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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Viet Nam

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Viet Nam was held at the 4th meeting, on 22 January 2019. The delegation of Viet Nam was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Le Hoai Trung. At its 10th meeting, held on 25 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Viet Nam.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Viet Nam: Egypt, 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 Viet Nam:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/VNM/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/VNM/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/VNM/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) was transmitted to Viet Nam through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Viet Nam stated that Viet Nam attached great importance to the universal periodic review process. The national report had been prepared comprehensively and transparently, with inputs from all relevant stakeholders.
6. The country's consistent policy on the protection and promotion of human rights was deeply rooted in the history of the Vietnamese people, who had braved hardships to gain their right to live in peace, independence, freedom and happiness. In the 1945 Declaration of Independence, the new State solemnly asserted the right to independence of the Vietnamese nation and set out all the other fundamental rights of its people.
7. The country's human rights accomplishments, including the implementation of the recommendations accepted from the second review cycle, built upon the country's earlier efforts and were part of the State's comprehensive reform and international integration process, in which the people were both the drivers and the focus of the country's development.
8. Between 2014 and 2018, Viet Nam had amended or reissued 96 laws and decrees related to human rights, including laws on religion and belief, on access to information, on referendums and on children. The development of such laws always involved the collection of inputs from social organizations and the public and were discussed at the National Assembly.

9. As a country with numerous religions and beliefs, Viet Nam respected and created enabling conditions for freedom of religion and belief, while prohibiting all forms of discrimination based on religion, including through the introduction of the law on religions and beliefs of 2016. Many major international religious events had been held in Viet Nam, such as Vesak 2014 (and the scheduled Vesak 2019) and the quincentenary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017.

10. Freedom of the press, freedom of expression and the right of access to information were ensured, as evidenced by the strong growth of the press, Internet use and social media. There were more than 900 press agencies, 18,000 journalists and 60 publishing houses, and the number of publications had grown 5 to 10 per cent annually. Viet Nam was one of the countries with the fastest Internet growth in the world, with 50 million Internet users (54 per cent of the population) and 58 million active Facebook accounts.

11. By the end of 2017, Viet Nam had more than 68,000 groups, associations and organizations representing all walks of life, along with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). They had contributed to national development and had participated responsibly in law-making and policymaking activities. Consultations on a draft law on association were being held with all stakeholders before its submission to the National Assembly for consideration.

12. Significant resources had been allocated for ensuring economic, social and cultural rights, prioritizing sustainable development and social equality, with a particular focus on women, children, the poor, the elderly, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities. An economic growth rate above 6 per cent had been maintained, creating millions of new jobs every year. Poverty reduction policies had been vigorously implemented, helping reduce the proportion of poor households to 7.7 per cent according to the multidimensional poverty index. Millions of underprivileged persons had benefited from health insurance at no cost and were entitled to monthly social welfare payments. Nationwide universal education for kindergarten and primary education had been completed. Poor households in rural areas, low-income households in urban areas and students received housing assistance.

13. Equality among 54 ethnicities was ensured by concrete policies and prioritized resources for the development of ethnic minorities, narrowing the development gaps and preserving ethnic minority languages. Ethnic minorities actively participated in political activities, holding key positions in the national political system, and had access to a wide variety of radio and television broadcasting programmes in their languages.

14. Viet Nam promoted gender equality and ensured women's rights. Women accounted for 27 per cent of National Assembly deputies. Women's workforce participation rate was 73 per cent, and women were in leadership positions in 30 per cent of businesses, including leading corporations. Measures had been taken to strengthen the prevention of and fight against all forms of violence against women, as well as victim assistance.

15. Viet Nam allocated resources for child protection, childcare and education, and encouraged children's participation in issues relevant to them. The law on children of 2016 and the programme to promote children's right to participate in child-related issues, 2016–2020, had been introduced and were being implemented. Since 2017, the National Committee on Children and the national call centre for children had been in operation to receive reports, provide consultation for and handle cases of child sexual abuse or violence against children.

16. Viet Nam participated actively in United Nations human rights mechanisms and cooperated with OHCHR and the special procedure mandate holders. Since its previous review, Viet Nam had hosted the visits of a number of special procedure mandate holders and ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It had also submitted national reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture. National reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities would be submitted in the near future.

17. Viet Nam had implemented 175 of the 182 recommendations from the previous cycle that it had accepted, or 96.2 per cent. Difficulties and challenges remained, including the need to improve the legal framework. Human rights education required more effective implementation and resources needed to be sustainably secured. Globalization, climate change and other global issues threatened to widen inequalities and erode achievements. Extremism and prejudice, which directly and seriously affected the enjoyment of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people, also needed to be addressed with measures in line with Vietnamese regulations and international human rights standards.

18. The top priorities for Viet Nam were to continue building the rule-of-law State and instituting legal reform, implementing administrative reform programmes, addressing corruption, enhancing democracy and advancing national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights.

19. Viet Nam made a voluntary commitment to continue:

(a) To foster dialogue and cooperation with all countries and United Nations mechanisms on human rights;

(b) To seriously fulfil its international human rights obligations and prepare for joining other international human rights conventions;

(c) To review relevant laws to ensure freedom of the press and public access to information;

(d) To consider accession to more of the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), including the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 120 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. China, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Morocco, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates made recommendations. Mauritania and the Russian Federation made statements. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.¹

22. In response to a number of questions, the delegation stated that, given the country's particular circumstances, the death penalty remained a necessary measure to prevent the most serious crimes, in line with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Viet Nam had taken steps to reduce the number of offences punishable by

¹ See <http://webtv.un.org/search/viet-nam-upr-adoption-32nd-session-of-universal-periodic-review/5993844032001/?term=Viet+Nam&sort=date&page=3>.

death from 44 (in 1989) to 18 (in 2015) and had expanded the categories of persons who could not be subjected to capital punishment (persons under 18 years of age, pregnant women or women nursing children under 36 months old, persons over 75 and others). Though Viet Nam did not publish statistics on the death penalty, all verdicts and executions were announced in the media. Viet Nam was currently studying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

23. Viet Nam respected the freedom of expression, the press and the Internet. The law on the press of 2016 contained detailed regulations governing the freedom of the press and the Internet for all citizens. Over the past four years, the number of Internet subscribers had doubled. Viet Nam was among the world's fastest growing countries in terms of Internet and social media use. The development of the Internet had been a key driver of the country's economic and social advancement in recent years.

24. The cybersecurity law sought to address the use of cyberspace to violate the legitimate interest of organizations and individuals, undermine national security and jeopardize social order and security. In essence, the law did not alter existing legislation concerning human rights and was in line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. At the same time, it aimed for a healthy cyber environment, providing for the general welfare in a democratic society in the context of article 4 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

25. Viet Nam, as one of the most religiously diversified countries, respected and protected the freedom of religion and belief. All forms of discrimination on the ground of religion were prohibited. Administrative procedures related to religious organizations and events were consistently applied and publicly available, and were increasingly streamlined and simplified. More than 60 per cent of administrative procedures were only for notification purposes.

26. In Viet Nam, no one was arrested or put on trial for legitimately exercising their freedom of speech or assembly. Only those who violated the law were arrested and tried, following due process and in accordance with the relevant laws, and such cases were closely monitored by the National Assembly, the People's Court, the People's Procuracy and the media.

27. Viet Nam prohibited all forms of violence and abuse against women and children. Serious violations were criminalized. The Government had concrete measures in place to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence and abuse against children and provided legal counsel and social assistance for the protection of children's rights.

28. Viet Nam had criminalized human trafficking and taken steps to combat that crime and to rescue and assist the reintegration of victims through medical and psychological treatment, vocational training and credit assistance. The Government was also stepping up the dissemination of information to raise public awareness about human trafficking, particularly in remote areas.

29. Viet Nam had developed a set of policies to narrow the development gap among the geographical regions across the country. In those policies, special attention was paid to poor households, ethnic minorities and people living in remote areas, and resources for poverty reduction and social welfare were prioritized. Viet Nam was also mustering all resources within the society and stepping up international cooperation to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

30. A multi-ethnic country, Viet Nam ensured equality among different ethnic groups. Priority was given to, and development assistance policies were tailored for, ethnic minorities, regions and industries. The proportion of National Assembly members who were from ethnic minorities was 17 per cent, higher than the proportion of persons from ethnic minorities in the population (14 per cent).

31. Viet Nam employed various mechanisms to ensure the protection of human rights. The establishment of a national human rights institution required careful deliberation to optimize its operation and avoid overlaps. Viet Nam had been organizing many conferences

and dialogues with researchers and practitioners, both Vietnamese and international, to arrive at the most appropriate working model.

32. All acts of torture were prohibited in Viet Nam and were punishable by law. The People's Supreme Procuracy was responsible for the supervision of investigations to discover, prevent and address acts of coercion or the use of corporal punishment. The body operated independently, ensuring the objectivity of such investigations. Victims of coercion or corporal punishment were entitled to compensation according to the law. The law protected those who reported criminal acts, witnesses, victims and other participants in the prosecution process.

33. Vietnamese law clearly provided for the independence of the court. Intervention in the deliberations of a judge was against the law. The principle of a fair trial was enshrined in the Constitution and ensured by the law. Except for special cases, such as those involving minors or persons with intellectual disabilities, all participants in the prosecution process followed the same procedures.

34. Viet Nam had introduced human rights education into the training of civil servants and had issued a plan to integrate human rights education into the national education system.

35. Viet Nam prohibited any form of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and recognized the rights to reidentify and transform gender. A new law on gender transformation was being drafted.

36. Vietnamese laws recognized the rights of workers to have dialogue and negotiations individually, in groups or in associations. Viet Nam planned to revise the Labour Code to facilitate the establishment of groups representing workers and also to protect workers' rights.

37. In conclusion, the delegation of Viet Nam thanked member States for their active participation in the dialogue, their recognition of the country's efforts and achievements, and their cooperation with Viet Nam in economic, trade and cultural areas and also in human rights dialogues. Viet Nam looked forward to continued international cooperation and dialogue on the protection and promotion of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

38.1 **Promote genuine dialogue between Viet Nam and other countries to enhance mutual understanding and to address issues which are of common interest related to human rights (China);**

38.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark); Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, including by establishing a national preventive mechanism in accordance with the Protocol (Hungary); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Ukraine); Strengthen protection against torture by, inter alia, ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and stepping up efforts to end impunity for all perpetrators of torture (Czechia);**

38.3 **Continue to foster and monitor the implementation of recommendations accepted through the masterplan to implement the recommendations (Dominican Republic);**

38.4 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (El Salvador);**

38.5 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death**

penalty (El Salvador); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro); Ratify, without reservations, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Croatia);

38.6 Implement the recommendations contained in the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture of December 2018 (France);

38.7 Raise awareness among its people on the roles and responsibilities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

38.8 Extend cooperation with United Nations special procedures, and respond positively to pending requests for visits (Germany);

38.9 Continue efforts to adhere to international human rights instruments to which it is not party, including the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education, among others (Honduras);

38.10 Continue efforts to effectively implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to better guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities (Indonesia);

38.11 Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, as previously recommended (Latvia);

38.12 Step up cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);

38.13 Cooperate with the special procedure mandate holders of the Council and guarantee them unfettered access (Luxembourg);

38.14 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Madagascar);

38.15 Continue efforts to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);

38.16 Consider adhering to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mexico);

38.17 Respond positively to requests from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Mexico);

38.18 Strengthen dissemination of fundamental provisions of the Convention against Torture and of Viet Nam's regulations for preventing torture (Mongolia);

38.19 Consider the possibility of accession to the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Mozambique);

38.20 Support international cooperation and dialogue and the sharing of experience with other countries concerning reform of the judicial system (Oman);

- 38.21 Further regional cooperation towards mainstreaming human rights in all three pillars of the ASEAN community (Philippines);
- 38.22 Transform the masterplan for the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations into a permanent interministerial mechanism responsible for the implementation of, reporting on and follow-up to the recommendations emanating from the international human rights system (Portugal);
- 38.23 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Slovakia) (Ukraine);
- 38.24 Continue its commitment to the promotion of genuine dialogue and effective cooperation with all Member States and United Nations human rights mechanisms (South Africa);
- 38.25 Consider submitting in due course the national report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (South Africa);
- 38.26 Consider ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sri Lanka);
- 38.27 Strengthen its cooperation with the bodies of the Council and the various international instruments, including the special procedures, notably by accepting the visit of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Switzerland);
- 38.28 Further mainstream the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into school textbooks (Jordan);
- 38.29 Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Togo);
- 38.30 Further consider accession to the human rights conventions to which it is not a party (Turkmenistan);
- 38.31 Facilitate cooperation of State and non-State actors with the United Nations human rights bodies (Ukraine);
- 38.32 Draw up and publish a national plan of action, implementing recommendations from the Committee against Torture in 2018 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 38.33 Consider ratifying the main international human rights instruments that have not yet been acceded to, among them: 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 against Enforced Disappearance; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uruguay);
- 38.34 Extend an invitation to visit the country to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Uruguay);
- 38.35 Consider acceding to international human rights treaties to which Viet Nam is not yet party (Uzbekistan);
- 38.36 Fully incorporate in domestic law the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Zambia);
- 38.37 Consider extending invitations to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council that cover the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups (Belarus);

- 38.38 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Benin);**
- 38.39 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Benin);**
- 38.40 **Continue efforts to implement the remaining recommendations from the previous cycle (Bhutan);**
- 38.41 **Bolster efforts towards dialogue and cooperation with the Human Rights Council (Chad);**
- 38.42 **Enhance efforts to comply with the recommendations accepted during the second universal periodic review cycle on guaranteeing the right to freedom of expression (Chile);**
- 38.43 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute, as previously recommended (Latvia); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);**
- 38.44 **Reinforce protection of workers by ratifying and implementing the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) and the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) (France);**
- 38.45 **Continue to improve its legal framework on labour and consider the possibility of ratifying other ILO fundamental conventions (Mauritius);**
- 38.46 **Ensure the freedom of association of workers by ratifying ILO Convention No. 87 within one year (Netherlands);**
- 38.47 **Complete the required ratification procedure of ILO conventions No. 87, No. 98 and No. 105 as soon as possible (New Zealand);**
- 38.48 **Ratify ILO core conventions No. 87, No. 98 and No. 105 (Norway);**
- 38.49 **Adopt ILO conventions No. 87, No. 98 and No. 105 (Spain);**
- 38.50 **Share experience in implementing ILO conventions to which Viet Nam is a party (Jordan);**
- 38.51 **Ratify the remaining core ILO conventions with the aim to improve the protection of worker's rights (Austria);**
- 38.52 **Ratify the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), the ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98) and the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) (Belgium);**
- 38.53 **Continue legislative reforms and improvements of the institutional framework in conformity with the commitments and obligations of Viet Nam in the area of human rights (Djibouti);**
- 38.54 **Strengthen efforts on human rights education in the national education system (Ethiopia);**
- 38.55 **Take steps to protect human rights defenders, particularly by repealing or revising the provisions of the Penal Code that make reference to the concept of national security (France);**
- 38.56 **Consider putting into place a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up covering the recommendations of the universal periodic review (Haiti);**
- 38.57 **Continue its efforts to promote the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities (India);**

- 38.58 Continue its initiative to have human rights education operational in all its educational establishments by 2025 (India);
- 38.59 Pursue efforts to effectively implement institutional, legal and policy reforms aimed at strengthening and promoting human rights (Lebanon);
- 38.60 Expedite the legal reform process and the process to establish the rule of law in order to consolidate the institutional, legal and political framework in line with human rights (Mali);
- 38.61 Continue to create favourable conditions for citizens to contribute to the drafting and development of legal instruments (Mongolia);
- 38.62 Continue to promote legal reforms concerning human rights in line with the 2013 Constitution (Nicaragua);
- 38.63 Promote the contribution of public media in raising awareness of human rights and human rights law (Pakistan);
- 38.64 Continue its efforts to ensure the independence of the courts of adjudication (Pakistan);
- 38.65 Continue its implementation of the human rights education and training programme and activities (Philippines);
- 38.66 Expedite the process of establishing a national human rights institution (Republic of Korea);
- 38.67 Pursue efforts in order to raise awareness of human rights to further guarantee the promotion of human rights (Saudi Arabia);
- 38.68 Ensure the timely establishment of a national human rights institution that is in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and provided with adequate resources to fulfil a wide-ranging mandate (Seychelles); Accelerate the process of the creation of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and give it adequate financial resources and infrastructure to function properly (Togo);
- 38.69 Allocate sufficient resources and ensure good inter-agency coordination for the effective implementation of the 2016–2020 socioeconomic development plan and the development of a national action plan for “Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goals”, in particular at the provincial level (Singapore);
- 38.70 Continue to strengthen human rights education in order to raise public awareness and the capacity of law enforcement agencies (Slovakia);
- 38.71 Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles (South Africa);
- 38.72 Strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the protection of human rights (Sudan);
- 38.73 Adapt the Code of Penal Procedure to international standards and amend articles 109 and 117 on “activities against the State” in the Penal Code, in line with human rights standards (Switzerland);
- 38.74 Continue promoting human rights through education and awareness-raising (Turkmenistan);
- 38.75 Continue strengthening independent national human rights institutions (Ukraine);
- 38.76 Consider consolidating the existing human rights policies through the development of a comprehensive national action plan (Ukraine);
- 38.77 Enhance promotion of human rights education (Ukraine);

- 38.78 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening human rights education (Morocco);**
- 38.79 **Accelerate consideration of the establishment of a national human rights institution (Uzbekistan);**
- 38.80 **Consider expediting the establishment of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Kazakhstan);**
- 38.81 **Continue to strengthen the legal, institutional and policy frameworks in order to enhance the protection of human rights (Zimbabwe);**
- 38.82 **Draft a national human rights action plan to facilitate compliance of the international obligations assumed in this area (Angola);**
- 38.83 **Take further measures aimed at ensuring the increased efficiency and accountability of public services (Azerbaijan);**
- 38.84 **Continue to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies and human rights education (Bahrain);**
- 38.85 **Expedite the process of establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with international standards (Bangladesh);**
- 38.86 **Continue to carry out awareness-raising programmes on human rights, in particular on the international human rights treaties to which Viet Nam is a party (Belarus);**
- 38.87 **Intensify efforts to further strengthen human rights education and awareness in schools, universities, law enforcement agencies and other places (Bhutan);**
- 38.88 **Establish a national human rights institution (Kuwait);**
- 38.89 **Continue to improve the legal framework and the national labour policy (Chad);**
- 38.90 **Continue efforts to eliminate inequalities in access to public services (China);**
- 38.91 **Continue steps towards promoting gender equality and preventing gender-based violence (Georgia);**
- 38.92 **Increase efforts to address discrimination, in line with its international obligations, and to improve its legal framework against gender-based violence (Greece);**
- 38.93 **Enact legislation to ensure access to gender affirmation treatment and legal gender recognition (Iceland);**
- 38.94 **Address the root causes of son preference and the misuse of medical technologies for sex selection without curtailing women's access to safe abortion services (Iceland);**
- 38.95 **Strengthen efforts deployed to combat and eliminate discrimination against vulnerable groups (Madagascar);**
- 38.96 **Continue to conduct studies with a view to amending existing or introducing new legal instruments to eliminate all forms of discrimination against people living with HIV (Malaysia);**
- 38.97 **Take further steps to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups in society including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Malta);**
- 38.98 **Legalize same-sex marriage before the next review (Netherlands);**
- 38.99 **Explicitly include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" as forbidden grounds of discrimination in the revised Labour Code and other relevant laws (Norway);**

- 38.100 **Support and ensure the rights of vulnerable groups (Sudan);**
- 38.101 **Strengthen implementation of the national gender equality strategy 2011–2020 at all national levels (Turkey);**
- 38.102 **Continue efforts to close gaps in income, employment and living conditions between urban, rural and remote areas (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 38.103 **Ensure that its policies are people-centred, especially in terms of supporting vulnerable groups (Zimbabwe);**
- 38.104 **Take adequate measures to improve citizens' access to public services, especially in rural areas (Albania);**
- 38.105 **Allocate the resources necessary for the effective implementation of the national strategy on gender equality (Albania);**
- 38.106 **Improve the quality and accessibility of services, in particular in favour of vulnerable groups (Algeria);**
- 38.107 **Take further measures to reduce inequalities and enhance access to services, especially for vulnerable persons, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Bhutan);**
- 38.108 **Review the Labour Code and the law on gender equality to include a detailed definition of sexual harassment (Canada);**
- 38.109 **Develop legislation against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**
- 38.110 **Prioritize resources for the implementation of the national target programme for sustainable poverty reduction to 2020 and beyond (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 38.111 **Encourage effective multiplication of multidimensional poverty alleviation models and share experience in this field (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 38.112 **Pursue efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Egypt);**
- 38.113 **Continue its efforts in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by emphasizing sustainable and multidimensional reduction of poverty and socioeconomic inequalities (Gabon);**
- 38.114 **Strengthen measures so that the national target programme for sustainable poverty reduction is accessible to all vulnerable groups, including ethnic minorities (India);**
- 38.115 **Continue ongoing efforts and reforms to reduce poverty, improve quality of life and promote sustainable development (Lebanon);**
- 38.116 **Continue to promote administrative reform and prevent and combat corruption (Libya);**
- 38.117 **Continue efforts to fight against corruption effectively (Iraq);**
- 38.118 **Promote application of information and communication technologies for socioeconomic development to ensure that no one is left behind (Mongolia);**
- 38.119 **Sustain its efforts in ensuring economic development and social equality among its people (Nigeria);**
- 38.120 **Promote investments in rural areas and improve infrastructure, particularly in these regions (Oman);**
- 38.121 **Strengthen protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children, in particular in the context of expanding digital space (Pakistan);**

- 38.122 Continue efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation in order to secure and promote access to and the enjoyment of economic development progress for everyone (Qatar);
- 38.123 Strengthen efforts to address uneven regional development and new forms of urban poverty (Republic of Korea);
- 38.124 Strengthen efforts to reduce the adverse environmental effects of industrialization and ensure the right to safe water (Republic of Korea);
- 38.125 Continue to invest efforts in fighting poverty and providing access to drinking water and sanitation in rural areas of the country (Serbia);
- 38.126 Continue to focus on ensuring sustainable livelihoods and improving the quality and accessibility of services especially for vulnerable groups (State of Palestine);
- 38.127 Continue efforts to combat extreme poverty, particularly absolute poverty, which affects vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities (Tunisia);
- 38.128 Continue to set up programmes and national plans aimed at supporting economic and social development, in particular in disadvantaged areas (Morocco);
- 38.129 Share Viet Nam's experience in eliminating long-standing poverty (Yemen);
- 38.130 Promote further sustainable development through the realization of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Algeria);
- 38.131 Further promote sustainable development with a focus on a multidimensional approach to reducing poverty and to protecting vulnerable groups (Bahrain);
- 38.132 Optimize policies and measures to encourage investment in agriculture and rural areas, improving people's livelihoods and increasing their income (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 38.133 Continue to promote the participation of the population, businesses and non-governmental organizations in the development and implementation of policies aimed at reducing inequalities (Haiti);
- 38.134 Develop, enact and implement, in dialogue with business and civil society, an action plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Sweden);
- 38.135 Organize awareness-raising activities in business sectors and among employers on the conventions of ILO and labour commitments in the new generation of trade agreements to which Viet Nam has acceded (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 38.136 Continue to address the vulnerabilities and needs of women, children, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups in the effective implementation of the 2016–2020 target programme for climate change adaptation and green growth, and the 2016–2020 target programme for sustainable forestry development (Fiji);
- 38.137 Strengthen public information dissemination and awareness-raising on the impacts of climate change as well as mitigation measures (Philippines);
- 38.138 Continue to promote and take part in initiatives within the United Nations system, including in the Human Rights Council, on climate change and the enjoyment of the rights of people of vulnerable groups in the United Nations system, including in the Human Rights Council (Bangladesh);

38.139 Continue to strengthen efforts to reduce poverty and improve health facilities, including access to health services for people, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities (Brunei Darussalam);

38.140 Initiate a moratorium on the imposition of capital punishment, especially for non-violent crimes (Finland); Consider implementing a full moratorium on the death penalty (Georgia); Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty (Iceland); Establish a de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Portugal); Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty as a step towards its definitive abolition and modify the Penal Code to reduce the number of crimes for which capital punishment can be imposed (Spain); Impose a moratorium on executions with the goal of abolishing the death penalty (Albania); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards the complete abolition of this practice (Australia); Immediately adopt a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ultimately abolishing it (Austria); Take the necessary measures to establish a moratorium on executions of death row prisoners as well as to repeal the death penalty in national legislation (Argentina);

38.141 Abolish the death penalty and, without delay, reduce the number of offences punishable by the death penalty (France); Abolish definitively the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg); Continue reform towards abolition of the death penalty, including by continuing to reduce the list of crimes punishable by the death penalty, in particular non-violent crimes, under the Penal Code of 2015 and by providing greater transparency about the numbers, methods and associated crimes relating to its use (New Zealand); Abolish the death penalty for all crimes, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);

38.142 Further reduce the list of offences punishable by death, eliminate the death penalty for “activities against the people’s government”, “espionage”, “embezzlement”, and “taking bribes” as well as for serious drug offences (Germany); Continue to reduce the number of crimes subject to the death penalty and consider introducing a de facto moratorium on its application (Mexico); Continue to reduce the scope of crimes subject to the death penalty to only the “most serious crimes” and consider introducing a moratorium (Norway); Continue the process of reducing offences subject to the death penalty until the abolition of capital punishment and publish statistics on the use of the death penalty in Viet Nam (Romania); Further reduce the offences punishable by the death penalty, provide official figures regarding death sentences and executions and consider introducing a moratorium on the death penalty (Italy);

38.143 Reduce further the list of crimes punishable by the death penalty, in particular economic crimes and drug-related offences, and envisage a complete moratorium on the application of the death penalty (Switzerland);

38.144 Assist the process of national discussion on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolishment (Ukraine);

38.145 Immediately release prisoners who have been arbitrarily or unlawfully detained, including Ho Duc Hoa, Tran Huynh Duy Thuc, Tran Thi Nga, Nguyen Bac Truyen and the members of the Brotherhood for Democracy, and allow them to exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms in Viet Nam (United States of America);

38.146 Restrict the use of the death penalty to crimes that meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law (Belgium);

- 38.147 **Ensure that evidence obtained through torture is inadmissible in trial in keeping with Viet Nam's obligations under the Convention against Torture (New Zealand);**
- 38.148 **Take steps to prohibit harassment and torture during the investigation process and detention, and punish perpetrators (Togo);**
- 38.149 **Provide access for independent monitoring bodies to all detention centres and prisons (Belgium);**
- 38.150 **Abolish immediately at all levels the practice of outdoor trials to ensure the right to presumption of innocence, effective legal representation and fair trials (Denmark);**
- 38.151 **Guarantee the People's Procuracy's role in protecting human rights, in accordance with the 2015 Law on Administrative Procedure (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 38.152 **Revise the judicial system to provide a safer environment for victims of all crimes (Hungary);**
- 38.153 **Set up a robust legislative framework prohibiting and sanctioning all discriminatory practices, enabling victims to have access to justice (Madagascar);**
- 38.154 **Continue efforts to develop the legal system and set up the relevant policies that guarantee its application to all (Oman);**
- 38.155 **Continue to strengthen the rule of law, including further development of the criminal justice system taking into account the human rights of suspects and inmates and the promotion of impartial and transparent administration of criminal justice (Japan);**
- 38.156 **Pursue judicial and institutional reforms to bring the legal and institutional framework into line with international human rights standards (Senegal);**
- 38.157 **Ensure prompt, impartial, independent and effective investigations, including through full cooperation with third countries, into reports of unnecessary or excessive use of force by the police as well as violations of human rights by official authorities, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Slovakia);**
- 38.158 **Ensure that fair trial guarantees and due process rights, as provided in international law and standards, are respected and upheld in all cases (Slovakia);**
- 38.159 **Continue building the rule of law through pursuing legal reforms in order to consolidate its human rights institutional, legal and policy framework (Slovakia);**
- 38.160 **Further enhance the rule of law and legal reform aimed at consolidating the institutional, legal and policy foundation for the protection and promotion of human rights (Turkmenistan);**
- 38.161 **Strengthen measures to provide legal aid to people, in particular the poor and members of ethnic minorities (Yemen);**
- 38.162 **Continue its efforts in building a rule-of-law State through legal reforms (Azerbaijan);**
- 38.163 **Continue efforts to guarantee the right to equality before the law for all (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 38.164 **Amend the Criminal Procedure Code so that persons are represented by a lawyer immediately following their arrest and to guarantee their right to a fair trial (Canada);**

- 38.165 Share its experiences on the implementation of the law on special reprieve and the reintegration of former convicts into the community (Cuba);
- 38.166 Authorize the publication of independent newspapers and cease legal sanctions against and harassment of journalists and citizens peacefully expressing views through print media, the Internet and radio (Denmark);
- 38.167 Repeal or amend the Penal Code and the cybersecurity law so that provisions relating to national security are clearly defined or removed, to ensure that they cannot be applied in an arbitrary manner to endanger any forms of freedom of expression, including Internet freedom (Finland);
- 38.168 Take steps to guarantee freedom of opinion and freedom of expression, including on the Internet, in the context of the adoption of the law on cybersecurity (France);
- 38.169 Take steps to preserve and promote vibrant and diverse religions and beliefs in Viet Nam (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 38.170 Take measures to combat violence and harassment motivated by religious belief, ethnic discrimination and inequality (Brazil);
- 38.171 Review all convictions based on laws restricting freedom of expression and opinion, in particular articles 79 and 88 of the Penal Code, according to the revised penalty ranges (Germany);
- 38.172 Develop measures to protect reporters and journalists from all forms of discrimination and violence (Greece);
- 38.173 Fully implement the recently enacted law on freedom of religion or belief (Greece);
- 38.174 Consider revising national legislation, including the law on belief and religion and the media laws, in order to harmonize it with international standards regarding the right to freedom of expression and of religion (Brazil);
- 38.175 Release human rights defenders sentenced to prison for exercising the right to freedom of expression (Iceland);
- 38.176 Invest resources through national programmes and plans to develop and provide access to the Internet in remote areas (Indonesia);
- 38.177 Take the necessary measures to ensure the freedom of expression of human rights defenders and journalists, in particular by investigating and punishing perpetrators of threats and reprisals against them (Argentina);
- 38.178 Continue its efforts to implement policies on promoting harmony among religions (United Arab Emirates);
- 38.179 Protect civil and political rights, especially freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Luxembourg);
- 38.180 Protect human rights defenders and prosecute all persons guilty of violence or intimidation against them (Luxembourg);
- 38.181 Promote access to information in accordance with Viet Nam's national law (Malaysia);
- 38.182 Continue with measures aimed at fully implementing the recent law on freedom of religion or belief in order to guarantee its effectiveness (Malta);
- 38.183 Amend, within one year, the 2015 Penal Code, Decree 174/2013, Decree 72/2013, Decree 27/2018, the 2018 law on cybersecurity and articles 4, 9, 14 and 15 of the 2016 press law to guarantee offline and online freedom of the press and expression, and the right to privacy, in line with articles 17 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);
- 38.184 Lift restrictions on freedom of expression, and particularly online freedom, in line with Viet Nam's obligations under international law (Ireland);

38.185 **Cybersecurity decrees should include clear provisions for interpretation of the law on cybersecurity in accordance with international standards on freedom of expression (Ireland);**

38.186 **Review regulations impeding the operation of civil society organizations, to enable a more open space and ensure that national security provisions are not used to prevent peaceful debate and dissent (Ireland);**

38.187 **Ensure that the legal framework protects freedom of expression both offline and online and accordingly amend the penal law and the law on cybersecurity to ensure consistency with international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand); Ensure that freedom of expression is protected online and offline by amending national security provisions in the Penal Code, the cybersecurity law and its implementing decree so as to comply with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other commitments (Sweden); Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and amend the Penal Code and the cybersecurity law to make sure that the limitations on the right to freedom of expression are in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria); Review the Penal Code and the law on cybersecurity to harmonize them with international standards related to the freedom of expression, association and assembly (Canada);**

38.188 **Revise the provisions of articles 117 and 331 of the 2015 Penal Code and other relevant laws that restrict the ability to exercise fundamental freedoms and allow free operation of national and international media (Norway);**

38.189 **Strengthen efforts to ensure freedom of expression, including in the digital environment (Peru);**

38.190 **Consider the elimination of the system of censorship in the cultural sphere (Peru);**

38.191 **Release all human rights defenders as well as political and religious activists detained for the peaceful expression of their political opinions or religious beliefs (Poland);**

38.192 **Continue to strengthen efforts to protect the fundamental freedoms and rights guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Poland);**

38.193 **Ensure full implementation of its international human rights obligations regarding freedom of religion and belief by reviewing the law on belief and religion to bring it into line with article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Poland);**

38.194 **Abolish prior censorship in all fields of cultural creation and other forms of expression, both online and offline, including by bringing the restriction on freedom of expression under the 2016 press law into line with international standards and by fostering a pluralistic and independent media environment (Portugal);**

38.195 **Ensure freedom of expression, including online, and promote actions to ensure the freedom and independence of the media (Japan);**

38.196 **Continue the measures aimed at lifting all restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and to allow bloggers, journalists and other Internet users to promote and protect human rights (Romania);**

38.197 **Review and amend national legislation in order to enable the effective exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in line with the standards enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Seychelles);**

- 38.198 **Adopt measures in line with international standards to guarantee freedom of association, opinion and expression, including online, and to ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs can operate freely (Italy);**
- 38.199 **Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of religion or belief, also by further reducing administrative obstacles to peaceful religious activities and by combating violence and discrimination on religious grounds (Italy);**
- 38.200 **Adopt legislative changes to guarantee the protection and free exercise of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Spain);**
- 38.201 **Enhance activities aimed at encouraging the participation and contribution of the elderly in the community (Sri Lanka);**
- 38.202 **Guarantee fully freedom of speech, the rights of peaceful assembly and association as well as the safety of journalists, and review cases of persons convicted for having freely expressed their opinion, including human rights defenders (Switzerland);**
- 38.203 **Improve protection of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression by reviewing existing legislation, and publishing and implementing clear, transparent guidelines on security personnel conduct in managing peaceful demonstrations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 38.204 **Immediately amend or abolish articles 8, 18 and 26 of the cybersecurity law as they are not in conformity with Viet Nam's international obligations, or its 2013 Constitution (United States of America);**
- 38.205 **Ensure consistent implementation of the law on belief and religion, particularly at the local level, including with respect to registration of Protestant groups and other groups in Northwest Highlands provinces, remove undue restrictions on access to religious materials and clergy for those imprisoned and cease any harassment of independent groups on account of their religion (United States of America);**
- 38.206 **Take the necessary measures to eliminate administrative barriers in order to guarantee the exercise of freedom of worship (Angola);**
- 38.207 **Enact laws to provide for freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 38.208 **Amend provisions of the cybersecurity law, including articles 8, 18 and 26, to ensure they are consistent with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 38.209 **Take further steps to ensure an independent and pluralistic media landscape, including by reducing political influence on media outlets (Austria);**
- 38.210 **Safeguard freedom of religion and belief for all in Viet Nam (Kenya);**
- 38.211 **Publicly recognize human rights defenders and provide an environment in which they can carry out their human rights work safely (Belgium);**
- 38.212 **Review the law on religion and belief to enable religious groups to practice freely (Canada); Review the 2016 law on belief and religion and bring it into conformity with international human rights standards and freedom of religion or belief standards (Croatia);**
- 38.213 **Increase and ensure Vietnamese citizens' access to information, including by increasing radio and television coverage in all parts of the country (Cyprus);**

- 38.214 **Nurture a culture of free expression online and offline and release all imprisoned human rights defenders, including bloggers and political dissenters, and put an end to their harassment (Czechia);**
- 38.215 **Create an enabling environment for independent civil society and ensure that the law on association facilitates the registration, work and funding of NGOs free from undue State interference and restrictions (Czechia);**
- 38.216 **Lay the ground for political plurality and democracy and guarantee its citizens the full enjoyment of the rights to vote and to be elected and to take part in the conduct of public affairs (Czechia);**
- 38.217 **Revise the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and criminalize all forms of violence against women, raise public awareness on gender equality and combating discrimination against women and girls, and enhance efforts and measures to prevent and combat human trafficking, especially of women and children (Hungary);**
- 38.218 **Continue its efforts to combat human trafficking (India);**
- 38.219 **Continue to strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, particularly women and children (Maldives);**
- 38.220 **Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Iraq);**
- 38.221 **Continue taking strong measures to combat human trafficking, with a special focus on protecting and promoting the rights of vulnerable women and children (Nepal);**
- 38.222 **Continue with its strategy on preventing and combating human trafficking (Nigeria);**
- 38.223 **Continue its implementation of measures to protect and assist victims of trafficking in recovery and rehabilitation, and to share experiences in this regard (Philippines);**
- 38.224 **Continue to carry out policies on the protection and promotion of the human rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities, also in order to prevent and combat human trafficking, child labour and child, early and forced marriage, as well as other forms of violence and discrimination (Italy);**
- 38.225 **Ensure all forms of trafficking in persons are criminalized according to international standards, including a legal amendment to define children as persons under 18 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 38.226 **Strengthen efforts and measures aimed at prohibiting and combating trafficking in persons (Yemen);**
- 38.227 **Put specific measures in place to facilitate the social reintegration of girls who are victims of prostitution (Angola);**
- 38.228 **Improve efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking, particularly of women and girls at the cross-border areas of the country (Chile);**
- 38.229 **Adopt marriage equality legislation, extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples (Iceland);**
- 38.230 **Review the law on marriage and family with a view to setting the same minimum age for marriage for women and men (Zambia);**
- 38.231 **Review the law on marriage and the family to guarantee equality to same-sex couples (Canada);**
- 38.232 **Improve access to vocational training – regardless of gender – through the creation of stable finance mechanisms in particular for vulnerable groups (Germany);**

- 38.233 Strengthen its Labour Code to ensure consistency with its international commitments on labour rights, including ILO conventions to which Viet Nam is a party (Indonesia);
- 38.234 Strengthen information dissemination and awareness-raising activities for workers on labour legislation and improve occupational safety and health conditions (Myanmar);
- 38.235 Assess its labour laws and consider introducing the appropriate amendments, based on applicable ILO and human rights standards, to ensure better working conditions and protection of workers, including against threats of forced labour (Thailand);
- 38.236 Allow for the establishment of independent trade unions and recognize the right to organize (Canada);
- 38.237 Continue its efforts to expand social benefits to all social groups, particularly to farmers (Gabon);
- 38.238 Prioritize investment in enhancing the effectiveness of the treatment of wastewater, domestic waste and industrial waste, thus better protecting the environment (United Arab Emirates);
- 38.239 Pursue its efforts to improve public services, such as education and health care, especially for vulnerable groups, as well as people in remote and rural areas (Mauritius);
- 38.240 Increase the number of social service workers and service providers to support the elderly (Myanmar);
- 38.241 Continue to promote measures to strengthen livelihoods, increase people's incomes and improve living conditions and access to essential services (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 38.242 Continue to provide housing support to the poor and low-income people in line with the targets under the national housing development strategy (Brunei Darussalam);
- 38.243 Continue efforts to improve access to human rights-related services, in particular services related to the rights to health, education, food and clean water (Cuba);
- 38.244 Continue efforts to improve the quality of health care in the country (Maldives);
- 38.245 Continue implementing effective measures to improve overall public health (Nicaragua);
- 38.246 Continue with the measures to further increase the coverage of health insurance in favour of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 38.247 Continue efforts to expand health coverage to all workers in the informal economy and those living in remote areas (Kenya);
- 38.248 Continue to implement social policies for the welfare of the population, including when it comes to social and health-care insurance (Cuba);
- 38.249 Strengthen health-care services, in particular for older persons (Cyprus);
- 38.250 Promote and multiply existing models for the elderly to easily access public services, especially health-care services (Kyrgyzstan);
- 38.251 Continue and strengthen measures to ensure equality of access to quality education for all, in particular preschool and primary school (Djibouti);
- 38.252 Pursue efforts to guarantee self-sufficiency when it comes to food and improve services in the field of education (Egypt);

- 38.253 Strengthen actions to reduce illiteracy and dropout among girls belonging to ethnic minorities and increase their access to secondary and tertiary education (Mexico);
- 38.254 Continue accelerating access to quality education, especially for people from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds (Nepal);
- 38.255 Continue efforts to improve the quality of education, especially in rural and mountainous regions (Qatar);
- 38.256 Continue its efforts in ensuring people's access to education and culture, including in rural areas and remote regions (State of Palestine);
- 38.257 Continue to invest in health-care services for women (China);
- 38.258 Continue to consolidate the headway made in promoting the rights and well-being of women (Dominican Republic);
- 38.259 Step up efforts for the participation of woman in political and public life and their representation in decision-making bodies (Ethiopia);
- 38.260 Prohibit all forms of violence against women and strengthen women's access to justice (Iceland);
- 38.261 Continue to strengthen measures to prevent abuse and violence against women (Japan);
- 38.262 Adopt a national plan of action to prevent all forms of violence against women and assign sufficient resources for its implementation (Spain);
- 38.263 Further invest in women's economic empowerment and promote decent work for women in partnership with relevant international organizations (Thailand);
- 38.264 Continue efforts to combat domestic violence and violence against women (Tunisia);
- 38.265 Effectively implement policies for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (Albania);
- 38.266 Continue steps towards women's empowerment and guaranteeing equal opportunities (Armenia);
- 38.267 Raise public awareness on gender equality and combating discrimination against women and girls (Cambodia);
- 38.268 Implement the policy on promoting gender equality and bridging the gender gap, which focuses on enhancing the role and participation of women in the political, economic and social spheres (Cambodia);
- 38.269 Continue to consolidate the progress and achievements made in promoting the rights and welfare of children and adolescents (Dominican Republic);
- 38.270 Undertake efforts to eliminate child prostitution and child labour, as well as to ensure that girls in prostitution are treated as victims (Montenegro);
- 38.271 Take further measures to strengthen the implementation of the rights of the child and consider the establishment of an independent child rights monitoring mechanism (Poland);
- 38.272 Change the definition of the child to all persons under 18 years of age, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovenia);
- 38.273 Continue effective implementation of projects and programmes on the prevention of child accidents and injuries (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 38.274 Continue efforts to take effective measures to prevent and combat school violence (Tunisia);

- 38.275 Take further measures to promote and protect the rights of children, especially those in vulnerable situations (Kazakhstan);
- 38.276 Continue its efforts to protect all children from sexual exploitation and trafficking, including through public awareness-raising (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 38.277 Protect religious and ethnic minorities, and refrain from imposing legal restrictions on them (Luxembourg);
- 38.278 Strengthen efforts so that elderly women and women belonging to minorities, particularly the Jarai people and the Khmer Krom, have access to vocational training and financial resources (Peru);
- 38.279 Continue to implement measures to protect the rights of ethnic minorities to use their spoken and written language (Sri Lanka);
- 38.280 Continue to invest resources in building schools dedicated to ethnic minorities (Jordan);
- 38.281 Undertake greater efforts to develop infrastructure in remote areas and areas where ethnic minorities live (Belarus);
- 38.282 Continue implementing envisaged measures aimed at creating favourable conditions for ethnic minorities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 38.283 Educate, train and build capacity for officers working in areas related to the protection of the rights of person with disabilities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 38.284 Develop, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, community-based and people-centred mental health services that do not lead to institutionalization and overmedicalization and that respect the free and informed consent of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities while combating stigma and violence against them (Portugal);
- 38.285 Pursue efforts undertaken to review legislation, particularly with respect to access to transport for persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);
- 38.286 Continue to improve the quality and accessibility of services for persons with disabilities, in particular for children with disabilities, to allow them to better integrate into society (Singapore);
- 38.287 Strengthen policies to promote the communication skills, education and capacity-building of law enforcement officers in order to better observe the rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 38.288 Pursue efforts to adopt national legislation to further ensure respect for the rights of migrants and to prepare the ground for the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);
- 38.289 Continue its efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness through, among others, enabling reacquisition of Vietnamese nationality, and prevent children's statelessness (Kenya);
- 38.290 Cease applying the death penalty for non-violent crimes, including drug offences (Australia);
- 38.291 Introduce a national moratorium on the death penalty, aiming at complete abolition. Until then, reduce the number of crimes subject to the death penalty, ensuring that it does not apply to offences other than the "most serious" crimes, in accordance with International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sweden).

39. **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 Viet Nam was headed by H.E. Mr. LE Hoai Trung, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Ambassador DUONG Chi Dung, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Viet Nam in Geneva;
- Mr. Chu Xuan Minh, Justice, Supreme People's Court;
- Mr. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs;
- Ms. Thieu Thi Huong, Director-General, Department of Protestant Affairs, Government Committee for Religious Affairs;
- Mr. Pham Binh Dam, Director, National Translation Centre;
- Mr. Do Hung Viet, Acting Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Nguyen Thanh Son, Deputy Director-General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security;
- Ms. Nguyen Linh Kha, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Law, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Trinh Thi Thuy Hang, Deputy Director-General, Department of Internal Affairs, Government Office;
- Ms. Hoang Thi Thanh Nga, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Le Duc Hanh, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Viet Nam in Geneva;
- Ms. Tran Nu Ngoc Anh, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs;
- Mr. Mai Anh Hong, Deputy Director-General, Authority of Foreign Information Service, Ministry of Information and Communications;
- Mr. Tran Chi Thanh, Assistant Director-General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Nguyen Hoanh Dat, Head of Division, Department of International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Supreme People's Procuracy of Viet Nam;
- Ms. Nong Thi Hong Hanh, Official, Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment;
- Mr. Nguyen Vu Minh, Official, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Tuong Van, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Viet Nam in Geneva;
- Mr. Nguyen Khanh Toan, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Viet Nam in Geneva;
- Mr. Le Quang Binh, Official, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Le Thanh Hoai, Official, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Lieu, Official, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Public Security;
 - Mr. Nguyen Tuan Linh, Official, National Translation Centre.
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