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Universal periodic review

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

### Eswatini

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



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-ninth session from 1 to 12 November 2021. The review of Eswatini was held at the 9th meeting, on 8 November 2021. The delegation of Eswatini was headed by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Pholile Dlamini-Shakantu. At its 15th meeting, held on 12 November 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Eswatini.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Eswatini: France, Libya and Nepal.
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 Eswatini:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Eswatini 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 reaffirmed the commitment of Eswatini to respect, promote and protect human rights and to ensure a conducive environment for the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms. The Government appreciated the technical and financial assistance offered by OHCHR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commonwealth Secretariat and other development partners in the preparation for the review. The report had been drafted through a consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders.
6. Eswatini had not been spared from the current global challenges such as economic recession; global warming and the associated socioeconomic impacts; the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and the effects of cyclones and droughts. The unprecedented civil unrest had led to loss of lives, injuries and damage to property and infrastructure.
7. Despite those challenges, Eswatini had made strides in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights in different thematic areas since its previous review, including in the promotion of health, education and social security. Several progressive laws had been enacted to domesticate the human rights instruments the country had ratified, including the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, and its operational regulations (2021); the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018; the Public Order Act, 2017; and the Election of Women to the House of Assembly Act, 2018.
8. The Police Service Act, 2018, and the Correctional Services Act, 2017, had also been adopted, prohibiting law enforcement officers from inflicting torture and other forms of ill-treatment. The Suppression of Terrorism Act, 2008, had been amended, narrowing the

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/39/SWZ/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/39/SWZ/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/39/SWZ/3](#).

definition of the term “terrorist act” and providing for judicial review of ministerial orders designating organizations as proscribed entities.

9. The Law Reform Unit had been established to improve the process of domesticating international instruments and harmonizing national laws with the Constitution. Furthermore, in order to systematically coordinate the preparation of reports to the regional and international treaty monitoring bodies and to follow up on recommendations from various human rights mechanisms, in 2020, the permanent National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up had been established, with a full-time secretariat.

10. Eswatini was currently party to seven of the core international human rights treaties. While it had accepted recommendations to ratify several other international human rights instruments at the previous review, its efforts to accede to those instruments were still under way.

11. In 2017, Eswatini had submitted its initial report to the Human Rights Committee<sup>4</sup> and its combined second to fourth periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.<sup>5</sup> The preparation of its pending periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was also under way. At the regional level, in 2019, the country had presented its periodic reports under the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women (the Maputo Protocol) on 24 November 2021.

12. Efforts to operationalize and strengthen the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration were at an advanced stage. Eswatini continued to take the recommendation to abolish death penalty under advisement; the recommendation had not been implemented. Regarding non-discrimination and equality between men and women, there had been a significant paradigm shift concerning land ownership and the common law doctrine of marital power had been declared invalid. Thus, women married in community of property could now acquire and register property in their own names without their husbands’ consent. Eswatini acknowledged that there was a need to strengthen efforts to increase women’s access to decision-making positions.

13. Eswatini continued to grapple with the high prevalence of gender-based violence, which had further escalated due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The Government had implemented the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence (2017–2022) and approved national guidelines for shelters for survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, in 2020 the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration, with support from UNDP, had conducted an assessment to better understand the challenges in the implementation of the legislation on combating domestic violence. Emerging recommendations included training for key law enforcement officers; strengthening coordination within the Government and with respect to other relevant stakeholders; and improving care for the survivors of violence. Several non-governmental organizations had organized initiatives aimed at eliminating domestic violence, changing societal norms and values and providing protection for victims.

14. The Government had prioritized education; it had introduced free primary education, which had reached net enrolment of 92.7 per cent. Nevertheless, during the COVID-19 pandemic, schools had been temporarily closed between March 2020 and March 2021 and since that time, there had been an increase in cases of teenage pregnancy. The Ministry of Education was working to ensure that pregnant schoolgirls and young mothers were reintegrated in the education system in accordance with the Education and Training Sector Policy. The pandemic had also delayed the roll-out of several learning programmes, which had affected the quality of education. Despite the mitigation measures that had been taken, not all learners had been able to access those programmes due to their socioeconomic

<sup>4</sup> [CCPR/C/SWZ/Q/1/Add.1](#), submitted as the replies of the State to the Committee’s list of issues in the absence of a report, and subsequently accepted by the Committee as the initial report.

<sup>5</sup> [CRC/C/SWZ/2-4](#).

backgrounds. The Government was working to ensure that learners returned to school and it continued to invest resources in the education sector to ensure quality education.

15. Eswatini continued to strive for universal health coverage, to ensure everyone had access to equitable, affordable and quality health care, irrespective of socioeconomic status. In 2020, 10.5 per cent of the total government budget had been allocated to the Ministry of Health to support its programmes. Eswatini had been recognized for achieving ahead of time global targets set by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. The life expectancy of persons infected with HIV had increased from 47 to 63 years, according to the 2017 census. Nevertheless, despite all the robust programmes in place for HIV interventions, prevalence remained high. The Government would continue to collaborate with its partners with a view to eliminating HIV/AIDS in Eswatini.

16. A supplementary budget of 200 million emalangeni had been approved to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including to increase the number of health facilities. A resource mobilization committee had been established to address the disease. About 21 per cent of the population had been fully vaccinated as at November 2021, reaching the World Health Organization target. Eswatini expressed appreciation to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and all development partners. In addition, the Government had made concerted efforts to coordinate a multisectoral response through the National Disaster Management Agency, including a COVID-19 relief programme to support over 300,000 vulnerable persons in the form of cash transfers and food parcels. Furthermore, a fund had been established to provide relief to employees who had been made redundant as a result of the effects of the pandemic. To date, the fund had provided compensation to a total of 23,040 employees from 155 companies.

17. Eswatini had managed to reduce the poverty rate from 63 per cent in 2010 to 58.9 per cent in 2017. Poverty remained more prevalent in rural areas (70.2 per cent) than in urban areas (19.6 per cent). The relevant budget allocation had been increased and a number of policies and strategies to alleviate poverty put in place. Budget allocations for social protection programmes, including the Orphans and Vulnerable Children Education Grants, and grants for the elderly and persons with disabilities, had increased over the years. Eswatini had also developed a national social security policy, a national health insurance scheme within the Ministry of Health and an unemployment benefit fund.

18. With support from UNDP and other development partners, Eswatini had invested in building resilience to climate shocks and disasters. Although Eswatini was one of the lowest greenhouse gas emitters, it had submitted its nationally determined contribution commitment under the Paris Agreement, proposing to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 14 per cent and increasing access to renewable energy by 50 per cent by 2030.

19. Eswatini had experienced civil unrest from mid-May 2021 owing to a combination of socioeconomic, political and criminal factors, including challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as job losses, which had adversely affected the Government's interventions in several areas. Protests had been accompanied by extensive violence and looting.

20. Eswatini was currently considering the preliminary findings on the events surrounding the civil unrest and the recommendations that had been issued by the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration. Furthermore, an assessment of the impact of the unrest on vulnerable groups had been commissioned in order to draft a plan of action. A national dialogue would begin in early 2022, and a reconstruction fund financed by the Government, the business community, corporate institutions and development partners had been set up to support businesses affected during the civil unrest.

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

21. During the interactive dialogue, 79 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Botswana commended Eswatini for its establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up and the Law Reform Unit in 2020 to comply with international norms and standards.

23. Brazil commended Eswatini for its adoption of national plans on domestic violence and positive parenting, its efforts to prevent corruption and its moratorium on the death penalty.
24. Burkina Faso welcomed the measures taken by Eswatini to implement the recommendations made during the previous review, in 2016, and its adoption of the National Gender Policy.
25. Canada welcomed the adoption by Eswatini of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018. Canada expressed concern that in July, the Government of Eswatini had blocked access to the Internet.
26. Chile welcomed the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, the National Gender Policy and the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence (2017–2022).
27. The Congo noted with interest the strengthening in Eswatini of the legislative and regulatory framework for the protection of human rights and the country's desire to ensure that those rights were effectively protected.
28. Costa Rica welcomed the progress made in recognizing women's rights, particularly in the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, and made recommendations.
29. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the enactment of several laws, including the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, and encouraged the authorities to continue their efforts to improve the situation.
30. Czechia expressed appreciation for the progress made in terms of the rights of women and girls. It expressed concern at recent reports of killings of people during the pro-democracy protests.
31. The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked Eswatini for presenting its national report and for promulgating the Persons with Disabilities Act and the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.
32. Denmark welcomed the progress made by Eswatini on combating child, early and forced marriage. Nevertheless, it remained concerned at the high rate of teenage pregnancy and at the discrimination and stigmatization faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.
33. Djibouti welcomed the incorporation by Eswatini of previous review recommendations into national legislation, sectoral policies, plans and programmes of action. It appreciated the establishment of the National Gender Policy, the Education and Training Sector Policy, the National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health and the National Disability Policy.
34. Egypt commended the Government of Eswatini for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and its efforts to combat HIV, to achieve strategic goals and to ensure free primary education.
35. Estonia appreciated the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act. It encouraged Eswatini to initiate investigations into allegations of human rights violations committed during the June 2021 protests and to hold the perpetrators accountable.
36. Fiji commended Eswatini for its reflection on discrimination against women and its commitment to continue working towards gender equality, women's empowerment and the enjoyment of women's rights.
37. Finland expressed appreciation for the engagement of Eswatini in the universal periodic review process and made recommendations.
38. France took note of the information provided in the national report of Eswatini and made recommendations.
39. Gabon welcomed measures to promote quality education, including for those with special needs, and efforts to combat discrimination against women and promote gender equality, including regarding access to land.

40. Georgia welcomed the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up. It valued the steps Eswatini had taken to develop human rights policies, including the National Gender Policy and the Education and Training Sector Policy.
41. Germany commended Eswatini on its Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act. Nevertheless, it expressed concern at the deployment of armed security forces at schools, reports of excessive use of force in response to student demonstrations and the indefinite closure of schools. It urged Eswatini to refrain from violence.
42. Haiti welcomed the adoption of legislative measures, the development of human rights sectoral policies and the adoption of measures to better protect the family and persons with disabilities.
43. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Eswatini and its national report and made recommendations.
44. India appreciated the development of sectoral human rights policies and the Economic Recovery Plan 2020, aimed at mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.
45. Indonesia welcomed the wide-ranging efforts Eswatini had made to develop sectoral human rights policies, including in the fields of gender equality, education and training, the rights of persons with disabilities and financial inclusion.
46. Iraq expressed its appreciation for the efforts of Eswatini to eliminate violence against women, ensure equality between men and women and increase access to safe drinking water.
47. Ireland was encouraged by the progress made on adopting legislation on sexual and gender-based violence. It expressed concern about the severe restrictions on freedom of expression and of association and on the right to peaceful assembly, including the excessive use of force against protestors, and about the stigmatization of people living with HIV.
48. Italy appreciated the legislative steps taken by Eswatini to protect the human rights of women and girls and to prevent and combat discrimination and violence against them. It looked forward to the increased participation of women in political and public affairs.
49. Kenya commended Eswatini for having domesticated several international legislative instruments since the previous review cycle, especially for the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018.
50. Latvia welcomed Eswatini to the universal periodic review and thanked it for presenting its national report.
51. Lesotho applauded Eswatini for its efforts to eliminate discrimination and inequality against women. Lesotho noted the measures taken to curb domestic violence by developing the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence.
52. Libya appreciated the steps Eswatini had taken to develop the education sector and to strengthen and protect human rights through its continuous endeavour to ratify human rights instruments.
53. Luxembourg welcomed the progress Eswatini had made, as noted by the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and encouraged it to continue its efforts. Nevertheless, Luxembourg was concerned about the situation of civil and political rights.
54. Malawi welcomed Eswatini and acknowledged the strides being made in the promotion and protection of human rights.
55. Malaysia commended Eswatini on the steps it had taken to protect persons with albinism from violence through law enforcement. Malaysia noted the efforts of Eswatini to improve the right to education and its expansion of health-care programmes.
56. Maldives commended Eswatini for enacting the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and welcomed the provisions concerning sexual offences and domestic violence.
57. Mali welcomed the creation of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up and called upon the international community to provide Eswatini with the necessary financial assistance to execute its development strategies.

58. Mauritania commended Eswatini for its legislative and institutional reforms and appreciated its progress in education, training, reproductive health and policies relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities.
59. Mauritius praised Eswatini for having domesticated several international human rights treaties and applauded its efforts to increase women's empowerment and its adoption of the Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise Policy to contribute to poverty alleviation.
60. Replying to questions sent in advance and issues raised during the interactive dialogue, the delegation of Eswatini acknowledged that abortion had not been legalized. Nevertheless, the Constitution provided for instances where abortion might be permissible. With regard to measures taken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and persons with albinism, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, and the National Disability Plan of Action (2018–2022) had been adopted to that end. Nevertheless, the lack of resources was challenging their implementation. Eswatini prioritized the investigation of cases of violence against persons with albinism, especially girls and women.
61. The delegation highlighted the fact that, in addition to participating in general elections, citizens could participate in public affairs and governance in other ways, such as taking part in national dialogues.
62. While acknowledging that certain sectors of the population had expressed dissatisfaction with the current electoral system, the delegation stressed that Eswatini supported free and transparent elections and that plans for a national dialogue were under way. In the event that there was a need to implement any changes, the procedures established in the Constitution would be followed.
63. Regarding measures taken to ensure that women could pass their nationality on their children, the delegation highlighted the adoption in 2019 of a national action plan that included the removal of gender discrimination from the nationality law. Nevertheless, implementation of that plan had been delayed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the question of inheritance and property rights for women, the delegation noted that the Constitution enshrined the property rights of spouses. Moreover, the Government was currently developing a matrimonial property bill to clearly define the interests of spouses in marital property.
64. With regard to the protection and promotion of freedom of expression and of association and the right to peaceful assembly, the delegation indicated that the Public Order Act, 2017, had been supplemented by the Code of Practice for Industrial Protest and the Code of Practice on Gatherings. Those instruments had been developed after broad consultations. The constitutionality of the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act of 1938 was being tested in the superior courts of Eswatini following the filing of an appeal.
65. In relation to the implementation of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, Eswatini had recently opened one shelter to provide a safe place for survivors of violence. Every police station had a domestic violence, child protection and sexual offences unit. Furthermore, the Government and non-governmental organizations had put in place toll-free telephone lines and free text-based messaging platforms to facilitate the reporting of cases of domestic and gender-based violence.
66. Mexico applauded the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, the Persons with Disabilities Act and the implementation of the Education and Training Sector Policy.
67. Montenegro welcomed the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, encouraged Eswatini to ratify international human rights treaties and commended the significant steps it had taken to combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination.
68. Morocco welcomed the establishment of the Law Reform Unit and noted the major developments in strengthening the place of women in society and in income-generating sectors of activity.
69. Mozambique appreciated the progress made by Eswatini on the implementation of the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review.

70. Namibia recognized the progress Eswatini had made in terms of human rights promotion and protection and noted the measures taken to address violence and to increase gender equality and empower women in Eswatini.

71. Nepal appreciated the steps Eswatini had taken to empower women and its adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act. Nepal encouraged Eswatini to implement its development plans and strategies aimed at reducing poverty.

72. The Netherlands commended the efforts of Eswatini to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. The Netherlands was alarmed by the amendment to the Public Order Act.

73. The Niger welcomed the adoption by Eswatini of several laws relating to human rights and noted its policies framing the enjoyment of human rights to improve the lives of the population.

74. Nigeria commended the efforts of Eswatini to implement recommendations from the previous reviews and its progress in protecting the rights of women and girls, including its efforts to eliminate discrimination and inequality.

75. Pakistan welcomed the consultative process for promoting the operational and financial independence of the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration. It encouraged Eswatini to accelerate efforts for the economic and social empowerment of women.

76. The Philippines recognized the constructive approach Eswatini had taken to the universal periodic review process. It acknowledged the efforts made in advancing the human rights of vulnerable groups, including women and persons with disabilities.

77. Portugal noted with satisfaction the establishment in Eswatini, in early 2019, of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up and welcomed the achievement of the 95-95-95 HIV global target set for 2025.

78. Rwanda noted with satisfaction the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, aimed at addressing the high rates of sexual and gender-based violence in Eswatini.

79. Senegal noted with satisfaction that since its previous review, Eswatini had enacted several laws in order to incorporate into national legislation the various international human rights instruments it had ratified.

80. Serbia welcomed the commitment of Eswatini to the universal periodic review process, its dedication to anti-discrimination and the concrete legislative and institutional measures it had taken.

81. Sierra Leone commended Eswatini on its decision to allow pregnant girls and adolescent mothers to attend school. It regretted that Eswatini had noted its recommendation to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

82. Slovenia welcomed the efforts of Eswatini to combat discrimination against women. It was concerned that the rights to freedom of expression and of association and to peaceful assembly remained restricted, with political parties still not allowed to register.

83. South Africa commended Eswatini on the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, and welcomed the strategy, plan of action and guidelines to address gender-based violence.

84. South Sudan made recommendations.

85. Spain welcomed the progress Eswatini had made in the field of education with an almost universal enrollment rate at the primary level. It was concerned at the severe restrictions on freedom of expression and of association and on the right to peaceful assembly.

86. Sri Lanka welcomed the normative framework put in place to protect women's rights through legislation, jurisprudence, the National Gender Policy and programmes launched to facilitate the economic empowerment of women.
87. Togo welcomed the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and the Persons with Disabilities Act, as well as the development of the National Gender Policy.
88. Tunisia welcomed the establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up and the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, the Persons with Disabilities Act and the Correctional Services Act.
89. Uganda welcomed the development in Eswatini of a national strategy on women's participation in politics and decision-making. It urged the Government to ensure completion of the strategy.
90. Ukraine welcomed the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act into law, and the strategy, plan of action and guidelines to address gender-based violence, as well as the Persons with Disabilities Act.
91. The United Arab Emirates commended efforts made in many vital sectors, especially education, with the aim of enabling all children, including those with special needs, orphans and vulnerable children, to obtain a quality education.
92. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland highlighted the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018. It expressed concern at the limited progress on accessibility and safe reporting mechanisms for victims, and at the excessive use of force by military police against protestors. It urged Eswatini to ensure accountability for all human rights violations, to sign the global pledge on media freedom and to allow media workers to do their work without fear of harassment.
93. The United Republic of Tanzania commended Eswatini for the progress it had made in developing sectoral policies guiding the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights and improving the livelihoods of the population.
94. The United States of America commended the Prime Minister's statements on respecting freedom of expression and the pledge that allegations of brutality by the security forces would be investigated and dealt with appropriately.
95. Uruguay commended the recent establishment of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up.
96. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the adoption of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and the Persons with Disabilities Act. It mentioned the implementation of the HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis prevention programmes.
97. Zambia made recommendations.
98. Zimbabwe underlined the adoption of Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018, the increased number of health facilities, the development of the Education and Training Sector Policy and the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence (2017–2022).
99. Algeria highlighted the progress made by Eswatini to address stigmatization and discrimination related to HIV through plans and strategies.
100. Angola welcomed the progress made by Eswatini in the health sector, particularly the remarkable results regarding the 95-95-95 HIV global target set for 2025.
101. Argentina made recommendations.
102. Armenia welcomed the efforts made to fight discrimination against women, in particular by adopting legislation on the right to work. It acknowledged the negative impact of COVID-19 and the exacerbated socioeconomic challenges it had created.
103. Australia welcomed the enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, and progress made towards achieving gender equality for all the population. Australia regretted the loss of life and injuries sustained following the unrest in 2021, condemned acts of violence and encouraged peaceful dialogue about the way forward.

104. The Bahamas commended the enactment of several pieces of legislation that domesticated international human rights instruments ratified by Eswatini, of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, and the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence (2017–2022). It recognized the challenges faced by Eswatini, including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

105. Belgium noted the efforts made by the Government of Eswatini since the previous review. Nevertheless, it stressed that there was room for further progress.

106. Ghana commended Eswatini for the adoption of human rights legislation, including the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act and the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, and its efforts to ensure the effective administration of justice and fair trials.

107. The delegation of Eswatini highlighted the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Programmes, the recommendations of which had resulted in the establishment of the Regional Development Fund, the Youth Enterprise Fund and the social grants for the elderly, people living with disabilities, and orphaned and vulnerable children. It provided details of the budget allocations for those initiatives, including the budgetary increases for social grants over the years. Efforts to eradicate poverty had been accelerated, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and Goal 2 was being prioritized in an effort to end hunger and achieve food security. Eswatini had also made a commitment to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water for all under Goal 6. To that end, a master plan was under development to guide the implementation of projects aimed at ensuring that the country attained 100 per cent access to water, sanitation and hygiene services by 2030.

108. Regarding compliance with its international obligations, Eswatini emphasized its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies and its accession to many of the major human rights treaties. Eswatini would also accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

109. The delegation clarified that the 1973 decree banning political parties had been revoked with the entry into force of the 2005 Constitution. Labour laws prohibited the employment of children in industrial work unless the child was an immediate family member of the employer. Furthermore, Eswatini had a programme of action on combating child labour and a dedicated child labour unit within the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

110. The delegation stated that the legislative framework of Eswatini protected girls from early and forced marriages. Awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns were carried out, and the office of the Deputy Prime Minister referred reported cases to the criminal justice system for investigations and prosecution.

111. Regarding access to education for pregnant girls, the delegation stated that the Government acknowledged the right of all children, irrespective of their circumstances, to be integrated in the same institution as they had previously attended. The Government provided education grants to orphaned and vulnerable children, and scholarship loans to students wishing to undertake tertiary education. Nevertheless, the increased demand for scholarship loans was putting a strain on government resources.

112. On the prevention of HIV/AIDS and related stigma and discrimination, the delegation referred to its 2019 national survey, which had indicated that less than 10 per cent of respondents had been found to be experiencing stigma and discrimination. Eswatini had made a commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2022. That commitment had been embodied in its National Multisectoral HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework (2018–2022), which had been implemented taking a decentralized approach involving key stakeholders and regional and community-level structures. The delegation provided further details on measures taken to achieve the 2030 global goals relating to HIV-AIDS well ahead of schedule.

113. Regarding measures to promote sexual and reproductive health rights, the delegation referred to the National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Health (2013), the updated HIV policy of 2020–2030 and the health policy of 2016–2026, which integrated adolescents and

youth-friendly services. It also provided information on community outreach services and collaboration with civil society partners in that regard.

114. The delegation explained that the Election of Women to the House of Assembly Act, 2018, provided for the election of four women on a regional basis, in the event that the 30 per cent quota was not met at the first sitting of the House of Assembly. In addition, Eswatini had developed gender-sensitive national guidelines for electoral processes.

115. With regard to the rights of LGBTIQI+ persons and the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults, the delegation stated that the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act criminalized sexual offences carried out without the consent of any of the adults involved, adding that sexual activities in private settings were not penalized in Eswatini.

116. The delegation acknowledged the unprecedented civil unrest in Eswatini and the lack of an independent investigating body to deal with the allegations of police brutality and excessive use of force against citizens. The Government was exploring legal and political options to address the situation in a credible manner; violence was contrary to the national values of peace and respect.

117. The delegation expressed its appreciation to the participating countries, especially the troika, and the secretariat and committed to take the necessary steps to work on the proposed recommendations with all the relevant stakeholders, including civil society and development partners.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

118.1 **Ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties (Ukraine);**

118.2 **Ratify the optional protocols to the two main international human rights covenants, as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Luxembourg);**

118.3 **Progressively ratify key and relevant international human rights instruments (Malawi);**

118.4 **Consider the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile); Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal);**

118.5 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, establishing deadlines in this regard (Spain);**

118.6 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as recommended and accepted by Eswatini at its second universal periodic review (Zambia);**

118.7 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Argentina) (Côte d'Ivoire) (Namibia) (Togo);**

118.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and commute death sentences to prison sentences (Mexico);**

- 118.9 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty (Iceland);**
- 118.10 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**
- 118.11 **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);**
- 118.12 **Finalize the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Speed up the process of the ratification to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (South Sudan);**
- 118.13 **Intensify efforts to ratify outstanding international treaties and protocols, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);**
- 118.14 **Accelerate the ongoing national process to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mozambique);**
- 118.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Costa Rica) (Finland) (Namibia);**
- 118.16 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Bahamas) (Nigeria);**
- 118.17. **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**
- 118.18 **Finalize the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Speed up the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (South Sudan); Accelerate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);**
- 118.19 **Intensify efforts to ratify outstanding international treaties and protocols, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**
- 118.20. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Burkina Faso) (Costa Rica) (Czechia) (Denmark) (Kenya) (Mali) (Niger) (Sierra Leone) (Zambia);**
- 118.21 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and take the necessary steps to prevent torture and other human rights violations by law enforcement and security services, including by ensuring impartial investigations of all allegations, prosecuting perpetrators and implementing human rights training programmes (Germany);**
- 118.22 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mauritania);**
- 118.23 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Argentina);**
- 118.24 **Consider accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);**

- 118.25 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed in 2007 (France);**
- 118.26 **Consider accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 118.27 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Haiti);**
- 118.28 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Rwanda);**
- 118.29 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it into national legislation (Estonia);**
- 118.30 **Ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) (Sierra Leone);**
- 118.31 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);**
- 118.32 **Request technical support from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to advance in the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, and ensure the alignment of its national legal system with the obligations derived from the ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);**
- 118.33 **Intensify efforts to submit and discuss human rights reports to treaty bodies (Iraq);**
- 118.34 **Consider extending a standing invitation to all the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended (Latvia);**
- 118.35 **Issue a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders (Montenegro);**
- 118.36. **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Ukraine);**
- 118.37 **Pursue collaborative efforts with human rights mechanisms (Niger);**
- 118.38 **Continue efforts to incorporate the international instruments ratified by Eswatini into domestic laws (Egypt);**
- 118.39 **Take measures to guarantee the implementation of all enacted legislation which domesticates the various human rights conventions ratified by the country (Mozambique);**
- 118.40 **Take into account and adopt concrete measures to implement the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms related to the Sustainable Development Goals (Chile);**
- 118.41 **Finalize the approval process for the national strategy and the action plan on positive parenting (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**
- 118.42 **Continue efforts within the framework of the strategic road map for the period 2018–2023 aimed at reviving the economy and achieving inclusive growth (Mauritania);**
- 118.43 **Continue with the efforts to promote and protect human rights for the population, particularly for vulnerable groups (Mozambique);**
- 118.44 **Continue to take measures to bring the national human rights framework into line with the international human rights obligations of Eswatini (Pakistan);**

- 118.45 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Ukraine);**
- 118.46 **Continue to strengthen national human rights mechanisms, including through the proposed law on human rights and public administration (Sri Lanka);**
- 118.47 **Strengthen national data systems to support the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth as well as the 2030 Agenda (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.48 **Pursue the efforts to ensure the adequate functioning and full independence of the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);**
- 118.49 **Take steps to fully operationalize the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration with adequate financial resources and in accordance with the Paris Principles (Haiti);**
- 118.50 **Provide the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration with sufficient independence and human and financial resources to fulfil its mandate, and establish an effective complaints mechanism, with reparation to victims (Montenegro);**
- 118.51 **Pursue the efforts already made, particularly by strengthening the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration, its prerogatives and the resources allocated to it (Morocco);**
- 118.52 **Consider implementing measures to upgrade the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration to an A category institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**
- 118.53 **Expedite efforts for the finalization of the human rights and public administration bill, which should further strengthen the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration (Pakistan);**
- 118.54 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Senegal);**
- 118.55 **Include human rights in the work of the commission to reform legislation, which is due to be established, according to paragraph 13 of the national report (United Arab Emirates);**
- 118.56 **Establish an independent and impartial national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Zambia);**
- 118.57 **Consider developing a national action plan on human rights, including on the business sector (Indonesia);**
- 118.58 **Continue efforts to solicit funds for the functioning of the Anti-corruption Commission (Lesotho);**
- 118.59 **Continue its efforts to ensure the protection of persons with albinism, including by ensuring they have access to education and medical services (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 118.60 **Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults (Denmark);**
- 118.61 **Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and children, and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji);**
- 118.62 **Consider adopting legal and policy measures to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by decriminalizing same-sex relations (Brazil);**

- 118.63 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Iceland);**
- 118.64 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation clearly prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and effectively investigate all acts of violence against LGBTI+ persons (Iceland);**
- 118.65 **Decriminalize consensual adult same-sex relations and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy);**
- 118.66 **Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and decriminalize same-sex relationships (Luxembourg);**
- 118.67 **Incorporate into national legislation the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and repeal laws that criminalize consensual sexual relations between same-sex persons (Mexico);**
- 118.68 **Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity and decriminalize homosexual behaviour between consenting adults (Canada);**
- 118.69 **Consider carrying out the relevant policies and procedures to prohibit all types of discrimination, based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**
- 118.70 **Prohibit clearly in legislation discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, guarantee the effective investigation of all acts of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and consider decriminalizing consensual relationships between adults of the same sex (Spain);**
- 118.71 **Fight effectively against negative beliefs and stereotypes associated with albinism (Congo);**
- 118.72 **Ensure protection, in law and in practice, against all forms of violence and discrimination against persons with albinism (Ukraine);**
- 118.73 **Redouble efforts to combat HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination (Ukraine);**
- 118.74 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct and take measures to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.75 **Decriminalize consenting same-sex relations and ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Costa Rica);**
- 118.76 **Take specific measures to fight against discrimination and violence against persons with albinism (Angola);**
- 118.77 **Enact laws that expressly prohibit crimes motivated by prejudices against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina);**
- 118.78 **Repeal or amend laws discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and other minority groups, including those that criminalize consensual same-sex acts between adults (Australia);**
- 118.79 **Ensure that all deaths in custody and cases of torture and ill-treatment are promptly investigated, with the perpetrators prosecuted, convicted and held to account (Fiji);**
- 118.80 **Adopt a de jure moratorium on capital executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**
- 118.81 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Latvia);**

- 118.82 **Provide concrete measures for the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**
- 118.83. **Abolish the death penalty (Rwanda);**
- 118.84 **Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns and public debates on the death penalty from a human rights perspective, including in its Parliament, with a view to realizing its definitive abolition, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as soon as possible (Uruguay);**
- 118.85 **Abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica);**
- 118.86 **Abolish the death penalty (Angola);**
- 118.87 **Establish an immediate formal moratorium on the death penalty with the view to its ultimate abolition, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 118.88 **Adopt a specific law to prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment that is in accordance with the provisions of international law on the subject (France);**
- 118.89 **Ensure that impartial investigations are carried out, that the perpetrators are prosecuted and that human rights training is provided, in accordance with Eswatini's obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Canada);**
- 118.90 **Ensure the allocation of sufficient resources to programmes on combating trafficking in persons and provide adequate services to victims to support their reintegration and rehabilitation (Philippines);**
- 118.91 **Strengthen the task force against human trafficking to adequately address cases of trafficking and forced child labour (Uganda);**
- 118.92 **Fully fund and implement the anti-trafficking national action plan, and allow the anti-trafficking taskforce to lead these efforts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.93 **Take all measures to combat arbitrary arrests and detentions and to guarantee fair trials (France);**
- 118.94 **Continue efforts to improve prison conditions and the treatment of people in detention, involving also possible bilateral international cooperation (Indonesia);**
- 118.95 **Beef up measures to address overcrowding in detention centres (Lesotho);**
- 118.96 **Improve conditions in detention facilities and bring the regulations governing prison conditions in line with international standards such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Maldives);**
- 118.97 **Ensure the freedom of assembly, association and expression, including media freedom, online and offline (Estonia);**
- 118.98 **Respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including by ensuring that representatives of political parties, the media and the civil society are not prohibited from exercising these rights (Finland);**
- 118.99 **Develop legislation to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including by allowing political parties to register and contest elections (Ireland);**

- 118.100 Urgently adopt all necessary measures to remove the restrictions which prevent the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression and association, as well as media freedom (Italy);
- 118.101 Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and media freedom (Latvia);
- 118.102 Immediately end law enforcement violence and other restrictions against people exercising their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association (Luxembourg);
- 118.103 Modify or repeal the laws which unduly restrict civil and political rights, including the Public Order Act and certain elements of the Suppression of Terrorism Act, in order to bring laws into conformity with international law relating to human rights (Canada);
- 118.104 Amend the Public Order Act of 2017 so that it fully protects the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful association and assembly, and allow all people to express their views without fear of reprisals (Netherlands);
- 118.105 Take concrete measures to guarantee civil and political rights, including civil society space and press freedom (Sierra Leone);
- 118.106 Reform, in accordance with international human rights standards, all legislation that unduly restricts freedom of expression and association, in particular, the Suppression of Terrorism Act and the Suppression of Sedition and Subversive Activities Act (Spain);
- 118.107 Amend legislation which restricts freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and take steps to guarantee space for civil society actors and journalists to operate without fear of reprisals (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 118.108 Investigate allegations of human rights violations by security forces against protesters between May and July 2021 and ensure accountability (United States of America);
- 118.109 Repeal the Suppression of Terrorism Act, 2008 as amended in 2017, to bring it in line with Eswatini's Constitution as well as the country's obligations under international and regional human rights law (Belgium);
- 118.110 Take steps to prevent excessive use of force by law enforcement against peaceful protesters and ensure that allegations of excessive use of force are promptly, independently and transparently investigated (Belgium);
- 118.111 Continue to reinforce relevant measures to promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly (Ghana);
- 118.112 Strengthen efforts to ensure the implementation of the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Ghana);
- 118.113 Reform expeditiously the Suppression of Terrorism Act and the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act so that they cannot be used to undermine the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Czechia);
- 118.114 Enter into a genuine, inclusive and comprehensive dialogue with demonstrators (Germany);
- 118.115 Intensify the reform of the judicial system (Estonia);
- 118.116 Implement constitutional protections to ensure the independence of the judiciary and Parliament (Estonia);
- 118.117 Strengthen the fight against impunity of members of the security forces in the event of manifest violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms (France);

- 118.118 Fully implement Constitutional provisions in order to ensure the enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and the independence of the judiciary and the Parliament (Portugal);
- 118.119 Lift the ban on the registration of political parties (France);
- 118.120 Revise the electoral system in order to allow political parties to participate in elections (Italy);
- 118.121 Guarantee free and fair elections by ensuring the independence of bodies responsible for elections and anti-corruption (Maldives);
- 118.122 Consider reviewing the King's Decree on political parties (Sierra Leone);
- 118.123 Revoke the decree banning political parties, and allow the registration and operation of political parties (Slovenia);
- 118.124 Formally declare to the people of Eswatini that the 2005 Constitution revoked the ban on political parties under the 1973 Decree, and work with civil society to draft regulations to the Elections Act that clarify how political parties and party-affiliated candidates are permitted to participate in the electoral space (United States of America);
- 118.125 Strengthen the participation of young people in political decision-making processes (Angola);
- 118.126 Revise the Constitution and other laws and policies by its next universal periodic review in order to allow forming of political parties and facilitating all forms of participation in political and public life in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czechia);
- 118.127 Make efforts to promote the enjoyment of the right to health, guaranteeing access to quality health services, including for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, and investing in awareness-raising campaigns to ensure that all people are duly informed about the risks of transmission of this disease, as well as to combat the stigmatization associated with it (Uruguay);
- 118.128 Continue promoting its successful social policies to increase the quality of life of its people, in particular of the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 118.129 Continue the implementation of economic and social development programmes in order to reduce disparities (Algeria);
- 118.130 Prioritize measures to promote agricultural productivity and food security, including by ensuring women's equitable access to land (Botswana);
- 118.131 Strengthen social protection floors catering for the vulnerable and marginalized groups in society (Zimbabwe);
- 118.132 Take concrete steps to address poverty with particular focus on people living in rural areas (India);
- 118.133 Continue efforts to reduce poverty, combat hunger, and seek economic recovery and inclusive growth in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Libya);
- 118.134 Take steps to end extreme poverty, particularly in rural areas (Sierra Leone);
- 118.135 Take concrete steps to address poverty with particular focus on people living in rural areas (Ukraine);
- 118.136 Continue to take the necessary measures to improve access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation facilities to the vulnerable population (India);

- 118.137 **Increase, significantly, investments in rural areas to fight inequalities and improve access to drinking water while addressing sanitation deficiencies in the country (Senegal);**
- 118.138 **Continue the initiatives Eswatini has implemented with the support of development partners to improve potable water supply and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Bahamas);**
- 118.139 **Take measures that will strengthen the health sector and provide the necessary health care and ways to reach all areas and vulnerable groups in the country (Libya);**
- 118.140 **Implement measures to ensure free, universal access to health for all (Mauritius);**
- 118.141 **Continue to enhance access to health care and programmes to address non-communicable diseases (Sri Lanka);**
- 118.142 **Further intensify efforts to reduce HIV/AIDS infections (Georgia);**
- 118.143 **Decriminalize abortion and guarantee the provision of, and access to, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and goods, including safe abortion and post-abortion care, and modern contraceptives (Iceland);**
- 118.144 **Continue its efforts to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS (Iraq);**
- 118.145 **Raise public awareness about the dangers of HIV infection, including the harm associated with the stigmatization of HIV patients (Ireland);**
- 118.146 **Allocate additional resources to end preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.147 **Decriminalize the voluntary interruption of pregnancy in cases of rape, incest, serious malformation of the fetus or risks to the health or life of the pregnant woman, and guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services (Mexico);**
- 118.148 **Accelerate efforts to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates, improving the quality of maternal and newborn care in health facilities (Nepal);**
- 118.149 **Decriminalize abortion and guarantee the provision of, and access to, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services and goods, including safe abortion and post-abortion care, and modern contraceptives (Netherlands);**
- 118.150 **Implement commitments made at the Nairobi Summit, held to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, to deliver quality health services, in particular maternal and neonatal care services, at all levels of care by improving the supply-chain management for reproductive health commodities in both public and private health facilities (Slovenia);**
- 118.151 **Repeal laws that do not allow safe abortions, affordable contraceptives, or reproductive rights (South Africa);**
- 118.152 **Continue to respond to the challenges posed by HIV/AIDS in the country (Algeria);**
- 118.153 **Prioritize effective coordination and investment in primary, secondary, vocational and tertiary education to ensure access and quality outcomes (Botswana);**
- 118.154 **Provide access to comprehensive sexuality education as part of the school curriculum (Denmark);**
- 118.155 **Continue national efforts related to the reopening of schools and consider ensuring free education from the eighth to twelfth grades (Egypt);**
- 118.156 **Increase investment in the education sector to enhance quality and accessibility of education to all (Malawi);**

- 118.157 **Adopt a coherent strategy to ensure compulsory free education up to the age of 16 to ensure that there are fewer dropouts (Mauritius);**
- 118.158 **Study ways to improve children’s continued access to education in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to maintain the country’s development course (Morocco);**
- 118.159 **Continue taking measures to improve the functioning of the education system, allowing pregnant girls access to education, and make education free and compulsory for 12 years of schooling (South Africa);**
- 118.160 **Further promote the right to education of children through the implementation of national programmes to address dropout rates (Sri Lanka);**
- 118.161 **Continue enhancing its efforts towards pursuing rights to education and consider introducing a free education policy at the secondary school level (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 118.162 **Advance efforts to finalize the draft strategy to address the increasing school dropout rates (Bahamas);**
- 118.163 **Continue to promote the rights of women and girls (Georgia);**
- 118.164 **Take further measures to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular to curb discrimination and violence against women (Indonesia);**
- 118.165 **Repeal all legal provisions that perpetuate gender stereotypes and discrimination against women (Mexico);**
- 118.166 **Establish the legal framework for the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Nigeria);**
- 118.167 **Guarantee, through appropriate legislative measures, equal rights to fathers and mothers with regard to the transmission of nationality to children (Congo);**
- 118.168 **Adopt the necessary measures to combat occupational segregation and gender stereotypes in the working world (Togo);**
- 118.169 **Continue efforts to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Tunisia);**
- 118.170 **Make further efforts to bring the legislation into compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to enable women’s enjoyment of fundamental human rights, such as the right to property and inheritance (Armenia);**
- 118.171 **Take action to align all laws and policies with the principle of equality and non-discrimination, as stated in the Constitution and in accordance with Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);**
- 118.172 **Review the Constitution and law on nationality in order to guarantee women equal rights as men (Côte d’Ivoire);**
- 118.173 **Make further efforts, including by raising public awareness, to enforce the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act of July 2018 to protect women’s rights and to end violence against women and girls (Finland);**
- 118.174 **Redouble efforts to combat violence against women by developing legislation in this area (Gabon);**
- 118.175 **Continue to ensure the full protection of young girls against harmful practices and forced marriages (Kenya);**
- 118.176 **Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women (Latvia);**

- 118.177 Continue efforts to combat violence in all its forms and intensify awareness campaigns against practices that are harmful to children and women or that prevent their full upbringing (Libya);
- 118.178 Continue its strategies and approaches in ending all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls through effective implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan to End Violence (2017–2022) (Malaysia);
- 118.179 Accelerate the implementation of a multisectoral approach aimed at eradicating gender-based violence, including training for law enforcement, educators and medical personnel, as well as victim support services and accountability of perpetrators of violence (Canada);
- 118.180 Take further measures to prevent early and forced marriages and gender-based violence (Mozambique);
- 118.181 Redouble efforts to conduct public awareness campaigns and capacity-building programmes for duty bearers on gender-based violence and violence against children (Philippines);
- 118.182 Increase the necessary efforts to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular sexual and domestic violence (Chile);
- 118.183 Implement the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, and adopt regulations to eliminate gender-based and domestic violence (Portugal);
- 118.184 Invest in additional efforts to improve the system of protection of women in need by establishing shelters or temporary accommodation and educational centres for women in need, and in their economic empowerment (Serbia);
- 118.185 Accelerate the implementation of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act to ensure substantive protection of women from sexual and domestic violence, particularly in the context of COVID-19 (South Africa);
- 118.186 Effectively apply the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018, fulfilling its commitment made at the Nairobi summit in 2019 (Spain);
- 118.187 Ensure better protection of women and girls against sexual violence (Congo);
- 118.188 Strengthen the coordination of public authorities in the protection of women and children against sexual violence (Togo);
- 118.189 Continue efforts to combat sexual crimes and domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 118.190 Strengthen the implementation of the policies and the legal framework to eradicate harmful traditional practices that discriminate against women and the girl child (Uganda);
- 118.191 Continue to enhance efforts to protect women facing gender-based violence by increasing the number of safe houses for victims (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 118.192 Ensure that the national legislation is in line with the international and regional instruments, particularly concerning the elimination of discrimination against women (Costa Rica);
- 118.193 Adopt legislation which will effectively criminalize and combat sexual offences and domestic violence (Zambia);
- 118.194 Continue reforms that prioritize women’s empowerment and gender equality, including by working with law enforcement authorities, the judiciary, communities and traditional leaders to implement the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018 (Australia);

- 118.195 **Implement a public education programme, including at the community level, to combat domestic violence and raise awareness of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018 (Belgium);**
- 118.196 **Pursue the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking additional measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions (Djibouti);**
- 118.197 **Ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities, and local communities in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 118.198 **Continue to combat the unequal representation of women in decision-making positions (Gabon);**
- 118.199 **Redouble efforts in promoting women's participation and representation in politics and decision-making processes (Kenya);**
- 118.200 **Further strengthen economic empowerment initiatives, especially for women and youth (Philippines);**
- 118.201 **Intensify efforts to increase the participation of women in political decision-making positions (Rwanda);**
- 118.202 **Implement a minimum quota of 30 per cent for the representation of women in the House of Assembly, to ensure the representation of the women in decision-making process (South Sudan);**
- 118.203 **Continue to support the economic emancipation of women while expanding its scope to cover all development spheres in accordance with the strategic road map of the Government for the period 2019 to 2022 (United Arab Emirates);**
- 118.204 **Continue to implement the women-driven economic empowerment initiatives under the auspices of the Strategic Roadmap 2019–2023 (Zimbabwe);**
- 118.205 **Prohibit all corporal punishment at home, in alternative care settings, day care, schools and penal institutions (Estonia);**
- 118.206 **Pursue its efforts to combat school dropout by ensuring sound menstrual hygiene management for girls in vulnerable situations (Gabon);**
- 118.207 **Take practical steps, including through legislative measures, to put an end to corporal punishment in all settings, especially against children (Brazil);**
- 118.208 **Finalize the review of the Marriage Act which will raise the marriageable age to 18 from 16 for both males and females (South Africa);**
- 118.209 **Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of children in every setting (Zambia);**
- 118.210 **Centre recovery efforts, among others, on child-protection systems, to step up the fight against violence against children and guarantee access to free education (Armenia);**
- 118.211 **Continue to take measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities (India);**
- 118.212 **Allocate adequate resources and funding for the full implementation of the relevant legislative framework to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Malaysia);**
- 118.213 **Continue efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and to eliminate any discrimination against them (Tunisia);**
- 118.214 **Continue consolidating its successful policies to guarantee the right to education for persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

118.215 Accelerate and improve access to education for children with disabilities (Algeria);

118.216 Withdraw all criminal charges brought against human rights defenders and political opponents under the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008, and repeal or amend this act (Germany);

118.217 Prevent and ensure accountability for attacks, repression and intimidation against journalists, human rights defenders and peaceful protesters (Italy);

118.218 Protect human rights defenders, journalists and all social activists (Luxembourg);

118.219 Guarantee de jure and de facto the free exercise of the legitimate work of political opponents, human rights defenders and journalists (Spain);

118.220 Repeal the 1938 Sedition and Subversive Activities Act, which has been used to silence journalists, human rights defenders, and political activists (United States of America);

118.221 Ensure the protection of human rights defenders and journalists so that they can carry out their work without any type of reprisals and ensure respect of freedom of expression, association and peaceful protests (Costa Rica);

118.222 Create an environment that facilitates inclusive, productive dialogue that ensures respect for human rights, including the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Australia).

119. 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 Eswatini was headed by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Ms. Pholile Dlamini-Shakantu, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Philile Masuku, Charge/Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini Geneva, Switzerland;
  - Ms. Gugu Victoria Nsibandze, Under Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
  - Mr. Vuyile Dlamini, Legal Advisor, Ministry Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation;
  - Ms. Lungile Magagula, Legal Advisor, Elections and Boundaries Commission;
  - Ms. Nozipho Lorraine Mazibuko, State Reporting Coordinator, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
  - Mr. Mlondi Nsibandze, Senior State Reporting Officer, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
  - Ms. Bawelile Simelane, First Secretary Economics Affairs, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Geneva, Switzerland;
  - Mr. Jacob Dlamini, First Secretary Information, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Geneva, Switzerland;
  - Mr. Mpendulo Majahonkhe Masuku, Gender Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst, Deputy Prime Minister's Office;
  - Ms. Lindiwe Doreen Maseko, Personal Assistant, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
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