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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Paraguay

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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-eighth session from 3 to 14 May 2021. The review of Paraguay was held at the 6th meeting, on 5 May 2021. The delegation of Paraguay was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Euclides Acevedo. At its 10th meeting, held on 7 May 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Paraguay.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Paraguay: Germany, Namibia and Uruguay.
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 Paraguay:
 - (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, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay was transmitted to Paraguay 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 head of the delegation stated that Paraguay was appearing in its third universal periodic review to reaffirm its commitment to the observance of human rights. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had exposed inequalities in the provision of vaccines, which were a universal good. Paraguay wished to serve as a member of the Human Rights Council. All human rights in Paraguay were vital, important and inalienable.
6. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs referred to the main areas of the national report. For Paraguay, the universal periodic review was an exercise of peer evaluation, reflection and self-evaluation. He highlighted the role played by the recommendations monitoring system (SIMORE Plus) developed by Paraguay, and noted that the country's experience with the system had been shared through technical cooperation.
7. Progress made in the country between 2016 and 2020 had included a series of new laws, the ratification of international human rights treaties and the strengthening of the institutional framework. In 2016, a new Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman had been appointed, although the challenge of complying with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) had persisted, as a constitutional amendment was needed.
8. Given the social and economic cost of corruption, Paraguay had adopted the National Integrity, Transparency and Anticorruption Plan for 2021–2025. Within the framework of the “100 points of Brasilia”, the judiciary had approved an access to justice policy for older persons and persons with disabilities, and a protocol for intercultural justice.

¹ A/HRC/WG.6/38/PRY/1.

² A/HRC/WG.6/38/PRY/2.

³ A/HRC/WG.6/38/PRY/3.

9. The National Plan on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, adopted in 2020, constituted a significant advance in the fight against trafficking in persons. Since 2018, more resources had been allocated to the national fund for prevention and for the provision of care for victims.

10. In order to reduce poverty, Paraguay was implementing the National Poverty Reduction Plan “Jajapo Paraguay” and the approach set out in the Social Protection System “Vamos!” The Integrated Strategy for Employment Formalization was in place to guarantee fair and favourable working conditions. In 2019, the Domestic Labour Act had been amended to bring the wages for domestic labour into line with the minimum wage.

11. Regarding maternal and infant mortality, the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs referred to the Family Planning Programme, the Plan for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Fetal and Neonatal Mortality and the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan 2019–2023. The National Education Plan 2024 was aimed at achieving improvements in access to and the quality of education.

12. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs highlighted the fourth National Equality Plan and the adoption of Act No. 5777/16 on the Comprehensive Protection of Women from All Forms of Violence. The National Policy on Children and Adolescents guided action by strengthening the National System for the Comprehensive Protection and Advancement of Children and Adolescents.

13. Paraguay had adopted the Indigenous Peoples National Plan and a protocol for consultation and free, prior and informed consent had been adopted in 2018.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

14. During the interactive dialogue, 79 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

15. Azerbaijan noted that Paraguay had strengthened its institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, including through the establishment of a Sustainable Development Goals commission and the improvement of the judicial system.

16. The Bahamas commended the progress made by Paraguay in strengthening its legal framework to preserve the environment, through the ratification of the Paris Agreement, and to protect human life, through the adoption of the Comprehensive Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons.

17. Belarus noted that human rights mechanisms continued to point to a wide range of human rights concerns in Paraguay, including reports of torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance, and excessive pretrial detention.

18. Belgium welcomed the adoption by Paraguay of a national action plan for the protection of children from all forms of violence, but expressed concern about the increase in sexual violence against adolescent girls and the prevalence of child labour.

19. The Plurinational State of Bolivia congratulated Paraguay for the progress made regarding the national plan of consultation with indigenous peoples. It suggested that Paraguay end the wage gap between men and women, improve efforts to address the problem of overcrowding in prisons, reinforce mechanisms aimed at preventing violence against women and continue its efforts to support access by indigenous peoples to education.

20. Botswana noted with appreciation the harmonization of the National Human Rights Plan and the National Development Plan with the Sustainable Development Goals and commended Paraguay for the enactment of laws and policies aimed at protecting the environment.

21. Brazil commended progress made on access to justice for vulnerable groups, gender equality in the judicial, labour and political areas and policies to prevent trafficking in persons and combat corruption. It suggested that Paraguay increase the budget for the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.

22. Bulgaria expressed appreciation for efforts to promote the rights of women and girls, address gender-based violence and strengthen the protection of the rights of the child and the rights of persons with disabilities. It encouraged Paraguay to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Human Rights Plan, including through the allocation of human, technical and financial resources.
23. Canada congratulated Paraguay on the development of the updated SIMORE Plus system, an open government platform for the monitoring of the implementation of international human rights recommendations linked to the Sustainable Development Goals.
24. Chile commended the efforts of Paraguay to strengthen institutions through the creation of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the ratification of the Paris Agreement. Chile recognized the will of Paraguay to provide technical cooperation through SIMORE Plus.
25. China noted with concern the high levels of poverty, especially among rural populations and indigenous peoples; education and health systems that were underdeveloped and reflected social inequalities; women and girls subjected to discrimination and violence; and organized crime and trafficking in persons.
26. Colombia recognized the country's strong commitment to human rights, and requested it to continue promoting SIMORE Plus. Colombia suggested that Paraguay advance in the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and commended Paraguay for action taken against domestic violence in the context of COVID-19.
27. Costa Rica recognized the important progress achieved in the use and implementation of SIMORE Plus, and praised the Government for action taken to make improvements in the areas of human rights and the environment, and for the protection of persons with disabilities.
28. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Paraguay on the progress achieved in the area of human rights, especially regarding the ratification of the main human rights instruments.
29. Cuba acknowledged the efforts made by Paraguay in addressing identified human rights challenges, in particular efforts regarding poverty eradication and guaranteeing essential rights, such as the rights to food, health, education and adequate housing.
30. Czechia noted with appreciation that Paraguay had implemented several recommendations since the previous review, including in the areas of international criminal law and the rights of the child.
31. Denmark commended Paraguay for legislative action taken in 2019 on indigenous peoples' rights, while expressing concern about the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights, including the right to political participation and land rights, and about reports of increased levels of sexual and gender-based violence.
32. The Dominican Republic congratulated Paraguay for progress made in the implementation, and the monitoring of implementation, of accepted recommendations, and for its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through SIMORE Plus, and highlighted the positive impact of the country's technical cooperation programme.
33. Ecuador recognized the progress made by Paraguay since the previous universal periodic review cycle, in particular regarding the SIMORE Plus system for implementing commitments and recommendations regarding human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals.
34. Fiji commended Paraguay for the action taken concerning climate change, including its ratification of the Paris Agreement and implementation of relevant domestic legislation and national action plans.
35. Finland expressed great appreciation for the engagement of Paraguay in the universal periodic review process.
36. France encouraged the Government to step up its efforts to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

37. Georgia expressed appreciation for the adoption of the Education Action Plan 2018–2023, in which the Government prioritized actions in accordance with the National Education Plan 2024, the National Development Plan: Paraguay 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
38. Germany commended improvements in the areas of women’s and children rights but remained concerned about corruption, intimidation of and threats against journalists and human rights defenders, and domestic violence, despite legislative improvements.
39. Haiti welcomed the efforts made to improve access to education and the measures adopted by the country with a view to mitigating the negative effects of climate change.
40. Iceland acknowledged the efforts made in preparing the national report; it also noted the steps outlined in the report, and expressed hope for their continued implementation.
41. India noted the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals commission, as well as a number of initiatives undertaken to contribute to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of the people in Paraguay.
42. China made a point of order, stating that there was only one China in the world and Taiwan Province of China was an inalienable part of its territory. In its intervention, Haiti had used terminology that was in clear contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), in which the Assembly had resolved the issue of the representation of China to the United Nations. China noted that the terminology used by Haiti undermined the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and was contrary to the principles of non-confrontation and non-politicization of the universal periodic review process. China requested the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council to ask Haiti to refrain from using such terminology and to include the point of order in the record. The Vice-President of the Council stated that the point of order made by China would be part of the record.
43. Indonesia welcomed the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons.
44. Iraq noted the national laws, other legislation and plans announced by Paraguay, which, if the country was committed to implementing them, would serve to improve human rights conditions in many areas.
45. Ireland expressed concern about the inadequate resourcing for the public prosecutor’s office and the Office of the Ombudsman. It underlined the need to comply with the Paris Principles.
46. Israel welcomed the Comprehensive Act on Combating Trafficking in Persons and the National Education Plan. It commended Paraguay for measures taken to improve the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, while expressing concern for the possible implications of the declaration identifying municipalities as “pro-family”.
47. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the adoption of the 2016 act aimed at, among other things, protecting children from physical punishment, and the 2018 act on the prevention of sexual violence and the care of sexually abused children and adolescents. It commended Paraguay for the criminalization of femicide and for efforts to counter trafficking in persons.
48. Japan welcomed the steps taken by Paraguay to give effect to human rights commitments and recommendations, especially additional measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
49. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the progress made in Paraguay to advance the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups and the development and implementation of national plans concerning women, children and adolescents, and indigenous peoples.
50. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic welcomed efforts made in Paraguay to improve the living standards of its people and to improve access to and the quality of education, including for persons with disabilities.

51. Lebanon commended Paraguay for the power granted to the public prosecution service with regard to trafficking in persons in order to enable the service to combat the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents. It welcomed the adoption of the National Plan on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons in 2020.
52. Malaysia welcomed the government plan entitled “Paraguay of the People” for 2018–2023, the National Poverty Reduction Plan and the National Plan for Children’s Comprehensive Health 2016–2021, and encouraged Paraguay to make further advancements in the areas of labour; combating slavery; education for children; and the welfare of persons with disabilities and indigenous communities.
53. Maldives welcomed the Recommendations Monitoring System (SIMORE), and its updated version, SIMORE Plus, which drew on a network of 167 focal points from executive, legislative and judicial institutions and autonomous agencies.
54. The Marshall Islands noted dramatic climate events experienced by Paraguay that had disproportionately affected indigenous peoples and women, and expressed concern about high rates of discrimination against indigenous peoples, particularly ongoing violations of their land rights.
55. Mauritius welcomed the establishment of a rehabilitation centre for women aimed at empowering women in Paraguay. It also noted the Family Planning Programme designed to reduce maternal, fetal and neonatal mortality.
56. Mexico welcomed the Act on the Comprehensive Protection of Women from All Forms of Violence, the National Plan on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, and the Act establishing the right to a pension for elderly people living in poverty.
57. Mongolia welcomed the Act on the Comprehensive Protection of Women from All Forms of Violence and the second National Plan to Combat Violence against Women (2015–2020), and efforts to revise normative, institutional and programme frameworks in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encouraged Paraguay to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman in line with the Paris Principles.
58. Montenegro welcomed SIMORE and SIMORE Plus. It expressed concern about the lack of a comprehensive anti-discrimination legal framework and the persistent discrimination against women, people of African descent, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, sex workers, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS.
59. Morocco noted the ratification of the Paris Agreement and the adoption of an act that prohibited the transformation and conversion of forest areas in the eastern region of the country.
60. Namibia acknowledged the country’s considerable progress in implementing the accepted recommendations and stated that it was impressed by the fact that Paraguay had a permanent national recommendation monitoring system, SIMORE Plus, which, inter alia, monitored the implementation of recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review process.
61. Nepal welcomed the Climate Change Act and the National Strategy for the Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Labour 2019–2024. It expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Paraguay to combat trafficking in persons, and the country’s plans and policies to fight poverty.
62. The Netherlands encouraged Paraguay to continue efforts to improve gender equality, and to adopt the bill creating a mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders. It remained concerned about persistent impunity and the lack of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation with a specific focus on vulnerable groups.
63. Nicaragua thanked Paraguay for introducing its national report and made recommendations.
64. The Niger welcomed the SIMORE monitoring system, and the National Development Plan of 2018, aimed at increasing the social protection of the population, and encouraged

Paraguay to continue implementing the National Poverty Reduction Plan “Jajapo Paraguay”, aimed at implementing policies of protection, economic integration and social cohesion.

65. Pakistan acknowledged the country’s efforts to combat discrimination and reform the justice system, and to improve the rights of women. Pakistan remained concerned at financial challenges faced in the Office of the Ombudsman and in combating discrimination, particularly against indigenous people and people of African descent.

66. Panama acknowledged the country’s international leadership in the area of national mechanisms for reporting on, implementation of and follow-up to human rights recommendations. It commended the contribution made by Paraguay to countries in all regions through the SIMORE Plus technical cooperation programme.

67. Peru acknowledged progress made by Paraguay, including the expansion of the Recommendations Monitoring System, now SIMORE Plus, which linked the follow-up of international human rights recommendations to the Sustainable Development Goals.

68. The Philippines commended Paraguay on the SIMORE monitoring system and noted positively the efforts made by the country in strengthening measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and indigenous peoples.

69. Poland welcomed the country’s efforts regarding free access to health care and various health programmes; the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and efforts aimed at combating corruption in the public sphere. It strongly advocated for further developments in the latter area.

70. Portugal commended Paraguay for putting in place the SIMORE Plus system and for the technical cooperation provided to other countries on the implementation of human rights recommendations.

71. The Republic of Korea welcomed the fourth National Equality Plan (2018–2024). It expressed appreciation for the country’s efforts to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability, including through relevant institutional and policy reforms such as the National Integrity Plan 2021–2025.

72. Romania commended the country’s readiness to follow up on the fulfilment of its international human rights obligations, including through the SIMORE system. While appreciating the important steps taken to improve the human rights situation in Paraguay, Romania noted the persistence of significant challenges.

73. The Russian Federation noted that a number of human rights challenges remained in Paraguay and acknowledged the country’s openness to cooperating with the international community on human rights issues.

74. Rwanda highlighted the adoption of the National Education Plan 2024, containing actions to improve access to quality education, and the adoption of the Act on the Comprehensive Protection of Women from All Forms of Violence.

75. Senegal welcomed the voluntary commitments made by Paraguay and the efforts made to strengthen its normative, institutional and political framework for the protection of human rights with a view to improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations.

76. Serbia commended the country’s efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle. It particularly welcomed measures adopted to strengthen the institutional framework, including increases in the number of governmental human rights agencies.

77. Singapore praised the efforts made by Paraguay to expand primary health care across the country, as well as several national programmes focused on vulnerable groups. Singapore also acknowledged efforts made to promote the rule of law and combat corruption within the judiciary.

78. Slovenia encouraged Paraguay to strengthen its efforts to reduce the level of violence against women in all settings. Slovenia remained concerned about reports of violence faced

by human rights defenders and journalists, and called on Paraguay to establish a national protection mechanism.

79. Spain acknowledged a number of developments made and noted specific areas for further improvement, including reducing unwanted pregnancies among minors, providing quality water and sanitation services for all, and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and human rights defenders.

80. The State of Palestine commended the efforts made by Paraguay since the previous universal periodic review cycle, including measures to combat discrimination and the introduction of literacy and vocational programmes for indigenous communities.

81. The Sudan welcomed the delegation of Paraguay and thanked it for presenting its national report.

82. Switzerland noted with satisfaction the criminalization of femicide, but remained concerned by the level of violence against women and girls. It expressed concern about the conditions of detention and the continued attacks and reprisals against human rights defenders, despite the improved recognition of such defenders.

83. Thailand encouraged Paraguay to advance in the effective implementation of the National Plan on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons. While acknowledging efforts, Thailand also remained concerned about domestic and gender-based violence, which had increased during the pandemic.

84. Timor-Leste applauded Paraguay for introducing non-formal literacy and vocational programmes for indigenous communities, and for adopting the national adolescent health plan covering the period 2016–2021.

85. Trinidad and Tobago noted efforts made to address challenges in combating poverty and improving access to food, health care, education and housing, which focused on the most vulnerable groups. It also acknowledged that Paraguay was considering making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

86. Ukraine noted with appreciation the implementation of its recommendations regarding gender violence and trafficking in women, but highlighted that further efforts were needed. It expressed particular concern about a reported increase in domestic violence during the pandemic and the alarming number of femicides.

87. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the adoption of Act No. 5777/16, aimed at eradicating all forms of violence against women and ensuring that women had access to health, education and justice. It encouraged Paraguay to protect human rights defenders.

88. The United States of America commended the progress made by Paraguay on disability rights and civil society engagement. It expressed concerns about systemic corruption, impunity and limitations on judicial independence.

89. Uruguay recognized the efforts made by Paraguay, including those relating to the performance of the SIMORE Plus system.

90. Uzbekistan commended Paraguay for the number of institutions, organizations and agencies working in the area of human rights, and noted the appointment of the Ombudsman and the Deputy Ombudsman.

91. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed concern about the sustained and systematic direct and indirect violations of human rights in Paraguay, and about discrimination perpetrated against indigenous peoples, peasants, domestic workers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, despite measures adopted to implement recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review.

92. Argentina welcomed the delegation and thanked Paraguay for its collaboration with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

93. Australia welcomed the country's efforts to improve its human rights framework, including through the Act on the Comprehensive Protection of Women from All Forms of

Violence, but remained concerned about a range of human rights issues, including the lack of enforcement of the constitutional clause against discrimination.

94. Guyana welcomed the decision to implement a prison reform plan, and noted many initiatives introduced to improve detention conditions and the social reintegration of persons deprived of their liberty.

95. China made another point of order, noting that issues of a political, bilateral and territorial nature should be kept out of the deliberations of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and that United Nations terminology should be used when referring to States. China reiterated that there was only one China in the world and that Taiwan Province of China was an inalienable part of its territory. The terminology used by Haiti was a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), in which the Assembly had resolved the issue of the representation of China to the United Nations. China reiterated its request that the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council refer to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

96. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Paraguay and Chargé d'affaires a.i. introduced the Paraguayan delegation, highlighting the number of ministers and other high-ranking officials participating in the interactive dialogue.

97. China made another point of order, reiterating its request to the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council to expressly refer to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) regarding the issue of Taiwan Province of China and to state that the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review should follow United Nations terminology. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council indicated that the point of order would be duly noted, including the reference to General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) raised by China. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council recalled that United Nations terminology should be used when referring to States and territories.

98. China reiterated again that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) should be mentioned.

99. The President of the Supreme Court of Paraguay stressed that in the past 20 years strategic guidelines had incorporated a human rights-based approach and cross-cutting and specific efforts had been made to ensure access to justice. In 2016, Paraguay began implementing electronic judicial procedures, and they were currently in use in approximately 70 per cent of the judicial districts. Agreement No. 1511/21 on the exceptional application of pretrial detention had had a very positive impact.

100. The Attorney General indicated that the areas of human rights and access to justice had been strengthened, and that more than 100 complaints offices were operational. Punishable acts against journalists would be investigated by the Specialized Human Rights Unit.

101. The Chief Public Defender highlighted the protocols for support for both lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and women who had been victims of violence, and noted that specialized groups had been created to address the needs of sectors of greater vulnerability. She mentioned the mobile application and web platform "Defensores Paraguay" for the registration of torture cases, and reported on progress in access-to-justice indicators.

102. The Minister representing the High Court of Electoral Justice referred to the efforts and achievements made in terms of political participation of women, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities, and reported on actions aimed at achieving higher levels of participation and representation. The Minister of Justice referred to the link between the National Human Rights Plan and the results-based planning system, and to the process of preparing the third action plan of the Human Rights Network. She mentioned actions aimed at restoring the Vice-Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and about the drafting of an organic law to elevate it to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights.

103. Regarding the prison system, the Minister of Justice referred to action taken to improve security and the health system, to the construction of three new penitentiary centres, and to the decrease in the number of adolescents deprived of liberty. She mentioned the

reactivation of the search for missing persons who had been disappeared, the process to modify the Act on Access to Public Information, and the digitization of people's records.

104. The President of the Human Rights Commission of the Senate highlighted the strengthening of the human rights institutional framework. While the study of the bill for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders continued, their work had been declared of national interest. He also referred to the bill against all forms of discrimination, and to the establishment of protection mechanisms for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in areas such as health and access to justice.

105. The Parliamentary Secretary of the Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies affirmed the continuation of efforts to address sensitive issues relating to the rights of girls, boys and adolescents, violence against women, democratic parity, trafficking in persons, indigenous peoples, journalists and human rights defenders, extreme poverty, and the right to land, among others. The State was committed to continuing to work with civil society to discuss and adapt legislation related to human rights.

106. The Minister of the Interior indicated that the protocol for the safety of journalists was in force, and that in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic migration controls had been adapted according to health and humanitarian criteria. Regarding peaceful demonstrations, he referred to the handbook on use of force and the process to review it to bring it more into line with human rights standards.

107. The Minister of Education and the Sciences highlighted the implementation of policies and programmes designed to promote equal opportunities. School classes were in progress, as were inclusive and free education projects, indigenous education initiatives, education initiatives for people in a confined environment, and continuing education courses. He also referred to the process for reforming the education system through the educational transformation project.

108. The Minister for Women referred to the implementation of the fourth National Equality Plan and relevant regulations concerning rural women, domestic work, maternity and breastfeeding, the minimum age of marriage, and protection against violence. She highlighted the inclusion of a budget for the prevention of and protection against trafficking in persons and for receiving complaints of trafficking, and referred to the offer of services in regional centres and the Ciudad Mujer centre and through Ciudad Mujer Móvil.

109. The Minister for Children and Adolescents highlighted the strengthening of the protection and promotion system, the elevation of the Secretariat for Children and Adolescents to a Ministry, and the prioritization of the strategy for the protection of children in early childhood and the programme for the protection of indigenous children. The State had an action plan to eradicate violence against children and adolescents, and campaigns to that end had been carried out.

110. The vice-minister responsible for, among other things, health surveillance, emphasized the commitment to gradually advance towards universal access and coverage. The maternal mortality ratio had decreased from 81.8 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 67.3 per 100,000 live births in 2019. Regarding mental health, a technical commission had been formed to promote a proposal for a mental health bill. Regarding the strengthening of the integrated comprehensive health networks, the infrastructure in 300 family health units and regional, general, district and specialized hospitals had been improved.

111. The Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security noted the increase in support for workers and employers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the strengthening of the Labour Affairs Support Service, including special protection for women. She highlighted the National Strategy for the Eradication of Child Labour and the Protection of Adolescent Labour, the installation of an office in the western region, the prioritization of support for indigenous communities, and the adoption of the second National Strategy for the Prevention of Forced Labour.

112. The Minister of Urbanization, Housing and Habitat referred to the prioritization of housing solutions for highly vulnerable sectors. Successive transformations had led to the current legal status of the Ministry. He noted the quantitative and qualitative housing deficit,

and the completion of more than 6,600 homes, of which 20 per cent were for indigenous peoples. The national plan for urbanization, housing and habitat was being prepared.

113. The Executive Secretary, Head and General Coordinator of the Social Cabinet highlighted the establishment of the Social Protection System “Vamos!”, which was focused on providing support for children, adolescents, women, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples through a human rights-based approach.

114. The Executive Secretary of the National Secretariat for the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities reported on the conclusion of the development of indicators under the National Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2019. She also noted the incorporation of the variable “disability” in the control board for the planning-by-results system, which made it possible to monitor compliance with the Plan and linked the Plan to budget execution.

115. The President of the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute said that in order to guarantee the exercise of civil and political rights, members of indigenous communities were registered in the Civil Registry and the Permanent Civic Registry and provided with an indigenous card, an identity card, and training sessions on political and electoral matters. He highlighted the adoption of the protocol on consultation and free, prior and informed consent and the corresponding regulation, which was in process, as well as the launch of the Indigenous Peoples National Plan.

116. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs reiterated the country’s commitment to the universal periodic review process. He thanked the States for their interest in participating in the interactive dialogue and for their observations and recommendations, and assured that the recommendations would be thoroughly and seriously examined by Paraguay.

117. In conclusion, he highlighted that the multidimensional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated already large asymmetries; inequality within and between States had increased. Guaranteeing fair, equitable and universal access to vaccines must be a global priority. Paraguay participated in the universal periodic examination because the country believed in multilateralism, supported by actions guided by real solidarity and cooperation.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

118.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Bahamas) (Costa Rica) (France) (Mongolia);

118.2 Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Morocco); Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger);

118.3 Ratify the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) (Slovenia);

118.4 Give priority to the internal process oriented to the ratification of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) (Uruguay);

118.5 Ratify the Escazú Agreement and ensure appropriate resources are in place to enforce it domestically in order to better protect environmental defenders, including indigenous peoples, rural leaders and journalists (Canada);

118.6 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960 (Mauritius) (Rwanda);

- 118.7 **Accede to the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Poland);**
- 118.8 **Take additional measures, already under way in Congress, aimed at ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Romania);**
- 118.9 **Step up the ratification process of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Senegal);**
- 118.10 **Consider signing and ratifying the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons (Argentina);**
- 118.11 **Ratify the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 118.12 **Strengthen its cooperation with various United Nations human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);**
- 118.13 **Continue efforts to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of the National Human Rights Plan, ensuring the active participation of civil society (Chile);**
- 118.14 **Take further steps in strengthening the implementation of Paraguay's human rights national action plan, especially those related to protecting the rights of women and children (Indonesia);**
- 118.15 **Continue efforts to implement the National Human Rights Plan, and provide the national human rights institution with the necessary human and financial resources in order to fulfil its mandate (Sudan);**
- 118.16 **Ensure that the national human rights institution functions fully in line with the Paris Principles, through the provision of the necessary human, technical and financial resources, to ensure that it implements its mandate (Chile);**
- 118.17 **Continue with measures to strengthen human rights institutions, especially the ombudsperson and the deputy ombudsperson, in line with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**
- 118.18 **Establish a transparent and participatory procedure for the election of the Ombudsman that guarantees pluralism, independence and selection based on a track record in the defence of human rights (Finland);**
- 118.19 **Further strengthen the national human rights institution, the Office of the Ombudsman, in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 118.20 **Continue efforts in aligning its national human rights institution with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**
- 118.21 **Establish a selection procedure for the position of Ombudsman in compliance with the Paris Principles that is transparent, participatory and guarantees independence, with selection based on a recognized track record in the defence of human rights (Ireland);**
- 118.22 **Ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman is in full compliance with the Paris Principles and adequate human, technical, financial resources are provided to ensure it fulfils its mandate (Malaysia);**
- 118.23 **Strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman with greater human and budgetary resources in accordance with the Paris Principles, and ensure that the selection process for its head is transparent, participatory and based on merit (Mexico);**
- 118.24 **Take all necessary measures to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman operates in accordance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**
- 118.25 **Continue measures to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

118.26 Take additional measures to strengthen the Ombudsman's Office, including ensuring transparency in its appointment process and the provision of requisite resources (Pakistan);

118.27 Adopt measures aimed at ensuring that the Ombudsman institution complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)(Romania);

118.28 Take necessary steps, including at the constitutional level, to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);

118.29 Implement a transparent and participatory method of selecting the human rights Ombudsman to advocate for transparency and independence in judicial processes and to ensure effective investigation into human rights violations and the prosecution of perpetrators (United States of America);

118.30 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);

118.31 Take measures to eliminate violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Israel);

118.32 Seek legislative measures that strengthen non-discrimination against minority groups (Nicaragua);

118.33 Expedite the adoption of the law prohibiting all forms of discrimination in compliance with international law (Pakistan);

118.34 Redouble efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and assess the need to develop a comprehensive legislative framework in this field (Peru);

118.35 Introduce a comprehensive anti-discrimination legal framework and tackle persistent discrimination against women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities (Poland);

118.36 Provide training on human rights and on combating discrimination and violence, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity, to health personnel, members of the judiciary, police forces and prison officers (Portugal);

118.37 Continue its efforts to remove obstacles and address causes of discrimination, adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination and guarantee protection against discrimination for women, persons of African descent and indigenous peoples (State of Palestine);

118.38 Adopt the necessary legal standards to prevent and condemn all forms of discrimination, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Ecuador);

118.39 Strengthen the fight against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (France);

118.40 Beyond constitutional efforts to address discrimination, adopt a law against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Germany);

118.41 Adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Belgium);

118.42 Adopt a law against all forms of discrimination and violence, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);

118.43 Adopt legislation against all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Netherlands);

- 118.44 **Pass legislation prohibiting discrimination, including comprehensive prohibitions against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.45 **Encourage the adoption of a law that guarantees the prohibition of all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay);**
- 118.46 **Approve an anti-discrimination law to prevent and sanction discrimination in all its forms, including discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, as previously recommended in April 2016 (Argentina);**
- 118.47 **Enact legislation to prohibit discrimination, including based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);**
- 118.48 **Ensure that women, children, persons with disabilities, minority groups, and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);**
- 118.49 **Curb deforestation and implement a forest restoration plan, and strengthen environmental legislation and its implementation, keeping in mind the rising global temperature and the role forests play in binding carbon dioxide (Marshall Islands);**
- 118.50 **Adopt a comprehensive national adaptation and mitigation plan for climate change, taking into account the views of all affected communities (Marshall Islands);**
- 118.51 **Adopt measures consistent with human rights to strengthen adaptation policies and programmes to address the issues of climate change and disaster risk management (Panama);**
- 118.52 **Defend environmental commitments by titling communal lands and strengthening implementation of environmental laws such as the Zero Deforestation Law (United States of America);**
- 118.53 **Step up efforts to improve conditions of detention, reduce overcrowding in prisons and ensure that conditions of detention in all places of deprivation of liberty are in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 118.54 **Continue efforts to build and strengthen the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, ensuring that it is adequately resourced and empowered to fulfil its functions (Fiji);**
- 118.55 **Take necessary measures to address prison overcrowding, especially during this time of pandemic (Indonesia);**
- 118.56 **Continue efforts aimed at dealing with prison overcrowding and poor living conditions, and work to improve conditions of detention (Iraq);**
- 118.57 **Investigate all cases of torture, extrajudicial execution and enforced disappearance (Belarus);**
- 118.58 **Take measures to bring conditions of detention into line with international standards and to reduce overcrowding in places of deprivation of liberty (Belarus);**
- 118.59 **Ensure that all allegations of acts of torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary killings by the security forces are duly investigated and prosecuted (Italy);**
- 118.60 **Reduce overcrowding in prisons and enhance living conditions in detention centers and establishments for persons with mental disabilities (Poland);**

- 118.61 Step up efforts to improve the penitentiary system, which is in poor condition, in particular to find additional resources to deal with overcrowding (Russian Federation);
- 118.62 Continue efforts to improve detention conditions, including reducing overcrowding (Rwanda);
- 118.63 Step up efforts to ensure investigations and prosecutions of alleged abuses by law enforcement officials to curb violations such as torture and arbitrary detention (Botswana);
- 118.64 Reduce the use of pretrial detention and ensure that conditions of detention are in line with international standards (Switzerland);
- 118.65 Adopt policies as well as capacity-building and prevention measures against arbitrary detention, torture and excessive use of force by State agents, particularly in the follow-up of the health measures to combat COVID-19, and strengthen the capacities of investigation and judicial response in these areas (Brazil);
- 118.66 Continue reforms of the penitentiary system to address the issue of overcrowding in prisons, and improve living conditions, including in educational institutions, police stations and institutions for people with mental disorders (Uzbekistan);
- 118.67 Punish human rights violations committed by the Joint Task Force, such as arbitrary executions, abusive use of lethal force and torture (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 118.68 Adopt effective initiatives to confront the abusive use of pretrial detention and the serious prison overcrowding (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 118.69 Move forward without delay and in an impartial manner in the investigation of the murder of two 11-year-old Argentinean girls in the context of the Joint Task Force operation on 2 September 2020. To this end, Argentina reiterates its offer to make available the experience of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, internationally recognized for the seriousness of its work, to clarify the facts (Argentina);
- 118.70 Continue efforts to end abusive practices by security forces and to improve prison and detention centre conditions, including in the context of Paraguay's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Australia);
- 118.71 Continue to ensure that the rights of persons deprived of liberty are respected, and that it investigate all deaths of persons deprived of liberty and strengthen existing mechanisms for the prevention of torture (Guyana);
- 118.72 Strengthen its efforts to eradicate all forms of interference in the judiciary by other branches of government (Czechia);
- 118.73 Strengthen the judicial system, especially in the field of criminal jurisdiction, including with a view to overcome backlogs of cases (Germany);
- 118.74 Make effective efforts to further strengthen administration of justice (Japan);
- 118.75 Continue with efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary through concrete and transparent measures (Singapore);
- 118.76 Provide the office of the public defender with human, technical and financial resources necessary for its mandate (Uzbekistan);
- 118.77 Continue its efforts to combat corruption and impunity by ensuring judicial independence through the strengthening of the institutional framework (Republic of Korea);

- 118.78 **Intensify efforts to combat corruption in order to achieve a more equal and sustainable social and economic development (Germany);**
- 118.79 **Consider developing a national anti-corruption strategy (Belarus);**
- 118.80 **Guarantee that the protection and prevention of censorship or any other limitation or violation of freedom of expression and freedom of the press is in line with international human rights standards (Costa Rica);**
- 118.81 **Guarantee freedom of the press and the protection of journalists and the media, and end restrictions on the freedoms of association and peaceful assembly (France);**
- 118.82 **Enact as a matter of priority the law for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Ireland);**
- 118.83 **Adopt measures to ensure that human rights defenders and journalists can carry out their work in a safe environment, without risk of reprisals (Italy);**
- 118.84 **Protect the right to freedom of expression for members of the press by prosecuting assaults against journalists, providing licences to independent outlets, and supporting unions for journalists (United States of America);**
- 118.85 **Put an end to legal obstacles to the exercise of freedom of association, in particular in the workplace, and investigate incidents of persecution for trade unionism (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 118.86 **Adopt all necessary measures to guarantee the right to life and safety of human rights defenders and journalists (Czechia);**
- 118.87 **Adopt all necessary measures to prevent and stop the criminalization of human rights defenders (Ecuador);**
- 118.88 **Consider progressive law reforms on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders across all sectors, further guaranteeing media freedom and freedom of expression (Fiji);**
- 118.89 **Ensure accountability for all human rights violations against journalists and human rights defenders, with the full ascertainment of the facts surrounding the violations and disclosure to the victims and their families (Fiji);**
- 118.90 **Establish a protection mechanism for human rights defenders (France);**
- 118.91 **Adopt all necessary measures to prevent and stop the criminalization of human rights defenders and journalists (Germany);**
- 118.92 **Ensure the provision of effective assistance and protection to human rights defenders and journalists against threats, violence and intimidation, and investigate attacks, reprisals and assaults against them (Belgium);**
- 118.93 **Pursue prompt, thorough and transparent investigations into all crimes committed against journalists, ensuring prosecution of perpetrators and victims' access to effective remedies (Netherlands);**
- 118.94 **Finalize parliamentary procedures for the enactment of the law on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders (Spain);**
- 118.95 **Conduct swift, independent, effective and impartial investigations into all attacks against human rights defenders (Switzerland);**
- 118.96 **Improve policies for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers (Brazil);**
- 118.97 **Promote the parliamentary debate for the approval of a law for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders with the participation of all relevant actors; that includes an institutional framework for the round table on the safety of journalists (Uruguay);**

118.98 Put an end to the growing hostility and criminalization of journalists and human rights defenders, and punish recent attacks against journalists for reporting on the COVID-19 emergency (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

118.99 Accelerate the process of effective implementation of the national programme for the prevention of, combating of, and care of victims of, trafficking in persons and the national fund for investment in prevention and the care of victims of trafficking in persons (Georgia);

118.100 Step up efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including ensuring the effective investigation of these crimes and accountability for perpetrators (Belarus);

118.101 Strengthen its efforts to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons, including by providing training for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and immigration agents (Israel);

118.102 Continue addressing trafficking in persons by strengthening enforcement measures, strict punishment and adequate training for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and immigration agents (Malaysia);

118.103 Further strengthen inter-institutional as well as multisectoral cooperation in the development and implementation of programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Philippines);

118.104 Strengthen and intensify the implementation of the national programme and investment fund to prevent, combat, and care for victims of, human trafficking (Botswana);

118.105 Step up efforts to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons, including by providing training for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers and immigration agents (Sudan);

118.106 Ensure that human trafficking offences are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, that the persons responsible are prosecuted and punished, and the victims have access to adequate protection and assistance measures, including legal assistance (Ukraine);

118.107 End high cases of labour and sexual exploitation, and implement a comprehensive victim attention programme (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

118.108 Support, through economic and social policies, the institution of the family and the preservation of family values (Haiti);

118.109 Protect the fundamental rights of domestic workers in precarious working conditions (Ecuador);

118.110 Take concrete steps to close the pay gap between men and women, as well as address the underrepresentation of women in public life (Bahamas);

118.111 Guarantee gender equality, especially by reducing the wage gap between men and women (Nicaragua);

118.112 Ensure labour protection for domestic workers, especially indigenous women (Nicaragua);

118.113 Carry out poverty reduction to substantially reduce the poor population, and improve the living standards of the rural population and indigenous peoples (China);

118.114 Strengthen the social security system to effectively protect the rights of vulnerable groups (China);

118.115 Continue to implement measures aimed at reducing poverty levels in rural areas, particularly for vulnerable groups (Dominican Republic);

118.116 Accelerate the implementation of an effective social policy, focusing on early childhood and aimed at ending intergenerational poverty (Iceland);

- 118.117 Approve the updated version of the National Development Plan (Lebanon);
- 118.118 Follow-up the efforts made to combat extreme poverty (Lebanon);
- 118.119 Continue strengthening the policies and programmes within the existing Social Protection System, which should prioritize those who find themselves in conditions of social and economic vulnerability exacerbated by the pandemic (Romania);
- 118.120 Review environmental regulations in the field of industrial agriculture to prevent water pollution and improve the budgetary allocations of the agencies responsible for their effective implementation, thus facilitating the progressive realization of the human rights to safe water and sanitation (Spain);
- 118.121 Adopt measures to strengthen the public health system, ensuring the accessibility, availability and quality of health care, especially in rural and remote areas (Uruguay);
- 118.122 Continue implementing the programme on family planning as a strategy to reduce child and maternal mortality (Cuba);
- 118.123 Continue its work to ensure widespread accessibility of quality health care, including for indigenous persons and those living in rural areas (Singapore);
- 118.124 Ensure the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights to all women and girls, including access to health services and contraceptives (Finland);
- 118.125 Take further steps to improve national health infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care and midwifery training, especially in rural areas (Haiti);
- 118.126 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to expand the supply of combined oral contraceptive methods, incorporate sexuality education in all formal and non-formal education, and promote prevention programmes to reduce the high rate of adolescent pregnancies (Iceland);
- 118.127 Continue the effective implementation of the National Health Policy strategy for 2015–2030 to ensure universal, comprehensive and equitable access to health services (Kyrgyzstan);
- 118.128 Strengthen efforts to prevent HIV transmission, especially mother-to-child transmission, and improve the care for persons with HIV without discrimination (Malaysia);
- 118.129 Strengthen measures towards the universalization of quality health care, especially for people in vulnerable situations (Maldives);
- 118.130 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development to strengthen maternal morbidity and mortality surveillance systems and death registries, by increasing targeted investment in areas of high mortality rates (Panama);
- 118.131 Take measures to combat the institutionalization and overmedication of persons with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities; and fight stigmatization and coercion against them, inter alia by developing human rights-based services grounded in the community and respectful of free and informed consent in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);

118.132 Step up measures to reduce child and adolescent pregnancy, including by ensuring access to adequate sexual and reproductive health and education to all throughout the country (Portugal);

118.133 Legalize abortion in cases of risk to the health of the woman, rape or severe fetal impairment and decriminalize it in all other cases (Czechia);

118.134 Take all necessary measures to promote women's rights and fight against gender-based violence. Guarantee access to sexual and reproductive rights and health, including by decriminalizing abortion (France);

118.135 Expand the grounds for the decriminalization of abortion, particularly in cases of high-risk pregnancies, for girls and adolescents, and when the pregnancy is the product of sexual abuse (Mexico);

118.136 Repeal legislation criminalizing women and girls for having an abortion and take measures to allow legal and safe abortions in cases of rape and incest, in cases where the life or health of women and girls is at risk or when the fetus is not viable, as previously recommended (Slovenia);

118.137 Adopt legislative measures to improve protection for the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls in accordance with international standards (Spain);

118.138 Undertake measures to prevent a high incidence of early, unintended pregnancy, including comprehensive sexuality education in schools and access to services in support of sexual and reproductive health and rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

118.139 Strengthen its commitment to gender equality and women's sexual and reproductive rights through the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, particularly by raising the necessary relevance of this issue among the public, members of Parliament, the judiciary and public officials (Uruguay);

118.140 Consider working on legislation to ensure access to adequate sexual and reproductive health, contraception and education services from childhood. In this regard, Argentina offers to share its experiences in the matter (Argentina);

118.141 Strengthen the protection of sexual and reproductive rights, including by ensuring access to sexual health services (Australia);

118.142 Repeal Ministry of Education and Science resolution No. 29664 prohibiting the teaching of gender equality and resolution No. 1761 prohibiting the use of a guide for teachers on comprehensive sexuality education (Finland);

118.143 Revoke Ministry of Education and Science resolution No. 29664, which prohibits public education materials on gender equality, reproductive rights, sexuality and non-discrimination, and establish gender-responsive comprehensive sexuality education in schools nationwide (Canada);

118.144 Continue efforts aimed at strengthening inclusive education for all children (Georgia);

118.145 Consider measures for ensuring access to education (India);

118.146 Ensure that children with disabilities have access to inclusive education (Israel);

118.147 Continue its efforts to achieve the National Education Plan in order to improve access to quality education, particularly inclusive vocational training for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

118.148 Strengthen efforts to ensure access to quality education for all children, especially for children with disabilities (Maldives);

- 118.149 Strengthen the implementation of the National Human Rights Education Plan of 2011 (Namibia);
- 118.150 Develop programmes to promote equal opportunities for access to quality education for indigenous and Afro-Paraguayan children (Peru);
- 118.151 Continue its efforts to strengthen measures to ensure that girls can have access to education at secondary and higher levels (State of Palestine);
- 118.152 Take further measures to ensure that girls can access and complete quality education at the secondary and higher levels (Timor-Leste);
- 118.153 Persist with its efforts to address remaining challenges in the education sector (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 118.154 Develop a comprehensive national human rights education plan and ensure its full implementation (Uzbekistan);
- 118.155 Step up efforts to increase the participation of women in political and public life and to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (Chile);
- 118.156 Continue to consolidate the national mechanisms that allow greater participation and equality of women on an equal footing as well as the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of women and girls (Dominican Republic);
- 118.157 Continue with initiatives in furtherance of gender equality (India);
- 118.158 Increase women's participation in political and public life and increase their representation in decision-making positions (Iraq);
- 118.159 Adopt a law on democratic parity to increase women's participation in political life (Montenegro);
- 118.160 Continue measures to promote the participation of women and indigenous communities in political and public life (Nepal);
- 118.161 Promote the participation of women and indigenous peoples in public office and political life (Peru);
- 118.162 Extend the participation of women in political and public life, thus contributing to their empowerment, and ensure the effectiveness of protection against domestic and sexual violence (Romania);
- 118.163 Approve a protocol criminalizing sexual harassment and develop a national action plan to prevent sexual harassment both within and outside of the workplace (Iceland);
- 118.164 Further enhance the empowerment of women, through its National Equality Plan, to improve the quality of education and skills development with a view to creating more favourable conditions of work for Paraguayan women (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 118.165 Take efficient measures to remove the obstacles to achieving full equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination in the promotion of equality between men and women (Russian Federation);
- 118.166 Adopt a law to combat all forms of discrimination (Russian Federation);
- 118.167 Invest additional efforts to improve the position of women and children in rural areas of the country, especially in terms of employment and participation in public life (for women) and in the field of education (for children) (Serbia);
- 118.168 Ensure that all institutions involved in prevention, including education, as well as in combating violence against women, are equipped with adequate financial and human resources to carry out their missions, in line with target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland);

118.169 Intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and girls through awareness-raising programmes that are oriented to equality between women and men and women's empowerment (Bulgaria);

118.170 Effectively combat violence against women and girls as well as organized crime and human trafficking, and safeguard the rights of women and children (China);

118.171 Keep up efforts in the comprehensive protection of women against all forms of violence, through implementation of legislation and national plans that have been adopted in this regard (Cuba);

118.172 Step up its efforts to prevent, combat and punish femicides and all acts of violence against women (Czechia);

118.173 Effectively combat and investigate femicides and all acts of violence against women and girls (Denmark);

118.174 Combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls and promote awareness of gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health (Italy);

118.175 Continue its efforts in the field of preventing and combating all forms of violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups (Kyrgyzstan);

118.176 Follow up on efforts made to combat violence against women (Lebanon);

118.177 Ramp up efforts to protect women and children from gender-based violence and abuse, including through national awareness-raising campaigns to address the root cause of the issue (Marshall Islands);

118.178 Strengthen statistical data collection to help inform appropriate interventions for preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls (Philippines);

118.179 Step up its efforts to prevent, combat and punish all acts of violence against women and girls and ensure relevant offences are investigated properly (Republic of Korea);

118.180 Take additional measures, including legislation, to prevent and combat domestic violence against women (Russian Federation);

118.181 Step up efforts to prevent, combat and punish femicides and all acts of violence against women, girls and adolescents, as recommended by the Human Rights Committee (Rwanda);

118.182 Strengthen its efforts in addressing gender-based violence and providing adequate support and assistance to victims (Thailand);

118.183 Strengthen its efforts to prevent, combat and punish all acts of violence against women, girls and adolescents (Timor-Leste);

118.184 Step up efforts to prevent, combat and punish femicides and all acts of violence against women, girls and adolescents (Ukraine);

118.185 Strengthen appropriate avenues for reporting and effective mechanisms for investigating gender-based violence and attacks on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Australia);

118.186 Implement a nationwide monitoring system to provide statistics on incidents of gender-based violence, and develop protocols to instruct officials investigating such cases (Canada);

118.187 Strengthen the efforts to end all the abuses against children, including child, early and forced marriage, child labour, sexual abuse and trafficking (Italy);

- 118.188 Step up its efforts against child labour and adopt regulatory instruments and policies for eliminating the practice of *criadazgo*, including support for the family of origin and the development of awareness-raising campaigns (Belgium);
- 118.189 Remove all exceptions to the age of marriage (Mauritius);
- 118.190 Intensify efforts to prevent, combat and punish all forms of child labour (Montenegro);
- 118.191 Ensure effective procedures of issuance of birth certificates to all newborn children in Paraguay, regardless of the legal status of their parents, as previously recommended (Poland);
- 118.192 Further increase the percentage of birth-registered children, especially for those in rural areas (Thailand);
- 118.193 Step up its efforts to ensure that all children born in its territory are registered (Timor-Leste);
- 118.194 Step up efforts to prevent, combat and punish child labour (Ukraine);
- 118.195 Address the increase in domestic and school violence and corporal punishment (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 118.196 Ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes at all levels of government, especially by ensuring free, prior and informed consent (Denmark);
- 118.197 Pursue efforts aimed at protecting the rights of communities and indigenous peoples and achieve greater inclusion (Dominican Republic);
- 118.198 Address the ongoing violations of the land rights of indigenous communities (Bahamas);
- 118.199 Ensure access to education and health care for indigenous communities (Malaysia);
- 118.200 Create a national action plan on indigenous people's rights (Marshall Islands);
- 118.201 Implement public policies to effectively guarantee the right of access to land and housing for indigenous communities, incorporating international human rights standards (Mexico);
- 118.202 Establish effective mechanisms that promote and facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples and Afro-Paraguayans in decision-making processes in political and public life (Panama);
- 118.203 Assess the need to strengthen the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute (Peru);
- 118.204 Ensure adequate measures for promoting the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in all public decision-making processes affecting them (Philippines);
- 118.205 Ensure access to education and health care for all indigenous peoples and promote their participation in public decision-making processes by finalizing and implementing the Indigenous Peoples National Plan (Republic of Korea);
- 118.206 Strengthen measures to ensure property rights and effective access to land for indigenous peoples (Senegal);
- 118.207 Safeguard the land tenure systems for all, including indigenous people, and ensure they are protected from all forms of modern slavery, such as forced or compulsory labour and debt bondage (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

118.208 Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the right of persons with disabilities (Japan);

118.209 Continue to harmonize national legislation and public policies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bulgaria);

118.210 Continue its efforts aimed at guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan).

119. 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 Paraguay was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Euclides Acevedo, and composed of the following members:

- Embajador Sr. José Antonio Dos Santos, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores;
- Embajador Sr. Julio Peralta, Representante Permanente Adjunto, Encargado de Negocios, a.i;
- Embajador Sr. Roberto Benítez Fernández, Director General de Derechos Humanos del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores;
- Consejera Sra. María Noelia López, Directora de Foros Regionales del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores;
- Consejero Sr. Juan José Mancuello, Director de Derechos Humanos del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores;
- Sr. Ricardo Ortega Díaz, Segundo Secretario, Jefe del Sistema Universal – Unidad General de Derechos Humanos del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores;
- Sra. Natalia Ferreira Tercera Secretaria, Funcionaria del Sistema Universal– Unidad General de Derechos Humanos del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores;
- Sra. Raquel Pereira, Delegada de Derechos Humanos de la Misión Permanente de Paraguay.
- S.E. Sr. César Diesel Junghanns, Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia;
- Sra. Nury Montiel, Directora de Derechos Humanos de la Corte Suprema de Justicia;
- Sra. Marian Mujica, Coordinadora - Sistemas Internacionales de Protección de la Corte Suprema de Justicia;
- S.E. Sra. Sandra Quiñonez, Fiscal General del Estado del Ministerio Público;
- Sra. Patricia Rivarola, Fiscal Adjunta de la Unidad Especial de Hechos Punibles contra los Derechos Humanos del Ministerio Público;
- Sra. Karilem Roldan, Directora de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio Público;
- S.E. Sr. María Lorena Segovia, Ministra- Defensora General del Ministerio de la Defensa Pública;
- Sr. Miguel Ángel Fretes, Director de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de la Defensa Pública;
- Sr. Francisco Hermosilla, Director de Cooperación del Ministerio de la Defensa Pública;
- S.E. Sra. María Elena Wapenka, Ministra del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral;
- Sra. Cynthia Figueredo, Directora de la Unidad de Políticas de Género del Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral;
- Senador Nacional Sr. Gilberto Antonio Apuril Santiviago, Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Honorable Cámara de Senadores;
- Sra. Natalia Vidal, Directora de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Honorable Cámara de Senadores;
- Sr. Nair Cardozo, Representante SIMORE – de la Honorable Cámara de Senadores;
- Diputada Nacional Sra. Esmérita Sánchez, Secretaria Parlamentaria de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Honorable Cámara de Diputados;
- Sr. Nicolás Benítez Saguier, Director de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de la Honorable Cámara de Diputados;

- Sra. Deidamia Acosta Delmás, Directora de SIMORE – de la Honorable Cámara de Diputados;
- S.E. Sr. Arnaldo Euclides Giuzzio Benítez, Ministro del Ministerio del Interior;
- Sr. Pablo René Ríos, Viceministro de Seguridad Interna del Ministerio del Interior;
- Sra. Luz Paola Sánchez Salinas, Directora General de Planeamiento y Control del Viceministerio de Seguridad Interna del Ministerio del Interior;
- Sr. Juan Pablo Feliciángeli, Coordinador de la Dirección de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio del Interior;
- S.E. Sra. Cecilia Pérez Rivas, Ministra de Justicia;
- Sr. Edgar Taboada, Viceministro de Justicia del Ministerio de Justicia;
- Sr. Raúl Maciel, Viceministro de Política Criminal del Ministerio de Justicia;
- Sr. Rafael Escobar Sarubbi, Director General de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Justicia;
- Sra. Luján Ruíz Díaz, Directora de Asuntos Internacionales en materia de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Justicia;
- S.E. Sr. Juan Manuel Brunetti, Ministro de Educación y Ciencias;
- Sra. Sonia Melissa Díaz, Directora General de Derechos Humanos del Educación y Ciencias;
- S.E. Sra. Carla Bacigalupo, Ministra de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social;
- Sra. Verónica López, Directora de Normas Internacionales; del Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social;
- S.E. Sra. Celina Lezcano, Ministra de la Mujer;
- Sra. María Gloria Báez, Directora General de Prevención y Atención contra la Trata de Personas del Ministerio de la Mujer;
- Sra. Patricia Benítez, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio de la Mujer;
- S.E. Sra. Teresa Martínez, Ministra de la Niñez y la Adolescencia;
- Sra. Alice Resquín, Directora General de Asuntos Internacionales del Ministerio de la Niñez y la Adolescencia;
- Sra. Leticia Ocampos, Directora de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de la Niñez y la Adolescencia;
- Sr. Eduardo Sosa, Director de Promoción y Protección de Derechos del Ministerio de la Niñez y la Adolescencia;
- S.E. Sr. Ariel Oviedo, Ministro del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible;
- Sr. Rafael Sosa Brizuela, Director General de Protección y Conservación de la Biodiversidad del Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible;
- Sra. María José Mendoza, Directora de Información Ambiental del Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible;
- Sr. Conrado Gonzalez Britez, Director de Pesca y Acuicultura del Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible;
- S.E. Sr. Carlos Alberto Pereira Olmedo, Ministro de Urbanismo, Vivienda y Hábitat;
- Sra. Lorena Esther Zamphiropolos, Funcionaria de la Dirección de Dictámenes del Ministerio de Urbanismo, Vivienda y Hábitat;
- Sra. Lida Sosa Argüello, Viceministra de Rectoría y Vigilancia de la Salud del Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social;
- Sra. Laura Bordón, Directora de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Salud Pública y Bienestar Social;

- S.E. Sra. Carmen Marín, Ministra- Secretaria Ejecutiva, Jefa y Coordinadora General del Gabinete Social de la Presidencia de la República;
- Sra. María José Méndez, Asesora Jurídica del Gabinete Social de la Presidencia de la República;
- S.E. Sra. Mariela Soledad Ramírez Burgos, Ministra-Secretaria Ejecutiva de la Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad;
- Sr. Enrique Noguera, Coordinador de la Asesoría Técnica de la Secretaría Nacional por los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad;
- S.E. Sr. Edgar Olmedo, Presidente del Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena INDI;
- Sra. Cinthia Raquel Rolón Cristaldo, Jefa del Departamento de Derechos Humanos del Instituto Paraguayo del Indígena;
- Sra. Olga Ferreira de López, Directora General de Derechos Humanos de la Vicepresidencia de la República;
- Sr. Santiago Ammatuna, Director de Derechos Humanos de la Vicepresidencia de la República;
- Sr. Fernando Daniel Cabrera, Funcionario de la Vicepresidencia de la República;
- Sra. Amalia Quintana, Directora de Derechos Humanos y Derecho Internacional Humanitario del Ministerio de Defensa Nacional;
- Sr. Santiago García, Director de Capacitación y Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Tecnologías de la Información y de la Comunicación;
- Sra. Carolina Rodríguez, Directora de Investigación y Desarrollo de Gabinete Técnico del Ministerio de Industria y Comercio;
- Sr. Juan José Oporto, Técnico del Departamento de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social;
- Sr. Justo Pastor Leiva, Jefe de la Unidad de Análisis y Estrategias del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería;
- Sr. Raymond Crecchi, Director General de Anticorrupción y Asesoría Legal de la Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional;
- Sra. Ofelia Insaurralde, Directora de Planificación y Sistematización de la Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional;
- Sra. Gisselle Minardi Laterra, Directora de Dictámenes de la secretaría Nacional Anticorrupción;
- Sr. César Alarcón, Director de Transparencia y Anticorrupción de la Secretaría de la Función Pública;
- Sra. Ana María Pujol, Directora de Políticas de Inclusión y no discriminación de la Secretaría de la Función Pública;
- Sr. Rubén Riquelme, Director de Asuntos Jurídicos de la Secretaría Nacional de Inteligencia;
- Sra. Celia Godoy, Directora General de Planificación Lingüística de la Secretaría de Políticas Lingüísticas;
- Sr. Carlos Garay, Director de Planificación Estratégica y Evaluación Institucional de la Secretaría de Políticas Lingüísticas;
- Sra. Liz Villamayor, Secretaria General de la Secretaría Técnica de Planificación y Desarrollo;
- Sra. Mirtha Fatecha, Asesora de la Secretaría Técnica de Planificación y Desarrollo;
- Sra. Estela Franceschelli, Asesora de la Secretaría Nacional de Cultura;
- Sra. Marina Cuquejo, Directora de Coordinación y Planificación del Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Rural y de la Tierra;

- Sra. Dalila Ferreira, Directora de Regulación Patrimonial de propiedades del Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Rural y de la Tierra;
 - Sr. Ramón Romero, Procurador Delegado de la Procuraduría General de la República.
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