (Italy);
- 127.99 Criminalize torture and enforced disappearance, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Spain);
- 127.100 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention in order to put an end to persistent impunity and fully incorporate the Convention against Torture into national laws (Switzerland);
- 127.101 Consider appropriate measures to put an end to acts of torture, beatings and ill-treatment that may have been conducted by certain members of defence and security forces (Central African Republic);
- 127.102 Prevent the excessive use of force by public authorities, as well as cases of torture and extrajudicial executions (Italy);
- 127.103 Regulate excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies (Botswana);

- 127.104 Improve the judicial system by ending the practice of provisional detention of more than 72 hours and providing human rights training to police forces and judicial personnel (France);
- 127.105 Ensure that the enforcement of the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 and the Women's (Amendment) Act of 2015 is guaranteed and respected so as to eradicate the harmful traditional practice of female genital mutilation (Madagascar);
- 127.106 Step up the efforts to combat female genital mutilation and early child marriages (Maldives);
- 127.107 Raise awareness and enforce legislation prohibiting the practice of female genital mutilation (Germany);
- 127.108 Strengthen and accelerate mechanisms aiming at eradicating the harmful practice of female genital mutilation (Nepal);
- 127.109 Strengthen the measures to effectively address violence against women and girls and eliminate harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage (Slovenia);
- 127.110 Intensify efforts to eradicate harmful practices against women and child marriage through grass-roots sensitization and enforcement of relevant legislation such as the Children's Act and the Domestic Violence Act (Uganda);
- 127.111 Counteract female genital mutilation (Ukraine);
- 127.112 Intensify the application of the 2015 and 2016 laws that criminalize child marriage and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);
- 127.113 Sensitize the public, especially traditional and religious leaders, on the negative consequences of the practices of child marriage and female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);
- 127.114 Step up efforts to eradicate traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriage and forced marriage (Burundi);
- 127.115 Intensify the fight against child marriage and female genital mutilation (Central African Republic);
- 127.116 Ensure the implementation of the 2016 laws prohibiting genital mutilation and forced marriages (France);
- 127.117 Undertake awareness-raising campaigns, in particular among traditional and religious leaders, to combat sociocultural and religious burdens, as well as harmful traditional practices such as early marriages and female genital mutilation (Gabon);
- 127.118 Strengthen the efforts to fully implement the existing legislation aimed at preventing all harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation and early, child and forced marriages (Italy);
- 127.119 Take the necessary steps to investigate all allegations of torture in detention and ensure that prison conditions are in line with international standards (Portugal);
- 127.120 Ensure those accused of crimes have access to a timely and fair trial as well as improve sanitation and reduce overcrowding, physical abuse, and food shortages in Gambian prisons (United States of America);
- 127.121 Improve living conditions in prisons, including prisoners' access to medical care, and endeavour to prevent arbitrary arrests, detention, violence and ensure due process of the law is followed (Botswana);
- 127.122 Continue the process of strengthening the judicial system that started in 2017 which would provide the judiciary complete independence (India);
- 127.123 Strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary (Zambia);

- 127.124 **Intensify efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Iraq);**
- 127.125 **Continue and further strengthen capacity-building and training of police officers, prosecutors and other law enforcement agents on the application of relevant legislation in order to address the underreporting of sexual violence and the lack of accountability (Croatia);**
- 127.126 **Provide training to law enforcement and judiciary officers in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the amended Women's Act of 2015 (Denmark);**
- 127.127 **Intensify its efforts to address the impunity of police, security forces and correctional officers who committed extrajudicial killings, torture, beatings and ill-treatment (Myanmar);**
- 127.128 **Continue efforts to deal holistically and in a sustainable manner with four key areas of the fight against impunity, including the right to know, the right to justice, guarantees for non-repetition and the right to reparation (Switzerland);**
- 127.129 **Fully investigate, prosecute or otherwise hold accountable those individuals responsible for politically motivated killings and other serious human rights violations or abuses, including but not limited to those who may be recommended for prosecution by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (United States of America);**
- 127.130 **Design a comprehensive judicial policy to eliminate the barriers faced by women in gaining access to justice (Zambia);**
- 127.131 **Ensure that all persons who had or were alleged to have committed offences of enforced disappearances or other grave human rights violations do not benefit from any special amnesty law (Belgium);**
- 127.132 **Strengthen transparency and accountability in public affairs, including in a response to the attacks on journalists (Croatia);**
- 127.133 **Provide the necessary support to the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to investigate all past human rights abuses (Morocco);**
- 127.134 **Speed up the implementation of the transitional justice process, so as to advance national reconciliation (Mozambique);**
- 127.135 **Follow through on the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission so that those who are deemed responsible for human rights violations during the previous administration are held to account (Canada);**
- 127.136 **Guarantee the full operability and impartiality of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission of its activities and as a precondition for the long-term stabilization of Gambia (Italy);**
- 127.137 **Fully implement the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (Namibia);**
- 127.138 **Take additional measures to ensure full respect for freedom of expression and association, in line with international standards, as well as to ensure an enabling environment for human rights defenders and journalists, free from acts of intimidation and reprisals (Uruguay);**
- 127.139 **Promote women's representation in all decision-making positions, particularly in the legislative and executive branches (Timor-Leste);**
- 127.140 **Set out, publicly, steps the Government will take to ensure women's full participation and leadership in public life (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 127.141 **Continue the efforts in enhancing the representation of women in national and local institutions, including in the National Assembly (Bangladesh);**

- 127.142 Pursue the policy of eradicating inequality between men and women by taking measures to increase women's participation in political and public life, particularly in holding positions of responsibility (Djibouti);
- 127.143 Make further efforts to promote the respect of women's rights and to promote a greater participation of women in political life (Italy);
- 127.144 Pursue comprehensive efforts to combat human trafficking (Tunisia);
- 127.145 Ensure effective implementation of anti-trafficking legislation, including the timely and just prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 127.146 Increase efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers, and to address child sex tourism (United States of America);
- 127.147 Take effective measures to combat and prevent economic exploitation of children, especially child labour in family businesses and in the informal sector (Zambia);
- 127.148 Take effective measures to combat and prevent the economic exploitation of children, in particular child labour in family businesses and in the informal sector (Algeria);
- 127.149 Implement the Trafficking in Persons Act effectively, including by allocating adequate resources, and provide free legal and psychological support and compensation to victims of trafficking (Angola);
- 127.150 Adopt measures to address exploitation of women and girls in prostitution and child sex tourism, and provide assistance and rehabilitation to victims (Angola);
- 127.151 Make every effort to combat trafficking in persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.152 Apply effectively the law against trafficking in persons, providing the necessary resources to do this work, ensuring prompt identification and support for victims, as well as punishing those responsible (Chile);
- 127.153 Redouble efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Congo);
- 127.154 Strengthen efforts to combat youth unemployment through the provision of necessary resources for maintaining the Youth Empowerment Project (Mauritius);
- 127.155 Pursue efforts to eradicate horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market and to facilitate women's access to the economic sector (Algeria);
- 127.156 Intensify efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition, especially for children and pregnant women (Holy See);
- 127.157 Take effective measures to tackle food insecurity, malnutrition and children's nutritional needs (Congo);
- 127.158 Expedite the implementation of the 2018 national development plan, which promises to restore good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law for all citizens, while working towards eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (South Africa);
- 127.159 Continue its endeavours to eradicate extreme poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 127.160 Strengthen the national development plan 2018–2021 with a focus on the modernization of agriculture and the fishing industry to achieve sustainable economic growth, food and nutrition security and poverty reduction (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 127.161 Cater for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger as aspired by the Gambia National Development Plan (2018–2021) (Ethiopia);

127.162 Take into consideration the good practices and experiences in regional countries in the implementation of its National Social Protection Policy and national development plan for the promotion and protection of human rights (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

127.163 Enhance efforts to increase social security coverage (Timor-Leste);

127.164 Continue consolidating its social protection programmes in favour of its population, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

127.165 Ensure access to basic health care to all, in cities as well as in rural areas (Holy See);

127.166 Improve the health-care system, particularly by improving infrastructure and providing more resources for maternal health, including midwife training, with a focus on health care for mothers and their children through pregnancy and childbirth (Holy See);

127.167 Continue efforts to strengthen the health system and expand the provision of health services to all segments of society (Libya);

127.168 Intensify efforts to improve health services, through allocation of increased resources to the health sector, to ensure training of health extension workers and provision of adequate medical equipment and supplies to health facilities (Maldives);

127.169 Reduce the high rate of maternal and infant mortality, including by ensuring the availability of comprehensive sexual, reproductive and child health services, and that all births are assisted by a skilled birth attendant (Iceland);

127.170 Intensify efforts to improve health services, including the allocation of more resources to the health sector, with particular attention to the training of health workers, appropriate medical equipment and supply of health-care units (Serbia);

127.171 Continue effective implementation of the National Health Policy framework (2012–2020) especially by targeting the most vulnerable groups (India);

127.172 Intensify the implementation of the National Health Policy framework and its effort to promote equity in this regard (Indonesia);

127.173 Increase efforts to reduce and prevent maternal morbidity and mortality by implementing programmes and policies, as well as ensure adequate sexual and reproductive health services (Angola);

127.174 Intensify its efforts to promote the right to sanitation and health, through fighting malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases (Islamic Republic of Iran);

127.175 Continue efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the right to health (Egypt);

127.176 Further strengthen its efforts to provide full access to education and health for all in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and other partners (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

127.177 Pursue legislative measures to ensure inclusive and quality education (Libya);

127.178 Increase as far as possible the resources allocated to education so as to improve school infrastructure and ensure that children remain in school, especially girls, and the inclusion of children with disabilities (Mexico);

127.179 Continue its efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Pakistan);

- 127.180 **Allocate sufficient budgetary resources to its education sector to guarantee access to education by children and youth, including in rural areas (Philippines);**
- 127.181 **Intensify efforts to promote and safeguard the right to education for all (Sudan);**
- 127.182 **Strengthen efforts to improve access to and the quality of education, particularly in rural areas (Angola);**
- 127.183 **Continue its efforts to ensure the availability of education for all (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 127.184 **Maintain and intensify all measures to strengthen the right to education for all by promoting greater access for girls to primary school (Djibouti);**
- 127.185 **Redouble efforts to promote high quality education for young girls (Gabon);**
- 127.186 **Improve access to education for women and girls, and support the participation of women in the economic, social and cultural spheres by promoting policies for their empowerment (Mauritius);**
- 127.187 **Continue to further strengthen the legislative framework with a view to improving the gender approach and promote the place of women in political, economic and social life (Morocco);**
- 127.188 **Continue its efforts in promoting women's rights and take measures to ensure equal representation in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors (State of Palestine);**
- 127.189 **Take measures for equal access of women to education as well as adequate employment opportunities for them (Ukraine);**
- 127.190 **Implement and enforce the Domestic Violence Act of 2013, the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 and the Women's Act of 2010 (Canada);**
- 127.191 **Ensure the effective enforcement of article 28 of the Women's Act of 2010, which prohibits girls from being withdrawn from school for marriage (Congo);**
- 127.192 **Continue efforts to empower women (Egypt);**
- 127.193 **Continue to enhance measures to prevent violence against women and domestic violence (Nepal);**
- 127.194 **Effectively implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act by adopting the necessary regulations and allocating adequate resources (Iceland);**
- 127.195 **Strengthen implementation of legislation and policies aimed at combating violence against women and domestic violence, including through the establishment of programmes to provide psychosocial, medical, police and legal services to survivors of gender-based violence (Rwanda);**
- 127.196 **Expedite the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act (Sierra Leone);**
- 127.197 **Combat all forms of violence against women (Iraq);**
- 127.198 **Ensure full enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act by providing compensation to victims (Gabon);**
- 127.199 **Take steps to implement the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016, the Women's (Amendment) Act of 2015, the Children's Act of 2005 and other laws, improve community engagement, and raise awareness to promote the best interests of the child, as well as protect women and children from harmful practices (Solomon Islands);**

127.200 Ensure the effective application of the Children's (Amendment) Act of 2016 and the Women's (Amendment) Act of 2015, in particular regarding child marriage and female genital mutilation (Spain);

127.201 Pursue comprehensive efforts to protect the rights of the child, in accordance with the best interests of the child (Tunisia);

127.202 Continue to take the necessary measures to raise awareness of the consequences of child marriage, and ensure the punishment of such practice (Argentina);

127.203 Step up efforts to ensure effective access to education for persons with disabilities (Myanmar);

127.204 Step up efforts in the protection of persons with disabilities (Ukraine);

127.205 Continue advancing the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities within the framework of the National Social Protection Policy (2015–2025) (Cuba);

127.206 Expedite the process of adopting the disability bill seeking to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and address issues of equality and non-discrimination of disabled persons (Georgia);

127.207 Ensure universal registration at birth and take due measures to facilitate the registration of children above 5 years of age, so as to avoid statelessness (Holy See).

128. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by the Gambia and have been noted by the Gambia:

128.1 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and repeal any discriminatory laws (Iceland);

128.2 Amend legislation to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances as well as ensure that safe and legal abortion services and post-abortion care are available (Iceland);

128.3 Review national laws, including the personal law and the Women's Act of 2010, with a view to removing all provisions that are discriminatory towards women (Croatia);

128.4 Review the personal law and the Women's Act, with a view to removing the provisions that are discriminatory towards women with regard to marriage, divorce, inheritance, marital property, adoption and burial (Honduras);

128.5 Amend discriminatory laws against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Myanmar);

128.6 Repeal all legislation that criminalizes same-sex activities, including Criminal Code article 144 (Netherlands);

128.7 Decriminalize same-sex consensual relationships and adopt measures to guarantee non-discrimination based on sexual orientation (Spain);

128.8 Deepen efforts to combat acts of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ persons by repealing all discriminatory norms and by guaranteeing the investigation and punishment of all acts of violence against LGTIBQ persons (Argentina);

128.9 Amend legislation to decriminalize homosexuality (Australia);

128.10 Repeal all legislation that criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults and take all necessary measures to prevent discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression (Canada);

128.11 In line with the principle of non-discrimination, repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality, and combat violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation (Chile);

128.12 Decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults and take measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from arbitrary arrests and violence (Croatia);

128.13 Repeal sections 144, 145 and 147 of the Criminal Code, which criminalize consensual same-sex intercourse, and combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);

128.14 Decriminalize same-sex relationships between consenting adults and take measures to protect the human rights and the equal treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Germany);

128.15 Decriminalize homosexuality and take action to fight against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy).

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

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Gambia was headed by Honourable Mr. Abubacarr M. Tambadou, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Chernon Marenah; Solicitor General and Legal Secretary, Ministry of Justice;
 - Mrs. Tida Jatta; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic & Secondary Education;
 - Mrs. Fanta Bai Secka; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health;
 - Mr. Ousman Ceesay; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Interior;
 - Mrs. Amie Kolleh Jeng; Director of Public Finance, Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs;
 - Mr. Kajali Sonko; Deputy Director, Women's Bureau, Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare;
 - Mrs. Bafou Jeng; Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Chambers & Ministry of Justice.
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