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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Latvia

* 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-eighth session from 3 to 14 May 2021. The review of Latvia was held at the 13th meeting, on 11 May 2021. The delegation of Latvia was headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Andris Pelšs. At its 17th meeting, held on 14 May 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Latvia.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Latvia: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Italy and Japan.
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 Latvia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, the Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Latvia 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. Latvia reiterated its strong support for the universal periodic review, a mechanism that allowed countries to assess their compliance with human rights obligations while encouraging dialogue with civil society. Its third national report had been prepared by an inter-institutional working group, taking into account the comments of non-governmental organizations.
6. At the international level, Latvia would continue to consider the ratification of pending instruments. It cooperated with the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and encouraged other States to issue a standing invitation to them. As a member of the Commission on the Status of Women for the forthcoming five years, it was committed to advancing women's rights internationally and was willing to transfer knowledge based on its experience of preparing its National Action Plan on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security for the period 2020–2025.
7. At the national level, Latvia was equipped with a Constitutional Court and an Ombudsman's Office that played important roles in ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights. As such, they had contributed to several achievements and good practices included in the national report.
8. Latvia had made several achievements in gender equality in the areas of employment and business, notably, women had been or were represented in all three highest ranking posts of the State. Nevertheless, despite the progress made, the gender pay gap remained an important challenge. Latvia was committed to addressing the gender stereotypes and

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/38/LVA/3.

discriminatory attitudes that explained that situation through its Gender Equality Action Plan for 2021–2023.

9. Efforts to eliminate violence against women and domestic violence had included adopting preventive measures and improving the legal framework. Latvia acknowledged that, when it had signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in 2016, it had committed to aligning its legal framework and practice with that regional instrument, even though ratification was still pending.

10. Measures had also been taken to address the heightened risk of gender-based violence posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. They had included public information campaigns and efforts to strengthen the skills of professionals to identify risks of domestic violence and provide support to victims.

11. Efforts made to eliminate violence against children had included steps taken within the framework of the National Development Plan for 2021–2027 and the operational strategy of the Ministry of the Interior for 2020–2023. They included activities to raise awareness among both children and staff about mobbing in schools.

12. The Constitutional Court had passed two recent judgments that would require legislative changes in order to ensure that same-sex couples could enjoy their rights to family life and ownership.

13. Consultations with civil society were mandatory when drafting legal acts, policies and other documents. It was noteworthy that the number of non-governmental organizations had increased by 10 per cent since 2016.

14. Reforms had been undertaken in the education system aimed at increasing the use of the Latvian language, while continuing to finance ethnic minority education programmes. The authorities were also implementing Roma-specific integration policy measures.

15. Several State institutions, including the police force, had implemented practical measures to help identify and combat hate crimes. Social integration policies also included measures to combat prejudice against people with different ethnic backgrounds and appearances and to increase public tolerance in general.

16. Efforts had been made to combat trafficking in persons through a new action plan for 2021–2023, which was currently pending adoption. It tackled the problem based on prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership.

17. Several measures had been taken to improve enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, including with regard to their access to education and their involvement in designing policies affecting them.

18. In 2020, a law had been adopted that completely ended the designation of “non-citizen” status to newborn children. Latvia had put in place all the preconditions for non-citizens to acquire Latvian citizenship by facilitating naturalization.

19. The Asylum Law, which had entered into force in 2016, ensured that the basic needs of asylum seekers were met on an equal footing with Latvian citizens. Several projects had been implemented to promote the integration of asylum seekers and to combat prejudice against them.

20. The COVID-19 pandemic had affected the enjoyment of human rights and had had an impact in all spheres of life. To minimize its effects, the Government had taken several measures, including providing allowances to employees who were unable to work, extending unemployment benefits, covering sick leave payments related to COVID-19 and introducing various benefits for parents with children at home.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 87 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Israel commended Latvia for its progress regarding women's rights, including women's participation in political processes, and for hosting the 2018 Baltic Pride, which had attracted a record number of participants.
23. Italy welcomed the measures Latvia had taken to promote gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence, including the adoption of the national action plan on women, peace and security.
24. Japan appreciated the steps Latvia had taken to advance the rights of women, including the approval of the national action plan on women, peace and security, and to prevent violence against women.
25. Kazakhstan acknowledged the reforms undertaken by Latvia to implement the recommendations made at the second cycle of the universal periodic review.
26. Jordan commended Latvia on providing State-funded legal aid to all applicants whose income or assets were less than the necessary minimum.
27. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the progress Latvia had made in the promotion of women's rights, gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities and in the prevention of all types of discrimination.
28. Lebanon welcomed the adoption by Latvia of a national action plan on women, peace and security, the increase in the budget of the Ombudsman's Office and its efforts to combat human trafficking.
29. Libya commended Latvia for the steps taken to enhance the enjoyment of economic and social rights by all, including persons belonging to ethnic minorities.
30. Lithuania applauded Latvia for its active role in promoting human rights as a member of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Economic and Social Council.
31. Luxembourg welcomed the efforts of Latvia to combat trafficking in persons and the existence of comprehensive State-funded assistance and support services for victims of trafficking.
32. Malaysia noted the efforts of Latvia to prevent violence against women and to address human trafficking. It looked forward to improved procedures for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking.
33. Maldives commended Latvia on its progress in the promotion of gender equality and was encouraged by its decision to increase funding to the Ombudsman's Office.
34. Malta commended Latvia on the approval of its first National Action Plan on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security for 2020–2025.
35. Mauritius commended Latvia for promoting economic independence and equal opportunities in the job market, as well as for raising awareness about the most significant causes of the gender pay gap.
36. Mexico acknowledged the adoption of amendments to the Labour Law that reinforced gender equality and defined harassment as a form of discrimination.
37. Montenegro welcomed the measures taken to ensure the right of ethnic minorities to preserve and develop their language, ethnic and cultural identities and traditions. Nevertheless, it had concerns about the discriminatory impact of certain legal provisions.
38. Namibia commended Latvia for the adoption of laws aimed at ensuring full equality between men and women and of a national action plan on women, peace and security.
39. Nepal welcomed the efforts of Latvia to combat trafficking in persons, noting in particular the availability of comprehensive State-funded assistance and support services for victims of trafficking.
40. The Netherlands commended Latvia for adopting the national action plan for 2020–2025 aimed at the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

41. New Zealand welcomed the participation of Latvia in the universal periodic review and made recommendations.
42. The Niger commended Latvia for the measures it had taken to combat human trafficking and for its amendments to the legislation on nationality. It invited Latvia to continue its efforts to reduce the number of non-citizens.
43. Pakistan noted the measures Latvia had taken to strengthen the national human rights institution, combat racial discrimination, curb gender-based violence and promote gender equality. It was concerned about the increase in racism, hate crime and hate speech.
44. Paraguay welcomed the efforts of Latvia to combat human trafficking. It was concerned about discrimination against ethnic minorities in education, employment, public and political life, as well as their access to services.
45. Peru thanked Latvia for its presentation and recognized the progress it had made to combat trafficking in persons.
46. The Philippines welcomed the progress Latvia had made regarding gender equality and its efforts to incorporate the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) in its national legislation.
47. Poland praised Latvia on the adoption of the law granting citizenship to all newborn children in its territory and encouraged it to make further efforts to eliminate statelessness.
48. Portugal noted with appreciation the completion of the judicial system territorial reform in Latvia.
49. The Republic of Korea noted in particular the efforts of Latvia to protect the rights of persons with disabilities by approving the Plan for Creating an Accessible Environment in Latvia.
50. Romania commended Latvia for its implementation of legislative measures to facilitate the investigation of complaints concerning torture by independent bodies and its efforts to eliminate discrimination and violence against women.
51. The Russian Federation was deeply concerned about the organization of regular events in Latvia condoning Nazism and the situation of linguistic minorities and persons with non-citizen status.
52. Rwanda welcomed the progress achieved in women's participation in political processes, particularly during the 2018 parliamentary election, which had seen an increase in the number of women elected.
53. Senegal welcomed the progress made and encouraged Latvia to continue its efforts to improve the conditions of vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.
54. Serbia commended Latvia for the measures it had taken to implement the recommendations made during the previous review and applauded in particular its efforts to integrate members of ethnic minorities in Latvian society.
55. Singapore commended the practical measures taken by Latvia to address hate speech and noted the increase in the number of children with disabilities who were studying in mainstream schools.
56. Slovakia welcomed the progress made in the areas of gender equality and civil society participation. It encouraged Latvia to ratify the core human rights treaties.
57. Slovenia regretted that citizenship was not automatically extended to all stateless children. It was also concerned about the placement in institutions of orphans and children without parental care.
58. Spain recognized the efforts of Latvia to combat violence against women and girls and to promote projects for the building of new penitentiary centres.

59. The State of Palestine welcomed the steps taken by Latvia to improve the situation of asylum seekers, including the adoption of a new asylum law, and with regard to business and human rights.

60. The Sudan commended Latvia for the adoption of the National Action Plan on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

61. Timor-Leste congratulated Latvia for its universal health coverage and noted the decrease in the number of children in State institutions and the measures it had adopted to combat gender-based violence against women.

62. Tunisia welcomed the progress made in preventing violence against women, advancing gender equality and combating all types of discrimination. It also welcomed the prison sector reform and the improved conditions of detention.

63. Turkey welcomed the granting of automatic citizenship to children born to non-citizens, unless the parents chose another nationality.

64. Turkmenistan appreciated the amendments that had been made to the legislative framework aimed at ensuring gender equality and the measures taken to improve access to education for persons with disabilities and their involvement in politics.

65. Ukraine highlighted the efforts Latvia had made in the area of minority rights, its leadership in the field of gender equality, the successful completion of its judicial reform and its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.

66. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the commitment of Latvia to supporting media freedom domestically and abroad, to achieving social integration and to eliminating child statelessness.

67. Responding to questions sent in advance and questions asked during the interactive dialogue, Latvia said that a report on the recommendations received in the context of the universal periodic review would be prepared with the participation of all ministries and submitted to the Cabinet for action.

68. On the rights of same-sex couples, Latvia explained that a working group, with the participation of civil society, had been established to prepare the legal changes required in the light of the two judgments that had recently been handed down by the Constitutional Court.

69. Concerning the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Latvia noted that, while the draft law was still pending, the Ombudsman's Office had been allocated resources to act as the national preventive mechanism.

70. Regarding the definition of torture, Latvia observed that the development of its national legislation was the result of dialogue with the Committee against Torture, whose recommendation it had implemented.

71. Latvia reiterated that the status of "non-citizen" had been introduced in order to regularize the situation of persons after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Those persons enjoyed rights that went beyond those afforded by the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

72. Regarding a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, Latvia noted that its Constitution contained a general prohibition of discrimination and that the Constitutional Court had ruled that all Constitutional provisions had to be interpreted and applied in line with the country's international obligations.

73. Latvia stated that it had complied de facto with the recommendation to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

74. Likewise, it was already using a merit-based process when selecting candidates for international positions.

75. On the issue of inclusive education, Latvia clarified that it concerned not only children with disabilities, but also those from vulnerable social groups. Such students were entitled to an individual education plan when they enrolled in a mainstream school.
76. Latvia described its efforts to give persons belonging to ethnic minorities the greatest opportunity possible to choose their preferred type of school and language of instruction. It also noted that Roma children were integrated in mainstream education institutions.
77. Latvia highlighted the efforts it had made within the context of the Gender Equality Action Plan for 2021–2023 to combat gender stereotypes and its achievements in terms of gender equality in several areas.
78. Latvia described its plans for the forthcoming seven years to address gender-based violence, including violence against women, and provided information on the action plan of the State police to combat domestic violence.
79. Latvia stated that it complied with European Union legislation on using detention of asylum seekers as a last resort only. Detention of children was also used only if it was in the best interest of the child.
80. Latvia noted that the number of non-citizens was decreasing every year. They faced no restrictions in accessing naturalization, which was free of charge or provided at a reduced cost for several categories of socially vulnerable persons.
81. Latvia explained that the retransmission of some television channels had been suspended in an effort to prevent hate speech and incitement to violence, in line with Council of Europe and European Union regulations.
82. While noting that 11 November was the only official Remembrance Day to commemorate fallen soldiers, Latvia was committed, as a democratic country, to respecting the right to peaceful assembly.
83. The United States of America commended Latvia on its decision to grant automatic citizenship to children born to non-citizens. It was concerned about media independence and discrimination against several minorities.
84. Uruguay recognized the efforts made by Latvia, including the adoption of measures aimed at preventing violence against women.
85. Uzbekistan welcomed the progress made in ensuring equal opportunities for women and men, and noted the adoption of the first national action plan on women, peace and security.
86. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed concerns regarding persistent discrimination against Roma, the high level of gender-based violence and the situation of thousands of stateless persons.
87. Viet Nam took positive note of the efforts made by Latvia to combat human trafficking and to facilitate the naturalization procedure for children born to non-citizens.
88. Albania commended Latvia on the steps it had taken to strengthen civil society participation and gender equality, the latter both domestically, through legislative amendments, and globally, through its development cooperation policy.
89. Argentina welcomed the delegation of Latvia and thanked it for the presentation of its national report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review.
90. Armenia welcomed the efforts of Latvia to achieve gender equality, including to increase women's participation in public life and to ensure that they had better employment opportunities.
91. Australia commended Latvia for the progress it had made in countering social hatred and enmity, protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, granting automatic citizenship to children of non-citizens and addressing social inclusion for Roma people.

92. Austria welcomed the adoption of the law granting automatic citizenship to children of non-citizens. It noted that, despite the progress made, the levels of violence against women and domestic violence remained high.
93. Bangladesh took note of the progress made by Latvia since its second review and encouraged it to make further efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations.
94. Belarus was concerned about policies in several areas that discriminated against ethnic minorities and about the situation of elderly persons, who were at risk of poverty and social exclusion.
95. Belgium welcomed the progress made by Latvia since its previous reviews, while noting that, notwithstanding its achievements, there was room for progress, in particular regarding gender-based violence and combating trafficking.
96. Bhutan noted with appreciation the measures taken by Latvia to promote and protect human rights, including the legislative amendments that had been made to ensure gender equality and prohibit gender-based discrimination.
97. Brazil acknowledged the steps Latvia had taken to protect privacy and personal data, to provide students with special needs with access to inclusive education and to strengthen the work of the Ombudsman's Office.
98. Bulgaria noted with appreciation the legislative, institutional and policy measures that had been taken to implement the recommendations that Latvia had accepted during the previous review, particularly in the areas of gender equality and children rights.
99. Canada acknowledged the steps Latvia had taken regarding the restitution of property to religious organizations and supported adherence to the international standards set forth in the Terezin Declaration.
100. Chile congratulated Latvia for the progress it had made during the reporting period, particularly the adoption of the law granting automatic citizenship to children of non-citizens.
101. China was concerned about violations of the rights of ethnic minorities, in particular Roma. It noted that racial discrimination against Asians and people of Asian descent had increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.
102. Costa Rica commended Latvia for the progress made in upholding human rights, especially in the areas of inclusion, equality, education and access to justice.
103. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Latvia on the progress it had made in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the fight against trafficking in persons.
104. Cuba thanked Latvia for the presentation of its national report to the third cycle of the universal periodic review and wished it success in implementing the recommendations.
105. Cyprus commended Latvia for its commitment to human rights and welcomed the progress achieved in integrating minority groups and the measures taken to widen the scope of action by civil society organizations.
106. Czechia welcomed the establishment of a national monitoring mechanism and the amendments to the Labour Law that strengthened the equal treatment of women and men in employment.
107. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea took note of the national report of Latvia for the third cycle of the universal periodic review.
108. Denmark commended the adoption of the law on the termination of granting non-citizen status to children and of legislative measures to combat gender-based violence. It remained concerned about the underreporting of hate crimes.
109. The Dominican Republic noted with satisfaction the headway Latvia had made in implementing the recommendations received during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review and wished it success in the current cycle.

110. Egypt noted the efforts Latvia had made to promote and protect human rights since the previous universal periodic review.
111. Estonia commended Latvia for the progress it had made in promoting gender equality by achieving a high rate of participation of women in political affairs and economic life, and in protecting the rights of ethnic minorities.
112. Ethiopia congratulated Latvia for achieving full gender equality in law and the progress made concerning environmental accessibility for persons with limited mobility and inclusive education for children with special needs.
113. Fiji commended Latvia on its efforts to combat human trafficking and on the amendments to the Labour Law to ensure equal treatment for men and women in the workplace.
114. Finland appreciated the engagement of Latvia with the universal periodic review process.
115. France welcomed the progress made in the situation of human rights in Latvia, particularly regarding professional equality, and invited Latvia to pursue its efforts.
116. Georgia welcomed the steps taken by Latvia to advance women's rights and combat gender-based violence and acknowledged its efforts to strengthen the judicial system and to ensure the right to a fair trial.
117. Germany appreciated the contribution of Latvia to advancing human rights, nationally and internationally. It welcomed the successful measures taken to support harmonious relations between communities, including by granting automatic citizenship to children of non-citizens.
118. Greece commended Latvia on its promotion of gender equality in all spheres of public and political life and invited it to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
119. Iceland welcomed the national report of Latvia, noting the various steps outlined therein, and hoping for their continued implementation.
120. India appreciated the approach Latvia had taken to promoting economic independence and equal opportunities for women in the employment sector. It also welcomed the initiatives Latvia had taken to combat hate crime, while noting the discrimination against Roma.
121. Indonesia commended Latvia for the integrated approach taken in improving public participation in decision-making, as well as in advancing gender equality.
122. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the delegation of Latvia to the third cycle of the universal periodic review, made recommendations and wished it a successful review.
123. Iraq welcomed the institutional and policy measures taken by Latvia to promote the right to education, as well as its adoption of the asylum law and the amendments thereto.
124. Ireland welcomed the adoption of the law ending the granting of non-citizen status to children and the progress made in aligning domestic laws with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
125. Latvia, answering additional questions, noted the overall increase in expenditure on social protection in the past five years. It briefed delegations on the broad minimum income reform, which had begun in 2021.
126. Latvia said that the rights of persons with disabilities would remain a priority, as it was striving to move away from a purely medical approach to disability.
127. While recalling the objectives of the State Language Law, it noted exceptions where the use of other languages was foreseen.
128. Latvia recalled that it was one of the first countries to have issued a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council.
129. It mentioned the various efforts deployed to combat trafficking in human beings.

130. Latvia stated that all residents had equal rights to State-funded COVID-19 testing, vaccination and treatment.

131. In conclusion, Latvia thanked all delegations for their questions and recommendations, which would help it to uphold human rights in the future.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

132.1 **Ratify the main international human rights treaties that are still pending, in order to make progress on Sustainable Development Goals 5, 11, 13 and 16 (Paraguay);**

132.2 **Ratify the main United Nations human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Côte d'Ivoire) (Kazakhstan) (Turkmenistan);**

132.3 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger) (Philippines);**

132.4 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

132.5 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh) (Indonesia);**

132.6 **Consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and take further steps to ensure the full socioeconomic integration of migrants (Turkey);**

132.7 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Italy) (Japan);**

132.8 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal) (Sudan);**

132.9 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uzbekistan);**

132.10 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**

132.11 **Promote the prompt ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and advance in the establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Uruguay);**

132.12 **Continue with measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mauritius);**

132.13 **Speed up the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Turkey);**

132.14 **Accelerate the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czechia);**

132.15 **Complete the necessary procedures to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Lebanon);**

- 132.16 Complete the process of ratification of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine)**;
- 132.17 Finalize the ratification of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Romania)**;
- 132.18 Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus) (Denmark) (Finland) (Lithuania)**;
- 132.19 Continue assessing the possibility of the ratification of the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Romania)**;
- 132.20 Examine the possibility of acceding to the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Niger)**;
- 132.21 Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ireland) (Montenegro) (Namibia) (Turkey)**;
- 132.22 Consider the possibility of ratifying the European instrument on human rights, the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Dominican Republic)**;
- 132.23 Continue fighting gender-based violence and prioritize the swift ratification of the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Italy)**;
- 132.24 Accelerate steps towards the ratification of the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Ireland)**;
- 132.25 Further continue steps towards the ratification of the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Georgia)**;
- 132.26 Ratify swiftly the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Austria)**;
- 132.27 Ratify the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Cyprus) (Denmark) (Estonia) (France)**;
- 132.28 Ratify the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (known as the Istanbul Convention) (Netherlands)**;
- 132.29 Ratify the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and criminalize violence against women and girls as specific crimes in the Criminal Code (Spain)**;
- 132.30 Ratify the **Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and, in accordance with its provisions, prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (Finland)**;
- 132.31 Step up efforts to ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Albania)**;
- 132.32 Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Council of Europe**

Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Belgium);

132.33 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Costa Rica);**

132.34 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**

132.35 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);**

132.36 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Argentina);**

132.37 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);**

132.38 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, the European Convention on Nationality and the Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession (Luxembourg);**

132.39 **Withdraw the reservation to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Namibia);**

132.40 **Facilitate the issuance of identity documents to stateless persons, by lifting the reservation to article 27 of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Côte d'Ivoire);**

132.41 **Continue the process of ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Philippines);**

132.42 **Consider acceding to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (Armenia);**

132.43 **Consider acceding to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (Malta);**

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

132.45 **Ensure regular visits to the country of the Human Rights Council's special thematic procedures and, as a matter of priority, arrange for the visit of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues (Belarus);**

132.46 **Enhance cooperation with the special procedure mechanisms (Egypt);**

132.47 **Continue adopting measures to increase the effectiveness and independence of the Office of the Ombudsman in order to enable its alignment with the Paris Principles, taking into account the observations and recommendations made in 2015 by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (Uruguay);**

- 132.48 Strengthen the independence of the Ombudsperson's Office through provision of the requisite financial and human resources (Pakistan);
- 132.49 Provide the Office of the Ombudsperson with adequate financial and human resources to fully discharge its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan);
- 132.50 Expand the remit of the Ombudsman's Office to promote and defend gender equality, and provide sufficient financial resources for the Ombudsman to fully discharge their mandate (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 132.51 Broaden the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson to include the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality (Luxembourg);
- 132.52 Consider expanding the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman to promote and protect women's rights and equality between women and men (Bulgaria);
- 132.53 Establish a permanent national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);
- 132.54 Continue taking practical steps aimed at the development of the institutional and human rights infrastructure to better implement its human rights obligations (Turkmenistan);
- 132.55 Take concrete steps to promote intercultural dialogue (Singapore);
- 132.56 Strengthen efforts to ensure equal participation in political and public life, as well as education and employment (Slovakia);
- 132.57 Continue bolstering institutional policies to combat discrimination in all its forms (Dominican Republic);
- 132.58 Continue to implement its measures to combat all types of discrimination by developing guidelines, education curricula and others, applying the principles of diversity and gender equality (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 132.59 Consider steps to increase public resilience against intolerance and discrimination based on racial, national, ethnic and religious origin as well as hate speech in public life and on the Internet (Turkey);
- 132.60 Dedicate more resources to promoting tolerance and combating discrimination, as well as preventing, documenting and responding to hate crimes and gender-based violence, including domestic violence (United States of America);
- 132.61 Adopt measures to strengthen the fight against prejudice and discrimination based on colour, language, religion, national descent or ethnic origin and sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as to facilitate the access of disadvantaged and marginalized groups to economic, social and cultural rights, paying special attention to employment, health and education (Uruguay);
- 132.62 Take targeted measures to address xenophobia, racism and racial discrimination and promote tolerance throughout society (Bangladesh);
- 132.63 Ensure effective implementation of laws and measures against hatred and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic group and religion (Philippines);
- 132.64 Consider progressive anti-discrimination law reforms to guarantee comprehensive protection against discrimination in accordance with international human rights law, norms and standards (Fiji);

- 132.65 **Adopt a comprehensive law to combat discrimination in all its forms to address the increase in hate crimes and hate speech (Spain);**
- 132.66 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 132.67 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that will contribute to improving access to public services and employment opportunities (Czechia);**
- 132.68 **Adopt legislative measures that have a comprehensive definition of discrimination, reflecting its multiple and intersectional nature and the different ways in which it manifests itself, particularly discrimination on the grounds of gender, disability, race and ethnicity and, along the same lines, strengthen measures to prevent violence (Costa Rica);**
- 132.69 **Adopt legislation and strengthen measures against discrimination, particularly that suffered by ethnic minorities (Argentina);**
- 132.70 **Include in the legislation a definition of racial discrimination, in accordance with article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and take the necessary steps to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Slovakia);**
- 132.71 **Adopt a comprehensive law to combat discrimination in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Chile);**
- 132.72 **Adopt effective measures to combat racism, racial discrimination and other related forms of intolerance (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 132.73 **Take specific targeted measures to combat racial discrimination, Islamophobia, xenophobia and intolerance in society (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 132.74 **Take further steps to combat the exclusion and discrimination of ethnic minority groups, including by raising public awareness through public campaigns and inclusive education programmes (Republic of Korea);**
- 132.75 **Increase its efforts to counteract xenophobia and combat stereotypes and prejudices in political discourse, including for Roma who continue to face barriers to education, employment and access to services (New Zealand);**
- 132.76 **Take further measures to eliminate racial discrimination, including that against the Roma people (Japan);**
- 132.77 **Take effective legislative and administrative measures to eliminate discrimination against ethnic minorities including Roma, Asians and people of Asian descent (China);**
- 132.78 **Continue efforts made to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech and related intolerance against immigrants, asylum seekers and religious minorities (Sudan);**
- 132.79 **Ensure the full realization of the rights of linguistic minorities and residents who are “non-citizens” and facilitate their integration into Latvian society without any discrimination (Russian Federation);**
- 132.80 **Continue efforts to prevent discrimination against and to protect minorities (Tunisia);**
- 132.81 **Step up efforts in the protection of migrants and ethnic minorities in accordance with international standards, including through strengthening domestic law provisions and programmes that guarantee equal rights and treatment (Indonesia);**

- 132.82 **Review discriminatory policies against ethnic minorities in the fields of education and employment, public and political life and access to services (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 132.83 **Continue measures to promote gender equality (Uzbekistan);**
- 132.84 **Continue efforts to champion gender equality, especially in its development cooperation (Ethiopia);**
- 132.85 **Continue its efforts to achieve gender equality by adopting legislation implementing gender equality laws to combat stereotypes and multiple forms of discrimination and by strengthening efforts to reduce the high rates of violence against women (New Zealand);**
- 132.86 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to combat discriminatory stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society (Rwanda);**
- 132.87 **Ensure that both sexual orientation and gender identity are listed as prohibited grounds of discrimination in various legislation, including in criminal law (New Zealand);**
- 132.88 **Adopt measures to promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and to combat discrimination against them (France);**
- 132.89 **Ensure that members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual community are free to report homophobic and transphobic concerns without fear of reprisals, threats, attacks or harassment (New Zealand);**
- 132.90 **Intensify measures to address hate crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and racism, including establishing a mechanism to report hate crimes as well as strengthening human rights training to law enforcement authorities (Australia);**
- 132.91 **Advance in the design of an action plan focused on the full recognition of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons, and on the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against them (Chile);**
- 132.92 **Introduce legislation that recognizes different forms of partnerships and that grants same-sex couples the same rights and social security benefits as couples of the opposite sex, as previously recommended (Netherlands);**
- 132.93 **Enhance human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and protect the people in same-sex relationships from discrimination (Estonia);**
- 132.94 **Provide legal recognition to same-sex unions (New Zealand);**
- 132.95 **Recognize same-sex civil unions as a further step in the fight against discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons (Israel);**
- 132.96 **Strengthen measures so that same-sex couples have the protection and support of the State under equal conditions (Costa Rica);**
- 132.97 **Ensure legal and appropriate social and economic protection and support measures in the Constitution for same-sex families (Finland);**
- 132.98 **Pass and implement laws that would recognize same-sex partnerships and define the rights and obligations of cohabiting couples in same-sex unions (Iceland);**
- 132.99 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive national strategy against all forms of racist or hate crimes and discrimination (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

- 132.100 Consider making the necessary legislative amendments to combat hate speech, racism and Islamophobia (Egypt);
- 132.101 Continue to take the necessary legislative and policy measures to prevent the use of hate speech on the Internet (India);
- 132.102 Review legislation and adopt laws to counter racial discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech, including online (Pakistan);
- 132.103 Review the adequacy of its legislation in addressing and sanctioning racist hate speech and incitement to racial hatred (Rwanda);
- 132.104 Review the adequacy of its legislation in addressing and sanctioning racist hate speech and incitement to racial hatred, and take measures to prevent the use of hate speech on the Internet (Jordan);
- 132.105 Bring the legislation into line with international obligations to combat hate speech and incitement to racial hatred, and take measures to prevent the use of hate speech on the Internet (Russian Federation);
- 132.106 Take additional legislative and policy measures to tackle hate speech, particularly online, in a systematic and comprehensive manner (Singapore);
- 132.107 Take appropriate measures to address effectively hate speech and to promote tolerance (Slovakia);
- 132.108 Take all measures to combat the phenomenon of xenophobia and combat political discourse based on stereotypes and discrimination (Libya);
- 132.109 Strengthen measures to address hate crime and hate speech, particularly against ethnic and religious minorities (Malaysia);
- 132.110 Strengthen measures addressing hate speech, including online (Poland);
- 132.111 Implement effective measures to combat racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, as well as their manifestations in political speech (Cuba);
- 132.112 Continue to implement public awareness campaigns and education programmes, along with specialized training for authorities, to explicitly address hate speech and hate crimes stemming from homophobia, racism and xenophobia (Canada);
- 132.113 Raise awareness about hate speech and take effective measures to encourage reporting of hate crimes, especially against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, for example by establishing a unit within law enforcement dedicated to the issue (Denmark);
- 132.114 Enhance efforts to prevent, investigate and address hate crimes, including facilitating the reporting of hate crimes by victims (Philippines);
- 132.115 Establish a unit within the State police to reach out to vulnerable groups and address the problem of underreporting of racist, homophobic and transphobic hate crimes (Germany);
- 132.116 Increase cooperation with civil society organizations in project activities to combat all types of discrimination, including hate speech (Lithuania);
- 132.117 Enact specific legislation for conflict-affected areas and provide guidance and advice for business enterprises on ensuring respect for human rights to prevent and address the heightened risk of corporate involvement in gross human rights violations in conflict-affected areas, including situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);
- 132.118 Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);

- 132.119 **Take further measures to ensure the effective implementation of the law to increase transparency in government and to eradicate corruption (Indonesia);**
- 132.120 **Continue taking steps towards poverty reduction, particularly among women and children (Malaysia);**
- 132.121 **Promote policies for supporting the family, as it is the fundamental and natural unit of society (Egypt);**
- 132.122 **Revise its legislation to include a definition of torture that complies with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Luxembourg);**
- 132.123 **Provide for the right of victims of torture and ill-treatment to fair and adequate compensation and rehabilitation in domestic legislation (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 132.124 **Cease torture and cruel or inhuman treatment in places of detention, including sexual violations (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 132.125 **Seek to analyse the reasons for the high rate of ethnic minorities among persons deprived of their liberty in detention units and take appropriate measures accordingly (Serbia);**
- 132.126 **Increase financial allocation to existing penitentiary centres to ensure adequate food, sanitary and hygiene conditions for prisoners (Spain);**
- 132.127 **Continue efforts to further improve prison conditions (Austria);**
- 132.128 **Continue efforts aimed at reforming and developing the prison system to ensure its compatibility with international human rights standards (Libya);**
- 132.129 **Eliminate and sanction ill-treatment against persons deprived of liberty (Cuba);**
- 132.130 **Adopt the necessary measures to prevent, investigate and punish violence and abuse against persons with disabilities living in institutions (Mexico);**
- 132.131 **Take appropriate measures to improve living conditions in short-term detention facilities and to combat ill-treatment in prisons (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 132.132 **Increase efforts to counter gender-based violence (Uzbekistan);**
- 132.133 **Include domestic violence and marital rape as specific crimes in the Criminal Code (Austria);**
- 132.134 **Consider amending its legislation to include domestic violence and marital rape as specific crimes in the Criminal Law (Greece);**
- 132.135 **Consider progressive law reforms on gender-based violence, including in the area of domestic violence (Fiji);**
- 132.136 **Close remaining gaps in the legal framework to prohibit all forms of gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence. This includes investigating all allegations, prosecuting perpetrators, ensuring victims have access to medical, legal and rehabilitation services, and implementing targeted awareness-raising campaigns (Canada);**
- 132.137 **Continue efforts to prevent and combat gender-based violence, both in law and in practice, and ensure that all competent authorities have the necessary capacity to investigate, prosecute and penalize this type of violence (Belgium);**
- 132.138 **Step up efforts to address the rise in domestic violence cases during this time of pandemic (Indonesia);**

- 132.139 Take measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and reinforce its capacity to effectively fight corruption, as well as to improve the investigative capacity and the independence of the public prosecutors and the office for the prevention of and fight against corruption (Uruguay);
- 132.140 Consider taking measures with a view to guaranteeing equal access to justice for persons belonging to ethnic minorities (Peru);
- 132.141 Guarantee the right of access to a lawyer by all persons in Latvia (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 132.142 Ensure the provision of qualified and independent legal aid to children in conflict with the law throughout legal proceedings (Timor-Leste);
- 132.143 Bring the access to information law into conformity with the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other related international instruments (Bangladesh);
- 132.144 Investigate and hold accountable those responsible for pressure on the Russian-language media and politically motivated persecution of public figures and journalists (Russian Federation);
- 132.145 Ban the annual gatherings in Riga to commemorate Waffen-SS legionnaires and firmly condemn any attempts to commemorate those who collaborated with the Nazis (Russian Federation);
- 132.146 Criminalize all forms of modern slavery as distinct crimes in national legislation, including forced marriage (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 132.147 Adopt comprehensive laws to combat trafficking in persons in accordance with international standards, to improve procedures to identify victims of trafficking and establish a national mechanism to refer victims to relevant services, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 8 and related goals (Paraguay);
- 132.148 Adopt comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation and improve the procedure for early identification and referral of victims to appropriate services (Serbia);
- 132.149 Adopt comprehensive laws to combat human trafficking and improve procedures to identify victims as soon as possible and refer them to the appropriate services (Chile);
- 132.150 Continue enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation by providing relevant training to authorities, while reinforcing support, rehabilitation, protection and redress mechanisms for victims in all cases and from all backgrounds (Canada);
- 132.151 Create a mechanism to identify potential victims of human trafficking (Cyprus);
- 132.152 Put into place a comprehensive mechanism to refer victims of trafficking to social service providers, and facilitate cooperation between public authorities and these service providers to this end (Belgium);
- 132.153 Strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including prosecuting cases under the trafficking statute rather than for lesser crimes, and if convicted, punishing traffickers with appropriate prison sentences commensurate with the severity of the crime (United States of America);
- 132.154 Eliminate trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation and ensure that cases of trafficking are thoroughly investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and victims and their families are provided with full reparations (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

- 132.155 **Apply effective measures to prevent and eradicate human trafficking by promptly prosecuting and punishing perpetrators (Cyprus);**
- 132.156 **Continue efforts made to combat trafficking in persons and provide all assistance and support services to victims of trafficking (Tunisia);**
- 132.157 **Combat human trafficking crimes, including trafficking in women and migrants (Iraq);**
- 132.158 **Strengthen the fight against human trafficking, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation (France);**
- 132.159 **Strengthen efforts to enforce equal pay for equal work (Maldives);**
- 132.160 **Design and implement concrete measures for the reduction of the gender pay gap (Lithuania);**
- 132.161 **Effectively enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in order to narrow and ultimately close the gender pay gap (Iceland);**
- 132.162 **Continue efforts made to develop measures to prevent discrimination against women and promote gender equality, including in the area of treatment, work and wages (Tunisia);**
- 132.163 **Redouble efforts to integrate into the labour market Roma women, women from other ethnic minorities, migrants, women with disabilities and women from rural areas (Peru);**
- 132.164 **Help people with disabilities to access employment in the open labour market, in inclusive environments and on the basis of equality with others (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 132.165 **Revise State social policy to ensure the effective social protection of the population, especially the elderly (Belarus);**
- 132.166 **Strengthen measures to combat social exclusion of elderly persons, in particular in relation to the social assistance and pensions provided (Czechia);**
- 132.167 **Proceed with measures to improve access to health-care services (Georgia);**
- 132.168 **Take sufficient measures to effectively guarantee the right of access to health care by all Latvians (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 132.169 **Continue and improve the good practice of using languages other than Latvian in information campaigns on issues of public health when necessary, such as the promotion of vaccination against COVID-19 (Turkey);**
- 132.170 **Continue taking steps to realize the right to health, among others, by ensuring access to services for all, including persons with disabilities (Malaysia);**
- 132.171 **Ensure inclusive health policies and equal access to health care for persons with disabilities, including persons with Down syndrome and their families (Philippines);**
- 132.172 **Further improve the access of women to sexual and reproductive health services (Greece);**
- 132.173 **Put forward measures to enable universal access to education for every student, and across all areas, whether urban and rural (Mauritius);**
- 132.174 **Strengthen measures aimed at promoting school attendance by children in rural areas (Senegal);**
- 132.175 **Enhance measure for access to education in rural areas, especially for children from diverse ethnic backgrounds (Armenia);**
- 132.176 **Continue to step up efforts to provide equal opportunities in education, especially to ethnic minorities and vulnerable groups including migrants, Roma and children with disabilities (Turkey);**

132.177 Further strengthen its educational system and various curricula to ensure that quality education is accessible to all, especially children, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to ethnic minorities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

132.178 Adopt educational initiatives with a comprehensive approach in favour of migrants and ethnic minorities, especially women and children of Roma communities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

132.179 Improve the access of children with disabilities and special needs to education opportunities (Poland);

132.180 Take effective measures to guarantee the access of children with special needs to special education programmes (Islamic Republic of Iran);

132.181 Take the necessary measures to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular in the field of education (France);

132.182 Continue efforts to ensure access to education for all children and ensure that no child is refused admission to schools based on disability (Maldives);

132.183 Take steps to improve the accessibility of inclusive education for children with disabilities (Malta);

132.184 Provide adequate training and resources to public schools and teachers to ensure that the regulations establishing the requirements for general schools to be able to admit students with special needs can be fully implemented to enable inclusive education for children with disabilities (Singapore);

132.185 Strengthen efforts to protect the human rights of Roma people and take further concrete steps towards improving the situation of Roma children's access to education (Australia);

132.186 Work towards a more inclusive educational system, especially with regard to the language of instruction in schools (India);

132.187 Consider additional measures such as a comprehensive gender equality strategy and a gender-based budgeting strategy to address gender-based discrimination (Bhutan);

132.188 Adopt a comprehensive gender equality strategy that includes combating violence against women, combating gender stereotypes and increasing the representation of women in decision-making bodies in political life (Argentina);

132.189 Adopt a comprehensive gender equality strategy, including gender mainstreaming in budgetary processes (Portugal);

132.190 Implement effective measures in favour of gender equality and increase the participation of women in public and political life (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

132.191 Strengthen its efforts to increase the representation of women in political life at the decision-making level in both elected and appointed governmental bodies (Timor-Leste);

132.192 Consider introducing electoral gender quotas, with a view to increasing the political representation of women (Albania);

132.193 Adopt a comprehensive law on gender-based violence against women (Rwanda);

132.194 Consider adoption of comprehensive legislation on gender-based violence against women (Bhutan);

132.195 Continue to improve the legal framework and implement practical measures to prevent violence against women (Viet Nam);

- 132.196 Continue efforts to improve its legal framework to prevent violence against women and consider adopting comprehensive legislation on gender-based violence against women and domestic violence (Republic of Korea);
- 132.197 Strengthen legislative and political measures to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women, and consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Mexico);
- 132.198 Strengthen efforts to ensure the protection of women against rape and sexual violence through possible legislative reform and establishing appropriate avenues for reporting abuse (Australia);
- 132.199 Take further measures to eliminate violence against women (China);
- 132.200 Continue to address violence against women and, in particular, provide the appropriate support services to rape and sexual assault survivors, including through completing the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Iceland);
- 132.201 Continue to work towards adopting the prostitution limitation law as soon as possible (Israel);
- 132.202 Successfully realize the first National Action Plan on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (Ukraine);
- 132.203 Continue measures to promote the rights of children and persons with disabilities (Nepal);
- 132.204 Develop a national plan on protecting children deprived of a family environment (Iraq);
- 132.205 Provide significant assistance to children exposed to domestic violence and address the psychosocial rehabilitation needs of each child (Cuba);
- 132.206 Further build on the current outstanding record on the integration of ethnic minorities into Latvian society (Ukraine);
- 132.207 Further improve the access of ethnic minorities to employment, basic services as well as the justice system by alleviating impediments that they may face, for instance due to linguistic policies (Poland);
- 132.208 Redouble efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of ethnic and national minorities, and their sustainable integration into Latvian society (Lebanon);
- 132.209 Prohibit expressly and punish the violation of the human rights of minorities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 132.210 Step up efforts to promote the integration of ethnic and language minorities in society (Brazil);
- 132.211 Stop language policies discriminating against ethnic minorities in the fields of education and employment, public and political life, and access to social services (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 132.212 Immediately implement the recommendations of the treaty bodies to revise the Law on the State Language in order to remove any discriminatory restrictions against ethnic minorities (Belarus);
- 132.213 Revise the Law on the State Language that discriminates against linguistic minorities in terms of employment and interaction with the authorities (Russian Federation);

- 132.214 **Ensure that the application of the Law on the State Language does not discriminate in any way against members of ethnic minorities, especially in terms of employment in the public and private sectors (Serbia);**
- 132.215 **Guarantee the effective participation of persons from ethnic and linguistic minorities in public life, and repeal all provisions that could encourage segregation (Mexico);**
- 132.216 **Continue measures to promote the social integration and civil participation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities while preserving the uniqueness of their culture (Nepal);**
- 132.217 **Accelerate the Holocaust-era restitution process for Jewish communal and heirless property, consistent with the 2009 Terezin Declaration (United States of America);**
- 132.218 **Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Viet Nam);**
- 132.219 **Maintain the achievements registered in mainstreaming the interests of persons with disabilities (Ethiopia);**
- 132.220 **Strengthen efforts to further promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Japan);**
- 132.221 **Strengthen the development of various policies to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities (Turkmenistan);**
- 132.222 **Strengthen ongoing efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly by improving accessibility to general health services for all persons with disabilities (Republic of Korea);**
- 132.223 **Continue to develop policies to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in terms of inclusive education and accessibility, as previously recommended (Israel);**
- 132.224 **Take measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and for their full and effective participation in society, including access to inclusive education and labour opportunities (Portugal);**
- 132.225 **Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including ensuring an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities and facilitating the accessibility for students with disabilities to quality, inclusive education (Czechia);**
- 132.226 **Adopt a new action plan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Montenegro);**
- 132.227 **Continue improving the availability of education and involvement in politics to persons with disabilities (Greece);**
- 132.228 **Consider progressive law reforms to ensure the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities through a decision-making regime that respects their autonomy, will and preferences (Fiji);**
- 132.229 **Enhance efforts to achieve complete deinstitutionalization of all persons with disabilities (Bulgaria);**
- 132.230 **Strengthen the range of integration measures to all beneficiaries of international protection namely through a comprehensive integration programme (Portugal);**
- 132.231 **Develop and implement programmes that facilitate better integration and access to labour markets for refugees and for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, and which reconcile their respective social assistance benefits (Canada);**

132.232 Consider taking the necessary measures to ensure that any detention of asylum seekers is applied only as a measure of last resort, as well as to prohibit the detention of children for migration-related reasons (Peru);

132.233 Amend domestic legislation to establish that detention of asylum seekers is to be applied only as a measure of last resort (State of Palestine);

132.234 Prohibit the detention of children for immigration related purposes (State of Palestine);

132.235 Grant to “non-citizens” equal access to employment, education, health care and social security (Russian Federation);

132.236 Repeal any provision that could cause statelessness, and take measures to facilitate the naturalization of persons recognized as stateless (Mexico);

132.237 Grant citizenship to children of stateless people (Estonia);

132.238 Guarantee the automatic acquisition of citizenship by all children born in the territory of Latvia who would otherwise be stateless (Brazil);

132.239 Consider granting Latvian citizenship also to those stateless children in Latvia who were born before 1 January 2020 (Germany);

132.240 Amend the Citizenship Law in order to provide for the automatic acquisition of citizenship by all children born on the territory of Latvia to “non-citizens” who would otherwise be stateless, including minors between 15 and 18 years of age (Slovenia);

132.241 Continue efforts to reduce statelessness and facilitate the acquisition of nationality by non-citizens (Italy);

132.242 Simplify the process of naturalization of “non-citizens”, especially older persons and children (Russian Federation);

132.243 Streamline the processes related to naturalization for people who are in the process of acquiring Latvian nationality, especially for minors (Costa Rica);

132.244 Advance legal, policy and/or practical steps to reduce statelessness, facilitating the acceleration of the naturalization of recognized stateless persons (Ireland).

133. 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 Latvia was headed by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Andris Pelšs, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Olita Arkle, Senior Expert at the Department of Education, Ministry of Education and Science;
- Ms. Elīna Bračiņa, Third Secretary, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Ms. Ilze Buligina, Senior Expert at the Department of Professional and Adult Education, Ministry of Education and Science;
- Ms. Elīna Celmiņa, Head of the Social Inclusion Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare;
- Ms. Sandra Falka, Senior Desk Officer at the National Centre for Education;
- Ms. Agnese Gaile, Senior Expert at the Department of Social Policy Planning and Development, Ministry of Welfare;
- H.E. Mr. Bahtijors Hasans, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Ms. Sandra Kauliņa, Head of the Human Rights Division of the Department of International Organisations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Anita Kleinberga, Head of the Division of Integration of Society and Development of Civic Society of the Department of Integration of Society, Ministry of Culture;
- Ms. Kristīne Līce, Representative of Latvia before International Human Rights Institutions, Acting Director of the Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Inga Martinšone, Senior Expert at the Department of Social Services, Ministry of Welfare;
- Mr. Andris Mellakauls, Head of the Division of Information Space Integration, Ministry of Culture;
- Ms. Agnese Pabērza-Draudiņa, Senior Expert at the Department of Local Governments, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development;
- Ms. Marika Petroviča, Head of the Division for Integrated Health Care of the Department of Health Care, Ministry of Health;
- Ms. Lūcija Pričina, Senior Desk Officer at the Human Rights Division of the Department of International Organisations and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Žanna Stare, Prosecutor at the Methodology Division, Department of Analysis and Management, Prosecutor General's Office;
- Ms. Jeļena Šaicāne, Head of Social Integration Department, Ministry of Culture;
- Mr. Gatis Švika, Head of Sector Policy Department, Ministry of the Interior;
- Mr. Māris Taube, President of the Latvian Psychiatric Association;
- Ms. Sandra Vīgante, Head of Division of Public International Law, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Ludmila Zaharenko, Head of the Division of Local Governments Supervision, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development;

- Ms. Ilze Zvīdriņa, Deputy Head of the Labour Market Policy Department, Ministry of Welfare.
-