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Universal periodic review

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

### Islamic Republic of Iran


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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-fourth session from 4 to 15 November 2019. The review of the Islamic Republic of Iran was held at the 9th meeting, on 8 November 2019. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran was headed by the Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights, Mohammad Javad Ardeshir Larijani. At its 14th meeting, held on 12 November 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Iraq, Peru and Tunisia.

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 the Islamic Republic of Iran:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/IRN/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.6/34/IRN/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/34/IRN/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Australia, Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to the Islamic Republic of Iran 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 the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran greatly valued the universal periodic review as a unique process that examined the human rights situation of all United Nations member States on an equal footing. For the Islamic Republic of Iran, human rights were part and parcel of its rationality with deep roots in Islam.

6. Following the adoption of the recommendations from the previous cycle, the High Council for Human Rights had established, in August 2015, the National Follow-up Committee, which comprised representatives from the relevant departments, to implement the accepted recommendations. That same year, the NGOs Consultative Committee had been formed. Once categorized, recommendations had been forwarded for implementation to the appropriate executive departments in the Government, as well as to the relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The national report had been prepared by a drafting committee with the participation of and input from the above-mentioned stakeholders. It addressed almost all of the recommendations from the second review cycle.

7. Since the previous cycle, the Islamic Republic of Iran had adopted a number of major policies, laws and regulations, such as the Charter of Citizenship Rights (December 2016); the amended Anti-Narcotics Law (November 2015); the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (January 2018); the new Code of Criminal Procedure (June 2015), incorporating international human rights standards, including the rights of the

accused (stipulation of protective mechanisms), as well as the definition and prohibition of torture.

8. The Islamic Republic of Iran had faced serious challenges while working towards the implementation of the recommendations and more generally on the improvement of the human rights situation in the country.

9. The first impediment was the economic sanctions, known as unilateral coercive measures. They thwarted the full achievement of economic and social development and the enjoyment of a number of rights stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other instruments, including the rights to life, health, work and development.

10. The Islamic Republic of Iran condemned terrorism, which it believed led to gross violations of human rights and threatened the political, social and economic development of nations. It considered itself one of the major victims of terrorism and at the same time one of its strongest opponents.

11. As a party to the core human rights instruments, the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to fully participate in international deliberations and activities aimed at the promotion of human rights. The Islamic Republic of Iran had actively cooperated with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including OHCHR. Two high-level delegations from OHCHR had visited Tehran in 2018 and 2019. The Islamic Republic of Iran had extended formal invitations to the Special Rapporteurs on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, on the right to food, and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. Furthermore, an official invitation had been extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well.

12. Over the past five years, the Islamic Republic of Iran had continued bilateral human rights and judicial cooperation with a number of countries, including Australia, Brazil, China, Denmark, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Qatar, the Russian Federation and Switzerland.

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

13. During the interactive dialogue, 111 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

14. Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Belgium, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Togo made recommendations. Mali made a statement. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See <http://webtv.un.org/search/iran-review-34th-session-of-universal-periodic-review/6101931598001/?term=Iran%20UPR&page=2>.

15. In response to the questions raised during the interactive dialogue, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that, with regard to women's rights, article 101 of the Sixth National Development Plan spotlighted gender justice in order to support the fundamental rights of women in many areas, such as the right to education, employment, social security and health care. As for combating violence against women and girls, the Act on Protection, Dignity and Security of Women against Violence aimed at criminalizing new forms of assault, harassment and violations of the rights of women and adopting preventive and support measures to stop violence against women. Moreover, a new law had been enacted to stiffen punishment for acid attackers and support the victims of such attacks. In addition, premature marriage had been criminalized in accordance with article 50 of the Family Protection Act. Finally, a bill had been adopted by Parliament to allow children born of Iranian women and foreign men to apply for Iranian citizenship.

16. In the area of education, the literacy rate had increased from 87.1 per cent in 2015 to 88.8 per cent in 2018. Moreover, women's presence in higher education was on the rise: they accounted for 56 per cent of total students at Iranian universities and 24 per cent of the academic staff. Women participated actively in political processes. Their presence in managerial roles had grown from 14.9 per cent in 2017 to 18.3 per cent in 2018. The number of female candidates for parliamentary elections had increased 21-fold, resulting in a 4.5-fold increase in the number of women members of parliament. In addition, the number of women entering city and village councils had increased threefold, while 4,029 women had entered the previous round of council elections.

17. Measures to protect children's rights included the establishment of special inspection branches and criminal court branches to deal with child abuse cases in the judiciary; the establishment of a text-messaging platform to combat child abuse in 2017, and the implementation of a nationwide scheme by the Ministry of Education to prevent violence against children. In addition, bills already drafted and going through the adoption process dealt with moral compensation for child victims of sex crimes and the prohibition of early marriage.

18. Steps taken with regard to persons with disabilities included the adoption of a comprehensive support law, a national strategic document on accommodation, adoption of a law obliging government departments to allocate 3 per cent of their employment quota to such persons, and the provision of free education.

19. There had been a veritable judicial renaissance in the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, alternative forms of punishment were being introduced in some cases. Compulsory detention warrants were not enforceable. It was mandatory for the accused to choose a lawyer. All court verdicts were considered appealable. The Government was obliged to compensate persons charged for any reason during a preliminary investigation who were subsequently acquitted. A different punishment system applied to those under 18, who were no longer subject to the death penalty. Instead, juvenile offenders could be detained in correctional centres for up to five years. Under the amnesty mechanism, between 2015 and 2018, 1,755 convicts sentenced to capital punishment had been pardoned. In other categories of punishment, 810 women, 239 foreign nationals and 137 convicts under 18 had been granted an amnesty. To mark the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Iranian Revolution, 85,000 convicts had received amnesties in January 2019.

20. As part of efforts to safeguard the rights of religious minorities, four members of such minorities had been elected to the committee tasked with drafting the new Constitution. Five seats in Parliament had been set aside for religious minorities, who were free to publish books, Bibles and so forth. In addition, minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran were free to choose their schools, hospitals, etc.

21. The Charter of Citizenship Rights, decreed by the President in 2016, functioned as an administrative mechanism providing maximum implementation of the principles, values, norms and laws stipulated in the Constitution. The Constitution recognized the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and demonstration. According to the Charter, citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran were eligible to establish, join and participate in parties, societies, and social, cultural, scientific, political and trade associations, provided they respected the law. In addition, article 45 of the Charter emphasized the right of active

political/civil NGOs to access information. Thus far, over 25,000 NGOs had been granted permission to carry out activities by the competent authorities, and 63 NGOs had gained consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

22. As far as refugees were concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran had the fourth largest population of refugees and asylum seekers in the world. Despite inhuman and illegal unilateral sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran provided appropriate education, health-care, livelihood and settlement services for refugees and asylum seekers through allocation of massive funds and domestic resources. Unfortunately, the international aid received in that regard covered a scant 3 per cent of the costs incurred by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

23. The Islamic Republic of Iran had sustained enormous human and financial losses over the last 40 years as part of its struggle against the production and trafficking of narcotics. As outlined in a report by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2016, the Islamic Republic of Iran was credited as the standard-bearer for combating drug trafficking, with 17 per cent, 61 per cent and 75 per cent of total global seizures of heroin, morphine and opium, respectively. Between 2014 and 2017, law enforcement officials had seized 3,000 tons of various narcotics during 8,238 operations, in which 44 agents had been killed and 16 wounded.

24. As regards health care, even before the Declaration of Alma-Ata, the Islamic Republic of Iran had recognized primary health care as the key to universal access to health care. Over the previous four decades, it had created more than 17,000 rural health houses and 4,000 urban health posts. By connecting them to more than 2,500 comprehensive urban health centres, it had been able to cover nearly 100 per cent of the urban population and more than 90 per cent of the rural population. The establishment of those facilities countrywide had led to a reduction in maternal mortality from more than 200 per 100,000 live births in the 1980s to less than 20 per 100,000 live births in 2018, and a drop in the infant mortality rate from 120 per 1,000 live births in the 1980s to 13.4 per 1,000 live births in 2018. During the same period, child immunization coverage had increased by nearly 98 per cent. The Islamic Republic of Iran had succeeded in obtaining World Health Organization (WHO) certification for the elimination of measles, rubella and trachoma, and taken steps to eliminate malaria through integrated people-centred health services. In the field of non-communicable diseases, the country had recently run a mass campaign, mobilizing young persons, students and care providers to screen for hypertension, which had covered more than 30 million people over the age of 30. Some two million Iranians unaware of their illness had been identified and taken care of through the health system. In other initiatives, four stages of complementary polio immunization had been conducted in 2018 and 2019. During each stage, 1.2 million children under the age of 5 had been actively vaccinated, house by house, in high-risk areas for polio. In addition, free outpatient treatment of tuberculosis and AIDS was continuing, and all primary health-care services were provided free of charge to foreign nationals and immigrants/refugees.

25. Cooperation with United Nations reporting mechanisms was very broad. A large number of thematic special rapporteurs had already visited the country, and more such visits had been scheduled.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

26. **The following recommendations will be examined by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council.**

26.1 **Uphold its international commitments under the human rights treaties that it is a party to (Ukraine);**

26.2 **Continue to adhere to more international human rights conventions (State of Palestine);**

26.3 **Consider ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Georgia);**

- 26.4 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol to ensure protection of women's rights (Botswana);
- 26.5 Consider the ratification of human rights instruments to which it is still not a party, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Republic of Korea);
- 26.6 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Republic of Moldova) (Estonia) (Burundi) (Kenya); Accede to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Czechia); Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in order to enable women to play an active role in society, especially in political, economic and cultural life and sports (Bahrain);
- 26.7 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and develop and implement policies promoting gender equality and the participation of women in all areas of public and private life (Ecuador);
- 26.8 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo); Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Czechia);
- 26.9 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Republic of Moldova) (Estonia) (Denmark);
- 26.10 Become a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Seychelles);
- 26.11 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol (Togo) (Uganda); Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as previously recommended during the second review cycle in 2014 (Burkina Faso);
- 26.12 Sign and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Croatia);
- 26.13 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Czechia);
- 26.14 Redouble efforts on gender equality, by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol in order to guarantee equality between men and women (Spain);
- 26.15 Take adequate measures, such as ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to enhance the equal role of women in society, in particular in political, economic, social and cultural life, including sports, as recommended in 2014 (Greece);
- 26.16 Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and incorporate their provisions in its legal framework (Luxembourg);
- 26.17 Adhere to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other

**Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and ensure their effective implementation (North Macedonia);**

**26.18 Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Albania);**

**26.19 Initiate steps towards ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Austria);**

**26.20 Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Fiji);**

**26.21 Ratify core international human rights conventions, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany);**

**26.22 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment at its earliest convenience (Ghana);**

**26.23 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

**26.24 Ratify core international human rights conventions, in particular the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Latvia);**

**26.25 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as previously recommended during the second review cycle in 2014 (Burkina Faso);**

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

**26.27 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal) (Togo);**

**26.28 Ratify and fully align national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as ratify core human rights conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);**

**26.29 Sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Ecuador);**

**26.30 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

**26.31 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Poland);**

**26.32 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all its obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

**26.33 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Kenya);**

**26.34 Continue constructive exchanges with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and cooperate with**

**all Special Rapporteurs who wish to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran (Albania);**

**26.35 Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to visit the country (Australia);**

**26.36 Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran by accepting his requests to visit the country (Chile);**

**26.37 Fully cooperate with the United Nations special procedures, and enable a country visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Czechia);**

**26.38 Fully cooperate with and grant immediate and unfettered access for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Sweden);**

**26.39 Fully cooperate with, and engage in, a substantive and constructive dialogue with the United Nations special procedures (Sierra Leone);**

**26.40 Extend a standing invitation to special procedure mechanisms (State of Palestine); Launch a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Republic of Moldova);**

**26.41 Cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran to the country (Germany);**

**26.42 Strengthen its cooperation with the Human Rights Council mechanisms, in particular special procedure mandate holders, and accept their visits (Peru);**

**26.43 Continue to cooperate with all mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and provide them with the requisite responses (Egypt);**

**26.44 Take the necessary steps to implement the commitment extended to special procedures by accepting the pending visit requests (Latvia);**

**26.45 Accept a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (New Zealand);**

**26.46 Further strengthen national capacities in the promotion and protection of human rights, taking into account the concluding observations of the treaty bodies and the recommendations of the universal periodic review (Belarus);**

**26.47 Continue the cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Egypt);**

**26.48 Continue its effort to cooperate with Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights (Kazakhstan);**

**26.49 Continue strengthening cooperation with regional and international institutions in the area of children rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**26.50 Develop cooperation with the international and regional mechanisms, including institutions, to exchange experiences and good practices on the rights of the child (Senegal);**

**26.51 Continue efforts to share with other countries its successful experiences in the protection of children's rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**



- 26.52 Pursue initiatives to continue promoting dialogue, cooperation and tolerance between different cultures and religions (Armenia);
- 26.53 Continue to hold bilateral human rights dialogues with other countries (China);
- 26.54 Take measures to bring its domestic legislation into compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure that the provisions of the Convention prevail whenever there is a conflict with domestic law (Republic of Moldova);
- 26.55 Continue to bring its national legislation into line with the international human rights instruments that it is a party to (Russian Federation);
- 26.56 Continue its efforts in bringing its national legislation into compliance with international obligations (Kyrgyzstan);
- 26.57 Continue efforts to confront the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the human rights of the Iranian people in order for them to overcome the obstacles resulting from such measures (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 26.58 Continue its efforts for the protection of vulnerable groups affected by economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 26.59 Continue measures leading to landmine clearance on its territory, with the support of international and national stakeholders (Sri Lanka);
- 26.60 Pursue efforts to protect and support persons with special needs (Lebanon);
- 26.61 Continue implementing targeted programmes to further improve the well-being of older persons (Malaysia);
- 26.62 Complete the necessary measures for the creation of a national human rights commission in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Qatar);
- 26.63 Continue efforts to create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);
- 26.64 Continue ongoing efforts on the establishment of a national human rights institution (Turkmenistan);
- 26.65 Speed up the adoption of a bill on the establishment of a national human rights institution (Uzbekistan);
- 26.66 Continue its efforts to set up a national human rights institution (Afghanistan);
- 26.67 Accelerate measures to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 26.68 Further promote human rights education and training programmes (Armenia);
- 26.69 Continue measures to adopt laws and programmes in the field of human rights education (Azerbaijan);
- 26.70 Continue strengthening its initiatives on human rights education (Cuba);
- 26.71 Continue its efforts to provide the necessary financial resources for the development of human rights and citizenship rights education (Kuwait);

- 26.72 Continue its efforts to establish, at universities, specialized training courses related to human rights (Kuwait);
- 26.73 Pursue efforts to set up specialized training courses on human rights at universities (Nicaragua);
- 26.74 Continue its efforts in the field of human rights capacity-building and training for duty bearers (Philippines);
- 26.75 Continue to enhance-capacity building and public awareness campaigns regarding citizenship rights (Kuwait);
- 26.76 Continue improving public awareness-raising campaigns on citizens' rights (Nicaragua);
- 26.77 Continue efforts to increase the financial resources that are needed for the development of education in human rights and citizens' rights (Nicaragua);
- 26.78 Continue improving the training efforts of NGOs on the promotion and protection of children's rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 26.79 Continue its efforts to ensure an effective presence for civil society organizations and NGOs in the local and international human rights arena (Kyrgyzstan);
- 26.80 End discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, including repealing provisions in the Penal Code that criminalize consensual same-sex activities between adults (Canada);
- 26.81 Review its legislation and policies so as to ensure non-discrimination, especially on the grounds of religion or belief, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity (Czechia);
- 26.82 Repeal the provisions in its Penal Code that criminalize consensual same-sex activities between adults (Germany);
- 26.83 Abolish all legislation resulting in discrimination, prosecution and punishment of people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Israel);
- 26.84 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Italy);
- 26.85 Take all the necessary measures to eliminate and prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression (Luxembourg);
- 26.86 Take measures of protection against violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);
- 26.87 Halt the diversion of the country's wealth abroad and focus on development to ensure that human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran are protected (Saudi Arabia);
- 26.88 Continue promoting programmes that stimulate the development of rural and less developed areas (Dominican Republic);
- 26.89 Consolidate the progress made towards reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and improving the human development indicators (India);
- 26.90 Pursue efforts to improve the human development index indicators, especially for education, health and fighting poverty (Lebanon);
- 26.91 Continue to strengthen the human development indicators (Oman);
- 26.92 Optimize civil society capacity and participation in protecting the rights of people affected by natural disaster (Indonesia);
- 26.93 Consider conducting a periodic review and assessment of its disaster risk reduction management and climate change adaptation efforts with due

consideration for the protection of the most vulnerable sectors of society (Philippines);

26.94 Ensure that women, children and persons with disabilities are meaningfully engaged in the development of legislation and policies on climate change and disaster risk reduction (Fiji);

26.95 End immediately and fully the support and financing of the terrorist groups in the region, such as Hizbullah in Lebanon and the Ansar Allah al-Houthi group in Yemen, which has led to grave violations of human rights (Saudi Arabia);

26.96 Promote human rights by acceding to the international treaties on combating the financing of terrorism and money laundering, and adhere to international standards on transparency in the financial sector (Saudi Arabia);

26.97 Accelerate the enactment of binding and strict national legislation to prevent and criminalize the transfer of funds financing terrorist groups and entities whose acts prevent individuals and communities enjoying their fundamental human rights, namely, the right to a safe life (Bahrain);

26.98 Establish an official moratorium on the executions of minors under the age of 18 at the time of the crime, amend its Penal Code and commute the sentences of juveniles (Switzerland);

26.99 Undertake steps towards introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty, which would allow the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider signature and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Poland);

26.100 Commute the sentences of persons sentenced to death, establish a moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);

26.101 Abolish death sentences for persons under 18 years of age and commute all existing sentences for offenders on death row who had committed a crime while under the age of 18 years (Republic of Moldova);

26.102 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, in particular in relation to juvenile offenders (Ukraine);

26.103 Abolish the death penalty at least for crimes committed by persons under 18 years of age, in accordance with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and commute all death sentences for juvenile offenders (Belgium);

26.104 Take all necessary measures to establish a moratorium on the death penalty by prohibiting its application to persons who were minors at the time of the commission of the crime (Uruguay);

26.105 Impose an immediate moratorium on the execution of minors (Albania);

26.106 Establish a five-year moratorium to work progressively towards the abolition of capital punishment, by allowing open and public debate on the question of the death penalty with all actors in society (Albania);

26.107 Take the necessary measures to eliminate the death penalty from its national legislation and, until such derogation is made, establish an official moratorium on executions of all persons currently sentenced to death (Argentina);

26.108 Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards its complete abolition, and, as an immediate step, prohibit the application of the death penalty for offences committed by minors (Australia);

- 26.109 Ensure that the death penalty is never imposed in violation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and consider establishing an official moratorium on executions of juvenile offenders (Austria);
- 26.110 Abolish the execution of children and commute the death sentences of all minors on death row (Brazil);
- 26.111 Revise the Penal Code to ensure consistency with its international obligations, including article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, so that the death penalty is reserved for only the most serious crimes, never imposed for crimes committed by persons below 18 years of age, and never imposed arbitrarily (Canada);
- 26.112 Consider the abolition of the death penalty and ensure that no minor can be sentenced to death (Chile);
- 26.113 Abolish the death penalty in the country under any circumstances (Croatia);
- 26.114 Reduce the number of offences punishable by death, commencing with drug-related offences, as well as prohibit the use of the death penalty against those who were minors at the time the crime was committed (Cyprus);
- 26.115 Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, at least for juvenile perpetrators (Czechia);
- 26.116 Further amend the drug trafficking law to remove all mandatory death sentences for drug-related offences and adopt a moratorium on execution, particularly of juvenile offenders (Denmark);
- 26.117 Introduce a moratorium on executions, especially for juvenile offenders, with a view to progressively abolishing the death penalty (Estonia);
- 26.118 Continue reforms to the Penal Code in order to restrict the death penalty to the most serious crimes, which would be progress towards the full abolition of the death penalty (Spain);
- 26.119 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition, cease the executions of minors and repeal articles 233 to 235 of the Penal Code (France);
- 26.120 Take further steps towards the substitution of mandatory death penalties for prison sentences for all drug-related offences (Georgia);
- 26.121 Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty; in particular, cease all planned executions of juvenile offenders and prohibit the imposition of the death penalty for crimes committed by minors (Germany);
- 26.122 Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Greece);
- 26.123 Implement a moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Iceland);
- 26.124 Repeal the relevant articles of the Penal code, including those that impose the death penalty and flogging for offences related to consensual same-sex conduct between adults, with a view to fully decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);
- 26.125 Establish a moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and immediately end death sentences for individuals under the age of 18 at the time of their alleged crime in line with the Islamic Republic of Iran's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ireland);
- 26.126 End the widespread use of the death penalty, especially on minors (Israel);

- 26.127 **Introduce a moratorium on executions, with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, and ban the use of executions for crimes committed by minors (Italy);**
- 26.128 **Consider a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Latvia);**
- 26.129 **Comply fully with the relevant obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and consider introducing a moratorium on the death penalty (Lithuania);**
- 26.130 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition (Luxembourg);**
- 26.131 **Consider an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, particularly for offences related to consensual same-sex conduct between adults (Malta);**
- 26.132 **Set moratoriums on the application of the death penalty for those who were minors at the time of the crime, and with regard to the criminalization of consensual same-sex relationships (Mexico);**
- 26.133 **Establish an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 26.134 **Immediately introduce a moratorium on the death penalty, including for juvenile offenders, as a first step towards abolition (Sweden);**
- 26.135 **Cease immediately the use of the death penalty, especially for those under the age of 18 years at the time of offending (New Zealand);**
- 26.136 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, especially for juveniles and work towards its abolition (North Macedonia);**
- 26.137 **Abolish the death penalty, and stop planned executions for persons who committed crimes before the age of 18 (Norway);**
- 26.138 **Remove all national law provisions that allow for punishments that amount to torture or cruel and degrading treatment (Ukraine);**
- 26.139 **Immediately end the use of torture, and credibly investigate and prosecute all allegations of torture, including the deaths in custody of Kavous Seyed-Emami and Mohammad Raji, and prosecute those found responsible (United States of America);**
- 26.140 **Immediately investigate all allegations involving the torture and other ill-treatment of those arrested or detained during the demonstrations in December 2017, and hold those responsible to account (Australia);**
- 26.141 **Immediately demonstrate that all detainees in prison are neither tortured nor subject to cruel or inhuman treatment or punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 26.142 **Ensure freedom from torture while in detention (Canada);**
- 26.143 **Ensure automatic, independent and impartial investigation of allegations of torture (France);**
- 26.144 **Define torture as a crime in national legislation in line with international standards (Greece);**
- 26.145 **Ensure that prison conditions comply with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), in particular by providing adequate health care (Austria);**
- 26.146 **Ensure that all individuals in custody receive adequate health care and treatment, including preventive measures, such as screening for medical conditions, free of charge and without discrimination (Malta);**

- 26.147 Ensure the rights of detainees and prisoners, and their right to receive satisfactory medical treatment (Norway);
- 26.148 Continue to strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in women, young girls and children with regular monitoring (Sri Lanka);
- 26.149 Immediately release all Iranian prisoners of conscience, including Narges Mohammadi, Nasrin Sotoudeh, Youcef Nadarkhani and Esmail Bakhshi, and others unjustly detained, including Xiyue Wang, Bob Levinson and Siamak Namazi, who are citizens of the United States (United States of America);
- 26.150 Release women human rights defenders imprisoned for executing their fundamental rights (Austria);
- 26.151 End the arbitrary detention of foreign nationals and guarantee their consular rights and decent conditions of detention (France);
- 26.152 Immediately release dual and foreign nationals, including journalists, who are detained arbitrarily (Israel);
- 26.153 Ensure, both in law and in practice, that all individuals or groups of individuals enjoy their right to freedom of religion or belief (Poland);
- 26.154 Take concrete steps to protect the human rights of Christians in its territory to follow up on the 46 recommendations addressed to the Islamic Republic of Iran on freedom of religion during the first two cycles (Haiti);
- 26.155 Release all persons detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and repeal or amend laws and other provisions criminalizing or restricting the exercise of those rights (Switzerland);
- 26.156 Guarantee freedom of expression, particularly of men and women human rights defenders and journalists, and repeal legal provisions that affect these rights (Argentina);
- 26.157 Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and release political prisoners, including women's rights activists, labour rights activists, environmentalists, scholars, lawyers and journalists, detained for exercising these rights (Australia);
- 26.158 End restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and opinion, in accordance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile);
- 26.159 Abolish provisions of the Penal Code that excessively restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and release all prisoners of conscience (Czechia);
- 26.160 Adopt measures to guarantee the unrestricted exercise of freedoms of expression, association and assembly by the Iranian population (Spain);
- 26.161 Implement its international obligations to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, lawyers and others exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association in compliance with international human rights law, and to ensure that all investigations, prosecutions and trials against human rights defenders meet international standards (Finland);
- 26.162 Continue to enact and fully implement legislation that seeks to promote and protect the rights to freedom of the media, speech and religion (Ghana);
- 26.163 Release all detainees who have been imprisoned for exercising their rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ireland);

- 26.164 End the practice of filtering online content and restricting access to the Internet (Israel);
- 26.165 Guarantee freedom of opinion, expression and assembly and cease arresting human rights defenders peacefully exercising these rights (Italy);
- 26.166 Repeal or amend articles 186, 498, 610, 638 and 639 of the Islamic Penal Code, which criminalize rights regarding freedom of expression and the broad and vague definitions of which are arbitrarily misused to silence human rights defenders, including through imprisonment and corporal punishment (Netherlands);
- 26.167. Take steps to encourage freedom of expression, ensuring that human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists are not subjected to intimidation or arbitrary arrest in connection with their work (New Zealand);
- 26.168 Cease the censorship of the media, as well as the arbitrary detention and intimidation of journalists (Norway);
- 26.169 Guarantee freedom of peaceful assembly, expression and the press, by removing the restrictions to access local and international news sites, and by releasing persons detained for having exercised or defended these rights (France);
- 26.170 Guarantee the right to a fair trial, including the right to choose one's lawyer, including for those accused of offences related to national security (Switzerland);
- 26.171 Establish an independent judiciary, including significant reforms to the revolutionary courts, and implement fair trial guarantees (United States of America);
- 26.172 Take all necessary measures and procedures to ensure compliance with fair trial standards (Bahrain);
- 26.173 Promptly allow an impartial trial process that weighs evidence and ensures defendants, and lawyers of their choosing, can have timely access to the charges and evidence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 26.174 Continue strengthening the judicial system, especially in relation to the rights of women and children (Bhutan);
- 26.175 Continue to effectively remove barriers for access to justice for women, children, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations (Fiji);
- 26.176 Put in place measures aimed at respecting legal safeguards, for instance, through the publication of the sentences handed down and the possibility of appealing them, as well as complying with international standards in cases in which persons are temporarily detained (Spain);
- 26.177 Guarantee the right to a fair trial and repeal article 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (France);
- 26.178 Ensure the independence of the judicial system, the rules of fair trial, the right to defence and access to a freely chosen lawyer (Germany);
- 26.179 Align laws and practices on the right to a fair trial and on the rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, of peaceful assembly and association, and of religion and belief with international obligations and commitments, by removing restrictions against human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and ethnic and religious minorities, including the Baha'i community (Lithuania);
- 26.180 Guarantee, in law and practice, fair trial standards, including access to legal representation from the time of arrest through all stages of trial and

- appeals, and abate torture, cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment (North Macedonia);
- 26.181 Continue its legal and administrative efforts regarding anti-corruption measures (Kazakhstan);
- 26.182 Continue to promote economic and social development, in order to provide a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all the human rights of its people (China);
- 26.183 Continue to promote the development of education and health care (China);
- 26.184 Continue its efforts to implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Iraq);
- 26.185 Sustain its efforts in enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of its people (Nigeria);
- 26.186 Continue efforts to provide affordable housing for general populations and in particular for persons with low incomes (Qatar);
- 26.187 Continue to implement the provisions of the Comprehensive Housing Plan 2017–2026 in order to guarantee the right to adequate housing for all (Dominican Republic);
- 26.188 Ensure effective implementation of the Comprehensive Housing Plan through adequate resources and a comprehensive monitoring mechanism (Malaysia);
- 26.189 Further develop initiatives aiming at accelerating poverty reduction and developing rural and less-developed areas (Viet Nam);
- 26.190 Strengthen efforts to further reduce poverty, in particular in provinces populated by persons belonging to ethnic minorities (Bulgaria);
- 26.191 Strengthen its ongoing approach for poverty reduction and development in the rural areas, in accordance with the 20-year Vision Plan (Myanmar);
- 26.192 Continue to promote and protect the right to safe water and sanitation (Brunei Darussalam);
- 26.193 Ensure timely and effective implementation of the plan on employment of the rural population to ensure sustainable employment on the basis of equal access to employment (Uzbekistan);
- 26.194 Continue efforts to promote sustainable employment in rural and nomadic regions (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 26.195 Continue its socioeconomic development programmes, including national strategy plans in the field of human rights (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 26.196 Continue implementing the Health System Development Plan and the Health Insurance Scheme for further achievements in realizing the right to health (Viet Nam);
- 26.197 Continue its efforts so that all citizens across the country have equal access to health-care services (Algeria);
- 26.198 Continue taking measures in the field of health and social security to enhance access to health, particularly of vulnerable groups (Bhutan);
- 26.199 Continue the policies aimed at increasing the coverage and enjoyment of primary health-care services (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 26.200 Effectively implement the actions for the development of health insurance for all citizens, including in rural areas (Cuba);



- 26.201 **Preserve the major achievements registered by the Health System Development Plan and scale up its outreach (Ethiopia);**
- 26.202 **Further develop its existing policies to provide adequate and accessible maternal and child health care for all women and children, especially those in vulnerable situations (Fiji);**
- 26.203 **Continue to expand its health insurance coverage to all citizens, including those in rural areas (India);**
- 26.204 **Provide information and education for young people on reproductive health in schools, in line with international standards (Iceland);**
- 26.205 **Continue its efforts and policies to prevent students from leaving schools (Pakistan);**
- 26.206 **Continue to improve measures to provide educational facilities to children living in rural areas (Pakistan);**
- 26.207 **Continue its efforts for enhancing educational and health services at rehabilitation and correction centres (Senegal);**
- 26.208 **Take the necessary measures to address the high dropout rates of girls in rural schools (Thailand);**
- 26.209 **Continue efforts to guarantee equal access to the right to education for all (Tunisia);**
- 26.210 **Continue taking measures in the field of education and capacity-building of human rights (Turkmenistan);**
- 26.211 **Continue making progress in the transformation of the education system by ensuring the schooling of boys and girls throughout the country, incorporating human rights education (Uruguay);**
- 26.212 **Continue to give special attention to the education of vulnerable groups of less developed rural areas and nomadic populations (Uzbekistan);**
- 26.213 **Continue its policy and efforts to provide free education to nearly half a million refugee children (Algeria);**
- 26.214 **Enhance its efforts to make sure that all nationals have access to university education (Algeria);**
- 26.215 **Continue to implement targeted policies to combat illiteracy and promote quality education, particularly for girls, and in rural and poorer communities (Singapore);**
- 26.216 **Continue to introduce national policies to combat illiteracy (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 26.217 **Scale up the activities of the Literacy Movement Organization where the literacy rate was raised to 95 per cent in 2018 (Ethiopia);**
- 26.218 **Further strengthen its efforts to promote access to education for all, especially in rural areas, and reduce the number of school dropouts (Sri Lanka);**
- 26.219 **Continue its efforts with regard to education, and adopt policies to enhance inclusion for girls, children with disabilities and children from rural areas (State of Palestine);**
- 26.220 **Continue its efforts in promoting the right to education to ensure that all children, including children with disabilities, can have access to formal education (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 26.221 **Extend the length of compulsory primary and secondary education to at least 9 years of age, and progressively extend free education to 11 years of age (Mexico);**

- 26.222 Pursue the implementation of education reforms in order to ensure access to education in all parts of the country (Oman);
- 26.223 Enhance efforts to create suitable job positions for women graduating from universities (Peru);
- 26.224 Further strengthen measures to support the economic participation of women (Philippines);
- 26.225 Undertake far-reaching reforms of the legislation relating to the status and rights of women and amend legislation on the lawful marriage age to increase it to 18 years old (Albania);
- 26.226 Take measures in increasing the economic participation rate of women in different sectors of employment (Azerbaijan);
- 26.227 Take effective measures to implement the decisions of the Supreme Administrative Council, which require the Government to allocate 30 per cent of its managerial positions to women, as well as the selection and appointment of professional directors on the basis of the requisite general and specialized competencies regardless of gender (Botswana);
- 26.228 Further promote women's rights, strengthen policies and measures to combat violence against them, and facilitate their participation in political, social and professional spheres (Bulgaria);
- 26.229 Continue taking additional steps to increase women's participation in higher education (Cambodia);
- 26.230 Identify new initiatives to further promote women's entrepreneurship (Cambodia);
- 26.231 Continue adopting legislative measures promoting the protection and promotion of women's rights (Dominican Republic);
- 26.232 Remove restrictions on the types of jobs that women can do, including the requirement to obtain the husband's permission (Honduras);
- 26.233 Eliminate obstacles to the employment of women on the basis of equality between men and women and protect and promote the rights of working women and their equal treatment in public and private employment in accordance with article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Honduras);
- 26.234 Take further measures to promote and protect women's rights (Japan);
- 26.235 Continue its activities towards the adoption of the legislative acts in the field of promotion and protection of women and family (Kyrgyzstan);
- 26.236 Continue to implement its legislative programmes and measures to further promote the rights, as well as the empowerment, of women in all areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 26.237 Continue measures to promote various rights of women, including participation in sports and access to sports facilities (Myanmar);
- 26.238 Make all possible efforts to provide comprehensive frameworks for the non-discrimination of women and the protection of women and children from violence, including domestic violence (Poland);
- 26.239 Accelerate its efforts to ensure equal treatment of women and girls, including by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Thailand);
- 26.240 Abolish laws requiring women to wear hijabs in public, end legal prohibitions on women's full participation in society, and stop criminalizing women's calls for reform (United States of America);

- 26.241 **Repeal article 1108 of the Civil Code that compels wives to always satisfy their husbands' sexual needs (Argentina);**
- 26.242 **Continue to strengthen the legislative framework and policies on gender equality (India);**
- 26.243 **Align national legislation with international standards on gender equality (Italy);**
- 26.244 **Ensure equal treatment of women in law and practice, in line with the relevant recommendations of the Human Rights Committee (Latvia);**
- 26.245 **Strengthen the efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and consider ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Lithuania);**
- 26.246 **Take steps to identify and remedy all laws that have a discriminatory impact on women and girls (Malta);**
- 26.247 **Review and repeal discriminatory laws and policies against women and girls, particularly those related to employment and education respectively, and ensure that all children and girls enjoy the same rights provided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Mexico);**
- 26.248 **Continue to reform penal and civil laws to ensure non-discrimination against women and girls (New Zealand);**
- 26.249 **Continue efforts to enhance women's rights and protect women from violence by carrying out the adoption of related projects of law (Tunisia);**
- 26.250 **Expedite the adoption of the pending draft bill on the provision of women's security against violence and exercise due diligence in preventing and punishing gender-based violence in line with international norms (Sierra Leone);**
- 26.251 **Adopt and fully implement laws to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and marital rape (Finland);**
- 26.252 **Continue its efforts in protecting the rights of women, inter alia, by finalizing the bill on the protection of women against violence (Indonesia);**
- 26.253 **Criminalize legally gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape (Portugal);**
- 26.254 **Criminalize gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape (Uruguay);**
- 26.255 **Step up efforts for the protection of women from gender-based violence (Montenegro);**
- 26.256 **Adopt the draft bill on the protection of women against domestic violence so as to criminalize domestic violence (Iceland);**
- 26.257 **Continue to promote women's participation in political and other decision-making processes (Bangladesh);**
- 26.258 **Remove legal restrictions and social barriers to women's equal participation in the workforce, access to education and participation in the conduct of public affairs (Canada);**
- 26.259 **Strengthen its efforts to promote representation of women in public and political life, including in leadership positions (Slovenia);**
- 26.260 **Improve gender balance in the distribution of civil service positions, ministerial portfolios and other high-ranking political positions (Honduras);**
- 26.261 **Continue to support and empower women in public life (Nepal);**

- 26.262 Continue to comprehensively assess the resources needed to exercise the rights of children, in particular from the budget for social policies (Serbia);
- 26.263 Enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of children (Tunisia);
- 26.264 Continue efforts to strengthen child protection mechanisms and speed up the process of adopting a bill to protect children and adolescents (Bangladesh);
- 26.265 Prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children in all settings (Estonia);
- 26.266 Strengthen educational and cultural programmes, especially in cases of early marriage, and pay further attention to children left behind or deprived of education (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 26.267 Adopt legislation prohibiting all acts condoning or leading to child sexual abuse, and ensure legally that all persons below the age of 18, without exception, are considered as children and therefore are provided with all the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Portugal);
- 26.268 Develop programmes and policies for the prevention, recovery and social reintegration of child victims, including child brides, in accordance with the documents adopted at the World Congresses against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Uganda);
- 26.269 Enhance efforts to ensure full eradication of child marriages in certain parts of the country (Uganda);
- 26.270 Raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years for both boys and girls without exception and eliminate the practice of early and forced marriage (Belgium);
- 26.271 Prohibit child labour of children below 16 years of age (Uruguay);
- 26.272 Promote all necessary measures to repeal all legal provisions that authorize, tolerate or contribute to the sexual abuse of girls, and investigate and punish these kinds of acts (Argentina);
- 26.273 Investigate sexual exploitation of children aged under 18, including through forced, early and temporary marriage, and develop a national plan to protect children at risk (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 26.274 Introduce a minimum legal age for marriage in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Cyprus);
- 26.275 Raise the legal minimum age of marriage, initially by amending article 1041 of the Civil Code to eliminate all exceptions to the application of the minimum age (Denmark);
- 26.276 Modify the legislation on the minimum age to marry and to consent to sexual relations in accordance with international standards, and adopt all necessary measures to end child marriages (Ecuador);
- 26.277 End forced marriages and violence against women and girls, including by establishing the minimum age of marriage (France);
- 26.278 Legislate a minimum legal age for marriage in line with the standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Germany);
- 26.279 Amend its legislation in order to adopt a minimum age of marriage with the aim of ending child, early and forced marriage (Honduras);
- 26.280 Accelerate efforts towards eliminating child abuse and child labour, and ensuring that legal action is taken against perpetrators (Sri Lanka);

- 26.281 Continue its efforts to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Iraq);
- 26.282 Strengthen the efforts to combat all harmful practices against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, also by raising to 18 years the minimum legal marriage age (Italy);
- 26.283 Adopt domestic legislation to increase the minimum marriage age, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Child (Kenya);
- 26.284 Take steps to ensure that all criminal trials, including trials involving juvenile offenders, are fairly conducted in a manner that meets international standards (Ghana);
- 26.285 Make additional efforts to provide health insurance for persons with disabilities (Serbia);
- 26.286 Redouble its efforts to provide education facilities for children with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 26.287 Give special attention to improving the social security system for persons with disabilities (Qatar);
- 26.288 Carry out efforts to successfully implement the Act on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Turkmenistan);
- 26.289 Adopt a strategy to prevent and combat all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities (Angola);
- 26.290 Strengthen measures to facilitate access to education, especially for persons with disabilities (Angola);
- 26.291 Continue its awareness-raising activities to combat stigma and discrimination against disabled persons and work towards the creation of a national committee for the coordination of the affairs of persons with disabilities to supervise the implementation of the Act on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2017 (Singapore);
- 26.292 Take further action to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Japan);
- 26.293 Ensure the accessibility of health-care services and facilities for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);
- 26.294 Continue efforts in protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, especially women and children (Nigeria);
- 26.295 Continue implementing measures to comply with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Oman);
- 26.296 Take the necessary measures to respect and guarantee the rights of all minorities, including religious minorities (Switzerland);
- 26.297 Strengthen norms and policies for ethnic and religious minorities so that they can fully enjoy their human rights (Peru);
- 26.298 Strengthen its efforts to prevent and eradicate discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities (Republic of Korea);
- 26.299 End immediately and fully the systematic persecution, including killings, arbitrary detention and torture in places of detention, of members of religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and promote effective remedies and compensation for all victims and their families (Saudi Arabia);
- 26.300 Amend the constitutional provisions that give the followers of the Twelver Template preferential treatment over the rest of the followers of Islamic entities and other religions in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Saudi Arabia);

- 26.301 **Adjust national legislation, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in order to ensure the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons regardless of religion and ethnicity (Ukraine);**
- 26.302 **Undertake the necessary legal, administrative and policy measures to address discrimination and the limitations that may be placed upon the rights of members of ethnic and religious minority groups (Seychelles);**
- 26.303 **Amend legislation and judicial procedures to ensure that no religious group is the subject of discrimination so that all religious groups receive the same treatment under the law (Albania);**
- 26.304 **End discrimination in law and practice against all religious and ethnic minorities, and ensure full protection of their rights (Austria);**
- 26.305 **Eliminate all forms of discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, including the Baha'is, Christians and Ahwazi Arabs, and ensure respect for their religious freedoms and cultural rights (Bahrain);**
- 26.306 **Amend article 13 of the Constitution to ensure that all religious minorities are able to fully enjoy the right to freedom of religion or belief (Brazil);**
- 26.307 **Take measures to ensure non-discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities (Canada);**
- 26.308 **Continue its initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of the minorities and the strengthening of its legal measures (Cuba);**
- 26.309 **Guarantee freedom of religion or belief, and put an end to discrimination based on religious or ethnic membership (France);**
- 26.310 **Protect the rights of Christians and other minorities and promote interfaith dialogue between religious groups in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Haiti);**
- 26.311 **Identify and remedy all laws that have a discriminatory impact on persons belonging to the ethnic or religious minorities, including the Baha'i community (Iceland);**
- 26.312 **Ensure that the fundamental rights of ethnic and religious minorities are not violated (Israel);**
- 26.313 **Guarantee equal rights for all citizens, regardless of their religion (Italy);**
- 26.314. **Make further efforts to promote and protect the rights of minorities (Japan);**
- 26.315 **Amend domestic laws to provide all religious minorities with recognition and enable them to fully enjoy the right to freedom of religion or belief (Kenya);**
- 26.316 **Put an end to the persecution of religious minorities, including Baha'is, for their participation in social, education and community activities which are part of their religious practices (Luxembourg);**
- 26.317 **Amend article 13 of the Iranian Constitution to ensure that all religious minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Christian converts, Jews, non-believers, Zoroastrians and the Baha'i in the country, are recognized and able to fully enjoy the right to freedom of religion and belief (Netherlands);**
- 26.318 **Take measures to protect religious and ethnic minorities and ensure their full and equal participation in public and private life (New Zealand);**

- 26.319 **Abolish laws, regulations and policies that discriminate on the basis of religion or belief in the areas of employment, education and participation in public life (North Macedonia);**
- 26.320 **Ensure the freedom of religion and belief for minorities, such as the Baha'is and Christian converts, by adopting concrete measures to eliminate discrimination and enhance protection (Norway);**
- 26.321 **Continue measures to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers in line with the relevant international instruments (Sri Lanka);**
- 26.322 **Continue to ensure that all refugees within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran enjoy their basic human rights and are protected from arbitrary arrest, humiliation and enforced expulsion (Afghanistan);**
- 26.323 **Ensure that children of registered refugees and unregistered foreigners are provided with birth certificates (Afghanistan);**
- 26.324 **Implement fully the relevant laws to hold to account the perpetrators of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders and journalists (Republic of Korea);**
- 26.325 **Fully guarantee the rights of freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association, by creating an enabling environment, especially for women human rights defenders and human rights lawyers (Belgium);**
- 26.326 **Protect human rights defenders and media workers and fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression and association (Slovenia);**
- 26.327 **End all forms of harassment, including judicial harassment, against human rights defenders, including human rights lawyers and journalists (Greece);**
- 26.328 **Take urgent action to improve the protection of human rights defenders, including those defending women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights (Sweden);**
- 26.329 **Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders (Norway).**
27. **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 the Islamic Republic of Iran was headed by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Javad Ardeshir Larijani, Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh, Ambassador, Permanent Representative in Geneva;
  - Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mosaddegh Kahnamoee, Deputy Head of the Judiciary;
  - Mr. Hadi Shoushtari, Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament);
  - Mr. Seyamak Merh Sedgh, Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament);
  - Ms. Farideh Oladghobad, Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament);
  - Mr. Seyed Salman Samani, Deputy Minister of Interior;
  - Mr. Mahmoud Abbasi, Deputy Minister of Justice and Secretary of the National Body on the Convention on the Rights of Child;
  - H.E. Mr. Javad Amin-Mansour, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative in Geneva;
  - Mr. Seyed Majid Tafreshi Khameneh, Deputy Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights;
  - Mr. Mohammad Asaee Ardakani, Adviser to the Minister of Health;
  - Ms. Zahra Ershadi, Head of the NGO Division, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - Mr. Mohammad Zareian, Head of the Human Rights Division, MFA;
  - Mr. Ahmad Bina, Adviser to the Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights;
  - Mr. Javad Kazemi, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Geneva;
  - Mr. Mohsen Ghanei, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Geneva;
  - Mr. Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad, Minister, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Geneva;
  - Mr. Majid Najaflooy Torkman, Expert, MFA;
  - Mr. Amirhossein Mohebbali, Expert, the High Council for Human Rights;
  - Mr. Ali Riyahi, member of delegation;
  - Mr. Mostafa Nafari, member of delegation.
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