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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Rwanda

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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-seventh session from 18 January to 8 February 2021. The review of Rwanda was held at the 12th meeting, on 25 January 2021. The delegation of Rwanda was headed by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Johnston Busingye. At its 17th meeting, held on 29 January 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Rwanda.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Rwanda: Bangladesh, Poland and Togo.
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 Rwanda:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Panama, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America were transmitted to Rwanda 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 stated that Rwanda was committed to the universal periodic review mechanism. The national report had been prepared following inclusive and wide-ranging consultations with all stakeholders.
6. During the period under review, eight periodic reports had been submitted to the United Nations treaty bodies and African Union human rights mechanisms. In September 2020, Rwanda adopted a law approving accession to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled (Law No. 013/2020 of 7 September 2020).
7. The Penal Code had been revised and, inter alia, decriminalized all press-related offences, including defamation, expanded the provisions for access to safe, legal abortions and repealed the provisions on solitary confinement. The law regulating the National Commission for Human Rights had been amended to appoint the Commission as the national preventive mechanism against torture. The mechanism had become operational.
8. In 2018, a new law on the prohibition and punishment of “genocide ideology” and related crimes had been enacted. The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi continued to be commemorated. The reintegration and rehabilitation of persons who had been convicted for genocide and who had served their sentences had remained a priority and the *Ndi Umunyarwanda* (I am Rwandan) programme had continued to be implemented to emphasize unity.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/37/RWA/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/37/RWA/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/37/RWA/3.

9. A few important institutions had been created, including the Rwanda Investigation Bureau and the Court of Appeal. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court had been expanded to include, inter alia, consideration of the constitutionality of laws and cases of public interest.

10. In 2016, an integrated electronic case management system had been introduced, which had improved access to justice and service delivery. In 2020, an electronic system for the online auction of property in execution of court orders had been launched. A new anti-corruption law had been adopted. The independence of the judiciary had been ranked relatively high regionally and globally by independent agencies. There had been no so-called political trials and no one had been prosecuted merely for being a politician, journalist or human rights defender.

11. The freedoms of opinion, expression, the press, association and peaceful assembly had been enshrined in the Constitution. Media space had been expanded, resulting in an increase in the number of radio and television stations and of registered print and online media organizations.

12. To reduce the relatively large prison population, options for non-custodial sentences and alternatives to the typical criminal justice processes were being studied. A new prison had been built and three existing prisons had been renovated. Nine new detention police stations had been built and 64 had been renovated. In addition, community service had been adopted as a sentence and the options for bail had been expanded with the introduction of electronic bracelets. Since 2015, 9,442 inmates had been released on parole and presidential pardons had been granted to 110 inmates. While female inmates had been successfully separated from male inmates and minors from adults in prisons, efforts were still under way to separate minors from adults in police custody. There were also separate prison facilities for civilian convicts and military convicts. All facilities complied with relevant international minimum standards and there were no unofficial detention centres.

13. The law governing persons and family, which had been adopted in 2016, gave men and women equal household responsibilities. A new law governing matrimonial regimes, donations and succession, also adopted in 2016, guaranteed equal treatment of children in succession. Women continued to enjoy fair representation in decision-making positions both at the national and local levels and in the private sector.

14. As education had been considered an important investment in the country's growth and development, the budget allocated for education had increased. The Special Needs and Inclusive Education Policy and its implementation plan had been adopted in 2019. Investment in education infrastructure and staff, as well as Internet connectivity, had been significantly increased in schools. Measures had been adopted to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on access to education, including the building of new classrooms to enable social distancing when schools reopened. Of the planned 22,505 classrooms, 96 per cent had since been completed.

15. During the period under review, there had been a shift from paper-based to web-based birth registration. Birth registration had increased from 56 per cent in 2015 to 89 per cent in 2019. Starting in 2020, births and deaths could be registered at health facilities. The period to register births had been extended from 15 to 30 days, and the issuance of birth certificates had become mandatory.

16. Strong legal, policy and institutional frameworks had been put in place to continue to protect the rights of children and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence, trafficking in children and unlawful child labour were brought to justice.

17. In 2018, the law on human trafficking (Law No. 51/2018 of 13/08/2018) was adopted. Capacity-building sessions for law enforcement officers had been held, which had resulted in an increase in the rate of convictions for trafficking in persons.

18. Between 2016 and 2019, there had been a decrease in the unemployment rate of men, women and youth.

19. Comprehensive policies and strategies had been developed to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition. Agriculture had grown on average by 6 per cent each

year over the past decade. The Government had continued to invest in achieving the full realization of the human right to water and sanitation.

20. There had also been continued investment in the health sector, with spending exceeding the 15 per cent required under the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. Public and private health facilities had increased from 1,285 in 2016 to 1,735 in 2019. The use of drones had been introduced to deliver blood, particularly in rural areas. By the end of the fiscal year 2018/19, the coverage of the community-based health insurance scheme had been extended to 79 per cent of the population. In 2019, the modern contraceptive prevalence rate was 53.1 per cent.

21. Rwanda was firmly committed to maintaining an open-door policy towards refugees and had concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in that regard.

22. The response to the COVID-19 pandemic had been flexible, swift, consistent, open and participatory, not only leading Rwanda to deal effectively with the virus but also minimizing the impact of the pandemic on human rights. Despite the efforts made, COVID-19 remained prevalent in Rwanda.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

23. During the interactive dialogue, 99 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

24. The Bahamas commended Rwanda for revising the Constitution and noted legislative reforms, including the adoption of a revised Penal Code and counter-terrorism legislation.

25. Barbados noted the measures that had been taken to strengthen legislation, expand fundamental freedoms and mitigate climate change.

26. Belgium expressed its appreciation for the progress that had been made in implementing the recommendations from the previous review.

27. Botswana appreciated the National Gender Policy and the strategic plan for its implementation but stressed the ongoing prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence.

28. Brazil encouraged Rwanda to combat gender-based violence and to re-engage with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

29. Bulgaria noted the progress that had been made in reducing poverty and child mortality and improving access to inclusive education and health services, among others.

30. Burkina Faso welcomed the measures that had been taken to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.

31. Cameroon commended Rwanda for the efforts it had taken to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

32. Canada welcomed the progress that had been made in addressing gender equality. It called for independent investigations into all alleged cases of enforced disappearance.

33. Chad noted the expansion of the mandate of the National Commission for Human Rights to also serve as the national preventive mechanism.

34. Chile noted the first national human rights action plan and initiatives concerning gender equality, women's empowerment and gender-based violence.

35. China commended Rwanda for the measures it had taken in relation to development, women, children and persons with disabilities, among others.

36. Costa Rica made recommendations.

37. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Rwanda for revising the Constitution to include a chapter on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

38. Croatia expressed concern about the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence and teenage pregnancy. It called for the harmonization of relevant legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
39. Cuba acknowledged the progress that had been made in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment.
40. Cyprus noted the legislation on gender equality and women's empowerment and the policy framework on freedom of expression.
41. Czechia welcomed the implementation of the recommendations it had made during the previous review but noted that other recommendations had yet to be implemented.
42. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
43. Denmark expressed concern about allegations of arbitrary detention and torture in detention facilities and urged Rwanda to facilitate the resumption of the visit by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
44. Djibouti welcomed the commitment to reducing poverty and the measures that had been taken in the areas of education, health and housing.
45. Egypt noted the progress that had been made in relation to education, access to justice and reconciliation.
46. Ethiopia commended Rwanda for its national human rights action plan, its mechanism for eliminating gender-based violence and its special needs education policy.
47. Fiji noted the steps taken to address gender-based violence, including the establishment of a centre to assist victims.
48. Finland welcomed the engagement of Rwanda in the universal periodic review process.
49. France noted the strengthening of the institutional framework on human rights. It was concerned about the violation of civil and political rights.
50. Gabon welcomed the efforts that had been taken to eliminate sexual violence and to guarantee children with disabilities equal access to adequate social and health services.
51. Georgia welcomed the policy for refugees and asylum seekers, despite the closure of the borders to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, and noted the initiatives to combat gender-based violence and human trafficking.
52. Germany noted the opening up of space for political and critical dialogue and expressed concern about restrictions on the media and the rising levels of undernourishment.
53. Ghana commended the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to respecting human rights and the increase in women's representation in higher decision-making positions.
54. Haiti noted the efforts made to improve living standards and access to health care and to develop an information economy.
55. The Holy See welcomed the revision of the Constitution and the efforts made to advance fundamental human rights.
56. Honduras welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
57. Iceland welcomed the steps outlined in the national report and hoped they would continue to be implemented.
58. India noted the revision that had been made to the Constitution, including the introduction of a separate chapter on human rights.

59. Indonesia commended Rwanda for introducing, in the revised Constitution, a separate chapter on human rights, and for adopting a national human rights action plan.
60. The Islamic Republic of Iran thanked Rwanda for the presentation of its national report.
61. Iraq commended Rwanda, inter alia, for the legislative and executive measures that had been taken to promote human rights.
62. Ireland acknowledged the efforts made to advance human rights. It called for an investigation into all allegations of extrajudicial killings.
63. Israel noted the efforts that had been made since the previous review, particularly regarding gender equality. It commended Rwanda for the 22,000 additional classrooms in 2020.
64. Italy noted the efforts made to ensure gender equality and promote women's empowerment and participation in decision-making in all sectors.
65. Japan appreciated the steps taken to promote freedom of expression and gender equality in various sectors.
66. Kenya noted the revision of the Constitution and the inclusion of a chapter on human rights and fundamental freedoms.
67. Latvia thanked Rwanda for the presentation of its national report.
68. Lesotho noted that Rwanda had honoured its reporting obligations to the relevant treaty bodies.
69. Libya commended Rwanda for the progress made in various fields, particularly in health and education.
70. Lithuania noted the determination of Rwanda to improve the human rights situation in the country.
71. Malaysia hoped that the gender-based violence information management system would soon be launched and that additional efforts would be made to ensure the right to an inclusive education.
72. Maldives noted the efforts made to promote human rights, particularly in relation to gender equality and to closing the gender pay gap.
73. Mali welcomed the introduction of an electronic birth registration system and the efforts made to improve the conditions of detention.
74. Malta welcomed the adoption of the first national human rights action plan and the steps taken to promote gender equality.
75. Mauritius commended Rwanda on the institutional reforms it had adopted to improve the effectiveness of the National Commission for Human Rights.
76. Mexico thanked Rwanda for the presentation of its national report.
77. Montenegro welcomed the progress that had been made in relation to birth registration.
78. Mozambique noted the steps that had been taken to ensure gender equality.
79. Myanmar noted the increase in primary school enrolment and the decrease in unemployment.
80. Namibia noted the positive measures that had been introduced since the previous review, particularly in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women.
81. Nepal noted the efforts that had been made to reduce poverty, generate employment and reduce malnutrition among children, among others.
82. The Netherlands remained concerned about reports of enforced disappearance, which were not always followed up on by the Government.

83. Nigeria commended Rwanda on both its determination to combat human trafficking and its efforts to ensure women's empowerment.
84. Norway remained concerned about the interpretation and implementation of legislation in relation to the freedoms of expression, assembly and association, and the protection of human rights defenders.
85. Oman noted that, in the national report, Rwanda had highlighted its keen interest in protecting human rights.
86. Pakistan noted the efforts made to ensure the right to education, in particular the substantive budget increases and the steps taken to develop infrastructure.
87. Paraguay welcomed the initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, ensuring universal access to primary education, preventing genocide and combating human trafficking.
88. The delegation of Rwanda stated that Rwanda had an agenda to ensure the rights of women and children. Corporal punishment had been prohibited in law and alleged cases were being investigated and those allegedly responsible were being prosecuted. Vigilance had been maintained to combat the abuse of former street children in transit centres and to ensure that such centres were well governed and offered rehabilitation to affected children. Combating gender-based violence and poverty had been areas of high priority and various programmes and policies had been introduced in that regard. Training had been provided to law enforcement officials with a view to combating trafficking in persons, particularly young girls. Programmes had been introduced to address discrimination based on age, gender and sexuality. Efforts had been made to integrate vulnerable people and historically marginalized communities, including the Batwa, into mainstream society; those efforts had thus far been successful. The improvement of health services was on the Government's agenda and was considered a priority.
89. Resources had been directed towards ensuring the promotion and protection of civil and political rights. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, access to justice had continued using online platforms.
90. There were no minority religions. All faith-based organizations were welcome to register as such and the registration process had been shortened from six to two months.
91. The law regulating civil society and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) was currently under review. The legal environment had improved to enable civil society to become stronger and to facilitate the registration of NGOs. Human rights defenders and activists received protection under the law and their work was respected.
92. The Philippines noted the adoption of a national human rights action plan and a law against human trafficking.
93. Portugal welcomed the overall progress made with regard to improving the legal and institutional framework guaranteeing human rights.
94. Qatar welcomed the Government's commitment to ensuring education for all and to protecting children from sexual violence and exploitation.
95. The Republic of Korea noted the first national human rights action plan and the achievements in mainstreaming gender equality and enhancing women's representation.
96. Romania noted the steps taken to bring the Constitution and legislation in line with international human rights standards but highlighted the need for further improvements.
97. The Russian Federation noted the inclusion of a chapter on human rights in the Constitution and the establishment of a court of appeal.
98. Senegal noted the Constitutional reforms, which included a minimum quota for women's representation in elected and decision-making positions.
99. Serbia commended Rwanda for improving human rights standards, including in the education sector.

100. Sierra Leone noted the adoption and implementation of the first national human rights action plan.
101. Singapore commended Rwanda for its efforts to achieve gender equality and to ensure the right to education, including inclusive education.
102. Slovenia commended Rwanda for implementing the recommendation from the previous review on adopting a national human rights action plan.
103. Somalia noted the adoption of a chapter on human rights in the Constitution and the strengthened national human rights institutions.
104. Spain noted with regret incidences of forced disappearance, arbitrary and prolonged detention, extrajudicial execution and torture and ill-treatment in detention centres.
105. The Sudan noted the steps that had been taken since the previous review to protect human rights.
106. Sweden highlighted the need to address gender-based violence. It noted the decriminalization of defamation but added that the remaining restrictions on the freedoms of assembly, association and expression needed to be addressed.
107. Switzerland noted the decriminalization of defamation and the improvements in prison conditions.
108. Timor-Leste noted the legislative measures relating to gender equality and the adoption of a new anti-corruption law.
109. Togo welcomed the progress that had been made by Rwanda since the previous review, including the continued good performance in political and economic governance.
110. Tunisia noted with appreciation the measures taken by Rwanda to promote its social protection policies.
111. Turkey commended Rwanda for the steps taken to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and highlighted the collaboration of Turkey in the Gender Equality Seal initiative.
112. Uganda noted the adoption of the national human rights action plan and the submission of national reports to treaty bodies.
113. Ukraine commended Rwanda for the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights, including through the adoption of legislation.
114. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed concern about restrictions to media freedom and civil and political rights and urged Rwanda to model Commonwealth values.
115. The United States of America expressed concern about the limited civic and political space, including restrictions to the right of public assembly.
116. Uruguay noted that the National Commission for Human Rights had regained its A status. It encouraged the international community to support Rwanda through technical cooperation and assistance.
117. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the efforts made by Rwanda to ensure gender equality and the increase in the education budget.
118. Zambia commended Rwanda for implementing several recommendations from the previous review.
119. Algeria noted with satisfaction the progress made by Rwanda since the previous review.
120. Angola commended for its commitment to the empowerment of women and for efforts to combat corruption and its negative impact on realizing human rights.
121. Argentina made recommendations.

122. Armenia commended Rwanda for designating a national preventive mechanism in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
123. Australia acknowledged the leadership of Rwanda in regional peacekeeping and welcomed legislative revisions to enhance women's sexual and reproductive rights.
124. Austria expressed concern about restrictions to journalists' work and reports of harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and journalists.
125. Azerbaijan congratulated Rwanda on its national human rights action plan and noted legislative and policy measures aimed at achieving gender equality.
126. Morocco noted the national policies that had been introduced for the benefit of orphans and other vulnerable children.
127. The delegation of Rwanda stated that Rwanda had recognized the need to ensure the political and socioeconomic inclusion of persons with disabilities. Since the previous review, 700 cooperatives of persons with disabilities had been created across the country. Persons with disabilities had been empowered in the education sector to enable them to be competitive in the labour market. National rehabilitation services had been established to help children in need of rehabilitation.
128. The empowerment of women has been the cornerstone of development and was based on the belief that empowering women meant empowering the family and empowering the country. There was a zero-tolerance policy for sexual and gender-based violence.
129. Social health care, particularly community health care, was considered to be important, which is why emphasis had been placed on adherence to the *mutuelle* community insurance scheme. Over 85 per cent of people received coverage under that scheme.
130. Regarding discrimination, the delegation emphasized the government policy of unity, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Government policies did not identify individuals as Batwa, Hutu or Tutsi but, rather, considered everyone as Rwandan.
131. Rwanda did not have any child soldiers. The security forces had scored higher than other institutions with regard to community satisfaction and appreciation, which was an indication of the standards of the security forces.
132. Arbitrary arrest and detention, suspicious death in detention and the excessive use of force were not part of government policy and were recognized as crimes. Whenever they happened, thorough investigations were undertaken. Improvements would continue to be made and there would be continued engagement with partners to address those issues.
133. Rwanda thanked the participating States for their contributions. Most of the recommendations received had been very constructive and the review had provided an opportunity to learn. Rwanda would do its best to implement the recommendations in an inclusive manner.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

134. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Rwanda and enjoy the support of Rwanda:**
- 134.1 **Continue efforts to cooperate with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (Morocco);**
- 134.2 **Reinvigorate cooperation with the relevant United Nations treaty bodies and mechanisms (Armenia);**
- 134.3 **Bring its national legislation into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, eliminating the pejorative terms for persons with disabilities which remain in some laws (Chile);**
- 134.4 **Continue to take steps for the strengthening of national human rights institutions (Pakistan);**

- 134.5 Continue the efforts made to strengthen national human rights institutions and their role in monitoring the effective implementation of international standards at the national level (Tunisia);
- 134.6 Continue its efforts aimed at raising public awareness of genocide prevention and combating “genocide ideology” (Georgia);
- 134.7 Continue the process of national reconciliation so that all citizens, independently of ethnic or religious background, may be able to contribute to the development of the country in harmony with fundamental human rights (Holy See);
- 134.8 Continue to work on addressing the worrying trend of an increase in genocide denial in Rwanda (Israel);
- 134.9 Continue efforts to invest in human resources within the framework of available capabilities and to promote the capabilities of existing institutions (Libya);
- 134.10 Increase the technical and financial framework to provide support for the most vulnerable people (Mozambique);
- 134.11 Sustain efforts in ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by all, especially persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);
- 134.12 Forge ahead with the comprehensive assessment of the implementation of its national human rights action plan (Philippines);
- 134.13 Continue progress in the promotion of civil and political rights (Cameroon);
- 134.14 Emphasize the strengthening of economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to have work (Cameroon);
- 134.15 Increase the awareness of the Rwandan population concerning ratified regional and international human rights conventions and instruments, in order for full enjoyment and the recognition of their human rights (Turkey);
- 134.16 Strengthen measures for an effective application of Law No. 43/2013, including in rural areas (Angola);
- 134.17 Take measures to increase efficiency, accountability and transparency in public service delivery (Azerbaijan);
- 134.18 Continue the ongoing efforts to provide compulsory human rights training to police forces in order to avoid excessive use of force (Italy);
- 134.19 Continue efforts aimed at strengthening the process of human rights awareness-raising, education and training of civil society, as well as law enforcement officials, social actors, journalists and trade unions (Algeria);
- 134.20 Criminalize all offences relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in line with the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Mexico);
- 134.21 Review legal provisions that could discriminate against women by adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that prohibits discrimination on all grounds and includes direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, as well as interrelated forms of discrimination against women, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention against All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Argentina);
- 134.22 Continue reforms towards gender equality, especially by enhancing education opportunities for girls from vulnerable households (Armenia);
- 134.23 Strengthen the protection of the human rights of older persons, particularly in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Argentina);

- 134.24 Continue efforts to integrate vulnerable people into the development process (Cameroon);
- 134.25 Intensify efforts to develop and strengthen the necessary legislative frameworks that address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change adaptation and mitigation frameworks, and ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups and local communities are meaningfully engaged in their implementation (Fiji);
- 134.26 Continue to make necessary preparations to mitigate the likely negative impacts of climate change, especially on agriculture and hydroelectric power (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 134.27 Work to strengthen national capacities to ensure the effective investigation of allegations of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and torture (Egypt);
- 134.28 Take all necessary measures to combat impunity for the crime of enforced disappearance (Lithuania);
- 134.29 Publish the annual reports of the national preventive mechanism, as required under the national preventive mechanism guidelines, in order to improve transparency of the national preventive mechanism's work (Czechia);
- 134.30 Advance human rights-based training programmes for public service and military officers and the development of community policing initiatives with a view to eradicating the practice of torture and other forms of ill-treatment (Indonesia);
- 134.31 Guarantee legal safeguards for detainees and carry out prompt, impartial and effective investigations of complaints of ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, torture and death of detained people (Costa Rica);
- 134.32 Continue ongoing efforts to improve the penitentiary network, as well as the living conditions of persons deprived of liberty (Cuba);
- 134.33 Bring its prison and detention conditions in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Denmark);
- 134.34 Adopt the implementing order for the introduction of community service as provided in Law No. 68/2018 and the swift implementation of other alternatives to detention (Netherlands);
- 134.35 Continue its efforts to improve conditions in detention facilities, including the overcrowding issue (Republic of Korea);
- 134.36 Implement adequate safeguards against suicide in detention centres (Somalia);
- 134.37 Continue the efforts made to reduce overcrowding in detention centres and improve the facilities available there (Tunisia);
- 134.38 Continue progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons in prison, in particular by improving their conditions of detention (Morocco);
- 134.39 Ensure respect for the independence of the judiciary and guarantee the right of any accused person to a fair trial (France);
- 134.40 Continue to take measures aimed at improving the functioning of the judiciary and the penitentiary system (Russian Federation);
- 134.41 Continue to implement decentralized outreach activities at all levels to facilitate the population, including vulnerable groups, to have access to quality and affordable justice (Maldives);

- 134.42 Continue efforts to ensure access to justice and the fight against corruption (Nigeria);
- 134.43 Consolidate the national capacities to guarantee respect for due process and access to justice for all (Romania);
- 134.44 Ensure that detainees have access to legal counsel (Somalia);
- 134.45 Enforce the protection of all persons' rights to life and liberty by strengthening the independence of the justice system and ensuring no one is convicted on the basis of information extracted under torture or duress (United States of America);
- 134.46 Continue to ensure that all instances of death in custody, including during police arrests and at police stations, are impartially and effectively investigated and that all perpetrators are prosecuted (Fiji);
- 134.47 Promote the right to due process of law for victims of human rights violations and improve capacity-building initiatives in order to strengthen the capacities of judicial stakeholders, including investigators, prosecutors, advocates and judges (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 134.48 Promote human rights training for law enforcement officers, judges and lawyers and facilitate access to justice for victims of abuses (Brazil);
- 134.49 Ensure the exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of the press and freedom of association and peaceful assembly, enshrined in the country's Constitution (Costa Rica);
- 134.50 Strengthen media pluralism and the safety of journalists and human rights defenders by amending the respective legislation to comply with international democratic standards (Czechia);
- 134.51 Strengthen measures to encourage the exercise of an independent media and enhance the enjoyment by all persons of the freedom of opinion and expression, collectively and as individuals (Barbados);
- 134.52 Intensify its efforts to ensure full enjoyment of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Ghana);
- 134.53 Revise all the provisions that undermine freedom of expression as well as freedom of assembly and association and effectively protect journalists and media operators against harassment and intimidation (Italy);
- 134.54 Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of all residents of Rwanda (Latvia);
- 134.55 Eliminate from legislation all provisions that undermine freedom of expression and the protection of journalists against harassment and intimidation (Lithuania);
- 134.56 Increase public awareness on media policy and other various laws and regulations in place to expand media freedom (Maldives);
- 134.57 Continue implementing reforms aimed at expanding media freedoms and creating a citizen-centred media to ensure that all individuals fully enjoy the right to freedom of expression (Republic of Korea);
- 134.58 Continue to strengthen the legal system in order to ensure freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association (Romania);
- 134.59 Continue efforts to guarantee the right of freedom of opinion and expression, including by allowing greater access to independent news outlets (Sudan);
- 134.60 Guarantee the freedoms of assembly, association and expression by, *inter alia*, increasing the space for dissent and discussion and ensuring a safe and enabling environment for everyone to exercise these rights (Sweden);

- 134.61 Promote an enabling environment for independent media and civil society organizations, in particular by bringing laws on civil society and media into conformity with the right to freedom of expression as it is set out in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);
- 134.62 Protect and enable journalists to work freely, without fear of retribution, and ensure that State authorities comply with the access to information law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 134.63 Ensure fully the right to freedom of association (Spain);
- 134.64 Strengthen the role of civil society (Cameroon);
- 134.65 Review the registration requirements for local and international non-governmental organizations with a view to better facilitating and simplifying the process (Canada);
- 134.66 Redouble efforts to combat human trafficking and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence and trafficking in women and children are brought to justice and held accountable (Egypt);
- 134.67 Strengthen implementation of its anti-human trafficking legislation, ensuring a victim-oriented framework in the process (Philippines);
- 134.68 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly by improving the training of military and law enforcement officers (Burkina Faso);
- 134.69 Take the necessary steps to enforce the law to combat human trafficking by enhancing law enforcement agencies (Somalia);
- 134.70 Continue to strengthen frameworks to prevent child trafficking and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Uganda);
- 134.71 Continue to make advances in establishing frameworks to effectively identify child victims of human trafficking and provide them with appropriate medical and psychosocial services (Fiji);
- 134.72 Continue its efforts to identify, track and rehabilitate child trafficking and child labour victims (Turkey);
- 134.73 Continue to implement employment strategies designed to improve the rate of youth employment, including through international capacity-building cooperation in the field of vocational training (Indonesia);
- 134.74 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, to advance poverty alleviation and to improve people's living standards (China);
- 134.75 Continue to implement and strengthen its successful plans and social programmes in favour of its people, with particular emphasis on the fields of education, health care and food (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 134.76 Give due notice to the populations affected by the expropriation processes and guarantee them fair compensation, in accordance with the law on expropriation for public utility and land ownership (Switzerland);
- 134.77 Improve access to adequate housing, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation (Ukraine);
- 134.78 Continue to implement sustainable policies and practices to reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas (Haiti);
- 134.79 Strengthen the response to poverty by making qualitative and quantitative improvements to the social protection and poverty eradication programmes for families, women and people living with disabilities (Botswana);
- 134.80 Continue efforts to lay the foundations for eliminating hunger and achieving food security (Libya);
- 134.81 Ensure its measures to reduce extreme poverty (Myanmar);

- 134.82 **Ensure that its efforts to address poverty are inclusive, gender-responsive and human rights-based (Philippines);**
- 134.83 **Put in place social protection and poverty reduction programmes aimed at guaranteeing an adequate standard of living for people with disabilities (Senegal);**
- 134.84 **Further develop the health-care system in order to better protect people's right to health (China);**
- 134.85 **Continue measures to tackle undernourishment, especially chronic malnutrition of children (Germany);**
- 134.86 **Continue government efforts to strengthen integrated networks of health services (Oman);**
- 134.87 **Protect and ensure the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health for all people by ensuring access to health-care services and comprehensive sexuality education (Uruguay);**
- 134.88 **Recognize the role of health and essential workers in defending human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide a safe and enabling environment where they can conduct their work free from threats and intimidation (Indonesia);**
- 134.89 **Commence a widespread educational campaign on the importance of antenatal care for pregnant women (Bahamas);**
- 134.90 **Guarantee access for women and girls to sexual and reproductive health and rights and facilitate their access to comprehensive sexuality education (France);**
- 134.91 **Work towards the reduction of the maternal mortality rate, while maintaining a holistic approach to the concept of health, which accounts for the mental, physical and spiritual dimensions of the human person (Holy See);**
- 134.92 **Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to further improve family planning access, service delivery and uptake by increasing the number of health facilities and skilled health-care providers and by expanding the available contraceptive method mix, including emergency contraceptives (Iceland);**
- 134.93 **Continue efforts to reduce the maternal mortality rate, particularly by improving the quality, availability and accessibility of health care (Burkina Faso);**
- 134.94 **Accelerate the scaling up of access to safe drinking water in schools, particularly at the nursery, primary and secondary school levels (Bahamas);**
- 134.95 **Fully implement plans to strengthen the school feeding programme that aims to reduce malnutrition among schoolchildren (Bahamas);**
- 134.96 **Continue expanding the infrastructure, budget and human resources for education in order to reach the commitment to free, universal, quality and inclusive education (Cuba);**
- 134.97 **Increase school enrolment (Cyprus);**
- 134.98 **Expand the number of qualified English-speaking teachers within schools and look to increase secondary school attendance (Israel);**
- 134.99 **Work on making the education system more inclusive for persons with disabilities (Israel);**
- 134.100 **Continue efforts to guarantee equal access to education, in particular the promotion of girls' secondary education (Kenya);**

- 134.101 Continue efforts to raise the quality of education and to ensure that free secondary education is accessible to all children (Lithuania);
- 134.102 Provide quality and universal access to education to all its citizens in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Mauritius);
- 134.103 Integrate human rights education into school curricula and training programmes for teachers (Mozambique);
- 134.104 Continue its endeavours towards achieving free, universal and quality education that is accessible to all children (Myanmar);
- 134.105 Pursue efforts to ensure the continuous improvement of the quality of all actors in the educational system (Oman);
- 134.106 Continue its efforts to commit to achieving free and quality education for all, and to increase the number of classrooms throughout the country (Qatar);
- 134.107 Enable more opportunities in rural areas in terms of educational facilities (Turkey);
- 134.108 Keep up its efforts aimed at strengthening the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the right to education, and improve the quality of education (Algeria);
- 134.109 Explore home-grown social capitals that would promote gender equality and women's empowerment (Ethiopia);
- 134.110 Maintain promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives (Kenya);
- 134.111 Accelerate the development of a gender-based management information system and its reporting (Kenya);
- 134.112 Further strengthen its commitment and measures to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment (Myanmar);
- 134.113 Develop and implement specific policies, with the necessary human and financial resources, for the advancement and empowerment of girls and women with disabilities (Bulgaria);
- 134.114 Sustain efforts for women's empowerment and the integration of human rights education in the curriculum (Pakistan);
- 134.115 Continue to take measures to improve the position of women in society, especially in rural areas (Serbia);
- 134.116 Given the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, factor this aspect into account during its ongoing review of its National Gender Policy and implementation of its strategic plan so that more effective policies can be put in place to build on the gains achieved thus far (Singapore);
- 134.117 Continue efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment (Cameroon);
- 134.118 Continue efforts made to gender equality, empowering women and enhancing their participation in decision-making (Tunisia);
- 134.119 Continue community-based efforts to ensure the realization of the rights of women in accordance with the national laws (Uganda);
- 134.120 Continue its efforts in order to improve gender equality in the country, including by ensuring the empowerment of women in all spheres (Azerbaijan);
- 134.121 Combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Chile);
- 134.122 Enhance all efforts to combat all forms of violence against women (Croatia);

- 134.123 Continue to combat all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual violence (Djibouti);
- 134.124 End all forms of violence against women and girls, especially sexual violence, continue training of its peacekeepers in recognizing gender-based violence in conflict situations, investigate all cases and ensure women's access to justice as well as bring perpetrators into justice (Finland);
- 134.125 Reinvigorate its efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women (Georgia);
- 134.126 Enhance its efforts to firmly combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Iceland);
- 134.127 Further enhance efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (India);
- 134.128 Enhance the efforts to combat all forms of violence against women (Iraq);
- 134.129 Prioritize the creation of effective mechanisms and procedures for reporting cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls (Botswana);
- 134.130 Strengthen measures to eliminate sexual and gender-based violence against adolescent girls and women (Lesotho);
- 134.131 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Lithuania);
- 134.132 Strengthen efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Namibia);
- 134.133 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Nepal);
- 134.134 Ensure the effective application of its legislation against gender-based violence and investigate, prosecute and condemn perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence (Norway);
- 134.135 Continue its efforts to strengthen the legal framework to combat gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Republic of Korea);
- 134.136 Enhance its efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual violence (Sierra Leone);
- 134.137 Implement the Law on Prevention and Punishment of Gender-based Violence and ensure zero tolerance among law enforcement agencies for gender-based violence (Sweden);
- 134.138 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence (Ukraine);
- 134.139 Enhance its efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence (Zambia);
- 134.140 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women, such as domestic violence (Morocco);
- 134.141 Continue to allocate the necessary budgetary and other resources required to promote and protect children, particularly those living in poverty (Barbados);
- 134.142 Put in place adequate safeguards and measures to face the high rate of child abandonment, based on the principle of the best interests of the child, while working to address the root causes of this phenomenon (Holy See);
- 134.143 Continue to take steps to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of children and the rights of children (India);

- 134.144 **Effectively address the issues of teenage pregnancy, child labour and the inaccessibility of children with disabilities to educational facilities and an adequate standard of living (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 134.145 **Intensify efforts to promote and protect the rights of the child (Iraq);**
- 134.146 **Make further efforts to promote respect for the rights of children and combat child labour, as well as all forms of violence and exploitation against children (Italy);**
- 134.147 **Increase efforts to eradicate child labour (Malaysia);**
- 134.148 **Ensure full access to education, health and social services for children in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, including children with disabilities, children in street situations, children affected by HIV/AIDS, children living in poverty or in child-headed households and children from historically marginalized communities, including the Batwa (Bulgaria);**
- 134.149 **Intensify efforts to protect and provide assistance to children living in the streets by strengthening national rehabilitation services and working to inculcate positive behaviours, and provide them with education and professional skills (Qatar);**
- 134.150 **Adopt the necessary measures to protect the integrity of persons with disabilities in all settings, including the prevention of forced treatment and forced sterilization of persons with disabilities (Croatia);**
- 134.151 **Strengthen national bodies responsible for guaranteeing the rights of people with disabilities and ensure their full integration into society (Djibouti);**
- 134.152 **Guarantee to persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, the right to an inclusive quality education and health services, with accessible environments and adequately trained teachers and professionals to provide individual support (Finland);**
- 134.153 **Enhance protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and effectively address domestic violence against women and children (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 134.154 **Continue effective measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with albinism (Nepal);**
- 134.155 **Raise awareness of the key provisions of Ministerial Order No. 007/2016 and the Special Needs and Inclusive Education Policy among all relevant stakeholders, including persons with disabilities, so as to ensure their effective implementation (Singapore);**
- 134.156 **Take appropriate measures to prevent and address all forms of disability-based discrimination (Zambia);**
- 134.157 **Intensify efforts to safeguard the rights of immigrants and refugees (Barbados);**
- 134.158 **Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of refugees, in particular their rights to food, education and access to clean and safe drinking water (Lesotho);**
- 134.159 **Ensure that all reception centres for refugee and asylum-seeking children are adapted to their needs and that all unaccompanied and separated children have access to national refugee status determination procedures, as well as investigate any reports of the alleged disappearance of children from refugee camps, in particular adolescent girls (Mexico);**
- 134.160 **Accelerate the implementation of the national action plan to eradicate statelessness (Angola).**

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

135.1 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);

135.2 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal);

135.3 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica);

135.4 Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as a remaining part of the core international human rights treaties (Czechia);

135.5 Finalize the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

135.6 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);

135.7 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Germany);

135.8 Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);

135.9 Proceed with the early ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);

135.10 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and implement policies to halt this practice (Brazil);

135.11 Become a party to and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance to ensure compliance with international standards, in line with our previous two recommendations (Netherlands);

135.12 Reconsider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Romania);

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

135.14 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Switzerland);

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

135.16 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ukraine);

135.17 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, in accordance with the recommendation accepted by the country during the first cycle (Argentina);

- 135.18 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);**
- 135.19 **Take action to eliminate all cases of enforced disappearances and ensure that all cases of enforced disappearance are thoroughly and impartially investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice (Australia);**
- 135.20 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Honduras);**
- 135.21 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Lithuania);**
- 135.22 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Mexico);**
- 135.23 **Respond positively to pending visit requests to the country by the special procedures (Costa Rica);**
- 135.24 **Cooperate fully with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and facilitate a country visit as soon as practicable (Germany);**
- 135.25 **Provide the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment unrestricted access to all places of detention, in full respect for the principle of confidentiality and freedom from reprisal (Portugal);**
- 135.26 **Ensure that the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is able to visit the country (Canada);**
- 135.27 **Cooperate fully with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to allow a country visit as soon as possible (Argentina);**
- 135.28 **Recommit to Rwanda's previous declaration under article 24 (6) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to allow individuals and NGOs to bring cases directly to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Australia);**
- 135.29 **Criminalize the compulsory recruitment of children into national armed forces and non-State armed groups (Paraguay);**
- 135.30 **Criminalize the compulsory recruitment of children in the national armed forces and non-State armed groups (Timor-Leste);**
- 135.31 **Criminalize the compulsory recruitment of children in the national armed forces and non-State armed groups (Montenegro);**
- 135.32 **Include, under article 6 of its Constitution, the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (Belgium);**
- 135.33 **Conduct transparent, credible and independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial killings, deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and torture, and bring perpetrators to justice (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 135.34 **Ensure an independent, impartial investigation of all allegations of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions and enforced disappearances, as well as the prosecution of those found guilty (Romania);**
- 135.35 **Carry out independent investigations into all allegations of human rights violations such as forced disappearances, arbitrary and prolonged detentions, extrajudicial executions and torture and ill-treatment in detention centres and ensure the prosecution of alleged perpetrators (Spain);**
- 135.36 **Ensure due process and conduct effective and objective investigations regarding cases of alleged arbitrary arrest, detention and extrajudicial**

executions, including those which may constitute enforced disappearance (Sweden);

135.37 **Independently and transparently investigate credible allegations of unlawful or arbitrary arrests and detentions, killings and enforced disappearances of human rights defenders, political opponents and journalists, prosecuting alleged perpetrators under the law (United States of America);**

135.38 **Continue to participate in and engage with cases ongoing at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Malta);**

135.39 **Continue efforts to promote religious tolerance by ensuring accommodation for religious minorities in the workplace (Malta);**

135.40 **Amend article 96 of the Penal Code regarding incitement to genocide to bring it into line with international standards on freedom of expression (Slovenia);**

135.41 **Promote the right to freedom of expression by ending detentions and harassment of members of the media and civil society for their reporting (United States of America);**

135.42 **Consider reviewing the registration requirements for both national and international NGOs with a view to simplifying the process (Malta);**

135.43 **Amend Law No. 04/2012 and Law No. 05/2012, in consultation with civil society organizations, in order to remove existing restrictions on their legal registration (Uruguay);**

135.44 **Conduct thorough, impartial and independent investigations into all reports of harassment and attacks on human rights defenders and journalists, and bring those responsible to justice (Ireland);**

135.45 **Take measures to protect human right defenders and journalists from harassment and attacks and ensure independent credible investigations of alleged cases and the prosecution of offenders (Austria);**

135.46 **Screen, identify and provide support to trafficking victims, including those held in government transit centres (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

135.47 **Take all legal and administrative measures that are necessary to prevent, prosecute and eliminate the exploitation of children in the sex industry, including within the tourism sector (Chad);**

135.48 **Take all necessary measures to prevent, prosecute and eliminate the exploitation of children in the sex industry, including within the tourism sector (Chile);**

135.49 **Enhance the implementation of existing legislation to prevent child marriage (Namibia).**

136. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue have been examined by Rwanda and have been noted by Rwanda:**

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

136.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, as well as the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Cyprus);**

136.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on an individual complaints mechanism (Portugal);**

- 136.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Togo);**
- 136.5 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**
- 136.6 **Sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Honduras);**
- 136.7 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), to advance Sustainable Development Goals 5.4, 8 and 16 (Paraguay);**
- 136.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Togo);**
- 136.9 **Continue to make efforts to bring its domestic legislation in line with the international treaties Rwanda was party to before the Constitutional amendment of 2015 (India);**
- 136.10 **Accelerate the adoption of the bill on trafficking in persons (Timor-Leste);**
- 136.11 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and monitoring of human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**
- 136.12 **Ensure, in law and in practice, the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups of its population, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons as well as ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);**
- 136.13 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses direct and indirect discrimination and encompasses all the prohibited grounds of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**
- 136.14 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);**
- 136.15 **Adopt the implementing decree for the law determining the offences and penalties in general (Mali);**
- 136.16 **Enact legislation recognizing the full capacity of persons with disabilities (Montenegro);**
- 136.17 **Repeal all legal provisions that are discriminatory towards women and adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation; furthermore, strengthen efforts to raise awareness of existing legislation and to fight prejudices and stereotypical attitudes that lead to discriminatory practices against women (Portugal);**
- 136.18 **Guarantee the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people against violence, harassment and arbitrary arrests (France);**
- 136.19 **Consider investigating all allegations of extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions and enforced disappearances (Sierra Leone);**
- 136.20 **Conduct independent investigations into all cases of excessive use of force by security forces, as well as extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, in order to bring those responsible to justice (Switzerland);**
- 136.21 **Take all necessary measures to combat impunity for the crimes of enforced disappearance and human trafficking (Ukraine);**
- 136.22 **Take all appropriate measures to ensure that all reported cases of torture, enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention are investigated and**

ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Italy);

136.23 Allow independent investigations of allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities (Norway);

136.24 Ensure that members of marginalized groups – including persons with disabilities, children living in the streets and also lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals – do not become subject to arbitrary detention or ill-treatment by the security forces (Germany);

136.25 Increase transparency in the legal system and commission independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, deaths in custody and unlawful detentions (Australia);

136.26 Combat impunity for the crime of enforced disappearance (Côte d'Ivoire);

136.27 Investigate cases of extrajudicial arrests, unlawful detentions and arbitrary executions (Cyprus);

136.28 Ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is guaranteed and protected within Rwanda, and that religious minorities are treated equally as regards their human rights and fundamental freedoms (Ghana);

136.29 Promote media freedom by creating a legal framework for the self-regulatory Rwanda Media Commission (Germany);

136.30 Strengthen freedom of expression, in line with the Constitution of Rwanda and international law, particularly through the establishment of a binding legal instrument that guarantees the independence of the Rwanda Media Commission (Belgium);

136.31 Protect and uphold the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by respecting and supporting free and independent media, in line with international human rights standards (Iceland);

136.32 Take further measures to protect journalists and human rights defenders (Japan);

136.33 Take measures to protect freedom of expression and protect journalists from harassment and injustices (Norway);

136.34 Take concrete steps to ensure media independence (Sierra Leone);

136.35 Remove from the legislation any provision that violates the right to freedom of expression (Spain);

136.36 Amend article 2 (19) of the media law to broaden the definition of journalist in order to include citizen journalists, freelance journalists and bloggers, in accordance with international standards on freedom of expression (Canada);

136.37 Enhance freedom of expression by amending the 2018 Penal Code to repeal the offence of spreading false information or harmful propaganda with intent to cause hostile international opinion against the Rwandan Government and insults or defamation against the President (Australia);

136.38 Take measures against the legal ambiguity regarding the competences of media regulatory bodies such as the Rwanda Media Commission in order to strengthen their independence against government interference and align them with international standards (Austria);

136.39 Guarantee the protection and freedom of expression of politicians, journalists and rights defenders and fight against the impunity of the perpetrators of violence against them (France);

- 136.40 **Ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society, including by lifting onerous registration requirements on civil society organizations (Ireland);**
- 136.41 **Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment, and to relax the requirements for registering NGOs (Latvia);**
- 136.42 **Guarantee a vibrant civil society and the independence of NGOs by revising laws affecting their registration and operations (Norway);**
- 136.43 **Guarantee the independence of civil society organizations and human rights defenders (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 136.44 **Ensure the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association; fully investigate threats, arbitrary arrests, intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, who are recognized as stakeholders in the national Human Rights Action Plan; and review the registration of NGOs in order to simplify the process (Finland);**
- 136.45 **Strengthen its progress on democratization, the broadening of political and civil space and the protection of human rights defenders (Norway);**
- 136.46 **Protect the legitimate work of human rights defenders and political opponents (Spain);**
- 136.47 **Complete the adoption of the national action plan against human trafficking (Gabon);**
- 136.48 **Accelerate the process of adoption of the national action plan against human trafficking (Georgia);**
- 136.49 **Accelerate the adoption of the bill on trafficking in persons and child labour (Sierra Leone);**
- 136.50 **Eradicate child sexual exploitation and abuse by strengthening relevant legislation and establishing appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms (Cyprus);**
- 136.51 **Adopt a comprehensive policy to avert sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as all forms of slavery and trafficking (Holy See);**
- 136.52 **Reinforce measures to protect the rights of children and youth from sexual violence, abuse and trafficking (Mozambique);**
- 136.53 **Establish effective mechanisms, procedures and guidelines for the mandatory reporting of cases of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of minors (Senegal);**
- 136.54 **Ensure effective protection of the rights of the child, especially with regard to prevention, prosecution and elimination of sexual exploitation of children (Ukraine);**
- 136.55 **Support, through economic and social policies, the institution of the family and the preservation of family values (Haiti);**
- 136.56 **Adopt and implement comprehensive policies to increase employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and take more measures to promote the integration of women into the labour force (Malaysia);**
- 136.57 **Facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities in both the public and the private sectors and ensure their access to all public services (Turkey);**
- 136.58 **Promote the integration of women into the labour force and adopt a gender-sensitive and adequately resourced employment policy (Zambia);**
- 136.59 **Provide families living in poverty with adequate social protection and create income-generating opportunities for them (Malaysia);**

136.60 Amend its legislation in order to legalize the termination of pregnancies in cases of risk to the life of the pregnant woman, rape, incest and severe impairment of the fetus (Denmark);

136.61 Continue efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates, in particular by removing obstacles to access to termination of pregnancy in its existing legal clauses and continuing the public debate geared towards the ultimate decriminalization of abortion (Uruguay);

136.62 Consider introducing a year of mandatory and free preschool education (Argentina);

136.63 Take further steps to improve the enrolment of women at the tertiary education level (Ethiopia);

136.64 Strengthen efforts to improve the constitutional and policy framework with an aim to ensure women's participation in all levels of decision-making (Sudan);

136.65 Put in place appropriate mechanisms to combat gender-based violence (Mauritius);

136.66 Enact an explicit prohibition of the corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Croatia);

136.67 Ensure the proper application of Law No. 17/2017 establishing the National Rehabilitation Service so that no violation of the rights of the child is committed (Belgium);

136.68 Ensure adequate resources for programmes focusing on children, especially children with disabilities (Philippines);

136.69 Take the necessary institutional measures to ensure that street children in transit centres are not subjected to arbitrary detention or ill-treatment (Canada);

136.70 Take steps with a view to prohibiting early and forced marriage (Cyprus);

136.71 Take further measures to prevent child marriage (Mozambique);

136.72 Take measures to prevent child marriage, including by developing a national action plan and dedicating resources for its implementation (Zambia);

136.73 Adopt legal provisions recognizing the full legal capacity of persons with disabilities (Côte d'Ivoire);

136.74 Take all appropriate measures to prevent and combat all forms of disability-based discrimination (Chad);

136.75 Adopt a national strategy to ensure accessibility to public, health and education services for persons with disabilities (Sudan).

137. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting States 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 Rwanda was headed by Honourable Mr. Johnston Busingye, Minister of Justice and Attorney General and composed of the following members:

- Honourable Prof. Anastase SHYAKA, Minister of Local Government;
 - Dr. Usta KAIITESI, Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Governance Board;
 - Amb. Marie Chantal RWAKAZINA, Permanent Representative to the UNOG;
 - Ms. Providence UMURUNGI, Head of Department of International Justice & Judicial Cooperation, Ministry of Justice;
 - Mr. James NGANGO, Deputy Permanent Representative; and
 - Ms. Betty DUSENGE, Second Counsellor.
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