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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Tajikistan

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-ninth session from 1 to 12 November 2021. The review of Tajikistan was held at the 7th meeting, on 4 November 2021. The delegation of Tajikistan was headed by the Minister of Justice, Muzaffar Ashuriyon. At its 12th meeting, held on 9 November 2021, the Working Group adopted the report on Tajikistan.
2. On 12 January 2021, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Tajikistan: Austria, Burkina Faso and Cuba.
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 Tajikistan:
 - (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, Panama, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Tajikistan 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 indicated that, for Tajikistan, the universal periodic review was an essential tool for reviewing compliance with international human rights obligations. It reaffirmed the commitment of Tajikistan to the review process, which provided an opportunity for constructive dialogue and exchange of best practices. Based on the human rights instruments it had ratified and the recommendations it had received from United Nations mechanisms, Tajikistan had been continuously working to transpose international standards into its national legislation and had submitted national reports on a regular basis. It attached great importance to cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms, including the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It had carefully considered the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, in close cooperation with civil society.
6. The main priorities in the sphere of economic and social development had been to strengthen social and political stability, achieve economic prosperity and social well-being within a context that gave primacy to the principles of the market economy, freedom, human dignity and equal opportunities for each citizen to realize his or her potential. Against the background of the continuous growth of the national economy, the income of the population had more than doubled, and the average nominal wage had increased by 1.5 times. In addition, the population of the country was growing.
7. The main goals of the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 were to completely eradicate poverty, promote sustainable consumption and production models and protect and ensure the rational use of natural resources. Education, health, employment, addressing inequality, corruption, food security and nutrition, good governance, social protection, prevention of potential conflicts, energy security, ecology and demographic

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/TJK/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/39/TJK/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/39/TJK/3](#).

management had also been identified as national priorities. Within the framework of the implementation of the Strategy, Tajikistan had adopted the Medium-Term Development Programme 2021–2025, which included a chapter on the national implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, aimed at strengthening the rule of law and ensuring public access to justice.

8. The main targets of the 2018–2028 legal policy framework were to develop legal culture, strengthen the foundations of the national legal system, develop legislation that took into account the sustainable development of society, strengthen State sovereignty and public administration, accede to regional and international human rights instruments and increase the public's legal awareness.

9. The 2020–2030 legal training and education programme had been adopted with the aim of improving the level of legal knowledge, education and culture of the population. Based on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, a draft national programme for human rights education 2022–2026 had been developed. Tajikistan continued to successfully implement the system of free legal assistance to the most vulnerable population groups.

10. Tajikistan had adopted a national action plan for the implementation of the recommendations that had been made by the members of the Human Rights Council between 2017 and 2020. Extensive work had been carried out to bring national legislation and practice into line with the country's international obligations.

11. Work was under way to ensure the compliance of the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, as well as the penitentiary system, with international human rights standards. An inter-agency working group had been established to draft a new criminal code. Under the Penal Reform Strategy 2020–2030 and its 2021–2025 action plan, steps were being taken to ensure the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of detainees, to improve the sentencing mechanism to ensure wider application of alternatives to detention and to improve the conditions of detention.

12. With a view to implementing the second cycle recommendations concerning the rights to freedom of speech and to the freedom of the press and the media, Tajikistan had adopted a standard set of rules for official websites of ministries and local administrations. In 2018, the Criminal Code had been amended in order to criminalize both public calls to commit acts of a terrorist nature and public justification of terrorist acts, whether in the media or online. The 2020–2024 State Programme for the Development of Digital Television Broadcasting had been approved.

13. Strengthening the political participation of women and increasing the number of women in public service had been identified as priorities in the National Development Strategy and the 2017–2022 State programme for the education, recruitment and appointment of gifted women and girls to leadership positions. In 2017, a working group had been established to improve the national legislation on gender equality, prevention of domestic violence and protection of women's rights. The working group had analysed and made proposals to improve over 50 laws and regulations. Some 110 information and counselling centres had been set up under the Committee for Women and the Family to provide legal and psychological assistance. In 2017, the Committee had adopted a communication strategy on changing behaviour with regard to domestic violence.

14. In 2018, Tajikistan had adopted the State Policy Framework on Religion. Its main purpose was to establish a long-term vision for the protection of religious rights and freedoms, the spread of tolerance and respect for all religions and confessions, and the safeguarding of security, mutual understanding and harmony among the country's religions. There were over 4,000 religious associations, 66 of which were non-Islamic.

15. The independence of the judiciary was guaranteed by the Constitution. In 2021, the Act on Access to Information on the Work of the Courts had been adopted, establishing the legal and organizational framework for accessing such information. The Consolidated Examination Board had been established to carry out the selection of judicial candidates on the basis of a competition. Tajikistan had adopted the Bar and Advocacy Act, which had strengthened the guarantees of the independence of lawyers.

16. To protect the rights of minors and prevent juvenile delinquency, Tajikistan had adopted the 2017–2021 Programme for the Reform of the Juvenile Justice System and the related action plan, as well as the Act on the System for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency. The Family Code set the legal age for marriage at 18 years; accordingly, entering into marriage with a person who had not reached the legal age for marriage had been criminalized. Amendments had been made to the Code of Administrative Offences concerning parental liability for using or threatening to use violence against a child. In 2017, Tajikistan had adopted regulations on commissions on children’s rights, whose functions included protecting children from physical, sexual, psychological and other forms of violence and abuse.

17. During the period 2017–2020, Tajikistan had implemented a set of measures to improve the quality of medical services and reduce maternal and infant mortality. Between 2020 and 2021, the budget for the health sector had been increased by 26.7 per cent. The 2017 Health Code prohibited discrimination based on HIV status and provided for protection from tuberculosis, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and the provision of medical and social care for persons with mental disorders.

18. The key activities in 2020 and 2021 had been focused on preventing the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), protecting the rights and freedoms of the population and minimizing the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. From the very outset of the pandemic, preventive measures had been taken nationwide to protect public health. Several new laws had been rapidly adopted to provide for protection measures, such as tax breaks for businesses, compensation payments for persons infected with COVID-19 and the organization of timely and quality care for them.

19. Tajikistan had adopted the 2017–2020 Programme for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities and the related implementation plan. There were about 100 social care institutions nationwide, including 43 home-based social assistance departments, 48 day centres providing social services for persons with disabilities and older persons, 8 residential homes and 3 different rehabilitation centres. In the area of inclusive education, the 2021–2030 National Education Development Strategy had been adopted. A separate chapter on inclusive education had been included in the Education Code.

20. The delegation stated that, although more than 15,000 refugees and asylum seekers had already been accepted by Tajikistan, over 3,000 more persons had been admitted in the wake of the deterioration of the situation in the neighbouring region. Refugees had been accommodated in the transit zone, provided with food and provisions to cover their basic needs and redirected to other countries. Preparations were under way to receive an additional 600 refugees. For several years, due to the real threat of an influx of refugees, Tajikistan had repeatedly requested technical, material and other assistance from the international community and other partners, to no avail. It was currently facing an acute shortage of the necessary infrastructure.

21. Tajikistan had established the Interdepartmental Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons had also been set up to provide assistance to victims and anti-trafficking legislation was constantly being refined. National plans to combat trafficking in persons were periodically adopted; the draft national plan for 2022–2024 was currently awaiting adoption. Tajikistan was planning to set up a fund to assist victims of trafficking in persons.

22. Tajikistan had adopted the 2021–2030 National Drug Control Strategy and the related implementation plan. Amendments to the Criminal Code adopted in 2021 had provided for the criminalization of trafficking in new psychotropic substances. The law enforcement agencies had been working intensively to combat illicit drug trafficking. In the first nine months of 2021 alone, 3.5 tons of drugs had been seized.

23. Tajikistan was implementing additional measures to promote the employment and advancement of women in the economic sectors with the highest wages and, as a result, the wage gap between women and men had decreased by almost 3 per cent between 2019 and 2020.

24. Tajikistan had successfully implemented the 2015–2020 Action Plan to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour. A child labour monitoring system had been put in place in seven cities and regions and had proved effective. Tajikistan had ratified the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

25. Measures were being taken to reintegrate migrant workers who had returned to the country. They had been given priority with regard to the right to receive vocational training, retraining and employment, and had been allocated microcredits to facilitate their engagement in individual entrepreneurship. Regular activities for their social and economic reintegration were being implemented.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

26. During the interactive dialogue, 80 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

27. Kuwait commended the achievements made in the field of human rights and the cooperation extended to international human rights bodies, as well as the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2030.

28. Latvia appreciated the steps taken to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle and encouraged Tajikistan to ensure equal representation of women in all areas of public and political life, particularly in decision-making positions.

29. Libya appreciated the progress made in the human rights field and the adoption of several national plans aimed at reforming legislation and implementing recommendations from human rights mechanisms.

30. Lithuania thanked Tajikistan for its national report and noted its determination to improve the human rights situation in the country.

31. Luxembourg welcomed the delegation of Tajikistan and thanked it for the presentation of its national report.

32. Malawi commended the progress Tajikistan had made in implementing the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the adoption of the State Policy Framework on Religion.

33. Malaysia welcomed the various legislative and policy frameworks that Tajikistan had developed following its second review and encouraged it to continue its efforts and ensure the effective implementation of the various national plans that were in place.

34. Maldives positively noted the signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of 10 national action plans for the implementation of recommendations made by United Nations treaty bodies.

35. Mauritania commended the legislative and institutional reforms and the adoption of policies aimed at protecting and promoting human rights.

36. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) and the creation of the Interdepartmental Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

37. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of several thematic action plans and encouraged Tajikistan to provide sufficient budget allocations and develop effective follow-up mechanisms for their implementation.

38. Nepal welcomed the signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and wished for its timely ratification. Nepal was encouraged by the adoption of national action plans to implement recommendations made by the United Nations treaty bodies.

39. The Netherlands expressed concern about Tajik laws curtailing citizens' rights to freedom of religion and belief and about continued reports of torture of Muslims, Jehovah's Witnesses and Protestants and the lack of accountability for those acts.

40. While welcoming the participation of Tajikistan in the universal periodic review, Norway remained deeply concerned about the human rights situation there.
41. Pakistan commended Tajikistan on its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and its strong commitment to strengthen national human rights frameworks.
42. Paraguay commended the efforts of Tajikistan to facilitate access to legal redress for victims of domestic violence. Nevertheless, it was concerned by the non-adoption of core human rights instruments.
43. The Philippines welcomed the signing by Tajikistan of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, its progress towards ratification and its constructive, active cooperation with the human rights mechanisms.
44. Poland appreciated the signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of the post of Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights and the development of human rights education.
45. Portugal welcomed the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2030 and the 2021–2023 action plan, and the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and hoped for its early ratification.
46. The Republic of Moldova commended Tajikistan for its efforts to implement the recommendations made during the previous review cycle and to advance its human rights agenda.
47. The Russian Federation welcomed efforts to improve citizens' living standards, eliminate poverty, increase social benefits and ensure women's participation in the work of all government bodies.
48. Senegal welcomed the adoption of various national action plans for the effective implementation of recommendations from United Nations treaty bodies.
49. Serbia welcomed the decision by Tajikistan to establish the Commission on compliance with international human rights obligations.
50. Slovakia noted that no positive changes had been made to solve the problems of torture and enforced disappearance, and that restrictions were imposed on the media and peaceful opposition groups.
51. Slovenia encouraged Tajikistan to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted that the situation of some human rights remained problematic, especially with regard to the shrinking space for the exercise of freedom of association, political participation and freedom of expression.
52. Spain welcomed the commitment of Tajikistan to advance women's rights and the progress in the fight against torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including regarding conditions of detention.
53. Sri Lanka commended Tajikistan for having signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, for its achievements in the further eradication of poverty and its establishment of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.
54. The State of Palestine welcomed the steps taken by Tajikistan to empower women, including through adopting the 2019–2022 national action plan.
55. Switzerland commended Tajikistan for having drafted a national human rights strategy.
56. The Syrian Arab Republic commended Tajikistan on its efforts to improve educational institutions, increasing the range of beneficiaries and filling gaps in the educational system.
57. Thailand encouraged Tajikistan to ensure that mechanisms were put in place concerning referrals to crisis centres and shelters for victims of trafficking in persons. It noted that prison conditions still needed improvement.

58. Timor-Leste welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Development of Education for the period up to 2030 and the 2014–2023 State Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.
59. Tunisia welcomed the adoption of national strategies aimed at judicial reform, including in children’s justice, the prevention of juvenile delinquency and domestic violence, the protection of women’s rights and the elimination of gender stereotypes.
60. Turkmenistan commended Tajikistan for adopting several thematic action plans aimed at implementing the recommendations of United Nations human rights mechanisms.
61. Ukraine noted that Tajikistan had signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, submitted overdue reports to the United Nations treaty bodies, paid attention to human rights education and made tangible progress in poverty alleviation.
62. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Tajikistan to protect the human rights of women, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and religious and minority groups, and expressed concern about restrictions on political opposition.
63. The United States of America was concerned by ongoing reports that detainees and prisoners faced torture and other abuse by security forces along with harsh and life-threatening prison conditions.
64. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) and the establishment of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.
65. Uzbekistan noted the establishment of the Commission on compliance with international human rights obligations, the development of the National Human Rights Strategy and the improvement of the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
66. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed appreciation for the efforts made to improve health services and protect victims of human trafficking and domestic violence and the progress made in reducing poverty by providing cash benefits to vulnerable groups.
67. Yemen welcomed the efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and the implementation of recommendations on promoting children’s rights.
68. Afghanistan positively noted the adoption of thematic action plans and noted that the effective implementation of human rights obligations appeared to be undermined by different factors.
69. Algeria welcomed the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the policies adopted to promote the rights of children.
70. Argentina thanked Tajikistan for the presentation of its national report.
71. Armenia welcomed the revisions to the Criminal Code, bringing the definition of torture into line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the emphasis on human rights education in general and higher education systems.
72. Australia welcomed the efforts of Tajikistan to criminalize domestic violence and amend its Criminal Code, bringing the definition of torture into line with the Convention against Torture. Australia urged it to fulfil its obligations under international human rights instruments.
73. Austria recognized the commitment of Tajikistan to reforming the penitentiary system, its adoption of the Penal Reform Strategy and its efforts to tackle the high incidence of domestic violence.
74. Azerbaijan welcomed the establishment of the national action plan and the Interdepartmental Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons and of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child.

75. The Bahamas commended Tajikistan on its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including the establishment of the Interdepartmental Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and on its adoption of the Water Code.
76. Bangladesh commended Tajikistan on strengthening its human rights institutions, developing a road map for ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and formulating a National Human Rights Strategy.
77. Belarus welcomed the plans of Tajikistan to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its efforts to strengthen its human rights institutions and combat trafficking in persons.
78. While welcoming the presidential decree establishing a working group to draft a new criminal code, Belgium expressed concern about the human rights situation in Tajikistan.
79. Bhutan noted the adoption of the National Strategy for the Development of Education, the 2014–2023 State Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the 2019–2021 Judicial and Legal Reform Programme.
80. Bulgaria highlighted the progress made in enhancing the legislative, institutional and policy framework for human rights. Nevertheless, additional efforts were needed to eliminate gender stereotypes in the family and in society.
81. Burkina Faso noted progress in implementing accepted recommendations, including measures to strengthen the legislative framework on children’s rights, although many challenges persisted, including the high maternal and infant mortality rates.
82. Canada welcomed the progress made in developing the National Human Rights Strategy and action plan and establishing a monitoring group under the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman).
83. Chile appreciated the fact that the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2030 included recommendations from the special procedures and other mechanisms to ratify international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
84. China appreciated the fact that Tajikistan was amending several human rights-related laws, formulating national action plans, vigorously promoting economic and social development, and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, among others measures.
85. Costa Rica welcomed efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by signing the Convention and amending national legislation to enable the effective implementation of the Convention.
86. Croatia commended measures taken to strengthen the judicial system and to prevent torture and ill-treatment in detention, following the concerns of United Nations experts and civil society about conditions of detention.
87. Cuba appreciated the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the national action plans focused on the recommendations of treaty bodies, which evidenced the priority given to promoting human rights.
88. Cyprus noted the progress achieved by Tajikistan since the previous review cycle, including its signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the positive steps taken to eradicate domestic violence.
89. Czechia noted the commitment to reforming the penitentiary system, hoping further steps would lead to preventing ill-treatment in detention. Czechia emphasized the importance of the role of civil society and of freedom of speech.
90. Denmark expressed concern about excessive restrictions on fundamental freedoms, as reflected in the Human Rights Committee’s 2019 recommendations,⁴ and about the prevalence of domestic and intimate partner violence.

⁴ [CCPR/C/TJK/CO/3](#).

91. The Dominican Republic appreciated the presentation of the national report and encouraged Tajikistan to strengthen its legislative framework for the protection of human rights.
92. Egypt commended Tajikistan on its adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2030 aimed at enhancing the implementation of international commitments in the field of human rights.
93. Estonia acknowledged the progress made and encouraged Tajikistan to guarantee, inter alia, human rights defenders' access to closed institutions for independent monitoring, and media freedom, including access to the Internet without restrictions.
94. Fiji commended Tajikistan for its national action plans to promote human rights and for emphasizing cooperation with civil society.
95. Finland appreciated the engagement of Tajikistan in the universal periodic review process.
96. France thanked the delegation of Tajikistan for the presentation of its national report and took note of the information provided.
97. Georgia commended Tajikistan for adopting the national action plan to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
98. Germany remained deeply concerned about severe restrictions on freedom of expression and of association, Internet censorship, harassment of dissidents and conditions in the prison system.
99. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Tajikistan and made recommendations.
100. India appreciated the adoption of different national action plans for the implementation of recommendations made by United Nations bodies.
101. Indonesia commended Tajikistan for the adoption of measures since the previous review, in 2016, including the adoption of various strategic documents in the area of human rights.
102. Iraq appreciated the establishment by Tajikistan of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child and its adoption of national action plans to implement the recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies.
103. Ireland welcomed the signing by Tajikistan of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Ireland expressed concern over violence towards LGBTI+ persons in Tajikistan.
104. Italy welcomed the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of the recommendations made by United Nations bodies.
105. Japan appreciated the steps Tajikistan had taken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and the signing of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
106. Brazil commended Tajikistan on its amnesty law, acknowledged the release of prisoners in that context and welcomed the country's signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
107. The delegation of Tajikistan stated that education was an important part of the State social policy. The State guaranteed free basic general education, which was compulsory. The National Strategy for the Development of Education included specific measures to facilitate access to quality education for girls and children from low-income families. An enabling environment had been created for the education of girls at all educational levels. More than 1,250 grants were allocated to girls for their education each year.
108. Tajikistan had adopted a road map to prepare for its eventual ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
109. The delegation reported that, to date, over 4,500 family doctors and 9,400 paramedics had been trained in the primary health-care sector. National standards for diagnosis and treatment of diseases had been developed to improve the quality of medical services. Health

care, including maternal and child health care, was one of the main priorities, with budget allocations for that sector increasing every year. Spending on health care had increased by 86 per cent between 2016 and 2021. As a result, infant mortality had decreased threefold and maternal mortality fourfold.

110. A national mechanism for the provision of social assistance, pensions, health care and social services for the most vulnerable groups of the population was in place. A law on targeted social assistance had been adopted and in the first nine months of 2021, payments under that mechanism had amounted to a total of some 80 million somoni.

111. The proportion of the population that had access to drinking water from centralized drinking water supply systems was almost 64 per cent, including 94 per cent of the urban population and 32 per cent of the rural population. A project was being implemented to improve access to safe drinking water in rural areas.

112. In cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Tajikistan had implemented a project focusing on gender-sensitive aspects of the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence and the protection of victims. Some 22 crisis centres and specialized units for victims of domestic violence were in operation. While domestic violence was not specifically criminalized under the Criminal Code, discussions were ongoing on the possible inclusion of a separate article on domestic violence in the draft of the new criminal code.

113. Concerning the freedom of the press, the delegation clarified that media pluralism was fully guaranteed and protected under national legislation and the international instruments Tajikistan had ratified. The number of independent media outlets exceeded twofold the number of Tajik media outlets. Journalists had never been and would never be subjected to repression.

114. While there was not a specific article in the Criminal Code establishing responsibility for enforced disappearances, such acts were classified either as murder or abduction. Numerous investigations and operational searches were carried out into each element of a disappearance.

115. There were no restrictions on access to the Internet in Tajikistan, except in specific circumstances provided for by law; counter-terrorism agencies were authorized to suspend access to the Internet in certain situations. A website could be blocked only on the basis of a Supreme Court decision establishing involvement in the activities of a terrorist organization.

116. The Constitution guaranteed the rights and freedoms of all persons, including persons belonging to sexual minorities. Tajikistan protected the rights and freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons on an equal basis with others.

117. The prevention of torture had always been closely monitored by the President of Tajikistan, who repeatedly reiterated the absolute and categorical prohibition of acts of torture. Torture had been included in the category of serious and especially serious crimes and was not subject to the amnesty law. The punishment for torture had been increased to up to 15 years' imprisonment. Tajikistan was considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. An inter-agency working group on that Optional Protocol had been created within the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), and a monitoring group had been established to conduct visits to places of detention.

118. Since the adoption in 2014 of the law suspending the application of the death penalty, courts in Tajikistan no longer applied the death penalty. The legal abolition of the death penalty was under consideration.

119. To ensure that counter-terrorism measures complied with international human rights standards, a law on combating extremism had been adopted and a draft law on combating terrorism had been prepared. A national counter-terrorism and counter-extremism strategy and an action plan for the period 2021–2025 had also been adopted following consultations with the relevant United Nations entities, other international organizations and civil society.

120. The delegation clarified that in Tajikistan, no lawyers or journalists had been prosecuted or convicted in connection with the exercise of their professional activity. The

persons concerned had been convicted of specific crimes, mainly of an economic nature and concerning corruption.

121. On the basis of the recommendations of the human rights bodies of the United Nations and of the Sustainable Development Goals, Tajikistan had developed a national strategy for the protection of human rights for the period up to 2030. It included long-term goals and objectives and provided for the development of a progressive and unified cross-sectoral policy in that area.

122. In conclusion, the delegation stated that the interactive dialogue with the Member States would contribute to further implementation by Tajikistan of its human rights obligations. The recommendations received would be carefully analysed and discussed, with the participation of civil society. Tajikistan would continue to engage in constructive dialogue with the Human Rights Council, OHCHR and other United Nations entities.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

123.1 **Bring current counter-terrorism and counter-extremism regulations into full compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Poland);**

123.2 **Consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**

123.3 **Pursue efforts to review and bring the legislation into line with the international human rights obligations of Tajikistan (Turkmenistan);**

123.4 **Consider ratification of the core human rights instruments to which Tajikistan is not yet a party (Ukraine);**

123.5 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all Human Rights Council special procedures (Ukraine);**

123.6 **Request technical support from the Office of the High Commissioner to advance in the ratification of the main international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, as well as to ensure the alignment of its national legal system with the obligations arising from ratified human rights treaties (Uruguay);**

123.7 **Enhance cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms aimed at the implementation of national policies (Armenia);**

123.8 **Continue constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Bangladesh);**

123.9 **Continue efforts through the allocation of sufficient budget and effective follow-up mechanisms (Bhutan);**

123.10 **Extend an open invitation to the special procedures (Costa Rica);**

123.11 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Cyprus);**

123.12 **Continue efforts towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Tunisia) (Bahamas) (Algeria);**

123.13 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mauritania) (Pakistan);**

123.14 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Republic of Moldova) (Germany);**

- 123.15 Give priority to the process of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Uruguay) (Senegal);
- 123.16 Work towards the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in consultation with national stakeholders and in line with national priorities (Sri Lanka);
- 123.17 Ensure effective implementation of the national action plan to prepare for the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Thailand);
- 123.18 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Lithuania);
- 123.19 Complete ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed in March 2018, as the process is not yet complete (Malawi);
- 123.20 Continue the process to adhere to the main international instruments on human rights, in particular to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, signed in 2018 (Italy);
- 123.21 Strengthen efforts to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Japan);
- 123.22 Take further measures to eradicate torture and ill-treatment, including ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Norway);
- 123.23 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);
- 123.24 Bring the criminal legislation into line with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovakia);
- 123.25 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);
- 123.26 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and carry out systematic investigations into any allegation of torture or ill-treatment (Switzerland);
- 123.27 Advance towards the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and amend the relevant legal framework in order to eliminate amnesty for perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment (Chile);
- 123.28 Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Croatia);
- 123.29 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);
- 123.30 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia);
- 123.31 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Finland);

- 123.32 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal) (Latvia);
- 123.33 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to ensure that Sustainable Development Goal 16 is fully implemented (Paraguay);
- 123.34 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Austria) (Estonia) (Australia);
- 123.35 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and fully abolish the death penalty from the Penal Code (Italy);
- 123.36 Speed up the ratification process of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);
- 123.37 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus);
- 123.38 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);
- 123.39 Create a timeline with concrete steps to abolish the death penalty by 2026 and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);
- 123.40 Consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Argentina);
- 123.41 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi) (France) (Japan);
- 123.42 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);
- 123.43 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);
- 123.44 Ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Estonia);
- 123.45 Continue supporting efforts to protect and promote human rights in Tajikistan (Kuwait);
- 123.46 Review the legislative framework to ensure that counter-extremism is aligned with international law, ensuring that the principles of legal certainty, clarity of definition, legality and non-discrimination are observed (Mexico);
- 123.47 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that provides effective protection against all forms of direct, indirect and multiple discrimination and access to appropriate remedies for victims of discrimination (Montenegro);
- 123.48 Revise the Criminal Code to include the criminalization of enforced disappearance, as defined in international law (Montenegro);
- 123.49 Repeal all laws that negatively impact freedom of religion or belief, such as laws that penalize unauthorized religious activities, limit religious

education as well as the right of minors and women to participate in religious activities (Netherlands);

123.50 Introduce legislation to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, marital rape and sexual assault within and outside marriage, and ensure that this legislation is enforced (Norway);

123.51 Continue to provide resources to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Pakistan);

123.52 Consider establishing a national standing mechanism for the implementation of recommendations on human rights, taking into account the possibility of receiving cooperation under Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Paraguay);

123.53 Continue to take targeted steps to improve national legislation as regards respect for human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);

123.54 Review the legislation and practices dedicated to criminalizing and prosecuting political dissent (Spain);

123.55 Strengthen the legal framework to prevent domestic violence (Switzerland);

123.56 Continue the national efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency or juveniles from joining terrorist and extremist movements (Syrian Arab Republic);

123.57 Continue its ongoing efforts to adopt the national strategy for the protection of human rights covering the period up to 2030 and take practical steps aimed at the successful implementation of the strategy (Turkmenistan);

123.58 Maintain its awareness-raising and training activities on human rights for the general public to raise legal awareness across the country (Turkmenistan);

123.59 Speed up the adoption of the national human rights strategy (Ukraine);

123.60 Ensure effective implementation of the national action plans for the implementation of the United Nations treaty bodies recommendations (Uzbekistan);

123.61 Continue positive steps, with special focus on access to justice and effective redress (Armenia);

123.62 Prioritize the enactment of the draft of the new Criminal Code which aims to criminalize domestic violence (Bahamas);

123.63 Bring its legislation into full compliance with international human rights law and the recommendations of the special procedures in the context of the fight against terrorism (Luxembourg);

123.64 Criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, marital rape and sexual assault within and outside marriage, by introducing a specific provision in the Penal Code (Belgium);

123.65 Improve existing legislation, including the law on freedom of conscience and religious organizations (Canada);

123.66 Continue efforts to ensure a robust legal framework that is respectful of the rights of people with different sexual orientations and gender identities (Costa Rica);

123.67 Strengthen the legal framework to ensure access to information and the exercise of freedom of expression and association, particularly by civil society and human rights defenders, ensuring that they can express themselves freely, without fear of reprisals (Costa Rica);

- 123.68 **Review and amend national legislation relevant to freedom of religion or belief to ensure its full conformity with international human rights law (Croatia);**
- 123.69 **Consider amending the legislation in order to create an alternative to military service for conscientious objectors (Croatia);**
- 123.70 **Criminalize domestic violence and marital rape and create an environment where victims do not have to fear reporting cases of domestic violence and are able to obtain the necessary assistance (Czechia);**
- 123.71 **Amend article 53 of the draft criminal code to criminalize all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including marital rape and domestic and intimate partner violence (Denmark);**
- 123.72 **Continue promoting actions to strengthen the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) (Dominican Republic);**
- 123.73 **Continue national efforts to ratify the bill on equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination (Egypt);**
- 123.74 **Implement fully the law on the prevention of domestic violence and criminalize domestic violence (Estonia);**
- 123.75 **Continue with further legislative and policy measures to ensure gender equality (India);**
- 123.76 **Revise the Penal Code to remove criminal sanctions for insulting or libelling the President and other State officials (Ireland);**
- 123.77 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, which adequately and effectively protects LGBTI+ persons from discrimination and violence (Ireland);**
- 123.78 **Align national legislation with international standards to effectively guarantee freedom of expression, media freedom and pluralism, as well as freedom of religion or belief (Italy);**
- 123.79 **Develop a national action plan in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, with the aim of promoting respect for human rights in the context of business activities (Japan);**
- 123.80 **Consider adopting new legal and policy measures that foster an enabling environment for civil society organizations in their work to uphold human rights, especially by guaranteeing their right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Brazil);**
- 123.81 **Consider revising its national legislation on the right to freedom of religion and belief to enhance compliance with international human rights law, by securing everyone's right to manifest one's religion or belief, regardless of their faith (Brazil);**
- 123.82 **Consider implementing measures to upgrade the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights to an A status institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Nepal);**
- 123.83 **Revise the Law on the Commissioner for Human Rights and bring the institution into full compliance with the Paris Principles (Lithuania);**
- 123.84 **Further strengthen the independence of the national human rights mechanism in line with Paris Principles (Armenia);**
- 123.85 **Consider strengthening the national human rights institution, the Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 123.86 **Strengthen efforts to achieve the compliance of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) with the Paris Principles (Iraq);**

- 123.87 **Adopt a comprehensive legislative framework to prohibit all forms of discrimination and repeal policies or provisions that promote stigmatization or segregation, especially against ethnic and religious minorities and against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Mexico);**
- 123.88 **Cease discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and actively work towards the eradication of societal homophobia and transphobia (Netherlands);**
- 123.89 **Guarantee freedom of religion or belief and eliminate all forms of discrimination against people belonging to religious minorities (Poland);**
- 123.90 **Introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and legal framework (Ukraine);**
- 123.91 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to end discrimination on the basis on gender identity and sexual orientation, and end the practice of maintaining lists of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 123.92 **Provide effective protection against all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, both in law and in practice, and conduct awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigma affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons (Argentina);**
- 123.93 **Take concrete steps to address the stigmatization and discrimination faced by persons living with HIV/AIDS, including in law and in practice (Bahamas);**
- 123.94 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, irrespective of their gender identity, sexual orientation, HIV status, disability or other characteristics (Canada);**
- 123.95 **Take measures to eliminate discrimination and abuse based on people's sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**
- 123.96 **Fully implement policies and laws for promoting tolerance, protecting religious rights and cultivating diversity (Malawi);**
- 123.97 **Continue working towards combating gender-based violence by taking measures to criminalize such actions and establishing reporting mechanisms (Cyprus);**
- 123.98 **Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and children, and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji);**
- 123.99 **Develop an action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and expedite the adoption of legislation criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence (Iceland);**
- 123.100 **Devise and implement procedures to ensure protection against reprisals for LGBTI+ persons who lodge complaints about extortion and physical abuse by law enforcement officials and non-State actors (Iceland);**
- 123.101 **Take concrete measures to combat all forms of discrimination and violence, including domestic violence, based on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy);**
- 123.102 **Operationalize the recently drawn-up human rights and development plans (Pakistan);**
- 123.103 **Continue to implement skills development programmes to facilitate the economic participation of youth and women (Philippines);**
- 123.104 **Intensify efforts to combat corruption (Poland);**

- 123.105 Continue to take the implementation measures of the National Education Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 123.106 Continue efforts to implement the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 (Yemen);
- 123.107 Continue the effective implementation of the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030 (Azerbaijan);
- 123.108 Continue to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the level of socioeconomic development of the country, in keeping with international human rights imperatives (Bangladesh);
- 123.109 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development and to improve people's living standards, so as to provide a solid foundation for people to enjoy human rights (China);
- 123.110 Strengthen the legal and public policy framework to ensure the implementation of the right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment (Costa Rica);
- 123.111 Continue consolidating actions that promote the right to social security and formal employment (Dominican Republic);
- 123.112 Ensure the meaningful participation of women, children, persons with disabilities and local communities in the development and implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Fiji);
- 123.113 Continue with measures aimed at implementing the National Human Rights Strategy for the period up to 2030 (Georgia);
- 123.114 Criminalize domestic and intimate partner violence, generate statistics on this matter, establish shelters for victims, and provide them with legal, medical and psychosocial assistance (Mexico);
- 123.115 Address domestic violence and guarantee that the perpetrators are brought to court in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Paraguay);
- 123.116 Step up efforts to address all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, including by intensifying awareness campaigns and training for duty bearers (Philippines);
- 123.117 Criminalize domestic violence in all its forms and provide decentralized support to victims (Portugal);
- 123.118 Classify domestic violence as an autonomous crime (Spain);
- 123.119 Continue advancing in the dialogue with civil society and non-governmental organizations to deepen the necessary reform of the prison system, as well as to extend these good practices of dialogue with associations to other areas of the fight against torture and cruel treatment (Spain);
- 123.120 Permit more access to independent prison monitoring organizations including private and fully confidential interviews with prisoners, consistent with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (United States of America);
- 123.121 Sustain efforts to prevent domestic violence, support victims and take legal action against perpetrators of domestic violence (Malawi);
- 123.122 Ensure that excessive use of force, including ill-treatment and torture, by law enforcement officials at the time of arrest and during interrogations is investigated and prosecuted and perpetrators convicted and held accountable (Fiji);
- 123.123 Strengthen the fight against torture and ill-treatment (France);

- 123.124 **Improve conditions in prisons in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules and provide access to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Investigate all cases of prison riots, allegations of torture and ill-treatment and deaths in custody (Germany);**
- 123.125 **Hold accountable officials, public figures and authors of media and online publications calling for violence and hate speech against LGBTI+ persons (Iceland);**
- 123.126 **Strengthen measures to prevent episodes of torture and enforced disappearances (Italy);**
- 123.127 **Adopt the necessary measures to move towards the abolition of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mexico);**
- 123.128 **Retain the moratorium on the death penalty in all circumstances and work towards its complete abolition (Latvia);**
- 123.129 **Take all necessary steps to abolish the death penalty (Republic of Moldova);**
- 123.130 **Completely abolish the death penalty (Slovakia);**
- 123.131 **Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debates on the subject from a human rights perspective, including in its parliament, with a view to its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as soon as possible (Uruguay);**
- 123.132 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Costa Rica);**
- 123.133 **Fully abolish the death penalty (Germany);**
- 123.134 **Continue systematic work to further strengthen the judicial and legal system (Uzbekistan);**
- 123.135 **Implement the 11 recommendations from the previous cycle on the right to a fair trial, the independence of the judiciary and measures to protect lawyers (Australia);**
- 123.136 **Ensure that thorough and impartial investigations are carried out into all deaths in custody as well as all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, based on his country visits (Austria);**
- 123.137 **Develop transparent procedures to prevent and address arbitrary detentions and ensure the right to a fair trial, including unhindered access to legal representation, free from the threat of government interference (Canada);**
- 123.138 **Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women defenders, free from persecution, intimidation and harassment (Latvia);**
- 123.139 **Redouble its efforts to ensure the equitable political representation and participation of ethnic minorities (Timor-Leste);**
- 123.140 **Uphold the right to participate in public and political life, including by allowing peaceful opposition groups and parties to operate freely (Australia);**
- 123.141 **Strengthen the values of democracy in all spheres of life, including through civic education and training programmes for further understanding of the electoral and political system to ensure equal participation in political and public life in and outside of the electoral context (Indonesia);**

- 123.142 Ensure media freedom and pluralism, including by abolishing the recently introduced legislation on media licensing (Norway);
- 123.143 Refrain from imposing restrictions on civil society and human rights defenders (Poland);
- 123.144 Promote and protect the right to freedom of expression and media freedom (Latvia);
- 123.145 Ensure freedom of expression and the freedom of the media, including on the Internet, in accordance with international human rights norms (Slovakia);
- 123.146 Terminate the practices of arbitrary blocking of access to websites and mobile phone services, guaranteeing citizens unhindered access to information and the corresponding right to inform freely and without interference (Spain);
- 123.147 Broaden the framework of political rights and freedoms within and outside of electoral processes, particularly those related to freedom of expression and association, in order to guarantee political pluralism and the active participation of the opposition (Spain);
- 123.148 Strengthen the right to freedom of expression and refrain from blocking access to websites and social networks (Switzerland);
- 123.149 Duly address allegations of systemic persecution against opposition figures, journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders (Ukraine);
- 123.150 Amend legislation which undermines the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and ensure that media workers can operate freely, both online and offline, through legal protections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 123.151 Eliminate from legislation all provisions that undermine freedom of expression and protection of journalists, media workers and human rights defenders against harassment and intimidation (Lithuania);
- 123.152 Uphold rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and of religion and belief, including through ending the detention of political prisoners (Australia);
- 123.153 Ensure the freedom of the media by protecting journalists and media workers against civil and criminal provisions and intimidation aimed at suppressing critical reporting on matters of public interest (Australia);
- 123.154 Guarantee the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, including by bringing the law on fighting against extremism and the law on counteracting extremism in line with international human rights standards (Austria);
- 123.155 Refrain from imposing accreditation schemes and procedures that undermine the independent media and the work of journalists and media workers (Austria);
- 123.156 Cease reprisals, violence and pressure on political opposition, civil society activists, human rights non-governmental organizations, journalists and members of their families (Belgium);
- 123.157 Stop harassment of journalists and ensure the protection of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Canada);
- 123.158 Review the law on public associations and all relevant policies to eliminate inappropriate restrictions on the right to freedom of association and ensure that all civil society organizations can work free from undue administrative obstacles or harassment (Czechia);
- 123.159 Review legislation and policies to create a free and safe environment for journalists, bloggers and others to exercise fully their right to freedom of expression (Czechia);

- 123.160 Establish safeguards against restrictions on the freedom of expression and arbitrary interference with individual privacy, in the context of the Operative and Search Activity Act and Presidential Decree No. 765 (Denmark);
- 123.161 Protect media freedom, both online and offline, by reviewing, updating and implementing existing legislation and bringing it into line with international norms and standards (Estonia);
- 123.162 Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful association, as well as the freedom of the press, first of all by releasing political activists, lawyers and journalists detained on arbitrary grounds (France);
- 123.163 Guarantee that human rights defenders can freely exercise their activities, without risk of reprisals (France);
- 123.164 Ensure freedom of expression online and offline, including by reviewing relevant legislation on countering violent extremism, including article 17 of the law on combating extremism (Germany);
- 123.165 Create and maintain an enabling environment for the free use of independent media, search platforms and social media websites and end the use of surveillance technologies to monitor online activity (Ireland);
- 123.166 Ensure that lawyers are guaranteed full independence and safety, in law and in practice, to carry out their legitimate duties without any harassment, undue interference or fear of arbitrary criminal prosecution or other retaliatory measures (Norway);
- 123.167 Proactively strengthen democracy by improving the credibility of the electoral process and lifting restrictions on the exercise of fundamental freedoms (Ukraine);
- 123.168 Allow civil society, including non-governmental organizations and independent media, to operate without harassment and fear of reprisals (United States of America);
- 123.169 End transnational repression and forced repatriation of human rights defenders and members of civil society (United States of America);
- 123.170 Release all journalists who have been imprisoned on politically motivated charges (Lithuania);
- 123.171 Release all political activists, lawyers and journalists arrested for arbitrary reasons, extend the procedural guarantees put in place to the procedures and conditions of police custody, and apply systematically in practice the new legal guarantees relating to notification and registration following an arrest (Luxembourg);
- 123.172 Prohibit any surveillance of lawyers specializing in the defence of human rights, as well as any act of intimidation and harassment towards them, in the face of instances of harassment and intimidation against lawyers dealing with politically sensitive cases (Luxembourg);
- 123.173 Extend the measure of releasing detainees, in the context of the amnesty law, to political prisoners (Brazil);
- 123.174 Take the measures necessary to cease the practice of forced labour, in particular child forced labour (Cyprus);
- 123.175 Continue national efforts related to the prevention of human trafficking (Egypt);
- 123.176 Continue to promote its successful social policies in order to improve the living standards of its people, particularly the most vulnerable groups of society (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 123.177 Improve the means of protecting people in situations of vulnerability or at risk of not having access to the right to food (Algeria);

- 123.178 Take further steps to improve the level of well-being and social protection of the population (Belarus);
- 123.179 Continue advancing in national efforts to reduce poverty and improve the standard of living of its population (Cuba);
- 123.180 Strive to increase funding in the health sector, especially in the health care of mothers and children (Serbia);
- 123.181 Further enhance access to health, including the promotion of maternal and infant health (Sri Lanka);
- 123.182 Consider increasing the budget allocation to the health sector, especially to maternal and child health-care services (Timor-Leste);
- 123.183 Continue efforts to increase people's access to basic health care, particularly in rural areas (Bangladesh);
- 123.184 Continue to implement activities aimed at improving the quality of health services (Belarus);
- 123.185 Increase the budget allocated to the health sector, in particular for maternal and child health services (Burkina Faso);
- 123.186 Continue to develop health services and better protect the right to health of women and children (China);
- 123.187 Eliminate disparities in access to water and sanitation and address the needs of the most vulnerable groups (Finland);
- 123.188 Continue taking measures to ensure the right to health, including for specific groups such as women, by providing quality, affordable and accessible health services, including those relating to sexual and reproductive health (Malaysia);
- 123.189 Further increase financing in the health sector, especially in maternal and child health-care services (Maldives);
- 123.190 Continue efforts to guarantee access to education for all sectors of the population (Senegal);
- 123.191 Continue with measures aimed at increasing the quality of education through the employment and continuous training of teachers, as well as by building new educational facilities (Serbia);
- 123.192 Continue efforts to improve education and adopt policies to enhance inclusion in education for girls and children with disabilities and to increase the quality of education (State of Palestine);
- 123.193 Continue to implement the draft procedures for planning, teaching and assessment in secondary distance-learning institutions (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 123.194 Continue efforts to raise the quality of education, the recruitment and the training of teachers (Lithuania);
- 123.195 Continue to prioritize the implementation of actions to expand access to education at all levels, particularly for women and girls, and the development of modalities for the education of youth and adults (Cuba);
- 123.196 Adopt the draft education code, containing a chapter on inclusive education, and implement the National Education Development Strategy (2012–2020), which refers to the transition of children with disabilities to the general education system (Finland);
- 123.197 Improve the quality of education by providing continuous teacher training and increasing the participation of girls in vocational training and education (Maldives);

- 123.198 **Take all necessary measures to fully implement the National Education Development Strategy (Uzbekistan);**
- 123.199 **Continue efforts within the framework of the comprehensive implementation of the National Education Development Strategy 2030 (Mauritania);**
- 123.200 **Take steps in order to ensure equal access to high quality and inclusive education for all persons, eliminate negative stereotypes and other barriers hindering access for women and girls to education (Republic of Moldova);**
- 123.201 **Increase women's representation in political life and public administration, particularly in decision-making positions at the national and local levels (Republic of Moldova);**
- 123.202 **Continue to advance the rights of women and their increased participation in public life, through the National Development Strategy and other national programmes (Sri Lanka);**
- 123.203 **Take the necessary measures to accelerate the equal representation of women in all areas of public and political life, particularly in decision-making positions (State of Palestine);**
- 123.204 **Implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) in order to address the special needs of women in prisons (Thailand);**
- 123.205 **Eliminate negative stereotypes and other barriers hindering access for women and girls to education (Timor-Leste);**
- 123.206 **Continue efforts to promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination against women and gender stereotypes (Tunisia);**
- 123.207 **Ensure access for all women and girls to an effective, confidential and gender-sensitive complaint mechanism (Lithuania);**
- 123.208 **Continue and intensify efforts to promote and protect women's rights and strengthen their political participation (Azerbaijan);**
- 123.209 **Eliminate, in the field of education, unfavourable stereotypes and other obstacles which hinder the access of women and girls to education and which are at the root of the premature abandonment of education, in particular among girls (Luxembourg);**
- 123.210 **Make further efforts to increase the representation of women in public and political life (Bangladesh);**
- 123.211 **Take further steps to combat all forms of discrimination against women and promote their greater participation in political, social and economic spheres (Bulgaria);**
- 123.212 **Develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women and adopt laws criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence (Chile);**
- 123.213 **Continue efforts to increase women's political participation in the State (Dominican Republic);**
- 123.214 **Continue taking steps to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women (Malaysia);**
- 123.215 **Take all the necessary measures to combat discrimination and violence against women, including intrafamily and domestic violence (France);**
- 123.216 **Enhance the capacities of women to enter and partake in economic activities, including by widening employment access and opportunities, as well as designing effective training and education programmes on digital and**

financial literacy for women, involving bilateral and international cooperation (Indonesia);

123.217 **Intensify efforts to increase women's participation in political and public life (Iraq);**

123.218 **Strengthen the multi-stakeholder approach to implementing programmes on eliminating the worst forms of child labour, paying due regard to addressing the root causes (Philippines);**

123.219 **Continue efforts to eliminate all forms of child labour, to protect them and prevent them from missing out on educational and awareness opportunities in schools (Libya);**

123.220 **Continue efforts to protect children from all forms of violence (Tunisia);**

123.221 **Criminalize child, early and forced marriage as a distinct offence in national legislation, in line with international standards, and provide ongoing support to victims (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

123.222 **Consider adopting a comprehensive national policy and strategy on children and providing them with sufficient human, technical and financial resources (Algeria);**

123.223 **Conduct awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of child, early, forced and unregistered marriages (Burkina Faso);**

123.224 **Ensure that all children are registered at birth regardless of their status or ethnicity (Chile);**

123.225 **Prevent the sale of children for the purpose of child forced labour and effectively enforce the legal framework prohibiting forced labour (Finland);**

123.226 **Continue policies and programmes in various areas concerning children (Georgia);**

123.227 **Continue with measures to ensure access to education for all children (India);**

123.228 **Support efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their participation in all national activities and on an equal basis with other persons (Libya);**

123.229 **Ensure access to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities (Afghanistan);**

123.230 **Develop policies and implement measures that ensure access to inclusive education for all persons with disabilities (Bulgaria);**

123.231 **Consider ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Egypt);**

123.232 **Improve access to social security for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);**

123.233 **Improve further the access to inclusive education for all children with disabilities (Indonesia);**

123.234 **Develop internal regulations on refugee status determination, including terms of reference for the competent interministerial commission, guaranteeing unhindered and fair access to asylum procedures (Afghanistan).**

124. **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 Tajikistan was headed by Mr. Muzaffar Ashuriyon, Minister of Justice of Tajikistan, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Ramazon Rahimzoda, Minister of Internal Affairs;
 - Mrs. Shirini Amonzoda, Minister of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population;
 - Mr. Muhammadyusuf Imomzoda, Minister of Education and Science;
 - Mr. Jamoliddin Abdullozoda, Minister of Health and Social Protection of Population;
 - Mrs. Davlatzoda Zulfiya Davlat, Minister of Culture;
 - Mr. Abdujabbor Sattorzoda, Head of the Human Rights Department of the Executive Office of the President of Tajikistan;
 - Mr. Mirzoamon Rofizoda, Deputy Prosecutor General;
 - Mrs. Gulnora Hasanzoda, Director Statistical Agency;
 - Mrs. Hilolbi Qurbonzoda, Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs;
 - Mr. Sulaymon Davlatzoda, Chairman of Tajikistan Committee on Religion, Regulation of Traditions, Celebrations, and Ceremonies;
 - Mr. Abdullo Rahmonzoda, Chairman of the Committee for Youth Affairs and Sports.
-