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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Pakistan

* 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 forty-second session from 23 January to 3 February 2023. The review of Pakistan was held at the 11th meeting, on 30 January 2023. The delegation of Pakistan was headed by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar. At its 15th meeting, held on 1 February 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Pakistan.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Pakistan: Argentina, Gambia and Nepal.
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 Pakistan:
 - (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 Angola, Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Pakistan 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 Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Rabbani Khar, said that the fourth national report of Pakistan for the universal periodic review had been prepared through an inclusive, consultative process involving all national stakeholders. The presentation of the report was followed by statements by other members of the delegation of Pakistan on specific thematic issues.
6. The Minister stressed that human rights lay deep in the foundations of nationhood in Pakistan. At its heart, the country's movement for independence had been a constitutional step to secure basic human rights, self-determination and fundamental freedoms for the people. Pakistan had remained steadfast in promoting respect for human rights at home and abroad. In line with the constitutional framework, the democratic governance structures, as protectors of human rights, had been strengthened. That growth was visible in the independent judiciary, robust parliamentary traditions and the free media.
7. In the past three years, like many other developing countries, Pakistan had been adversely affected by the cascading crises of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the global financial crisis, and the fallout of long-standing conflicts in the region and beyond. Additionally, in the previous summer, Pakistan had been hit by unprecedented floods.
8. Pakistan had further strengthened its domestic mechanisms to enhance the implementation of the international human rights conventions to which it was a party. In addition to the existing treaty implementation cells at the federal and provincial levels, the

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/PAK/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/42/PAK/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/PAK/3](#).

Government had launched the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up project, based on United Nations guidelines and best practices.

9. In the past five years, Pakistan had enacted several progressive pieces of legislation in line with its international human rights obligations, focusing on the fundamental rights and freedoms of the vulnerable and the marginalized.

10. Pakistan had taken several steps for women's empowerment. It had amended the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 to broaden the definition of employees to include those at non-conventional workplaces and to expand the definition of workplace harassment. The parliament had also enacted the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021 and the Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2020 to strengthen legal deterrents against the menace of rape and acts depriving women of their property rights. The provincial high courts had established courts to adjudicate cases of gender-based violence. Helplines had been set up across Pakistan, and help desks managed solely by women police staff had been established in many police stations.

11. The parliament had enacted a law on transgender rights in 2018 to protect the fundamental rights of transgender persons, such as to inheritance, education, decent work, property ownership and participation in public affairs.

12. Parliament had enacted a law in 2020 to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Also in 2020, the Islamabad Capital Territory Senior Citizens Act, aimed at preventing discrimination against older citizens, had been adopted.

13. The protection of child rights had also remained high on the national agenda. For example, the Zainab Alert Response and Recovery (Amendment) Act, 2020 had been adopted. An alert system for reporting missing children had been launched in follow-up to the Act. Legislation prohibiting child labour was already in force in the country.

14. Pakistan had ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. A law on trafficking in persons and a law on the smuggling of migrants had been enacted in 2018. Since then, more than 1,000 trafficking in persons investigations had been carried out and 161 convictions had been made. To combat torture and to protect fair trial and due process rights, the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention and Punishment) Act, 2022 had been enacted. The Juvenile Justice System Act, which provided for the handling of juvenile cases in a human rights-responsive manner, had been enacted in 2018.

15. Pakistan had imposed a moratorium on the death penalty for several years. However, the moratorium had been lifted after the horrendous terrorist attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar in 2014. The Minister highlighted that the death penalty was applied only for the most severe crimes, in full compliance with due process, under a final judgment rendered by a competent court and with the right to seek pardon or appeal for commutation, and that there had been no executions in Pakistan since December 2019. The Railway Act had been amended in October 2022, to reduce the provision for capital punishment to a life sentence for acts of sabotage targeting railway networks.

16. The landmark Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021 had been enacted, reflecting the high importance Pakistan attached to the freedom of opinion and expression.

17. Pakistan had taken policy and institutional steps to alleviate poverty, reduce inequalities and provide an adequate standard of living. The Benazir Income Support Programme was the flagship initiative to promote and safeguard citizens' social and economic rights. The national population action plan had been developed to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care, and set out multipronged measures, such as forging partnerships between public and private health facilities. The National Education Policy Framework 2018 had been formulated to accelerate the pace of universal and equal access to quality education by all. Its implementation was under way.

18. In 2022, Pakistan had submitted its periodic reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; in 2021, it had submitted its periodic report under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In 2020, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had recognized the country's efforts in that area. Pakistan had consistently extended political and financial support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It also had extended invitations for country visits to four special procedure mandate holders: the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and extreme poverty, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities. Pakistan had also endeavoured to respond regularly to the communications sent by independent human rights experts of the United Nations.

19. A total of 20 per cent seats in the parliament and provincial assemblies were reserved for women. The current level of women's representation in the national and provincial legislatures was among the highest in the region.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 122 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, China, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq and Ireland made statements. The complete versions of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.⁴

22. In response to questions raised, the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights stated that Pakistan had a robust system of standing and functional committees, in both houses of the parliament, that scrutinized the legislative processes and ensured that every law enacted both conformed to the fundamental rights enshrined in the 1973 Constitution and was in line with the country's international human rights obligations.

23. That system of parliamentary oversight had been replicated in all four provinces, where the respective provincial standing committees on human rights and minorities affairs scrutinized the provincial legislative processes and held the provincial administration accountable.

24. Since the previous universal periodic review cycle, the parliament had enacted several laws and made significant amendments to existing legislation to align them with the country's

⁴ See <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1bhwmjkao>.

national and international obligations, considering in particular the recommendations received during the universal periodic review in 2017.

25. The Chairman highlighted some of the areas in which Pakistan had been successful in enacting legislation since 2017, including minorities' rights, the juvenile justice system, protection of transgender persons, protection of girls, enforcement of women's property rights, safeguards for the rights of persons with disabilities, protection of journalists and media professionals, protection against torture and custodial death, and strengthened safeguards against harassment of women.

26. The Secretary of the Ministry of Human Rights stressed that Pakistan had taken several institutional and policy steps since the previous universal periodic review cycle. It had updated the National Action Plan for Human Rights in 2020 to make it more comprehensive and address any previous gaps.

27. The Ministry of Human Rights had launched an Action Plan on Business and Human Rights in 2021 to ensure that human rights due diligence was conducted in the business sector.

28. In 2020, a human rights awareness programme had been launched to educate, and raise awareness among, the public and office bearers about international human rights commitments and follow-up actions.

29. The Ministry of Human Rights had established a helpline, available around the clock, every day, to provide legal advice, counselling, assistance, and referral services for seeking redress for human rights grievances. The helpline had received 1.4 million calls since its inception in 2015.

30. The Government had established the Legal Aid and Justice Authority, providing access to justice and financial assistance to victims of human rights violations who were in need. The Authority had registered more than 500 lawyers, who served on a pro bono basis.

31. As part of the efforts to develop data-driven policy interventions and strengthen the implementation framework, a human rights information management system had been established at the federal and provincial levels in 2021 for the collection of data on human rights indicators. That secure data management system was based on international best practices following the human rights-based approach to data.

32. In 2018, the National Commission for Human Rights had launched policy guidelines on the protection of human rights defenders to ensure the safety of defenders. The National Commission on Rights of the Child, established in 2020, monitored child rights situations and addressed victims' grievances.

33. The Government had constituted the National Commission for Minorities to protect and promote minority rights. It had also established a minorities' welfare fund for development initiatives and the maintenance of minorities' religious sites.

34. New institutions had been established, such as child protection institutes, a centre for the protection of transgender persons, and a council for senior citizens.

35. A representative of the Ministry of the Interior highlighted that Pakistan had a national Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances. The Commission was a legal forum in which families of alleged disappeared persons could lodge complaints.

36. Pursuant to the recommendations accepted during the previous review, a draft bill that would criminalize enforced disappearances as a separate offence was going through the parliamentary process.

37. There was a clear policy of zero tolerance against the heinous crime of enforced disappearance. The Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances expeditiously examined and addressed missing persons cases. The Commission continued to provide a free-of-cost legal platform for affected families. The Commission's overall rate of closure of cases was more than 70 per cent. Any citizen could submit a case through a form available on the Commission's website. There was no cost to file and process the complaint.

38. The Commission had the full legal authority to summon law enforcement agency officials and seek feedback on the alleged cases.

39. As a result of those concerted efforts, the Commission of Inquiry had been able to close most of the cases. As at 31 December 2022, the Commission had closed about 7,000 of the approximately 9,200 cases submitted since its establishment in 2011.

40. Separately, Pakistan had actively engaged with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. In annual reports presented to the Human Rights Council, that Working Group had positively acknowledged the high response rate of Pakistan. As at 31 December 2022, the Commission had clarified around 50 per cent of the cases received from that Working Group. Many of the cases comprised cases of voluntary disappearance, fake claims and cases of preventive detention under domestic law.

41. A representative from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony underlined how blasphemy law in Pakistan was not discriminatory, as it was based on respect for all religions. It applied to Muslims and non-Muslims. Necessary safeguards were built into the system to prevent misuse of blasphemy law. Only officers with the minimum rank of Superintendent of Police could investigate blasphemy cases.

42. Significant deterrence against false accusations – imprisonment of up to seven years, and a fine – was set out under section 211 of the Penal Code. The Federal Investigation Agency was empowered to pursue cases of false claims and abuse of the law.

43. Any sentence of capital punishment handed down by a lower court could be challenged in the High Courts and the Supreme Court. As a last resort, a mercy petition could be submitted to the President of Pakistan.

44. The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs concluded by stating that Pakistan would continue to consolidate its work in the human rights area, focusing more on strengthening the implementation framework and mobilizing the resources required, even in a challenging resource environment.

45. The Minister thanked the members of the troika and the Human Rights Council secretariat for facilitating the review process.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

46. **The response of Pakistan to the following recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fifty-third session:**

46.1 **Consider adhering to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**

46.2 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Italy);**

46.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and incorporate it into national legislation (Spain);**

46.4 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and incorporate it into domestic law (Ukraine);**

46.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and align national legislation with international law (Greece);**

46.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and accept the jurisdiction of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Uruguay);**

46.7 **Take the necessary measures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Argentina);**

- 46.8 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Belgium) (Brazil) (Colombia) (France) (Japan) (Niger);**
- 46.9 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and in the meantime implement legal or policy measures that relate to enforced disappearances (Samoa);**
- 46.10 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Paraguay);**
- 46.11 **Explore the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger);**
- 46.12 **Consider adhering to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**
- 46.13 **Take measures for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Togo);**
- 46.14 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Burkina Faso) (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 46.15 **Take steps to accede to the 2010 version of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);**
- 46.16 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus);**
- 46.17 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Luxembourg);**
- 46.18 **Take steps to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Liechtenstein);**
- 46.19 **Place a moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**
- 46.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Malta);**
- 46.21 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**
- 46.22 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ecuador) (Malta);**
- 46.23 **Reintroduce a moratorium on the application of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to definitively abolish the death penalty (Spain);**
- 46.24 **Observe a moratorium on the death penalty and move towards its abolition by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**
- 46.25 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in order to abolish the death penalty (Greece);**

- 46.26 Consider ratifying the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius);
- 46.27 Consider withdrawing reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify its Optional Protocol (Sierra Leone);
- 46.28 Strengthen efforts towards the swift withdrawal of its declaration on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Montenegro);
- 46.29 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia) (Slovakia);
- 46.30 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, guarantee access to modern contraceptive methods and decriminalize abortion (Mexico);
- 46.31 Accelerate efforts towards the withdrawal of the declaration made upon accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify the Optional Protocol in this regard (South Africa);
- 46.32 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Argentina);
- 46.33 Withdraw all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify its Optional Protocol (Iceland);
- 46.34 Ratify the optional protocols to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cyprus);
- 46.35 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);
- 46.36 Take measures for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);
- 46.37 Strictly enforce the prohibition of child domestic labour and consider ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Philippines);
- 46.38 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Ukraine);
- 46.39 Consider ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 46.40 Continue its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, to protect and promote social and economic rights (Kyrgyzstan);
- 46.41 Respond to all pending visit requests from the United Nations special procedure mandate holders, and consider extending a standing invitation to the mandate holders (Latvia);
- 46.42 Extend an open invitation to the special procedures (Costa Rica);
- 46.43 Continue its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, to protect and promote social and economic rights (Tajikistan);

- 46.44 Continue working with the Working Group on the Right to Development to strengthen international norms on development (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 46.45 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that addresses discrimination (Israel);
- 46.46 Consider decriminalizing blasphemy (Italy);
- 46.47 Effectively apply and implement existing legislative protections against blasphemy laws (Germany);
- 46.48 Adopt legal and practical measures for effective safeguards in order to prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws and address religious intolerance (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 46.49 Ensure that the implementation of the "blasphemy laws" is not misused to settle personal scores or on account of ulterior motives, or to prevent the performance of religious rites (Czechia);
- 46.50 Fully respect freedom of religion or belief in accordance with international human rights law, in particular by: reforming blasphemy laws, especially as regards the existing legal possibility of punishing blasphemy by death, which creates a climate conducive to extrajudicial killings; repealing other legal provisions discriminating against members belonging to religious minorities; and halting abductions, forced marriages and forced conversions of women and girls from religious minorities (Poland);
- 46.51 Repeal or amend blasphemy laws, and end other discriminatory laws used against members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community and members of other religious minority communities (United States of America);
- 46.52 Repeal blasphemy laws and combat religious intolerance (Greece);
- 46.53 Amend blasphemy legislation to avoid unjustly targeting or discriminating against religious minorities (Ireland);
- 46.54 Repeal the legislation against blasphemy that includes the mandatory death penalty (articles 295-A, B and C, and 298 B and C of the Penal Code) and commute all death sentences issued under article 295-C (Spain);
- 46.55 Take further targeted steps to fine-tune national legislation in line with international legal standards (Russian Federation);
- 46.56 Continue working on improving legislation to ensure rights and freedoms of vulnerable groups (Russian Federation);
- 46.57 Ensure that the 2023 general elections will be held in line with the Constitution (Slovakia);
- 46.58 Amend section 260 (3) and the second amendment of the Constitution, which discriminates against Ahmadiyya Muslims, and repeal sections 295-A, 295-B, 295-C, 298-B and 298-C of Pakistan's Penal Code to allow freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Switzerland);
- 46.59 Continue to undertake legislative, administrative and policy measures for the protection and promotion of human rights (Türkiye);
- 46.60 Revise the Pakistan Penal Code and reduce the number of capital offences (Czechia);
- 46.61 Amend the section of the Penal Code that criminalizes offences relating to religion to ensure its full compatibility with international human rights obligations and standards (Denmark);
- 46.62 Pursue and intensify the compliance of national legislation with international instruments, in particular by harmonizing human rights

protections throughout the national territory to reduce potential disparities, particularly at the provincial level (Djibouti);

46.63 Exert further efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthen the work of the mechanisms established in this regard (Qatar);

46.64 Deepen efforts on the protection of the rights of all citizens of Pakistan (Nigeria);

46.65 Strengthen the protection and promotion of civil and political rights (Burundi);

46.66 Implement more measures to strengthen and promote economic, social and cultural rights (Burundi);

46.67 Redouble efforts to protect vulnerable groups (Burundi);

46.68 Pursue efforts to implement its National Action Plan for Human Rights (Morocco);

46.69 Continue its efforts to implement the National Action Plan for Human Rights (Algeria);

46.70 Continue the effective implementation of the National Action Plan with the full participation of civil society (Kazakhstan);

46.71 Continue efforts to achieve the objectives and targets of the National Action Plan for Human Rights (Ethiopia);

46.72 Continue giving priority to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by including them in the National Agenda 2030 (Oman);

46.73 Pursue the successful implementation of its National Agenda, and ensure it is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Brunei Darussalam);

46.74 Strengthen the role and the effectiveness of the National Commission for Human Rights, in accordance with the international human rights standards (Kyrgyzstan);

46.75 Continue efforts aimed at fostering national policies and programmes aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Sudan);

46.76 Continue the implementation of its strengthened National Action Plan for Human Rights, in line with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

46.77 Strengthen national human rights institutions, in particular the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women and the National Commission on Rights of the Child, and allocate to them adequate resources to fulfil their mandates (Montenegro);

46.78 Continue to prioritize institutional reform processes, in particular regarding the national human rights institutions (Morocco);

46.79 Continue to strengthen the national human rights institutions, such as the National Commission on the Status of Women and the National Commission on Rights of the Child (Bhutan);

46.80 Ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is in full conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), and provide the Commission with adequate resources (Latvia);

46.81 Step up efforts to strengthen the national human rights institution as per the Paris Principles (Nepal);

46.82 Ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is fully compliant with the Paris Principles, and that the Commission is adequately resourced (Samoa);

- 46.83 **Continue to strengthen national human rights institutions for effective implementation of its human rights commitments (Türkiye);**
- 46.84 **Ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is in full conformity with the Paris Principles (Zambia);**
- 46.85 **Safeguard the independence of the National Commission for Human Rights and ensure that it is empowered and sufficiently funded to perform its mandate, consistent with the Paris Principles, and establish human rights courts as called for under existing legislation (Canada);**
- 46.86 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the proper functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 46.87 **Ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is in full conformity with the Paris Principles (Croatia);**
- 46.88 **Strengthen the independence of national human rights institutions (Cyprus);**
- 46.89 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the National Commission for Human Rights with the ultimate goal of ensuring its compliance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);**
- 46.90 **Continue efforts to ensure that the national institution for human rights complies with the Paris Principles (Iraq);**
- 46.91 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose, within the framework of Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17 (Paraguay);**
- 46.92 **Amend articles 25 to 27 of Pakistan's Constitution, to recognize belonging to a sexual and gender-based minority as protected grounds on the basis of which discrimination is prohibited, and enact a comprehensive anti-discrimination law prohibiting discrimination (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 46.93 **Implement legal and practical measures to protect all religious minorities or those with differing beliefs from discrimination and persecution, and ensure that religiously motivated violence or incitement to it is subject to investigation and prosecution (Norway);**
- 46.94 **Uphold international human rights commitments and guarantee protection under the law as equal citizens for all religious or belief communities (Romania);**
- 46.95 **End the widespread use of the death penalty, especially against children and persons with disabilities (Israel);**
- 46.96 **Consider re-establishing a moratorium on imposing and carrying out the death penalty, as a step towards its complete abolition (Italy);**
- 46.97 **Take steps to abolish the death penalty and introduce a moratorium on executions immediately (Liechtenstein);**
- 46.98 **Abolish the death penalty for drug-related offences and reinstate the moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as first steps towards abolishing it entirely (Mexico);**
- 46.99 **Reinstate the official moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**
- 46.100 **Review existing legislation on the fight against terrorism, in particular provisions relating to children, and abolish the death penalty (Paraguay);**
- 46.101 **Consider a death penalty moratorium for all cases as a step towards its complete abolition (Portugal);**

- 46.102 **Abolish the death penalty for drug-related offences with a view to abolishing it for all offences that do not belong to the “most serious crimes”, in accordance with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**
- 46.103 **Re-establish a moratorium on the death penalty and reduce the number of death penalty offences as steps toward complete abolition (Australia);**
- 46.104 **Reintroduce the moratorium on the death penalty (Croatia);**
- 46.105 **Reduce the amount of capital crimes and formalize a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);**
- 46.106 **Take all necessary steps towards the full abolition of the death penalty (Denmark);**
- 46.107 **Abolish the death penalty and immediately implement a formal moratorium on executions (Finland);**
- 46.108 **Declare a new moratorium on the death penalty and further decrease the number of criminal offences punishable by death (Germany);**
- 46.109 **Abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica) (Iceland) (Slovenia);**
- 46.110 **Reinstate the moratorium on executions (Estonia);**
- 46.111 **Approve a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes and harmful practices (Costa Rica);**
- 46.112 **Take all appropriate steps to prevent arbitrary arrest, torture and other ill-treatment, and bring those responsible for such acts to justice, in accordance with international standards of fair trial (Israel);**
- 46.113 **Toughen penalties in laws aimed at preventing torture (Jordan);**
- 46.114 **Formulate comprehensive rules and procedures for the investigation, documentation and prosecution of torture in line with the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol) and the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (Méndez Principles) (Latvia);**
- 46.115 **Approve and promote compliance with the bill for the prevention and punishment of torture and death of detainees (Paraguay);**
- 46.116 **Review the legislation relating to prisons to ensure that it accords with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (South Africa);**
- 46.117 **End the extralegal use of force as well as use of enforced disappearance, especially against journalists (United States of America);**
- 46.118 **Adopt measures to guarantee that the National Commission for Human Rights can exercise its functions without hindrance, including with regard to complaints against the armed forces and intelligence services (Chile);**
- 46.119 **Take steps towards criminalizing torture and enforced disappearance (Estonia);**
- 46.120 **Establish an independent inquiry into all suspected cases of enforced disappearance, and hold all alleged perpetrators to account (Ireland);**
- 46.121 **Continue national efforts in preventing and combating all forms of terrorism (Somalia);**
- 46.122 **Ensure the compatibility of counter-terrorism standards with international human rights obligations (Argentina);**
- 46.123 **Intensify the fight against terrorism (Cameroon);**

- 46.124 **Take credible, verifiable, irreversible and sustained action against terrorism emanating from territories under its control (India);**
- 46.125 **Ensure that the right to a fair trial is in line with international standards (Republic of Korea);**
- 46.126 **Establish key protections during arrest, detention and custody for all individuals (Cyprus);**
- 46.127 **Consider reviewing anti-terrorism legislation that restricts the freedoms of expression, association and assembly and unduly infringes the work of journalists and human rights defenders (Lithuania);**
- 46.128 **Continue its commitments to upholding the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all (Nigeria);**
- 46.129 **Conclude the drafting and adoption of the national interfaith harmony policy (Malawi);**
- 46.130 **Investigate all reports of intimidation and violence against journalists and human rights defenders, and bring perpetrators to justice (Norway);**
- 46.131 **Redouble efforts to investigate murders of journalists and act against all forms of violence against them (Peru);**
- 46.132 **Ensure the effective enforcement of the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, 2021 (Philippines);**
- 46.133 **Continue taking measures to protect journalists and take advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (Qatar);**
- 46.134 **Guarantee a safe and enabling environment for the work of journalists and human rights defenders (Republic of Korea);**
- 46.135 **Fully implement the Supreme Court's ruling of 19 June 2014 calling for concrete measures to protect members of religious minorities and their faith and places of worship (Sierra Leone);**
- 46.136 **Implement measures to ensure respect of the right to freedom of religion or belief, including protection of religious minorities and their places of worship (Slovakia);**
- 46.137 **Establish the Commission for the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals without delay to reduce the impunity for crimes against journalists (Sweden);**
- 46.138 **Enhance efforts to provide enabling and safe environments for journalists, including by ensuring effective implementation of the journalist act of 2021 and conducting human rights awareness activities for law enforcement officers (Thailand);**
- 46.139 **Ensure that the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act aligns with Pakistan's Constitution, and end impunity for attacks against journalists (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 46.140 **Review the law on electronic crimes and ensure that it does not affect the freedom of expression of journalists and activists (Uruguay);**
- 46.141 **Continue efforts in the area of human rights to support fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly and association (Yemen);**
- 46.142 **Uphold the freedom of expression, including by amending the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act to avoid unnecessary restrictions on journalists and protect their safety and welfare (Australia);**
- 46.143 **Strengthen measures to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their work and have adequate protection against possible acts of**

intimidation, reprisals and violence, and that the perpetrators of such acts are prosecuted (Colombia);

46.144 Strengthen measures to protect journalists and human rights defenders, particularly regarding their right to expression or critical opinion about public institutions (Costa Rica);

46.145 Take legislative and other measures for better protection of religious minorities and their rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief and freedom of opinion and expression (Croatia);

46.146 Intensify efforts aimed at sufficiently safeguarding freedom of expression (Cyprus);

46.147 Establish independent commissions for the protection and safety of journalists and media professionals (Czechia);

46.148 Ensure that human rights defenders have adequate protection against intimidation, reprisals and violence (Ecuador);

46.149 Form the Commission for the Protection of Journalists and Media Professional, to tackle impunity in crimes against journalists, as required under the 2021 Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act, and take all the necessary measures to allow journalists to exercise their legitimate and fundamental freedoms without any kind of restrictions in the name of protection (Greece);

46.150 Stop targeting political dissidents and legitimate political activities in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (India);

46.151 Approve legislation on the protection of personal data in accordance with international standards on privacy and human rights (Costa Rica);

46.152 Adopt comprehensive policies to prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as all forms of slavery and trafficking, and investigate, prosecute and punish all perpetrators of those crimes (Israel);

46.153 Take measures to effectively prevent the trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation, forced marriages and forced labour (Liechtenstein);

46.154 Guarantee the effective application of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act and the Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act by creating a specialized inter-institutional mechanism to coordinate the combating of trafficking in persons at the national level (Panama);

46.155 Take further measures to implement the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 (Bangladesh);

46.156 Implement the laws for the prevention of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (Ecuador);

46.157 Double efforts aimed at the implementation of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2018 (Georgia);

46.158 Implement further programmes to create jobs to ensure the implementation of the right to work (Viet Nam);

46.159 Continue its measures to ensure employment opportunities and strengthen social security (Kuwait);

46.160 Continue efforts to alleviate poverty and promote social and economic sustainable development (China);

46.161 Further combat poverty, including through effective implementation of the Benazir Income Support Programme (Kyrgyzstan);

46.162 Pursue efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable social and economic development (Mauritania);

- 46.163 Provide adequate human and financial resources to the National Commission for Human Rights (Norway);
- 46.164 Continue alleviating poverty and reinforcing sustainable social development (Saudi Arabia);
- 46.165 Consider allocating sufficient resources for attaining Sustainable Development Goals (Sri Lanka);
- 46.166 Continue efforts to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development (Sri Lanka);
- 46.167 Continue steps to enhance poverty alleviation measures as part of rehabilitation work for the flood victims (Sri Lanka);
- 46.168 Continue the efforts to alleviate poverty and promote economic and social sustainable development (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 46.169 Consider allocating sufficient resources for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (Tajikistan);
- 46.170 Continue to make progress in the successful programmes of employment, food and assistance for the most vulnerable in the fight against poverty (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 46.171 Continue its efforts to reduce poverty and promote economic and social sustainable development (Viet Nam);
- 46.172 Continue steps to enhance social safety net and poverty alleviation measures as part of rehabilitation work for the flood victims (Algeria);
- 46.173 Continue efforts to alleviate poverty and promote economic and social sustainable development (Azerbaijan);
- 46.174 Implement a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving water, sanitation and hygiene in schools (Bahamas);
- 46.175 Continue to implement programmes to promote employment and reduce poverty (Belarus);
- 46.176 Continue implementing various schemes and measures to alleviate poverty in the country (Brunei Darussalam);
- 46.177 Continue its efforts to ensure the realization of right of everyone to an adequate standard of living (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 46.178 Continue implementing poverty alleviation programmes for socioeconomic empowerment, particularly through skill-development training (Indonesia);
- 46.179 Continue the already launched social security schemes to alleviate poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 46.180 Continue to protect the rights of groups in vulnerable situations (China);
- 46.181 Continue to provide health insurance and improve health-care facilities (Kuwait);
- 46.182 Continue its efforts to reduce the rate of neonatal and maternal mortality (Malaysia);
- 46.183 Continue to promote the right to health and work to implement the government programme to provide basic health services free of charge for all and expand health coverage (Oman);
- 46.184 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development to harness the demographic dividend by investing in women, adolescents and youth with regard to education, employment opportunities and health, including reproductive

health and family planning services, and significantly reducing the birth rate among adolescents (Panama);

46.185 Undertake measures to remove any barriers that impede access to sexual and reproductive health for adolescents (South Africa);

46.186 Pursue its efforts to achieve higher economic growth so as to raise the standard of living of people and improve the social, health and educational situation of vulnerable groups (Tajikistan);

46.187 Provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme for providing quality basic health services for all through the micro health insurance system and facilitating health services that provide health care throughout the country (United Arab Emirates);

46.188 Take further measures to strengthen the health system by ensuring effective implementation of national plans (Uzbekistan);

46.189 Continue to strengthen the successful social policies of free and quality education and health care for its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

46.190 Continue efforts to achieve higher economic growth so as to raise the standard of living of people and improve the social, health and educational situation of vulnerable groups (Algeria);

46.191 Enhance its efforts to improve health facilities and increase access to health care (Kazakhstan);

46.192 Adopt integrated and multisectoral policies that holistically address sexual and reproductive health (Colombia);

46.193 Take the necessary measures to eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure their sexual and reproductive health through prenatal care, reduction of maternal mortality and access to modern contraceptives, without any discrimination (Costa Rica);

46.194 Continue to introduce and expand its flagship programme to provide free, quality basic health services to all (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

46.195 Intensify efforts in favour of women's rights and ensure their implementation, including regarding sexual and reproductive health (France);

46.196 Put in place mechanisms to address the high maternal mortality rate, forced sterilization of women with disabilities, and unsafe abortion practices (Gambia);

46.197 Continue strengthening its policies to improve its population's access to health care (Singapore);

46.198 Keep enhancing training and capacity-building of personnel responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights (Lebanon);

46.199 Continue efforts to improve training and capacity-building for personnel responsible for human rights promotion and protection at all levels (Maldives);

46.200 Consider allocating resources to programmes and activities to raise awareness of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights (Mauritania);

46.201 Intensify efforts aimed at raising awareness of human rights principles and national remedies (Bahrain);

46.202 Continue implementing measures to improve access to education and to reduce school dropout (Mauritius);

46.203 Continue working to provide a unified educational system and strengthening the framework of the national education policy (Oman);

- 46.204 Continue efforts to ensure its population's access to education, as well as to ensure greater gender parity in this access (Singapore);
- 46.205 Continue the efforts to reduce school dropout rates, and consider seeking international support to rehabilitate education facilities in flood-affected areas (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 46.206 Pursue its ongoing work on strengthening the education system and implementing existing laws and policies to ensure universal access to education (Turkmenistan);
- 46.207 Continue efforts to strengthen the education system, and to implement laws and policies to ensure universal access to education (Albania);
- 46.208 Reinforce efforts for strengthening human rights education and training (Azerbaijan);
- 46.209 Allocate resources to address inequality in the education system by building schools, providing school supplies and training teachers (Bahamas);
- 46.210 Support policies aimed at protecting vulnerable groups to ensure their implementation (Bahrain);
- 46.211 Adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating discriminatory stereotypes and harmful practices, in particular through awareness-raising campaigns (Burkina Faso);
- 46.212 Continue taking additional steps to further expand access to quality education by groups in disadvantaged situations; and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education services (Cambodia);
- 46.213 Pursue efforts towards achieving the goals of sustainable development, especially in the sectors of education, health, climate change and disaster risk management (Kuwait);
- 46.214 Strengthen efforts to enhance the resilience of the most marginalized communities to the impact of climate change, including climate-induced disasters (Malaysia);
- 46.215 Intensify action on mitigation and adaptation measures to effectively tackle climate change (Maldives);
- 46.216 Adopt and implement human rights-consistent adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures that will adequately protect people from the climate crisis' impact (Romania);
- 46.217 Take effective mitigation and adaptation steps to deal with climate change (Sri Lanka);
- 46.218 Continue addressing environmental challenges and climate change, including by adopting green energy projects (Timor-Leste);
- 46.219 Continue to promote measures to counteract the negative impact of climate change in favour of human rights, particularly the mitigation and adaptation of climate change (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 46.220 Continue the mitigation and adaptation measures in dealing with climate change (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 46.221 Boost investments in renewable energy projects and increase efforts that enhance the transition to a low-carbon footprint (Samoa);
- 46.222 Continue efforts to improve the environment in line with the global goals (Burundi);
- 46.223 Continue to promote economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, through mechanisms, plans and programmes for the benefit of its inhabitants (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

- 46.224 Engage with the international community for the recovery and restoration of people affected by the floods (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 46.225 Continue efforts to increase access to education, especially for girls and in rural areas (Japan);
- 46.226 Take effective measures to protect the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, including women and minorities (Japan);
- 46.227 Continue and intensify efforts to combat trafficking in women and girls and gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, by punishing perpetrators more severely and systematically (Djibouti);
- 46.228 Adopt laws to ensure the implementation of the law against domestic violence, ensure protection for vulnerable people and bring perpetrators to justice (Uruguay);
- 46.229 Enact legislation on domestic violence at the federal level and devote required resources for meaningful promotion and protection of women's rights (Lithuania);
- 46.230 Continue adjusting national human rights legislation to international obligations regarding the definition of domestic violence, access to justice and services for victims of this scourge (Peru);
- 46.231 Reinforce its measures to address all forms of violence against women, including by criminalizing domestic violence (Portugal);
- 46.232 Enact the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021 (South Africa);
- 46.233 Strengthen the education system, especially in rural areas, and implement laws and policies to ensure universal access to education, including by redoubling efforts to keep boys and girls in the educational system beyond primary education (Luxembourg);
- 46.234 Take measures to improve women's access to prenatal care and advice, especially in the most remote rural areas of the country (Mali);
- 46.235 Adopt all necessary measures to eradicate the forced conversion to Islam of women and girls belonging to religious minorities (Mexico);
- 46.236 Further combat violence against women, and ensure protection of their rights, including access to land ownership without discrimination (Poland);
- 46.237 Continue to work on strengthening its health system, improving women's access to health-care services and reducing the rate of maternal mortality (Serbia);
- 46.238 Take concrete steps to ensure equal and effective participation of minorities, including women and faith-based groups, and protect their rights and civil liberties (Sierra Leone);
- 46.239 Take targeted action to encourage greater participation of women in the labour force, addressing the gender pay gap, reduce unemployment among women and promote the participation of women in managerial and leadership positions (Slovenia);
- 46.240 Continue efforts to fight unemployment, especially among women, young people and people living in rural areas (Somalia);
- 46.241 Continue efforts to strengthen the education system, in particular in rural areas, and to implement laws and policies to ensure universal access to education, in particular to strengthen efforts to keep boys and girls in education after primary education (State of Palestine);

- 46.242 Supplement the current legislation in order to combat all forms of violence against women and girls and ensure its effective implementation (Switzerland);
- 46.243 Continue its efforts to enhance the inclusion of women in political and public positions, including through the amendment of its electoral law to increase the minimum quota for the representation of women in the national assembly (Timor-Leste);
- 46.244 Support the national commission for women and enhance its awareness-raising efforts at the federal and regional levels, and provide technical support for its field work (United Arab Emirates);
- 46.245 Continue consolidating women's rights and protection of those rights with laws and policies adopted to eliminate gender disparities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 46.246 Strengthen the education system, particularly in rural areas, and implement laws and policies that guarantee universal access to education, intensifying efforts to keep boys and girls in school after primary education (Argentina);
- 46.247 Enact the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021 and take tangible steps to reduce high rates of violence against women and girls (Australia);
- 46.248 Enact federal legislation on domestic violence and enforce effective implementation of existing legislation related to violence against women (Sweden);
- 46.249 Belarus welcomes the adoption of the National Gender Policy Framework in 2022 and wishes success in the implementation of its women's empowerment projects (Belarus);
- 46.250 Strengthen support structures to protect victims of domestic violence (Bhutan);
- 46.251 Take further steps in the field of women's empowerment by ensuring access to education, professional realization in the labour market and fair participation in political and social life (Bulgaria);
- 46.252 Continue intensifying efforts to eliminate violence against women (Cambodia);
- 46.253 Establish the required independent commission under the Protection of Journalists and Media Professionals Act to address violence against journalists, especially women journalists (Canada);
- 46.254 Develop a strong policy and delivery mechanism to ensure the registration of women voters, and protect women voters from violence and disenfranchisement as they cast their ballots (Canada);
- 46.255 Implement actions to adopt a broad definition of discrimination against women, encompassing all the grounds for discrimination that are internationally prohibited, ensuring that legislation provides for appropriate sanctions and enforcement mechanisms (Chile);
- 46.256 Improve women's access to land and eliminate discriminatory practices that prevent rural women from acquiring assets (Colombia);
- 46.257 Continue efforts to advance the status of women and protect them from all forms of violence (Egypt);
- 46.258 Strengthen the efforts to reduce the maternal mortality rate by improving women's access to health-care facilities in all provinces (Estonia);
- 46.259 Strengthen the specific education programme for schoolgirls (Ethiopia);

- 46.260 **Adopt and implement legislation prohibiting forced conversions and take measures to halt abductions, forced marriages and conversions of girls and young women from religious minorities (Finland);**
- 46.261 **Strengthen efforts towards withdrawing its declaration made upon the accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Gambia);**
- 46.262 **Amend abortion law (section 338 of the Penal Code) to provide safe abortion services without written consent from a spouse (Iceland);**
- 46.263 **End systemic persecution of minorities, misuse of blasphemy laws and forced conversions of minority-community girls (India);**
- 46.264 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls in all its forms and provide adequate resources for victims' support (Indonesia);**
- 46.265 **Continue efforts to eliminate the wage gap between women and men (Iraq);**
- 46.266 **Continue to take concrete steps to address the prevalence of gender-based violence (Malawi);**
- 46.267 **Continue to implement legislation to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, in line with international human rights law and standards (Malaysia);**
- 46.268 **Strengthen the capacities of the special courts established to deal with cases of gender-based violence (Panama);**
- 46.269 **Criminalize all forms of gender violence against women, adopt a national action plan for that purpose and guarantee access to support services and shelters for women victims of violence (Paraguay);**
- 46.270 **Enhance the implementation of laws and policies on the elimination of discrimination against women and girls and on combating gender-based violence, including domestic violence and "honour killings" (Philippines);**
- 46.271 **Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, covering all internationally recognized prohibited grounds of discrimination and ensure that the legislation criminalizes all forms of gender-based violence against women and enforces the principle of equal pay for work of equal value (Romania);**
- 46.272 **Adopt the domestic violence prevention law and adopt and implement federal and provincial legislation prohibiting forced marriages and including special protection measures, given the alarming number of rapes and forced marriages to which women and girls are subjected (Spain);**
- 46.273 **Take concrete measures to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children by reinforcing the relevant legal framework, running awareness campaigns and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice (Ukraine);**
- 46.274 **Define domestic violence as a crime, and provide adequate resources to end gender-based violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 46.275 **Ensure the effective implementation of the legislation on gender-based violence including domestic violence (Zambia);**
- 46.276 **Criminalize all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape (Ecuador);**
- 46.277 **Adopt effective legislation, and launch related awareness programmes, that criminalizes all forms of domestic and gender-based violence against women and children and ensure full implementation of this legislation (Albania);**

- 46.278 **Adopt legislation to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and marital rape, without exceptions (Belgium);**
- 46.279 **Redouble efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence and marital rape (Brazil);**
- 46.280 **Ensure the effective implementation of the legislation on combating gender-based violence (Kazakhstan);**
- 46.281 **Broaden efforts to protect women against violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, including more State prosecutions of so-called “honour killings” (Croatia);**
- 46.282 **Implement legislation to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, including the honour killings (Czechia);**
- 46.283 **Pass and implement legislation to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, in line with international human rights law (Finland);**
- 46.284 **Ensure the implementation of legislation on gender-based violence, including domestic violence and acid attacks, and strengthen prosecution mechanisms (Gambia);**
- 46.285 **Criminalize all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and marital rape, and guarantee timely and gender-sensitive investigation and trial (Iceland);**
- 46.286 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and respond to any form of discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, with special regard to women, girls and children (Italy);**
- 46.287 **Continue efforts to end child, early and forced marriage, as well as all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls (Italy);**
- 46.288 **Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children, as well as minorities (Lebanon);**
- 46.289 **Continue efforts to eliminate all forms of child labour, and continue to offer education opportunities to all (Libya);**
- 46.290 **Undertake more serious efforts to ensure that all children enjoy the right to education and have equal access to quality primary and secondary education, in particular girls living in rural areas (Malaysia);**
- 46.291 **Continue its efforts towards ending child labour and protecting child rights (Nepal);**
- 46.292 **Raise the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 in all provinces and introduce legislation to ensure birth and marriage registration (Norway);**
- 46.293 **Consider setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 for both sexes, and continue to raise awareness among the Pakistani population about the harmful effects of child and forced marriage (Peru);**
- 46.294 **Enforce a uniform minimum age of marriage for both sexes across the country and take measures to increase school enrolment and reduce dropout rate among girls (Poland);**
- 46.295 **Continue enacting legislation and implementing policies and programmes aimed at empowering women, protecting their rights and addressing violence against women and girls (Qatar);**
- 46.296 **Continue efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls by prohibiting child marriage and ensuring the effective implementation of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act (Republic of Korea);**
- 46.297 **Strengthen the education system by ensuring universal access to education and increasing school enrolment among children, particularly at the secondary level (Serbia);**

- 46.298 **Prioritize social security measures and the welfare of women and children in flood-affected areas when allocating resources (Sri Lanka);**
- 46.299 **Continue its efforts to eliminate child labour and combat all forms of violence against children (State of Palestine);**
- 46.300 **Revise the Child Marriage Restraint Act to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 across Pakistan (Sweden);**
- 46.301 **Enforce and strengthen existing provincial laws and support national laws on child, early, and forced marriage of women and girls and hold violators accountable (United States of America);**
- 46.302 **Continue efforts on implementing the right to free and compulsory education for all children (Uzbekistan);**
- 46.303 **Continue efforts to establish rights, including property rights, of women and girls and eliminate child and forced marriage and workplace harassment (Bangladesh);**
- 46.304 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes and harmful practices, including child and forced marriage, and crimes committed in the name of so-called “honour” (Belgium);**
- 46.305 **Advance in the implementation of the different laws and programmes adopted in favour of the most vulnerable populations, particularly those aimed at women, children and minorities, among others (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 46.306 **Continue efforts to strengthen the capacity of the human rights institutions, including the National Commission for Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women, the National Commission on Rights of the Child and the National Commission for Minorities (Bulgaria);**
- 46.307 **Continue to adopt and implement programmes and initiatives to strengthen the protection of the rights of the child, including guaranteeing equal rights to quality education for girls and boys, regardless of their social status and ethnicity, and improving access to all educational stages (Bulgaria);**
- 46.308 **Hold training meetings on the rights of women and children (Burundi);**
- 46.309 **Strengthen the protection of women and children (Cameroon);**
- 46.310 **Set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years for both sexes, at the national level (Costa Rica);**
- 46.311 **Continue ensuring the protection of groups in situations of vulnerability, such as women, children, minorities and older persons (Cuba);**
- 46.312 **Continue working on implementing national policies for the protection of children’s rights (Egypt);**
- 46.313 **Pursue efforts to combat child labour and exploitation (France);**
- 46.314 **Implement nationwide legislation regulating a minimum age for marriage (Germany);**
- 46.315 **Adopt and enforce legislative measures in order to prohibit forced conversion and forced and child marriage (Greece);**
- 46.316 **Continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the right of education and provide quality education to all children, including girls, throughout the country (Indonesia);**
- 46.317 **Continue prioritizing women and children in social and legislative policies (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

- 46.318 Continue drafting laws to protect vulnerable groups (women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities) and tightening penalties for perpetrators of violations against these groups (Jordan);
- 46.319 Continue efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their participation in various national activities on an equal footing with others (Libya);
- 46.320 Continue efforts to introduce policies and measures for reinforcing economic and social integration for persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);
- 46.321 Further promote access to education for all, including persons with disabilities and children with specific and special needs, and those belonging to minorities (Thailand);
- 46.322 As a member of the Human Rights Council, ensure that any engagement with the de facto authorities in Afghanistan is contingent on and centred around their respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Afghanistan, especially those of women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities (Afghanistan);
- 46.323 Continue the actions of the national committee for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to guarantee the rights of this population group (Cuba);
- 46.324 Continue to take pragmatic initiatives to protect the rights of vulnerable people, including women, children, older persons, minorities and persons with disabilities (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 46.325 Allocate the necessary resources to ensure the accessibility of public education, particularly in rural and remote areas (Lithuania);
- 46.326 Ensure that the draft national policies guarantee the practice of minority faiths, including of Ahmadiyya Muslims (Sierra Leone);
- 46.327 Enhance its efforts to protect the rights of minorities and to promote their public participation (Turkmenistan);
- 46.328 Ensure that school textbooks are inclusive of all religions, and ensure that minorities can access suitable alternatives to compulsory Qur'anic studies (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 46.329 Ensure that the minority commission has sufficient minority representation as well as the statutory back-up to ensure compliance and the execution of its powers (Canada);
- 46.330 Strengthen efforts to protect the rights of minorities (Egypt);
- 46.331 Decriminalize same-sex activities, in accordance with international human rights standards (Israel);
- 46.332 Consider repealing all punitive and discriminatory laws that criminalize any or all aspects of consensual sexual relationships between adults of the same sex or gender (Malta);
- 46.333 Adopt a comprehensive law to prevent and eliminate discrimination, expressly including discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults (Mexico);
- 46.334 Continue efforts to enact, in all provinces, legislative frameworks that protect the rights of transgender and intersex people, and decriminalize homosexuality (Chile);
- 46.335 Repeal all punitive and discriminatory laws that criminalize any aspects of same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);

46.336 **Ensure that all persons can obtain or amend identity documents as per their self-perceived gender identity, free from medical or diagnostic requirements (Iceland);**

46.337 **Continue efforts to protect the rights of migrants (Bahrain);**

46.338 **Consolidate non-discrimination against minorities, migrants and other groups, including persons with disabilities (Cameroon);**

46.339 **Continue policies aimed at ensuring protection and support to refugees (Sudan);**

46.340 **Ensure that the human rights of refugees within the territory of Pakistan are protected (Afghanistan).**

47. **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 Pakistan was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- Senator Walid Iqbal, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights;
 - Mr. Ali Raza Bhutta, Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights;
 - H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador/Permanent Representative;
 - Mr. Muhammad Ayub Chaudhry, Additional Secretary (IFS), M/o Interior;
 - Syed Ata-ur-Rehman, Additional Secretary, M/o Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony;
 - H.E. Mr. Zaman Mehdi, Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative;
 - Mr. Muhammad Usman Iqbal Jadoon, Director General, M/o Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Junaid Suleman, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Umair Khalid, Second Secretary;
 - Mr. Danyal Hasnain, Third Secretary.
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