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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review *

Vanuatu

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Vanuatu was held at the 7th meeting, on 24 January 2019. The delegation of Vanuatu was headed by Minister of Justice and Community Services, Don Ken. At its 14th meeting, held on 29 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Vanuatu.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Vanuatu: Angola, Croatia and Iraq.

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 Vanuatu:

- (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/VUT/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.6/32/VUT/2);
- (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/VUT/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Vanuatu 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 of Vanuatu stated that it was convinced that the universal periodic review process created a platform for all Member States to cooperate, collaborate and share experiences on areas of common interest in human rights. In that connection, it acknowledged the technical assistance to support the process that had been provided to it by the Pacific Islands Forum member States, the Pacific Community, the Regional Rights Resource Team in partnership with the Commonwealth, the Melanesian Spearhead Group and OHCHR. It further acknowledged the invaluable work of civil society and appreciated its engagement in the process up to the current dialogue.

6. Vanuatu had a population of 250,000 people scattered over 80 islands characterized by cultural diversity, and was prone to natural disasters such as cyclones and volcanic eruptions. Despite those challenges, the Government was committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, and had constructively engaged with the United Nations human rights system to ensure the implementation of the human rights instruments that it had ratified. It believed that the protection and promotion of human rights was an essential component that paved the way for peace, security, freedom and dignity for all.

7. The Constitution provided the legal framework for governance and the rule of law. It promoted and protected various fundamental rights and duties of all individuals in Vanuatu. The Constitution also guaranteed the enforcement of fundamental rights by providing legal recourse to the Supreme Court in the event of an infringement of a protected right.

8. As part of the process of implementing review recommendations, the Government had established the National Human Rights Committee in 2014 by statutory order, to provide advisory and monitoring capacity to the Government on the implementation of the 95 recommendations from the second review cycle that had been accepted by Vanuatu and generally on all matters concerning human rights. With the assistance of the Pacific Islands Forum, the Pacific Community through the Regional Rights Resource Team, the OHCHR Regional Office and the national Universal Periodic Review Committee, the National Human Rights Committee had developed a national implementation matrix for the period 2014–2018, which was a simplified guide for the government line agencies on implementing the respective recommendations. The development and implementation of that matrix was regarded as one of the best practices in the Pacific region, as Vanuatu had been the first country in the Pacific to develop such a tool.

9. The supported recommendations had been divided into thematic areas for incorporation into existing national development plans, such as the Priority Action Agenda and the “Planning Long, Acting Short” Strategic Framework, as well as annual corporate plans of various ministries as they related to human rights, poverty reduction, education, social protection, health and the Sustainable Development Goals, among other areas. Further, the Government’s National Sustainable Development Plan, 2016–2030, or the “People’s Plan”, and its monitoring and evaluation framework reflected the Government’s commitments to realizing basic human rights in the form of national sustainable development goals and priorities.

10. Between 2014 and 2018, the Government had enacted various laws on the protection of rights, including laws on education, health, movement and access to information. Those laws included: the Right to Information Act No. 13 of 2016, which provided a legal basis for any person to request and access information held by the Government; the Public Health (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2018, which provided for sanitation standards; the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 15 of 2016, which increased sentencing penalties for abduction and sexual offences and established the offence of abduction of persons under that age of 18 years; the Custom Land Management Act No. 33 of 2013, introduced in 2014, which enabled women to participate in decision-making processes in cultural settings (*nakamal*); the Water Resources Management (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2016, which provided for responsibilities of water resources, customary rights and rights of occupiers to water resources; and the Water Supply (Amendment) Act No. 31 of 2016, which provided for national drinking-water quality standards and drinking-water safety plans.

11. With regard to the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, the Department of Women’s Affairs had developed the key gender policies with due consideration to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities. Those policies included the Vanuatu National Gender Equality Policy, 2015–2019; the National Disability-Inclusive Development Policy, 2018–2025; the Vanuatu Child Online Protection National Strategy Framework, 2014–2021; the Vanuatu National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026; and the Strategy for the Justice and Community Services Sector, 2018–2021.

12. In combating cervical cancer, one of the women’s health issues with respect to which Vanuatu had the highest rate in the Pacific, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, had commenced a vaccination programme in 2018. Thus far, the programme had reached more than 10,000 women out of a total nationwide population of 63,120 women.

13. The Ministry of Health had developed key health policies and frameworks to reflect the country’s commitment to ensuring that the right to health under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was being respected. Those policies and frameworks included the Health Sector Strategy, 2017–2020; the Vanuatu National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan, 2016–2020; the Vanuatu Non-Communicable Disease Policy and Strategic Plan, 2016–2020; the Tobacco Control Act of 2008, as amended in the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) Act No. 6 of 2016; the National Strategic Plan for HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections, 2017–2021; the National Policy and Strategy for Healthy Islands, 2018–2020; the Healthy Vanuatu School Food Guidelines/Gudfala Kakae Policy, 2017–2030; the Vanuatu Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Policy and Implementation Strategy, 2017–2020; the Draft Digital Health Strategy Information for Action, 2019–2021; and a comprehensive training manual for health-care professionals and participants regarding violence against women, children, vulnerable and marginalized groups, 2017.

14. The Ministry of Education and Training had developed a number of policies with a view to promoting and implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the Government had maximized its commitment to implementing its policy on universal access to education for all children. In 2018, the Government had subsidized school fees by providing school grants for early childhood education and for students in Years 6 and 7 at primary school level. Moreover, in December 2018, Parliament had passed a budget to allocate school grants allowing free access to education for students from Years 8 to 10 at the secondary school level.

15. Acting through the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, the Government, as part of its efforts to address the rights of people with disabilities, had undertaken a review of all legislation in 2016 and provided recommendations for amendments to ensure compliance with the relevant Convention. The Government had lodged with Parliament in December 2018 the Correctional Services (Amendment) Bill, which contained provisions to ensure that the needs of detainees with disabilities were considered in correctional centres. Consultations had begun on proposed new legislation for people with disabilities. Some of the gains made with regard to people with disabilities had been the opening of a new office for the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability in Port Vila; the development of the National Disability-Inclusive Policy; the recruitment of disability officers at provincial headquarters; the employment of persons with disabilities in government ministries and the private sector; improved collaboration between the Disability Desk and stakeholders; and the participation of persons with disabilities in the Paralympic Games.

16. Since Vanuatu was a small island developing State, climate change was a factor that affected the Government’s development plans. The Government had established a fully-fledged Ministry of Climate Change in April 2013 as part of its efforts to streamline the country’s responses to the effects of climate change. That body’s primary mandate was to address and deal with the effects of climate change and impacts of natural disasters in Vanuatu. The Ministry of Climate Change was currently implementing the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016–2030, which had been purposely developed to map out all

government agencies and non-governmental stakeholders in ensuring that the country's communities, environment and economy were resilient to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks. The policy ensured that risks were identified, assessed, reduced and managed, and had been formulated following a risk governance assessment to analyse the country's climate change and disaster risk governance capacity and needs at both the national and the local levels. It sought to strengthen existing capacity at the national, provincial and area council levels, drawing on the country's rich heritage and traditional knowledge and the lessons learned from the broad range of initiatives regarding climate change and disaster risk reduction. In addition, the National Sustainable Development Plan addressed climate change policies under its environment pillar goal 2, on encouraging "blue-green economic growth", for an economy that fostered sustainable growth and development through low-impact industries and modern technologies to ensure the well-being of future generations.

17. In 2018, the Government had conducted the mass evacuation of the entire population of Ambae due to serious volcanic activities on that island. The Government's National Displacement Policy (2018) was aimed at better managing and coordinating such processes in the context of future disasters.

18. Vanuatu had recently faced some issues relating to forced labour and human trafficking. While section 7 of the Employment Act prohibited forced labour, Vanuatu was committed to reviewing and developing specific legislation to better address human trafficking and forced labour.

19. Further achievements that the Government had accomplished since the second review cycle, in 2014, with the generous support of its bilateral and multilateral partners included the establishment of a Gender Officer in the Department of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Health; the endorsement of the National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026, and the Child Safeguarding Policy, 2017–2020; the establishment of an external inspection team to inspect and report on conditions and treatment in correctional centres; the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change and the Gender and Protection Cluster, which ensured consideration of gender and protection issues in the context of natural disasters; the establishment of the Right to Information Unit under the Right to Information Act; the formulation of the National Disability-Inclusive Development Policy, 2018–2025; and the formulation of the National Anti-Corruption Policy Framework, 2018–2022.

20. Natural disasters and climate change had been the core challenge affecting the Government and the people of Vanuatu. The impact of climate change and hostile natural calamities continued to impede national development and progress. The National Sustainable Development Plan provided the strategy for addressing challenges and constraints to improve the human rights situation in the country. The national budget mirrored implementation of the priorities identified in the Plan, as a priority framework for the Government. Further development assistance was sought towards realizing the Plan.

21. The Government recognized the importance of building a strong, capable workforce, and was therefore committed to ensuring capacity-building and training of its officials across ministries and departments. In that regard, the Government sought further technical training support and resources from technical agencies, funding institutions, regional and international organizations and development partners. Further training on human rights and thematic issues was needed for all relevant stakeholders, particularly the police, correctional officers, teachers and health workers.

22. In light of the fact that Vanuatu would graduate in 2020 from the status of least developed country, the Government had established a steering committee to oversee that process with a view to a smooth transition. The delegation thanked the relevant organizations within the United Nations for their continuous support in preparing the country.

23. In response to the questions submitted in advance, the delegation said that the Ministry of Justice and Community Services had planned to carry out a scoping study in 2019 for the establishment of a national human rights institution. The Ministry had received confirmation of technical assistance with that scoping study from the Pacific Community, the Regional Rights Resource Team and the OHCHR Regional Office. Access to justice was one of the core objectives of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services sector corporate plan. In that connection, through a project funded by the Government of Australia, assistance was being provided to the judiciary in dealing with the backlog of court cases. The Government had received assistance with respect to the design of the case-management system for the courts, the State Law Office, the Vanuatu Police Force, the Public Solicitor's Office, the Public Prosecutor's Office and capacity development of staff and officials. The case-management system had been in use from mid-November 2015. File management had been improved by court appearance forms. In 2015, 253 criminal files had been opened and 332 had been closed, which had reduced the backlog of stale criminal files. Approximately 1,300 civil files and 400 criminal files needed to be closed. The updated case-management system would make it easier to ascertain the status of each criminal case and therefore facilitate file closure. The appointment of authorized persons under the Family Protection Act provided an avenue for access to justice for vulnerable groups on matters related to domestic violence at the community level. In addition, the Public Solicitor's Office provided legal aid to needy persons and could be accessed by vulnerable groups.

24. Parliament had enacted legislation introducing a quota system for women's election to municipal councils, which had been in effect since 2013. The Government was considering a similar system for female participation at the provincial government council level. Moreover, the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign was being coordinated by the Department of Women's Affairs. The Penal Code Act had been amended to increase the penalties for sexual offences. The Department of Women's Affairs continued to carry out awareness-raising campaigns in communities on the rights of women and children. The Government had established the Family Protection Unit within the Vanuatu Police Force to assist women and children, particularly in obtaining protection orders under the Family Protection Act. The Government was considering drafting a child protection bill to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Family Protection Act marked the Government's first attempt to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. With the assistance of the country's bilateral partners, training courses had been conducted for police officers, magistrates and lawyers on the implementation of the Family Protection Act. The National Gender Equality Policy had been approved by the Council of Ministers in July 2015. As part of its decision and approval of the policy, the Council of Ministers had agreed to allocate the necessary financial resources to the Ministry of Justice and Community Services and the Department of Women's Affairs for the effective implementation

of the policy over its lifetime (2015–2019).

25. The Pacific Partnership to End Violence against Women and Girls brought together Governments, civil society organizations, communities and other partners to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and girls and increase access to quality response services for survivors. The Partnership was a five-year programme, from 2018–2022, in recognition of the importance of gender equality for achieving sustainable development, and contributed directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

26. The Government had established the National Human Rights Committee in 2014 to coordinate the implementation of accepted recommendations from the universal periodic review and the monitoring of progress and impact. That body consisted of key agencies such as the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Women's Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade. In addition, an implementation matrix had been developed to assist the Government in implementing the recommendations.

27. The Government planned to undertake internal consultations for the ratification of the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

28. The Ministry of Justice and Community Services would be carrying out consultations on and minor amendments to legislation in 2019 in order to align the age defining a minor, child and juvenile and the age of marriage, as reflected in recommendations set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Protection orders could be obtained under the Family Protection Act to protect women against domestic violence. In addition, traditional justice systems took the form of meetings held at traditional meeting venues that imposed fines on people who violated women's rights, especially in cases involving violence.

29. Lastly, the Family Life Education programme was a long-term intervention strategy that had commenced in 2013, aimed at delivering age-appropriate information and education on sexual and reproductive health in schools.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

30. During the interactive dialogue, 55 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

31. Serbia expressed appreciation for the activities carried out by Vanuatu on the recommendations that it had received during the previous review cycle. It commended the adoption and implementation of the National Sustainable Development Plan, 2016–2030, and the role of the National Human Rights Committee.

32. Seychelles noted that, as fellow small island developing States, both countries were acutely aware of the adverse impacts of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights. In that context, Seychelles appreciated the adoption of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

33. Singapore commended Vanuatu for being the first Pacific State to develop a national implementation plan for review recommendations and for having introduced strategies and policies to advance human rights. It congratulated Vanuatu on efforts to implement the National Gender Equality Policy and to pursue development in an inclusive manner.

34. Slovenia noted that Vanuatu had implemented a number of the recommendations from the previous cycles. It remained concerned about the use of corporal punishment and the high level of sexual abuse of children. It congratulated Vanuatu for its work on human rights and climate change.

35. Solomon Islands commended Vanuatu for having introduced legislative reforms to bring national legislation in line with international law, noting the adoption of laws on the right to information and on education and amendments to the Penal Code. It indicated that Vanuatu had a clear vision to guide its development goals. It called on the international community to support the efforts of Vanuatu to fully achieve its development objectives and address its human rights obligations.

36. Spain welcomed the establishment by the National Human Rights Committee of a mechanism to implement review recommendations. It congratulated Vanuatu for including in its Constitution provisions on human rights, highlighting the protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

37. Sri Lanka expressed appreciation for initiatives to enhance women's and children's rights and progressive policies governing education and the health sector. It encouraged Vanuatu to consider prompt ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

38. Switzerland welcomed the opening of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. It expressed concern about violence against children.

39. Togo welcomed the progress made by Vanuatu since the presentation of its previous report, noting the adoption of national plans and policies to protect human rights, particularly on equal rights for women, inclusive development, the protection of children, the justice system and social security.

40. Trinidad and Tobago noted that Vanuatu was the first Pacific State to develop a national implementation plan for the universal periodic review. It acknowledged the commitment by Vanuatu to addressing climate change, highlighting the adoption of action taken in that regard, and noted steps taken to improve access to basic health services.

41. Tunisia welcomed legislation adopted and action taken since the previous review with a view to strengthening the human rights framework, particularly the national strategy for gender equality and the policy on reproductive health.

42. Ukraine noted positively steps taken by Vanuatu to improve the institutional and legislative framework for human rights, particularly the adoption of various relevant policies and strategies such as the Government's National Sustainable Development Plan, the National Child Protection Policy, the revised Gender Equity in Education Policy and the Health Sector Strategy.

43. The United Kingdom welcomed the adoption of the National Gender Equality Policy and the Gender Equity in Education Policy. It expressed concern about gender inequality, and noted that there were currently no women represented in Parliament. It encouraged Vanuatu to improve detention conditions.

44. The United States of America highlighted the importance of ending impunity for police violence. It recognized efforts to ensure that the police investigated domestic violence but noted that violence against women and child abuse remained key concerns. It encouraged efforts to identify and prevent statelessness.

45. Uruguay welcomed the development of the national implementation plan for review recommendations and progress in the area of women's and children's rights. It noted draft legislation on minors, aimed at addressing the issue of young offenders, and encouraged Vanuatu to continue working in that regard.

46. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the development of an implementation plan for review recommendations and the presentation by Vanuatu of reports to treaty bodies. It highlighted policies to ensure access to basic health services, particularly in rural areas, and to guarantee access to education through the adoption of a school subsidy.

47. Viet Nam commended Vanuatu for its commitment to the advancement of the rights of women and children, and for its efforts to combat the adverse effects of climate change. It was encouraged by the collaboration of Vanuatu with human rights mechanisms to explore ratification of important human rights instruments.

48. Albania noted the interest in advancing the rights of women. It encouraged Vanuatu to continue to incorporate the provisions of international human rights instruments into its domestic law, despite the difficulties that it faced in relation to human and financial resources.

49. Algeria welcomed efforts by Vanuatu to implement the recommendations accepted during the second review cycle, particularly to combat social inequality and protect the rights of the child. It congratulated Vanuatu for its support of persons with disabilities, in particular the adoption in 2017 of a national disability inclusion policy.

50. Angola commended Vanuatu for having implemented policies on human rights, noting the National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026. It welcomed the commitment to establishing a national human rights institution and appealed to OHCHR and other partners to support Vanuatu in that commitment.

51. Argentina commended Vanuatu for having developed the national implementation plan (2014–2018) for the universal periodic review. It congratulated Vanuatu for adopting the National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026, and the National Disability-Inclusive Development Policy, 2018–2025.

52. Armenia welcomed the efforts of Vanuatu to strengthen the Ombudsman's Office, as well as measures taken to incorporate human rights into the education system. It also welcomed efforts to strengthen the protection of children's rights.

53. Australia was concerned that high levels of domestic violence persisted, and remained committed to supporting Vanuatu in combating domestic violence and increasing access to justice, particularly outside urban areas. It also noted the absence of women in Parliament.

54. The Bahamas highlighted the achievements of Vanuatu in relation to women's rights, and congratulated it for being the first Pacific State to develop a national implementation plan for the universal periodic review recommendations. It welcomed steps taken to bolster resources for the courts, such as increasing the number of judges and magistrates and implementing an automated case-management system.

55. Barbados commended Vanuatu for its National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016–2030.

56. Belgium was convinced that more progress could be achieved, especially regarding the realization of women's and children's rights.

57. Bulgaria noted the adoption of the National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026, and acknowledged the efforts made by Vanuatu to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality.

58. Cabo Verde noted the strong commitment of Vanuatu to improving the human rights situation. It stated that the promotion and protection of the rights of children and women demanded further action and improvements.

59. Canada welcomed the revision of the Civil Status (Registration) Act and the reintroduction of mobile birth registration throughout the country, and emphasized the importance of ensuring that both mothers and fathers had the same capacity to pass citizenship to their children at birth.

60. The delegation of Vanuatu said that the Government considered the protection and promotion of human rights an important aspect of its governance. It recognized the value of the human rights of people in Vanuatu and had designed frameworks, policies and laws that enshrined the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights. Under the National Gender Equality Policy, 2015–2019,

the Government was committed to ensuring that gender equality was implemented across all sectors and at all levels of society.

61. With regard to recommendations concerning the ratification of conventions and protocols, once ongoing consultations had been completed, the Government would consider submitting a proposal on ratification of such instruments to Parliament.

62. Vanuatu was committed to fully implementing its policy on universal access to education, which included access to education for rural and urban children as well as children with disabilities. Concerning assistance to children in the most vulnerable groups at times of disaster, the Ministry of Climate Change had developed various thematic clusters addressing disaster-related issues.

63. Chile welcomed the national plans on the rights of persons with disabilities and inclusive education, as well as strategies to improve the language and literacy of youth and adults. It also welcomed the national implementation plan for the recommendations of the universal periodic review.

64. China positively evaluated the National Sustainable Development Plan, 2016–2030; the active approach taken to addressing climate change; and the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

65. Cuba recognized the updating of the legal framework and the inclusion of climate change and disaster risk reduction as areas that had received special attention. It also positively noted the efforts made by Vanuatu with regard to the protection of children and the promotion of the rights to education, health and gender equality.

66. Denmark made recommendations.

67. Fiji congratulated Vanuatu for its National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, the establishment of the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and the formulation of a disaster and climate change committee in every province to help communities affected by disasters.

68. France made recommendations.

69. Georgia commended Vanuatu for having established the National Human Rights Committee to advise the Government on the ratification of core human rights treaties. It also positively noted the development of the national implementation plan for recommendations of the universal periodic review.

70. Germany commended Vanuatu for improvements in the protection of the rights of children, in particular regarding free access to education.

71. Guyana congratulated Vanuatu on the many legislative advances since its last review, in particular the Education Act No. 9 of 2014, which provided for the representation of women in the national Education Advisory Council and the elimination of education disadvantages arising from the gender or ethnicity of a child.

72. Haiti commended Vanuatu for the efforts and progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights in Vanuatu, including the adoption of the National Gender Equality Policy (2015–2019), and the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (2016–2030).

73. Honduras recognized the development of the national implementation plan for recommendations of the universal periodic review.

74. Iceland recognized that Vanuatu was one of the world's most at-risk nations in terms of natural disasters and welcomed its new National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. It commended efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and promote gender equality.

75. Indonesia noted that despite attempts by Vanuatu to improve human rights, it still had deep concerns regarding the condition of women, in particular violence against women. It stressed that women should not be viewed as second-class citizens.

76. Iraq commended Vanuatu for its implementation of key policies in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights. It expressed its appreciation for the adoption of various national plans and policies.

77. Ireland recognized that Vanuatu was particularly vulnerable to climate-related disasters, and welcomed the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016–2030. It praised the commitment of Vanuatu to becoming a signatory to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

78. Italy appreciated the commitment of Vanuatu to strengthening women's rights and gender equality, which had borne fruit in the form of specific national policies, as well as the country's efforts to promote human rights education and awareness-raising.

79. Maldives welcomed the National Gender Equality Policy (2015–2019), the National Disability-Inclusive Development Policy (2018–2025), the Child Online Protection National Strategy Framework (2014–2021) and the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (2016–2030).

80. Mauritius commended Vanuatu for its adoption of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016–2030, which was aimed at providing a framework to ensure resilience to the effects of climate change and disaster risks.

81. Mexico noted the establishment of community committees in the provinces to manage climate disasters. It also commended Vanuatu for its efforts to establish a quota system to boost women's participation in the public and political life of the country.

82. Montenegro encouraged Vanuatu to continue its efforts to improve the institutional and normative human rights framework. It

noted that Vanuatu had developed and designed a national implementation plan (2014–2018) for the universal periodic review, the first Pacific country to do so.

83. Nepal expressed its appreciation for reforms to the legislative and institutional frameworks aimed at mainstreaming human rights. It congratulated Vanuatu on the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change and the Gender and Protection Cluster.

84. The Netherlands remained concerned about gender equality in Vanuatu. Harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage remained prevalent. They contributed to persistently low participation of women in public and political life, as reflected by the all-male Parliament.

85. New Zealand welcomed the legislative provisions that aligned the Correctional Services Act with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It commended Vanuatu for having established the Gender and Protection Cluster. It also welcomed the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy.

86. The Philippines commended Vanuatu for having developed a national implementation plan for the universal periodic review, and noted the legislative initiatives to safeguard human rights. It also commended Vanuatu for the support provided to the Department of Women's Affairs, and welcomed the improvements achieved on the protection of children.

87. Portugal welcomed the progress made in the field of human rights, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Committee.

88. Senegal congratulated Vanuatu on the development of the national implementation plan for the universal periodic review. It welcomed the development of national child protection frameworks and policies, as well as the measures taken to combat inequalities.

89. In closing, the delegation expressed its sincere gratitude to all Member States for having participated and provided constructive and valuable assessments, questions and comments. Improvement of the human rights situation could not be realized overnight; it was a process that required unceasing efforts and perseverance by all countries. In that context, the universal periodic review offered Vanuatu a valuable opportunity to review its own human rights situation and take steps to improve it. Vanuatu continued to be committed to cooperating constructively with the review mechanism and making further efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

90.1 Establish a human rights recommendations plan, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and integrating all accepted recommendations from the universal periodic review (Cabo Verde);

90.2 Integrate good practices of implementation of recommendations from the universal periodic review into national reviews (Cabo Verde);

90.3 Seek technical assistance, in accordance with the country's particular needs, so as to enhance its capacity in the field of human rights (Bahamas);

90.4 Set up its national human rights institution (Mauritius); Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Ukraine); Establish an independent national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in compliance with the Paris Principles (Togo); Establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles, seeking technical assistance from the OHCHR where necessary (Ireland); Intensify efforts aimed at establishing an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Georgia); Redouble efforts to establish a national human rights institution (Mexico);

90.5 Continue to promote gender equality, and protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);

90.6 Make increased efforts at eliminating all forms of discrimination, violence and abuse against women and children (Guyana);

90.7 Reinforce measures to prevent discrimination against women and girls (Honduras);

90.8 Review the outcome of the Vanuatu National Gender Equality Policy, 2015–2019, and strengthen measures to mainstream gender equality across government agencies (Philippines);

90.9 Amend all relevant legislation so as to incorporate fully the principles of gender equality and prohibition of discrimination based on gender, covering direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and private spheres, and take all necessary measures in order to enforce such principles (Portugal);

90.10 Promote an integrated approach to human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, by establishing a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and a national coordination body for the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights reporting in an integrated manner (Cabo Verde);

90.11 Continue to implement the national plan for sustainable development, to reduce poverty and raise people's living standards (China);

90.12 Improve the country's tourism infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to generate more income in the tourism sector (Haiti);

90.13 Strengthen efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5 by expanding access to education and by offering support programmes to encourage female entrepreneurship and participation in political life (Netherlands);

90.14 Continue to advance efforts in response to the effects of climate change with a focus on vulnerable groups, including women and children (Viet Nam);

90.15 Review the existing policies and programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation in view of ensuring that a human rights-based approach has been adopted (Seychelles);

90.16 Implement the measures on climate change and disaster risk reduction, guaranteeing a focus on human rights, the incorporation of the gender perspective and the prioritization of vulnerable groups (Chile);

90.17 Include women, including those living in outer islands, in the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction and the disaster and climate change committees, ensuring their effective participation in the planning, decision-making and implementation processes of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (Fiji);

90.18 Include in its policies on gender a section on the impact of climate change on women, and set out strategies for ensuring that women are part of decision-making on national climate action policies in accordance with the gender action plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Fiji);

90.19 Continue to promote stronger mitigation action by all other States, in particular the main current and historical emitters, in order to protect the fundamental rights of the people of Vanuatu (Fiji);

90.20 Further mainstream human rights in the formulation of policies and measures taken towards the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In this regard, seek from the international community the necessary technical and capacity-building assistance (Mauritius);

90.21 Intensify its efforts in implementing the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, the Climate Change and Disaster-Induced Displacement Policy and the Strategic Plan 2016–2020 (Philippines);

90.22 Continue to review relevant domestic legislation relating to detainees, and invest further in prison infrastructure to ensure humane treatment and living conditions for all its detainees (New Zealand);

90.23 Create the necessary legislation to address trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls (Guyana);

90.24 Continue to protect the rights of persons displaced within its territory as a consequence of natural disasters (Albania);

90.25 Address the lack of accountability for police abuse and corruption by the Vanuatu Mobile Force and the Vanuatu Police Force through investigations and prosecutions (United States of America);

90.26 Enhance the capacity of the judiciary, especially with regard to the backlog of court cases and the staffing of the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Public Solicitor's Office (Germany);

90.27 Exert more effort to prevent brutality and other criminal acts perpetrated by members of the policing institution (Indonesia);

90.28 Continue to consolidate its social and human rights policies, in particular in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, to improve the living standards of its people, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

90.29 Further promote access to basic health services, especially in the rural areas, with the aim of achieving universal health coverage (Viet Nam);

90.30 Continue to give priority to the right to health, and implement effective measures to continue expanding access among rural populations (Cuba);

90.31 Adopt all necessary measures, including through international cooperation, to guarantee the quality of health facilities and improve access to basic health-care services in order to combat child mortality (Mexico);

90.32 Ensure adequate health facilities and improve access to basic health services, particularly in rural and remote areas, including ensuring that vaccination coverage reaches all children (Portugal);

90.33 Continue to ensure the improvement of medical health services in the country, including through further investments in the training of health-care professionals (Sri Lanka);

90.34 Adopt a comprehensive health policy, and increase support to reproductive health and family planning services

(Angola);

90.35 Take all the necessary measures to increase the adult literacy rate (Algeria);

90.36 Put in place legislative and administrative measures to make primary education free and compulsory for children in urban and rural areas (Seychelles);

90.37 Consider compulsory education to facilitate the commencement of school at the right age (Australia);

90.38 Adopt legislation to make primary and secondary education compulsory and ensure access to quality education for all (Bahamas);

90.39 Ensure that its educators at all levels, from preschool to post-school education, are adequately trained to facilitate learning by children with disabilities, to support the Government's inclusive education policies (Singapore);

90.40 Continue promoting measures for the full education and literacy of all citizens (Chile);

90.41 Continue efforts to ensure access to education, in particular to expand the continuity of studies, and inclusive education for children with disabilities (Cuba);

90.42 Promote equal opportunity in education (Iraq);

90.43 Continue to improve access to quality education for all children (Maldives);

90.44 Enhance access to quality education, particularly for children in rural areas, and take steps to ensure every child's rights to enrolment in and continuation of education (Nepal);

90.45 Make primary education free and compulsory to all children without discrimination (Portugal);

90.46 Progress with the implementation of the Universal Primary Education Policy and consider expanding free education to cover secondary schools (Sri Lanka);

90.47 Consider incorporating the functions of the Gender and Protection Cluster into domestic legislation (New Zealand);

90.48 Pursue efforts to achieve gender equality, especially in employment and decision-making positions (Tunisia);

90.49 Continue to strengthen its mechanisms and policies to combat violence against women and girls (Trinidad and Tobago);

90.50 Pursue efforts to prevent violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);

90.51 Ensure the investigation and punishment of perpetrators of sexual violence against women and girls in schools (Argentina);

90.52 Continue to take wide-ranging action to address the levels of violence and discrimination against women and girls (Barbados);

90.53 Ensure that perpetrators of violence against women are duly prosecuted and punished with sentences that are commensurate with the seriousness of their crimes (Belgium);

90.54 Combat violence against women and children, including by putting in place a mechanism to protect victims and fight impunity of the perpetrators of these violations (France);

90.55 Expand measures to address violence, including sexual violence, especially against women and children, by enforcing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and incorporating the human rights obligations into domestic legislation (Germany);

90.56 Take immediate steps to improve women's rights and prevent violence against women in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Indonesia);

90.57 Continue to strengthen the Department of Women's Affairs and intensify efforts to combat violence against women and girls, ensuring that perpetrators of such acts are duly prosecuted and convicted by the formal justice system and that the police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers are provided with appropriate training on women's rights (Ireland);

90.58 Increase efforts to combat gender discrimination, harmful practices and violence against women through strong legislation and implementation (Nepal);

90.59 Take effective measures to eliminate sexual violence and abuse of women and children, in particular at school, within the family and in the community, including by criminalizing these conducts and bringing perpetrators to account, and ensure the provision of skilled medical and psychological aid to the victims (Portugal);

90.60 Continue to combat domestic and gender-based violence and to promote access by women to leadership positions and their participation in politics, within the framework of the National Gender Equality Policy (Albania);

90.61 Continue efforts to eliminate gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, by, for example,

allocating adequate resources for the training of law enforcement and medical personnel, for investigations and the prosecution of perpetrators of these crimes, and for access to services for victims (Canada);

90.62 Expand its existing partnership and collaboration with community leaders to reduce domestic and gender-based violence in rural areas (Singapore);

90.63 Continue to strengthen measures to combat gender-based violence and domestic violence (Maldives);

90.64 Investigate and prosecute domestic violence and sexual abuse cases, and offer victim-centred support services (United States of America);

90.65 Ensure protection orders, legal remedies and assistance for women victims of domestic violence and prosecute and punish perpetrators (Slovenia);

90.66 Take further steps to protect women and children from domestic violence and abuse (New Zealand);

90.67 Increase the quota for the all-inclusive participation of women in public and decision-making processes (Angola);

90.68 Take steps to encourage female candidates' participation in the 2020 national elections (Australia);

90.69 Ensure that women are included and can actively participate in planning, decision-making and implementation processes concerning disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change policies (Barbados);

90.70 Take concrete steps to support and increase women's participation in the political sphere, by, for example, setting targets to improve the representation of women in Parliament (Canada);

90.71 Ensure that women, including those living on the outer islands, are included and actively participate in national planning, decision-making and implementation processes, in particular concerning disaster risk reduction, post-disaster management and climate change policies (Iceland);

90.72 Continue to increase its efforts to encourage the representation of women in Parliament and in other aspects of public life (New Zealand);

90.73 Establish effective measures to ensure that women can be represented in the national Parliament, as well as active policies to reverse the social discrimination affecting women and protect them in cases of gender-based violence (Spain);

90.74 Ensure the effective schooling of girls (France);

90.75 Pursue efforts to promote and protect the rights of children (Tunisia);

90.76 Continue to promote legislation prohibiting all violence against children within the framework of the Government's commitments and its Vanuatu National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026 (Albania);

90.77 Take legislative action to adopt laws prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings (Algeria);

90.78 Redouble efforts to prevent and combat the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to which children are subjected based on gender and disability (Honduras);

90.79 Implement policies with a view to ending the practice of corporal punishment in its society (Indonesia);

90.80 Further strengthen government capacity with a view to the effective implementation of the National Child Protection Policy, 2016–2026 (Philippines);

90.81 Continue its ongoing work to ensure the universal registration of births (Sri Lanka);

90.82 Adopt a national action plan aimed at addressing all the issues covered by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular with regard to trafficking in children, child prostitution and child pornography, while providing adequate resources for its implementation (Serbia);

90.83 Redouble efforts to ensure that children's rights are in conformity with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a particular focus on the juvenile justice system and the prohibition of corporal punishment in all areas of society and as a sentence for crimes (Uruguay);

90.84 Adopt juvenile justice legislation that establishes specialized procedures and courts and raises the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with international standards (Mexico);

90.85 Take all the necessary measures to guarantee that girls remain in secondary education, particularly girls from remote and rural areas (Argentina);

90.86 Continue its efforts to ensure respect for persons with disabilities (Algeria);

90.87 Create conditions, wherever possible, for access to health-care services and education for persons with disabilities (Angola);

90.88 Step up measures aimed at improving the protection of persons with disabilities, particularly through public policies

that guarantee their integration and combat all forms of discrimination against them (Argentina);

90.89 Continue to identify and allocate resources to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Barbados);

90.90 End all forms of discrimination against children with disabilities and take the necessary measures to enable access for children with disabilities to education (Belgium);

90.91 Take appropriate measures to enhance the system for collecting data on children with disabilities with a view to strengthening the protection of their rights (Bulgaria);

90.92 Continue efforts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular by ensuring access to public places and equitable access to medical equipment and services for persons with disabilities (Canada);

90.93 Develop infrastructure that enables access to basic health services and education for children, including those with disabilities (France);

90.94 Make greater efforts to ensure access to social services for persons with disabilities, in particular health care, education, access to legal services and participation in the workforce (Guyana);

90.95 Carry out the necessary reforms to ensure respect for the principle of equality of persons with disabilities in law and in practice (Spain);

90.96 Amend the emergency protocols to include support for the groups most vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly children with disabilities (Switzerland).

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

91.1 Consider ratifying the main international human rights instruments, particularly the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Uruguay); Consider acceding to the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Honduras); Ratify a number of core international human rights instruments, namely the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Indonesia); Consider acceding to the main international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy); Ratify the main international human rights conventions to which it is not yet a party, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Switzerland); Consider acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Trinidad and Tobago) (Tunisia); Continue its current efforts to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Bahamas); Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France); Become a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Seychelles); Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Cabo Verde) (Iraq) (Ukraine) (Mauritius) (Montenegro) (Senegal) (Togo);

91.2 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, to prevent the introduction of the death penalty (Australia);

91.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (France) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

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

91.5 Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (France) (Iraq) (Senegal) (Togo) (Ukraine); Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Trinidad and Tobago);

91.6 Consider taking steps towards accession to and ratification of more core human rights conventions, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);

91.7 Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Ukraine) (Montenegro);

91.8 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);

91.9 Consider acceding to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);

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

91.11 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization (Denmark);

91.12 Become a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol (1967), and update its Immigration Act to include a provision on refugee protection (New Zealand);

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

91.14 Use this third cycle of the universal periodic review to generate data that can support both the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the measurement of progress in the field of human rights, including children's and women's rights (Cabo Verde);

91.15 Continue to carry out policies to protect and promote the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, and to prevent and combat all forms of violence and discrimination against them, including domestic violence and human trafficking (Italy);

91.16 Adopt the necessary measures in the legislative sphere to define and classify all forms of crimes provided for in the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Honduras);

91.17 Amend the constitutional and other relevant legal acts, in order to incorporate the principles of gender equality into the legal system, both in the public and private spheres (Serbia);

91.18 Fully incorporate the principle of equality between women and men and the prohibition of discrimination based on sex and gender, covering direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and private spheres (Ukraine);

91.19 Put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes, ensuring broad participation of civil society organizations in this process (Ukraine);

91.20 Amend the Constitution and other relevant legislation to incorporate fully the principle of equality between women and men and the prohibition of discrimination based on sex and gender, covering direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and private spheres (Armenia);

91.21 Put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes (Belgium);

91.22 Amend its Constitution and other relevant legislation to fully incorporate the principle of equality between women and men and prohibit both direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and private spheres (Iceland);

91.23 Incorporate the principle of gender equality into the Constitution, as well as the prohibition of discrimination based on disability (Mexico);

91.24 Put in place measures, including anti-discrimination measures and awareness-raising campaigns, to eliminate discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Canada);

91.25 Strengthen measures to eradicate all violence and discrimination and promote inclusion, in particular with respect to women, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as to protect their rights (Chile);

91.26 Enhance the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people by protecting them effectively from violence and discrimination (Germany);

91.27 Make further efforts to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and integrate them into society (Iceland);

91.28 Continue working to consolidate the civil rights of persons belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Spain);

91.29 Implement specific measures to combat all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in order to guarantee the enjoyment of rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Uruguay);

91.30 Take strong, specific and action-oriented measures to modernize the fishing sector in a way that is beneficial to Vanuatu's fishermen (Haiti);

91.31 Adopt laws that explicitly prohibit polygamy and enable the registration of all customary marriages (Slovenia);

91.32 Revise legislation to raise the minimum age for marriage in compliance with international human rights standards (Iceland);

91.33 Ensure as soon as possible the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act, in particular by allocating adequate resources to the units responsible for the protection of families (Switzerland);

91.34 Revise legislation so that women can access legal, safe and voluntary termination of pregnancy and guarantee the provision of the relevant medical services (Iceland);

91.35 Review the civil and traditional legal systems in order to undertake reforms that ensure that their provisions on women's rights are uniform and conform to the international standards of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Mexico);

91.36 Abolish child, early and forced marriage by setting the minimum age for marriage for both men and women at 18 years (Netherlands);

91.37 Establish the criminal responsibility of legal entities for all offences defined in articles 2 and 3 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Spain);

91.38 Consider developing a comprehensive disaster-sensitive social protection system for children with disabilities, and take steps to improve the physical safety and resilience of school infrastructure (Bulgaria);

91.39 Conduct and make publicly available mapping studies and data collection on statelessness, access to legal identity, and birth registration in the country (United States of America).

92. 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

[English Only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Vanuatu was headed by Hon. Don Ken – Minister of Justice and Community Services and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Sumbue Antas, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu in Geneva;
- Mr. Noah Patrick Kouback, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu in Geneva;
- Ms. Dorosday Kenneth Watson, Director General, Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MOJCS);
- Ms. Angelyne Dovo, Parliamentary Counsel (PC), State Law Office (SLO);
- Mr. Setariki Waqanitoga, Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MOJCS);
- Ms. Roline Tekon, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade (MOFAICET);
- Mr. Yano Albert, Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MOJCS).