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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Switzerland

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-eighth session from 6 to 17 November 2017. The review of Switzerland was held at the 7th meeting, on 9 November 2017. The delegation of Switzerland was headed by the Secretary of State at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Pascale Baeriswyl. At its 14th meeting, held on 14 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Switzerland.
2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Switzerland: Ghana, the Philippines and Slovenia.
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 Switzerland:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CHE/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.6/28/CHE/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/CHE/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Switzerland through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Swiss delegation emphasized that the preparatory work for the drafting of the report had been carried out in close consultation with the cantons and non-governmental players.
6. In respect of the commitments made during the second cycle of the universal period review, Switzerland had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189); and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It had notified the Secretariat of the United Nations of the withdrawal of its reservation to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Switzerland had ratified nine treaties of the Council of Europe. The ratification process for the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was under way.
8. Switzerland recognized the need to set up a national human rights institution. It was preparing the legal basis for such an institution and a final bill would be put before Parliament in 2018.
9. The policy of open integration and coexistence that was a feature of the country was based on active work to combat all forms of discrimination. Current laws, notably the provisions of public law, and the related case law afforded broad protection against discrimination. A number of bodies were working together to combat racial discrimination and that objective was included in cantonal integration programmes.

10. In respect of racial profiling, the training given to police officers included modules on human rights, ethics and racial discrimination. Checks and arrests were supervised and there were complaints mechanisms that could be used if a police officer was involved in racist aggression.

11. In the area of migration, Switzerland offered good conditions to migrants in a regular situation, as well as the necessary protection for refugees. In 2016, a new asylum law had been adopted to speed up individual asylum proceedings and to give asylum seekers better legal protection by establishing the right to free legal advice and representation.

12. The use of force during deportations had evolved since 2015 and it was no longer systematic practice to use restraints on deportees. Since 2012, all deportations by air had been observed by the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture.

13. On human trafficking, Switzerland had adopted a new national action plan for the period 2017–2020. In 2017, it had ratified the 2014 Protocol to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and it had taken part in police coordination and cooperation on human trafficking in the framework of the European Police Office (Europol) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

14. The rules governing the relationship between the Church and the State were guided by the principle that the State protected not religions or religious communities but, rather, persons who were victims of discrimination on grounds of their religious affiliation. The Swiss authorities were active in the interreligious dialogue and in promoting religious tolerance.

15. The Government had included a guideline on equality between women and men in its legislative programme and its 2016–2019 sustainable development strategy. A revised version of the Equality Act, which called on employers to analyse the salaries they paid with the aim of evaluating any gaps, and a draft revision of the Companies' Act, introducing quotas for the representation of women in leading positions in companies quoted on the stock exchange, were before Parliament. Combating domestic violence was a priority for the authorities at all levels.

16. In the area of the protection of children's rights, the Swiss Criminal Code had been amended in 2014 to impose a maximum 3-year custodial sentence or a fine for paying for the sexual services of persons under the age of 18. Since July 2014, domestic violence against children was specifically included in the Civil Code among the reasons justifying the removal of parental authority, and the Criminal Code penalized attacks on the physical integrity or health of children or violence against them.

17. On the prevention of torture, while it did not contain a specific definition of torture, the Criminal Code described as a criminal offence any behaviour that could be qualified as an act of torture, including mental torture.

18. In the area of ethnic minorities, the Government had, at the beginning of 2017, approved the country's fourth report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, which showed improvements in multilingualism in education. However, despite the measures taken to implement the Framework Convention in respect of the Yenish and Sinti populations, the number of stopping places and transit sites remained a subject of discussion.

19. In 2015, Roma organizations had submitted an application for the Swiss Roma to be recognized as a national minority and for Romani to be recognized as a minority language in the sense of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. The criteria for recognition as a national minority under the Framework Convention given in the interpretative declaration made by Switzerland were currently being examined.

20. In recent years, several popular initiatives that touched on non-imperative norms of international public law had been accepted. However, in implementing them, the Federal Council and the Parliament had managed to take account of international requirements. The related discussions regularly led to intense political debate, which was not only proof of the

existence of freedom of expression in Switzerland, but also contributed to the development of public opinion.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

21. During the interactive dialogue, 108 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

22. Rwanda welcomed efforts by Switzerland to combat discrimination, hate speech and related intolerance.

23. Senegal highlighted that, since its second universal periodic review, Switzerland had become a party to several international human rights instruments.

24. Serbia commended Switzerland for its efforts to protect the rights of children and persons with disabilities.

25. Sierra Leone commended measures taken in the area of human rights and encouraged Switzerland to raise its development assistance to 0.7 per cent of its gross domestic product.

26. Singapore acknowledged the efforts by Switzerland to expand support services for older persons, combat hate speech and foster religious tolerance.

27. Slovenia thanked Switzerland for its report and appreciated the information it had provided on the human rights situation of older persons.

28. South Africa welcomed the commitment of Switzerland to human rights, including its efforts to ratify international human rights instruments.

29. Spain welcomed the adoption by Switzerland of several laws to complete its human rights protection framework.

30. Sri Lanka commended Switzerland for the process to convert the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights into a national human rights institution.

31. The State of Palestine noted the initiatives Switzerland had taken to combat racial discrimination and commended it on its efforts in the field of business and human rights.

32. The Sudan commended Switzerland on its accession to many international human rights instruments.

33. Sweden acknowledged the continued work by Switzerland to fulfil its human rights obligations and encouraged further efforts.

34. The Syrian Arab Republic noted the persistence of concerns regarding civil, political and economic, social and cultural rights.

35. Thailand commended Switzerland on its efforts to convert the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights into a national human rights institution.

36. Timor-Leste commended Switzerland on its establishment in 2014 of a working group to improve nomadic lifestyle conditions and promote Yenish, Sinti and Roma cultures.

37. Togo commended Switzerland for its incessant action in favour of human rights.

38. Tunisia welcomed the ratification by Switzerland of several international human rights instruments.

39. Turkey welcomed the comprehensive national report of Switzerland and commended it on its efforts to promote human rights around the globe.

40. Ukraine, while acknowledging efforts made, encouraged Switzerland to continue to take measures to ensure the protection of human rights of migrants.

41. The United States of America was concerned by reports of lengthy detention of asylum seekers and discrimination against members of ethnic minority groups.
42. Uruguay commended Switzerland for its ratification of several international human rights instruments and welcomed measures taken to promote gender equality.
43. Uzbekistan welcomed the participatory process to prepare the national report. It noted concerns about racist stereotypes made by some political parties and media outlets.
44. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela shared the concern expressed by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination about racist stereotypes promoted by extreme right-wing groups and some media outlets.
45. Yemen commended Switzerland for its financial support to OHCHR and its humanitarian and development assistance to poor countries.
46. Afghanistan commended Switzerland for its launch of cantonal integration programmes as an important step in promoting the integration of foreign nationals.
47. Albania encouraged Switzerland to modernize further its family law by following up on the 2015 report of the Federal Council.
48. Algeria welcomed measures to improve the representation of women and to combat domestic violence, the sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking.
49. Andorra appreciated the efforts deployed by Switzerland to ratify the main international human rights instruments.
50. Angola encouraged Switzerland to continue efforts to increase the representation of women in politics and the economy.
51. Argentina welcomed the ratification in 2016 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
52. Armenia commended Switzerland for its commitment to the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.
53. Australia commended Switzerland for the leading role it played in promoting human rights and mediating conflicts internationally.
54. Bahrain stated that combating hate speech and racial discrimination was a necessity and asked about available recourse and remedies.
55. Bangladesh noted the absence of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and was concerned that women were disproportionately affected by poverty.
56. Belarus noted the numerous measures taken by Switzerland to comply with international obligations.
57. Belgium commended Switzerland for its ratification of several human rights treaties and the adoption of the Gender Equality and Women's Rights Strategy.
58. Benin welcomed the commitment by Switzerland to the promotion of the rights of children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and migrants and to gender equality and the abolition of death penalty.
59. Bhutan commended Switzerland for the progress it had made in implementing recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle, including the withdrawal of reservations, and the ratification of human rights treaties. It appreciated the adoption of the 2016–2019 Human Rights Strategy.
60. The Plurinational State of Bolivia encouraged Switzerland to strengthen its regulatory framework to promote the respect for human rights by transnational corporations.
61. Bosnia and Herzegovina applauded the measures taken to increase the representation of women and commitment in combating human trafficking.
62. Botswana commended Switzerland for its adoption of a national strategy on addiction addressing the challenges faced by children and adolescents.

63. Brazil encouraged Switzerland to revise the provision of the Foreign Nationals Act, which established a custodial sentence for persons in an irregular migratory situation.
64. Bulgaria noted the positive action of Switzerland for the implementation of recommendations and commended it on its achievements in the dual education system.
65. Burkina Faso welcomed the high level of implementation of the recommendations accepted during the previous universal periodic review cycle.
66. Burundi commended Switzerland for its efforts made towards gender equality and to improve participation in political life.
67. Cabo Verde applauded the consultation process to establish a national human rights institution and the ratification of international instruments.
68. Canada welcomed the adoption of a legislative amendment allowing same-sex couples to adopt their partner's children.
69. The Central African Republic commended Switzerland for its efforts undertaken to strengthen national mechanisms for human rights.
70. Chad welcomed the broad consultation process undertaken in drafting the national report. It congratulated Switzerland for becoming a party to several international human rights instruments.
71. China welcomed efforts in protecting human rights but was concerned at reports of racial discrimination and xenophobia.
72. Colombia welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
73. The Congo welcomed the adoption of an action plan for the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
74. Costa Rica asked about existing challenges to the implementation of policies on climate change with a human rights perspective.
75. Switzerland thanked the delegations who had taken part in the dialogue and gave the following responses to the questions put and recommendations made.
76. In respect of mass atrocities, the delegation mentioned, inter alia, that Switzerland was one of the founding States of the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes initiative and also supported the initiative calling for the adoption of a code of conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.
77. On the question of a national human rights institution, it should be noted that a bill was to be brought before Parliament in 2018 proposing that the work of such an institution should be allocated to a university centre and guided by the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and establishing its independence in law.
78. The measures taken in respect of racial discrimination included victim advice mechanisms, support for awareness raising projects and the promotion of access to justice. Discrimination covered a huge range of issues and the Federal Council was therefore of the opinion that it would be difficult to introduce a single law to cover them all.
79. On the question of migration and asylum, the Confederation tried to respect family unity at all times and attempted to meet the specific accommodation needs of families and women travelling alone. Training and employment were central to integration. However, refugees, young people and young migrants who had come to Switzerland at an older age were more affected by unemployment.
80. The Foreign Nationals Act allowed a residence permit to be issued to persons residing illegally in Switzerland in extremely serious individual cases. However, the Government and Parliament were opposed to any collective regularization of undocumented migrants and did not intend to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

81. The federal Forced Marriages Act had come into force in 2013. In the context of the programme to combat forced marriage, financial support would be granted to the association Service contre les mariages forcés (Service against forced marriages), to allow it to continue its work.
82. As concerned equality between men and women, Switzerland had introduced measures on, among others, combatting discrimination in wages, improving the life-work balance, encouraging women into working life and improving women's representation in leadership, politics, training and research. However, the necessary majority had not been achieved in support of targeted budgeting for gender equality. The same was true for persons who suffered discrimination on grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
83. For lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the revision of the right to adopt had made it possible for a partner in a married couple (whether heterosexual or homosexual) to adopt a child, and Parliament had decided to follow up on the Civil Marriage for All initiative, agreeing that the penalties attached to racial discrimination should be extended to discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. The planned reform of the Civil Code would introduce a simplified procedure for the registration of a sex change in the civil register.
84. Pursuant to the federal Act on the Elimination of Discrimination affecting Persons with Disabilities, the cantons ensured that children and young persons enjoyed basic education adapted to their needs.
85. Switzerland had adopted a suicide prevention action plan at the beginning of 2017 and, at the end of 2015, a new national strategy on addictions for the period 2017–2024.
86. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
87. Cuba noted remaining challenges, including inequalities between men and women and the lack of a national action plan to combat discrimination.
88. Cyprus noted the implementation of the National Programme to Prevent and Fight Poverty and steps taken to improve the integration of foreign nationals.
89. Ecuador congratulated Switzerland for the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
90. Egypt welcomed the Swiss delegation to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.
91. France welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
92. Georgia was concerned about reports that the Swiss Resource Centre for Human Rights would not have an explicit human rights protection mandate.
93. Germany welcomed modifications to the Swiss naming rights and citizenship law, as recommended during the previous universal periodic review.
94. Ghana lauded the ratification by Switzerland in 2014 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
95. Greece welcomed the introduction of a prohibition for persons under the age of 18 years to engage in prostitution.
96. Guatemala was concerned about reports of the promotion of racist stereotypes by members of certain political parties.
97. Haiti indicated that the Swiss system of direct democracy was a model that should be encouraged but that certain gaps persisted.
98. Honduras noted achievements by Switzerland in the implementation of the recommendations received during the previous universal periodic review cycles.

99. Hungary commended Switzerland for the important measures it had taken to mainstream equality for persons with disabilities in all areas of life.
100. Norway noted the pending constitutional initiative to declare the supremacy of the Swiss Constitution over international law.
101. India appreciated efforts by Switzerland at the confederation and canton levels to enhance representation of women in politics and the economy.
102. Indonesia welcomed the bill to turn the Swiss Resource Centre for Human Rights into a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
103. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the accession by Switzerland to some international human rights instruments.
104. Iraq commended Switzerland for its ratification of most international human rights instruments and for its cooperation with treaty bodies.
105. Ireland welcomed the follow up to the recommendation from the previous cycle that Switzerland pursue efforts to combat xenophobia.
106. Israel recognized progress made, including the adoption of a new national action plan on human trafficking.
107. Italy welcomed the adoption of measures at the federal and cantonal levels to increase the representation of women in politics and the economy.
108. Kazakhstan welcomed the adoption of several national programmes aimed at further strengthening the human rights protection system.
109. Kenya commended Switzerland for the efforts it had made to implement recommendations of past reviews.
110. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the ratification of some international human rights instruments and practical measures in promoting human rights.
111. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Switzerland for its accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.
112. Lebanon appreciated the Internet campaign launched in 2015 by the Federal Commission against Racism to combat hate speech.
113. Libya welcomed the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
114. Madagascar welcomed recent ratifications, including of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
115. Malaysia welcomed initiatives of the Swiss Federal Council, including the adoption of the National Programme to Prevent and Fight Poverty 2014–2018.
116. Maldives welcomed measures taken to protect the rights of older persons and the active participation of Switzerland in climate change issues at the Human Rights Council.
117. Mauritania welcomed the positive contribution Switzerland had made to the work of OHCHR, treaty bodies and the special procedures.
118. Mexico congratulated Switzerland for developing a law to improve women's role in society.
119. Mongolia welcomed the withdrawal of the reservation to article 16 (1) (g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
120. Montenegro commended Switzerland for its efforts to ratify the remaining international instruments and encouraged it to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.
121. Morocco welcomed the ratification of three international human rights instruments and the launch of the cantonal integration programme for foreign nationals.

122. Myanmar welcomed measures to reduce household poverty and to develop the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
123. Namibia welcomed recent ratifications and the adoption of the 2016–2019 Human Rights Strategy aimed at strengthening human rights institutions and mechanisms.
124. Nepal welcomed the regular contributions Switzerland had made to OHCHR and noted its financial and technical assistance to developing countries.
125. The Netherlands commended Switzerland on its progress in ensuring freedom of the press and its engagement in the promotion of prevention of atrocities at the international level.
126. New Zealand welcomed that Swiss persons in same-sex relationships would be able to adopt the children of their partners from January 2018.
127. Nicaragua welcomed the adoption of a national action plan to prevent suicide and of a strategy on addiction.
128. Nigeria welcomed the adoption by Switzerland of a national counter-terrorism strategy and of the Human Rights Strategy.
129. Iceland welcomed progress made on gender equality, including work to ensure equal pay for equal value.
130. Panama welcomed efforts to combat human trafficking and prevent suicides of adolescents.
131. Peru highlighted the ratification of international human rights instruments and efforts to welcome migrants and refugees.
132. The Philippines welcomed the ratification by Switzerland of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189). It regretted the failure to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.
133. Poland appreciated the decision to turn the Swiss Centre for Expertise in Human Rights into a national human rights institution.
134. Portugal welcomed the withdrawal by Switzerland of its reservation to article 16 (1) (g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women.
135. The Republic of Korea noted the anti-discrimination measures taken and appreciated the efforts by the Federal Council to provide legal protection for asylum seekers.
136. The Republic of Moldova appreciated the leading role of Switzerland in the promotion of human rights at the international level.
137. Romania asked what strategy could be envisaged to overcome the lack of support by the parliamentary majority for an anti-discrimination law.
138. The Russian Federation noted that all of its recommendations from the previous cycle had been accepted and that most had been implemented.
139. Liechtenstein welcomed the ratification of additional treaties and the draft bill to establish a national human rights institution.
140. The United Kingdom encouraged Switzerland to introduce more comprehensive legislation to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons against discrimination.
141. At the end of 2016, Switzerland had adopted a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, stipulating that businesses domiciled and/or active in Switzerland must respect human rights in all their commercial activities, regardless of where they were operating. At the same time, it had set up a comprehensive anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist system that combined preventive and repressive measures.
142. Several cantons had embarked on prison renovation/construction projects, with the objective of creating 2,200 new places by 2025.

143. The Paris Agreement on climate change had entered into force in Switzerland on 5 November 2017, the objective being to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 by 2030.

144. The target of official development assistance equal to 0.7 per cent of gross national income was a long-term objective. In 2016, the figure for Switzerland had reached 0.54 per cent, placing the country eighth in the world for that measure.

145. In conclusion, the delegation said that the recommendations received would be carefully examined in close collaboration with the cantons and would guide Switzerland in its efforts to improve the human rights situation.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

146.1 **Expedite the ratification of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Sierra Leone);**

146.2 **Speed up the approval process, by the Federal Parliament, of the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) and take all the necessary measures to promote women's rights (Georgia);**

146.3 **Ratify without delay the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Andorra);**

146.4 **Ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, which was signed in 2013 (Belarus);**

146.5 **Ratify the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Italy) (Spain);**

146.6 **Continue efforts made to put an end to discrimination against women as well as to all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, and to accelerate ratification of the Istanbul Convention (Tunisia);**

146.7 **Consider establishing a national mechanism for the elaboration of reports and the follow-up to recommendations (Tunisia);**

146.8 **Establish a national mechanism to follow up on recommendations (Uruguay);**

146.9 **Introduce structured coordination between the Confederation, the cantons and civil society with regard to the implementation of the recommendations made in the universal periodic review, to ensure all parts of the Swiss governing system are informed about human rights issues (New Zealand);**

146.10 **Facilitate the effective coordination between the Confederation, the cantons and civil society in relation to follow-up on the recommendations of the universal periodic review, treaty bodies and the special procedures (Panama);**

146.11 **Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Sudan);**

146.12 **Continue to progress the establishment of an independent, Paris Principles-compliant, national human rights institution (Australia);**

146.13 **Reconsider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

- 146.14 Continue ongoing efforts to establish a national human rights institution and ensure the provision of the necessary resources to such an institution (Malaysia);
- 146.15 Facilitate effective coordination between the Confederation, cantons and civil society to ensure the compatibility of popular initiatives with its obligations under international human rights (Republic of Korea);
- 146.16 Consider ways to ensure the outcomes of popular referenda can be implemented in a manner consistent with the international human rights treaties to which Switzerland is a party (Australia);
- 146.17 Strengthen its mechanisms for ensuring that the compatibility of citizen's initiative with the obligations arising from international human rights instruments to which Switzerland is a party is subject to some form of check before such initiatives are put to the vote (Belgium);
- 146.18 Continue its efforts aimed at ensuring the compatibility of popular initiatives with international human rights standards and fundamental rights contained in the Constitution (Hungary);
- 146.19 Install mechanisms to ensure the compatibility of popular initiatives with the human rights commitments of Switzerland (Norway);
- 146.20 Step up its efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in a more harmonized fashion across its territory (Cabo Verde);
- 146.21 Strengthen efforts to overcome the bottlenecks that slow down the process of implementation of the country's international obligations in the field of human rights (Italy);
- 146.22 Include in its next universal periodic review report information on the measures it has taken to implement article 261 bis of its criminal code, in particular on combating denial, trivialization or attempts to justify genocide or other crimes against humanity (Rwanda);
- 146.23 Maintain the provisions of article 261 bis of the Criminal Code, in particular the ones providing for liability in cases of denial, trivialization or seeking justification for genocide or other crimes against humanity (Armenia);
- 146.24 Promote inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance, particularly at the cantonal and communal levels (Poland);
- 146.25 Further strengthen its engagement in the promotion of prevention of atrocities by undertaking efforts to prevent atrocities at the national level, since history shows that no country is immune to atrocities (Netherlands);
- 146.26 Continue the enhancement of efforts to conduct interfaith dialogue and the promotion of religious tolerance in partnership with civil society organizations (Indonesia);
- 146.27 Take the necessary measures against all forms of discrimination and to maintain its efforts to raise awareness on this issue (Turkey);
- 146.28 Conduct broad and systematic awareness-raising activities to combat stigmatization, clichés, stereotypes and prejudices faced by non-Swiss nationals (Albania);
- 146.29 Conclude without delay the process of revising the Equality Act (Central African Republic);
- 146.30 Consider enacting a law against racial discrimination and continue efforts to put an end to racism and hate speech (Tunisia);
- 146.31 Conduct a more active policy against racial discrimination and xenophobia, including the adoption of a clear and comprehensive definition of racial discrimination (Kyrgyzstan);

- 146.32 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and intolerance, in particular with regard to migrant workers (Morocco);**
- 146.33 **Take additional measures to combat stigmatization and stereotyping, including through awareness-raising initiatives and to respond to instances of racist remarks or acts by high-level public officials (State of Palestine);**
- 146.34 **Adopt measures to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and religious intolerance (Sudan);**
- 146.35 **Enhance measures to effectively and comprehensively combat racism, discrimination and xenophobia, including by addressing the problems faced by migrants, especially migrant workers, and ensuring integration of migrants in the local community and labour market (Thailand);**
- 146.36 **Continue their efforts to address the concerns especially in the fields of combating racism, discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia and the protection of the members of more fragile groups, such as migrants (Turkey);**
- 146.37 **Continue its efforts to combat racial discrimination, xenophobia and racism (Burundi);**
- 146.38 **Combat and address acts of racial hatred (South Africa);**
- 146.39 **Continue efforts related to combating racist and religious hate speech (Libya);**
- 146.40 **Continue to implement initiatives that combat hate speech and foster mutual respect between communities (Singapore);**
- 146.41 **Establish a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance consistent with the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (South Africa);**
- 146.42 **Continue to conduct broad awareness-raising campaigns to combat negative attitudes against vulnerable groups as well as to react to racist statements or actions (Uzbekistan);**
- 146.43 **Carry out systematic campaigns to combat racist and xenophobic stereotypes, including those against non-citizens (Cuba);**
- 146.44 **Carry out broad and systematic awareness-raising campaigns to combat stigmatization, generalization, stereotypes and prejudice against non-citizens (Guatemala);**
- 146.45 **Provide training to security forces, prosecutors, judges and social workers to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Israel);¹**
- 146.46 **Assess the success of the 2014–2017 Cantonal Integration Programmes (Bahrain);**
- 146.47 **Redouble efforts in all the cantons to avoid discrimination based on race, origin and sexual orientation and gender identity (Colombia);**
- 146.48 **Adopt legislation to eliminate the sterility prerequisite for legal change of gender, in conformity with the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) (Sweden);**

¹ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Provide training to security forces, prosecutors, judges and social workers, to prevent discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to promote awareness-raising campaigns on the topic to teachers and students, as well as the broader public (Israel)”.

- 146.49 **Implement the provisions of the previously accepted recommendation to increase official development assistance to 0.7 per cent of its national income (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 146.50 **Do not consider the reduction of the official development assistance, even while taking cost-cutting measures, and actually increase it to the committed level of 0.7 per cent (Bangladesh);**
- 146.51 **Increase its contribution of official development assistance to reach the 0.7 per cent of gross national product threshold, with particular emphasis on capacity-building and resilience, as a follow up to the recommendation contained in paragraph 123.84 of the report from the second cycle (Haiti);**
- 146.52 **Continue to provide humanitarian and development assistance to poor countries to help these countries to bear the humanitarian burden and to promote human rights (Yemen);**
- 146.53 **Intensify efforts and cooperative engagement with a view to carrying out the speedy repatriation of already identified illicit funds and proceeds of corruption to countries of origin to aid the latter in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (Nigeria);**
- 146.54 **Take necessary actions to check terrorist financing (Nigeria);**
- 146.55 **Finalize the pending initiatives, including the Federal bill on improving the protection of victims of violence (Namibia);**
- 146.56 **Investigate cases of cruel treatment by law enforcement officers during the arrest, custody and interrogation of suspects and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Belarus);**
- 146.57 **Establish an independent mechanism empowered to receive complaints relating to violence and ill-treatment by law enforcement officers, and conduct timely, impartial and exhaustive inquiries into such complaints (Ecuador);**
- 146.58 **Open up independent inquiries on the excessive use of force during expulsions of persons from the territory of the Confederation (France);**
- 146.59 **Adopt appropriate measures against perpetrators of police brutality that affect some asylum seekers, migrants and others (Central African Republic);**
- 146.60 **Take necessary steps to find a final solution to the problem of overcrowding in some prisons in Switzerland (Russian Federation);**
- 146.61 **Seriously combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation, ensure victim assistance, prosecute human traffickers, as well as enhance further cooperation with the countries concerned (Thailand);**
- 146.62 **Take effective measures in ensuring that the victims of trafficking, especially women, are protected and supported in an appropriate manner (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**
- 146.63 **Prevent and combat trafficking in persons and intensify the protection of victims (China);**
- 146.64 **Review the national action plan against trafficking, strengthening coordination between the Confederation, cantons and civil society to ensure a harmonized, robust and victim-oriented response (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 146.65 **Adopt a new National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons with a gender perspective which guarantees the protection of victims without any type of discrimination, in particular regarding their migration status (Honduras);**

- 146.66 Follow up on offences linked to trafficking of persons irrespective of the victim's immigration status, in order to prevent the victim from being criminalized during the procedure (Mexico);
- 146.67 Increase the sentences for the crime of smuggling of persons, and provide more training for judges, police and investigators on this issue (Mexico);
- 146.68 Examine the possibility of establishing national helplines for victims of trafficking and domestic violence (Republic of Moldova);
- 146.69 Address the continued challenge of poverty, particularly among vulnerable groups, such as women and children who are non-citizens (Malaysia);
- 146.70 Eliminate obstacles to the enrolment of children without identity documents and asylum seekers in secondary education and ensure that foreign children have the highest possible level of education (Iraq);
- 146.71 Continue efforts to ensure equal access to education of vulnerable people including women, children and persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 146.72 Ensure systematic access to education for all asylum-seeking children (Spain);
- 146.73 Step up measures to prevent suicide, especially among young people (Angola);
- 146.74 Formulate a national work plan to prevent suicide, especially as Switzerland enjoys a high standard of development, progress and prosperity (Lebanon);
- 146.75 Redouble efforts to prevent suicide and detect mental illness in children and youth, promoting the close involvement of parents, teachers and school authorities in schools (Mexico);
- 146.76 Continue programmes to eradicate domestic violence and violence against women (Philippines);
- 146.77 Take measures to combat violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, with a particular attention to women from minority groups (Russian Federation);
- 146.78 Continue to combat all forms of violence against women and children, as well as strengthen specialized care for victims (Colombia);
- 146.79 Continue efforts to eradicate gender-based violence, including domestic violence, by raising awareness in society, ensuring due diligence in the prosecution and trial of those who commit such acts and providing relevant training to the competent authorities regarding the protection and prevention of violence against women and girls (Nicaragua);
- 146.80 Continue the work aimed at amending rules regarding the stay of proceedings in cases of "minor" violence in relationships and regarding the categorization of such cases (Iceland);
- 146.81 Improve the protection against domestic violence through specialized training for police officers and other persons that act in such cases and take steps to ensure the fair application of the Foreign Nationals Act so as to protect migrant women (Canada);
- 146.82 Continue awareness raising and training of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel as regards all forms of violence against women and ex-officio prosecution (Belgium);
- 146.83 Step up its information and awareness raising actions on female genital mutilation and punish perpetrators of these acts (Burkina Faso);

- 146.84 **Develop awareness-raising campaigns and ensure that information is readily available to victims of female genital mutilation (Timor-Leste);**
- 146.85 **Continue efforts to achieve gender equality in all fields, particularly in the labour market (Tunisia);**
- 146.86 **Strengthen their efforts to promote gender equality, including through awareness-raising programmes and the development of a comprehensive national gender strategy (Cyprus);**
- 146.87 **Further promote the advancement of gender equality, including the development of a comprehensive national gender action plan (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 146.88 **Increase the availability of affordable childcare facilities (Peru);**
- 146.89 **Continue efforts empowering women in all levels of decision-making and ensuring their participation in politics, the economy and social life (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 146.90 **Continue its efforts to provide gender equality and promote women's representation at the decision-making level (Mongolia);**
- 146.91 **Take additional measures to promote a better representation of women in politics and economy (Iceland);**
- 146.92 **Develop strategies to increase the share of women in leading positions in business enterprises (Germany);**
- 146.93 **Continue adopting measures to promote equal representation in different spheres of society, as well as efforts to eliminate wage differences based on gender, particularly in the private sector (Uruguay);**
- 146.94 **Step up efforts to address gender wage gaps (Sri Lanka);**
- 146.95 **Take the necessary measures and steps with a view to ensuring gender equality in wages in all sectors of labour in Switzerland (Iraq);**
- 146.96 **Continue efforts to combat inequalities and discrimination in the work place, particularly with regard to women (Morocco);**
- 146.97 **Take further steps to reduce the gender wage gap (Kazakhstan);²**
- 146.98 **Step up its efforts to eliminate the pay gap between men and women (Belgium);**
- 146.99 **Step up efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap and increase the participation of women in public life (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 146.100 **Double its efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap (Sudan);**
- 146.101 **Intensify its efforts in creating more opportunities for women in order to access full-time employment (Myanmar);**
- 146.102 **Continue to strengthen efforts to ensure equality of opportunity and eliminate the gender wage gap (Maldives);**
- 146.103 **Prohibit all practices of corporal punishment of children (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 146.104 **Ensure that asylum procedures fully respect the best interest and special needs of unaccompanied children (Sierra Leone);**
- 146.105 **Take the necessary measures so that all the cantons adopt an approach based on promoting the inclusion of boys and girls with disabilities in schools (Argentina);**

² The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Strengthen its efforts aimed at enhancing women's representation in politics and the economy, and take further steps to reduce the gender wage gap (Kazakhstan)".

146.106 Strengthen the efforts to ensure inclusive education without discrimination for children with disabilities, and guide all cantons to refrain from a segregated approach in this context (Israel);

146.107 Continue with the inclusive approach towards children with disabilities, especially in education, as well as increase awareness and training efforts for companies and service providers on the treatment of persons with disabilities and their access to all places, for example, that of persons with guide-dogs (Mexico);

146.108 Continue efforts to ensure that children with disabilities had access to early childhood education and care, early development programmes and inclusive vocational training opportunities in all cantons (Maldives);

146.109 Continue implementing national policies related to persons with disabilities (Libya);

146.110 Take further measures to bring down the wide pay gap that still exists between men and women in the workplace, reportedly reaching as high as 30 per cent, by assisting women to reconcile work and family life (Israel);

146.111 Continue implementing measures to eliminate wage inequalities between the genders (Cuba);

146.112 Continue with efforts to effectively address gender pay gap and ensure equal pay for work of equal value in public and private sector and report on the results in the following universal periodic review cycle (Slovenia);

146.113 Eliminate the gender wage gap, and ensure an equal salary for men and women for the same work (Lebanon);

146.114 Continue in the process of promoting and protecting the rights of members belonging to minority groups (Serbia);

146.115 Continue with efforts to overcome obstacles faced by the Yenish, Manush, Sinti and Roma in accessing education and preserving their language and lifestyle (Peru);

146.116 Protect effectively the rights of refugees and migrants and adopt concrete measures to combat and prevent xenophobic violence (China);

146.117 Continue to examine all potential risks of human rights violations which rejected asylum seekers may face when they are deported to other countries, especially in cases where asylum seekers' children are concerned (Republic of Korea);

146.118 Ensure full application of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Afghanistan);

146.119 Accelerate significantly asylum procedures and ensure that they respect the principles of the rule of law (Central African Republic);

146.120 Resolve the problem of lack of capacity in existing centres for registration and processing of asylum applications as well as ensure publication of information on administrative detention of migrants at the federal level (Russian Federation);

146.121 Formalize the statelessness determination procedure and ensure the procedure is fair, effective and accessible to all persons in Switzerland regardless of their legal status; ensure that the definition of "statelessness person" is fully consistent with the definition provided in the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Hungary).

147. The following recommendations will be examined by Switzerland which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council:

- 147.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Andorra);**
- 147.2 **Consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Italy);**
- 147.3 **Ratify the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Congo);**
- 147.4 **Sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);**
- 147.5 **Expedite the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**
- 147.6 **Conclude the process of establishing a human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Congo);**
- 147.7 **Adopt the draft law aimed at establishing a human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 147.8 **Implement the law to establish a national human rights institution consistent with the Paris Principles (Germany);**
- 147.9 **Continue to take all necessary steps to promptly establish a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (New Zealand);**
- 147.10 **Ensure an effective and independent mechanism that examines the compatibility between popular initiatives and obligations under international human rights law (Ecuador);**
- 147.11 **Implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee, namely to establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate for human rights protection in conformity with the Paris Principles (Georgia);**
- 147.12 **Establish a permanent and independent human rights institution compliant with Paris Principles (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 147.13 **Establish a national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles (Philippines);**
- 147.14 **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**
- 147.15 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Togo); (Greece); (Spain);**
- 147.16 **Establish an independent national human rights institute which would be in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ireland);**
- 147.17 **Establish as soon as possible an independent national human rights institution with a broad human rights protection mandate and adequate human and financial resources, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Liechtenstein);**
- 147.18 **Establish a national human rights institution of human rights, that is financially and legally independent, in line with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**
- 147.19 **Establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad protection mandate and with adequate financial and human resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Guatemala);**
- 147.20 **Establish a national human rights institution fully consistent with the Paris Principles, ensure its independence and allocate sufficient resources to it (Hungary);**

147.21 Accelerate the establishment of an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate and adequate human and financial resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mauritania);

147.22 Create an independent national human rights institution with a broad mandate and matching resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);

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

147.24 Establish a national human rights institution that is guaranteed broad competences, as well as institutional and financial independence (Norway);

147.25 Establish legislative and institutional guarantees to ensure that the popular initiatives are compatible with the obligations under international human rights law (Panama);

147.26 Take the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination related to setting up an effective and independent mechanism to review the compatibility of popular initiatives with the obligations of Switzerland under international human rights law (Algeria);

147.27 Take measures to explore means to ensure the full implementation of its international human rights obligations by all constituent units of the Swiss Confederation (India);

147.28 Intensify efforts to implement measures to encourage peaceful coexistence among all populations and combat marginalization (Poland);

147.29 Provide effective legal protection and fair compensation in case of violation of rights linked to acts of racial discrimination (Belarus);

147.30 Increase State-funded security for minority religious community institutions as well as community members, and counter xenophobic and racist discourse against members of minority groups (United States of America);

147.31 Adopt appropriate policies to ensure the protection of all ethnic and religious minorities, and ensure their enjoyment of the necessary legal protection to address any discrimination they may face (Egypt);

147.32 Promote awareness-raising campaigns on preventing discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the broader public, and in particular to students and teachers (Israel);³

147.33 Introduce specific legislation prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or intersex status (Australia);

147.34 Take the necessary steps to put an end to discrimination faced by same-sex couples, in particular, by ensuring they can marry and adopt children (Germany);

147.35 Take measures on awareness-raising and education about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, by developing and implementing a concrete national action plan in cooperation with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex civil society organizations for all levels of the State (Netherlands);

³ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Provide training to security forces, prosecutors, judges, and social workers, to prevent discrimination and bullying based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to promote awareness-raising campaigns on the topic to teachers and students, as well as the broader public (Israel)”.

- 147.36 Provide State and cantonal authorities with training on human rights for the protection of the rights of transgender people (Portugal);
- 147.37 Ensure effective human rights training for the protection of transgender persons (South Africa);
- 147.38 Continue efforts towards building comprehensive, binding and effective mechanisms against corporate abuses by businesses headquartered in Switzerland, especially when operating abroad (Brazil);
- 147.39 Intensify its oversight over Swiss companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation where the risk of human rights abuses is heightened (State of Palestine);
- 147.40 Ensure that human rights are respected by multinational corporations (France);
- 147.41 Ensure that transnational corporations and other business enterprises operating in or managed from its territory are legally accountable for human rights abuses and violations (South Africa);
- 147.42 Ensure that multinational business enterprises and their subsidiaries are legally accountable for any violations of children's rights and human rights in general (Peru);
- 147.43 Increase resources to reduce overcrowding and improve health facilities in prisons, and follow the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture recommendations on youths and juveniles in pretrial detention (United States of America);
- 147.44 Carry out a strict and effective separation of women and men as well as children and adult prisoners in all penitentiary establishments of all cantons of the country (Russian Federation);
- 147.45 Put an end and abolish the administrative detention of minors and separate them from adults in detention (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 147.46 Adopt a new action plan against trafficking, reduce the time taken to issue residence permits and remove disparities thereof between cantons and remove structural and individual obstacles to work and training for migrants to combat racial discrimination through legal and administrative measures (Kenya);
- 147.47 Adopt a strategy and an action plan at the federal level on gender equality to promote policies at the cantonal level to combat discrimination against women in the public and private spheres and put an end to all forms of violence, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Honduras);
- 147.48 Strengthen further its system of family allowances and benefits with a view to ensuring that all children, including children of refugees, and migrant parents, had an adequate standard of living (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 147.49 Adopt an integrated gender mainstreaming strategy, including through the use of gender-budgeting processes, also taking into consideration Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sweden);
- 147.50 Continue to promote a balanced representation of men and women in leadership positions (Angola);
- 147.51 Continue taking steps in order to reinforce women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

147.52 **Take mandatory measures to reduce the wage gap between men and women in all areas, and to promote better representation of women in leadership positions (Egypt);**

147.53 **Intensify measures aimed at enhancing the equal representation of women in politics and the economy, both at the confederation and cantonal levels (Namibia);**

147.54 **Continue with the development and implementation of concrete measures to strengthen the participation of women and young people in decision-making and representation, as well as measures to eliminate gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination (Costa Rica);**

147.55 **Strengthen its efforts aimed at enhancing women's representation in politics and the economy (Kazakhstan);⁴**

147.56 **Develop a strategy to guarantee the rights of women in the labour market and increase the effectiveness of measures to prevent and reduce poverty among vulnerable groups of women (Belarus);**

147.57 **Adopt legislation allowing for paternity leave (Republic of Moldova);**

147.58 **Provide protection to maternity and childhood, in particular, introduce additional measures for the protection of families with small children (Russian Federation);**

147.59 **Adopt laws and executive measures that guarantee that migrant persons with disabilities and with special needs are guaranteed all their rights and to, in particular, protect them (Bahrain);**

147.60 **Strengthen measures to improve the protection of the human rights of all migrants (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

147.61 **Revise its asylum law to be consistent with the recommendations of the Swiss Refugee Aid on care and support for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers (United States of America);**

147.62 **Ensure minimum reception standards in Federal and Cantonal reception centres across the country (Afghanistan);**

147.63 **Continue to expand support services for older persons to enhance their participation in society (Singapore).**

148. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Switzerland and have been noted by Switzerland:**

148.1 **Consider the possibility of becoming a party to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mauritania);**

148.2 **Reconsider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

148.3 **Reconsider ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

148.4 **Consider acceding to International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);**

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

⁴ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Strengthen its efforts aimed at enhancing women's representation in politics and the economy, and take further steps to reduce the gender wage gap (Kazakhstan)".

- 148.6 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**
- 148.7 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Egypt) (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 148.8 **Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);**
- 148.9 **Consider adopting the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Romania);**
- 148.10 **Sign the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**
- 148.11 **Accede to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Bulgaria);**
- 148.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal) (Montenegro);**
- 148.13 **Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 148.14 **Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and establish safeguards to guarantee birth registration to all children born in the country who would otherwise be stateless (Panama);**
- 148.15 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) (Guatemala);**
- 148.16 **Lift the existing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Togo);**
- 148.17 **Withdraw remaining reservations made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Albania);**
- 148.18 **Consider withdrawing its reservation to articles 15 (2) and 16 (1) (h) to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);**
- 148.19 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 148.20 **Continue the progress made towards equality between women and men, by increasing and strengthening the representation of women in politics, the economy, academia and the judiciary. In particular, take specific and concrete measures to eliminate the gender wage gap and withdraw reservations to article 15, paragraph 2, and article 16, paragraph 1 subparagraph h, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Nicaragua);**
- 148.21 **Take early action to withdraw the remaining three reservations regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Sri Lanka);**
- 148.22 **Withdraw the reservations to articles 10 (1), 37 (c) and 40 (2) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Togo);**
- 148.23 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 148.24 **Consider withdrawing all reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and those concerning article 15 (2) and article 16 (1) (h) of**

the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Burkina Faso);

148.25 Fight against disparities among cantons when it comes to the implementation of regulations favouring or protecting human rights (France);

148.26 Revise article 261 bis of the Swiss Penal Code, the legal instrument against racism, in line with the decision of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the Perinçek case to ensure the freedom of expression on a historical issue which is matter of legitimate scholarly debate (Turkey);

148.27 Introduce amendments to criminal law to expand the list of prosecutable signs of discrimination (Uzbekistan);

148.28 Introduce legislative measures to expand the prohibition of and protection against discrimination through explicit measures to protect individuals (Canada);

148.29 Include in Swiss law provisions against hate crime and a provision to protect against discrimination and hate speech against specific groups including women, persons with disabilities and refugees (Syrian Arab Republic);

148.30 Engage the various cantons with a view to once again bringing an anti-discrimination law before parliament (Botswana);

148.31 Adopt federal legislation against all forms of discrimination, with a clear definition of racial discrimination (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

148.32 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to address all forms of discrimination, hate speech and negative stereotypes (Sierra Leone);

148.33 Adopt comprehensive national legislation against discrimination (France);

148.34 Intensify its efforts for a new comprehensive legislation on tackling discrimination (India);

148.35 Consider adopting a clear and comprehensive definition of racial discrimination and introduce an overarching provision in its civil and administrative law prohibiting both direct and indirect racial discrimination in all areas of the life (Islamic Republic of Iran);

148.36 Adopt a clear and comprehensive legal definition of racial discrimination (Namibia);

148.37 Take the necessary measures to adopt in its national legislation a clear definition of racial discrimination and that prohibit racial discrimination in all its forms (Argentina);

148.38 Implement the recommendation made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the adoption of a clear and comprehensive definition of racial discrimination and ensure that its national legislation is made uniform in this regard (Burkina Faso);

148.39 Include a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination and a definition of torture in the relevant laws (Mongolia);

148.40 Establish a comprehensive, robust and effective legislative mechanism aiming at the prohibition and legal sanction of all forms discrimination (Madagascar);

148.41 Adopt effective legal and administrative measures to forcefully combat xenophobic and racial discrimination, and genuinely protect the rights of ethnic minorities (China);

148.42 Introduce legislation uniformly across the Confederation that explicitly protects lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination. In preparing this Act, the issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons should be taken into account (Ireland);

148.43 Take appropriate measures to introduce a law on equality of treatment taking particularly into account the interests of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex minorities, persons with disabilities, women and other vulnerable groups (Greece);

148.44 Adopt a policy and an action plan at the federal level to combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and in particular include them in national surveys on suicides (Honduras);

148.45 Adapt the surveys conducted by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office in order to include transgender people and reflect the findings in the following universal periodic review cycle (Slovenia);

148.46 Monitor the activities of overseas Swiss companies (Egypt);

148.47 Establish a national regulatory framework for the assessment of human rights and environmental impact of companies headquartered in Switzerland (Haiti);

148.48 Enact legislation and adopt measures to ensure that businesses and their branches operating in Switzerland are accountable for any violations of human rights or damage to the environment around the world (Iraq);

148.49 Put an end to the policy of imposing unilateral coercive measures against other countries and take initiatives to eliminate those unilateral punitive measures that violate human rights in targeted countries and constitute a breach of the terms of article 1 (2) of the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as this is a national decision whose consequences go beyond Swiss borders (Syrian Arab Republic);

148.50 Establish torture as a criminal offence, in terms fully in line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);

148.51 Typify torture as a specific crime, with all the elements of the definition of article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; take measures to prevent police brutality, particularly against migrants, asylum seekers and foreigners; and adopt an effective and independent mechanism to address such complaints (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

148.52 Include a definition of torture in its Criminal Code incorporating all elements contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New Zealand);

148.53 Incorporate in the criminal code and the military criminal code clear provisions that prohibit all forms of torture (Egypt);

148.54 Extend free legal advice and aid to persons appealing their convictions (India);

148.55 Take measures to reduce prison overcrowding in the country, particularly in the Champ-Dollon prison, and ensure that no one is detained preventively beyond 48 hours (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

148.56 Although Switzerland raised the minimum age of criminal responsibility of children from 7 to 10 years of age, it is recommended that it continue with efforts to bring the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an acceptable level according to international standards (Colombia);

148.57 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level (Montenegro);**

148.58 **Protect and support the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society and in doing so maintain the definition of marriage as the right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family, in keeping with article 23 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Kenya);**

148.59 **Prohibit assisted suicide to protect the human rights of the elderly, sick, disabled and other vulnerable members of society in line with their commitment to the right to life, health and non-discrimination (Kenya);**

148.60 **Further strengthen efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap through temporary special measures (Myanmar);**

148.61 **Adopt legislation which explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Sweden);**

148.62 **Strengthen and implement the effective protection and full integration into society, of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and minorities; including the commitments of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (Costa Rica);**

148.63 **Decriminalize irregular migration (Brazil);**

148.64 **Ensure that family reunification of refugees and migrants are respected in the asylum process (Afghanistan);**

148.65 **Accelerate the entry into force of the amendments to the Swiss Law on Asylum concerning judicial assistance (Togo);**

148.66 **Provide cantons with unified standards for housing and living conditions for asylum seekers and refugees (Canada);**

148.67 **Make the process of recognition of professional qualifications acquired abroad more flexible, to facilitate access to the labour market for refugees, asylum seekers and provisionally admitted persons (Portugal).**

149. **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 Switzerland was headed by the Secretary of State at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Pascale Baeriswyl, and composed of the following members:

- M. Martin Dumermuth, Directeur de l'Office fédéral de la justice, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- M. François Longchamp, Président du Conseil de l'État de la République et canton de Genève, Conférence des gouvernements cantonaux, CdC;
- Mme l'Ambassadeur Heidi Grau, Cheffe de la Division sécurité humaine, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
- M. l'Ambassadeur Valentin Zellweger, Chef de la Mission permanente auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
- M. Luca Gobbo, Chargé adjoint de l'information auprès de la Direction des affaires européennes, DEA, Conférence des gouvernements cantonaux, CdC;
- Mme Andrea Binder-Oser, Cheffe du domaine de droit, Bureau fédéral de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes, Département fédéral de l'intérieur, DFI;
- M. Michele Galizia, Chef du service de lutte contre le racisme, Département fédéral de l'intérieur, DFI;
- M. Andreas Rieder, Chef du bureau fédéral de l'égalité pour des personnes handicapées, Département fédéral de l'intérieur, DFI;
- M. Jean Marie Bouverat, Division multilatérale, Office fédéral des affaires sociales, Département fédéral de l'intérieur, DFI;
- M. Boris Mesaric, Chef du Service de coordination contre la traite d'êtres humains et le trafic de migrants SCOTT Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- M. Adrian Scheidegger, Unité Protection internationale des droits de l'homme, Office fédéral de la justice, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- M. Michel Montini, Office fédéral de l'état civil, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- M. Olivier Gonin, Unité droit pénal international, Office fédéral de la justice, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- Mme Maya Beeler-Sigron, Unité Protection internationale des droits de l'homme, Office fédéral de la justice, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- M. Christian Zumwald, Adjoint juridique, domaine de direction asile, Secrétariat d'État aux migrations, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- Mme Fabienne Baraga, Domaine du droit, Secrétariat d'État aux migrations, Département fédéral de justice et police, DFJP;
- Mme Amina Joubli, Affaires internationales du travail, Département fédéral de l'économie, de la formation et de la recherche, DEFR;
- M. Lukas Heinzer, Section droits de l'homme, Mission permanente auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
- M. Christoph Spenlé, Chef adjoint de la section droits de l'homme, Direction du droit international public, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
- Mme Samantha Fréchin, Section Assemblée générale, ECOSOC, Conseil des droits de l'homme, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;

- Mme Odile Inauen, Secrétariat d'État du DFAE, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
 - M. Raphael Nägeli, Chef adjoint de la Division sécurité humaine, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
 - Mme Sandra Lendenmann, Cheffe de la section politique des droits de l'homme, Division sécurité humaine, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
 - Mme Martina Schmidt, Section politique des droits de l'homme, Division sécurité humaine, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
 - M. Patrick Matthey, Section politique des droits de l'homme, Division sécurité humaine, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
 - Mme Dominique Keller, Section politique des droits de l'homme, Division sécurité humaine, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE;
 - Mme Laura Aubry, Section droits de l'homme, Mission permanente auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, Département fédéral des affaires étrangères, DFAE.
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