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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Ghana

* 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 Ghana was held at the 4th meeting, on 24 January 2023. The delegation of Ghana was headed by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Godfred Yeboah Dame. At its 10th meeting, held on 27 January 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Ghana.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Ghana: Eritrea, Georgia and Malaysia.
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 Ghana:
 - (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 Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, was transmitted to Ghana through the troika. The questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation welcomed participants in the meeting and expressed the hope that, in 2023, it would be possible to make a giant step to recover from the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
6. Ghana considered the universal periodic review to be the most successful mechanism of the Human Rights Council. Human rights were fundamental to the sustenance of Ghana, as a republic, and to ensure prosperity and equal opportunities for its citizens.
7. The head of delegation reaffirmed the support of Ghana for the universal periodic review that served as a stocktaking mechanism of the global effort to realize human rights.
8. In order to prepare its national report, Ghana had worked through the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, which operated under the Office of the Attorney-General and consisted of government officials from all public ministries and agencies, as well as representatives from the national human rights institute. In addition, Parliament had also been consulted during the process.
9. As for the commitment of Ghana to ensuring protection from violence for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other persons, the delegation stated that Ghana had abhorred any form of violence or brutality against any group. No support had been lent by the Government to an individual or an organization advocating in favour of inflicting harm on minorities or people of a different sexual orientation. The Government's position had been reflected in the bill on the promotion of proper human sexual rights and Ghanaian

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/GHA/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/42/GHA/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/42/GHA/3](#).

family values in 2021 that had been presented to Parliament. The aim of the Attorney-General in the bill had been to ensure its compliance with the Constitution.

10. In order to combat corruption, the Government had been undertaking several initiatives since 2017, in particular, the Office of the Special Prosecutor had been established to investigate and prosecute corruption and other related criminal cases. Such acts as the Witness Protection Act, the Right to Information Act, the New Companies Act and the Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act had been passed.

11. To promote and protect civil and political rights, Ghana had begun using technology and conducting visits to refugee camps to register births. Voluntary training and capacity-building had been conducted for police officers on the subject of the excessive use of force.

12. A plea bargaining mechanism had been formally introduced with respect to most offences, in order to contribute to the reduction of caseloads in courts and of prison overcrowding.

13. The Justice for All programme had continued to play a catalytic role in alleviating prison overcrowding. In addition, the Office of the Attorney-General had prepared a draft community sentencing bill that would be brought before Parliament soon.

14. The Government had undertaken measures to improve prison conditions by enforcing COVID-19 protocols, establishing health and agricultural directorates in the Prisons Service and offering trade training and formal education for inmates.

15. Regarding the right to education, Ghana had taken a major step aimed at introducing free secondary education for everyone. Various initiatives, such as the free compulsory universal basic education programme for pre-tertiary education, a back to school campaign aimed at pregnant girls and persons with disabilities and laws prohibiting corporal punishment in educational settings, had been geared towards strengthening the right to education.

16. Regarding the right to decent work, the Government had prepared a new mining and minerals bill that offered affirmative action for women and enhanced the obligations of mining firms to the Government.

17. A number of measures had been taken to ensure the right to health, including the construction of hospitals, the use of mobile clinics and the launch of the national health promotion strategy.

18. To effectively address violence against women, Ghana had been working on various strategies, including the guidance for engaging traditional authorities, sensitization programmes and the launch of the Orange Support Centre.

19. Ghana had been attaching immense importance to the rights of the child, notably by working towards the development of a business and human rights national action plan to mainstream child labour prevention practices.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

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

21. Malaysia welcomed the commitment of Ghana to implement a human rights-based approach in development and governance.

22. Maldives welcomed the policies and legal frameworks of Ghana to protect children.

23. Mali commended the adoption of the Witness Protection Act and the amendments to the Criminal Offences Act.

24. Malta welcomed the delegation of Ghana and its presentation of the national report.

25. Mauritania praised the participation of Parliament of Ghana in the preparation of the national report.

26. Mauritius praised the improvement of social protection, in particular the school feeding programme.
27. Mexico praised the creation of the national reporting mechanism and the bill on the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
28. Mongolia commended the establishment of a parliamentary committee on human rights.
29. Montenegro noted the adoption of the strategic plan on domestic violence and victim support, 2021–2025.
30. Mozambique praised the actions taken to alleviate and reduce poverty.
31. Namibia praised the adoption of the Access to Information Law of 2019.
32. Nepal noted the human trafficking national plan of action and the efforts to combat HIV/AIDS.
33. The Kingdom of the Netherlands expressed concern over the Bill on the Promotion of Proper Human Sexual Rights and Ghanaian Family Values.
34. New Zealand noted that Ghana was the first country to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
35. The Niger praised the commitment of Ghana to implement the human rights instruments to which it was a party.
36. Nigeria took note positively of the efforts of Ghana to combat female genital mutilation.
37. Norway expressed concern over the reported increase in violence and hate speech against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities.
38. Pakistan appreciated the continued cooperation of Ghana with United Nations human rights mechanisms.
39. Panama praised Ghana for its national report.
40. Paraguay expressed concern at reports of violence against women and structural obstacles to the participation of women.
41. Peru welcomed the progress of Ghana in protecting human rights.
42. The Philippines noted the establishment by Ghana of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.
43. Portugal congratulated Ghana on the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.
44. Qatar noted the adoption of laws and policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
45. Romania commended the adoption by Ghana of important legislation and national plans.
46. The Russian Federation commended efforts to fight corruption.
47. Rwanda noted the adoption of Agenda 111, aiming to make universal health care accessible throughout the country by 2030.
48. Saudi Arabia congratulated Ghana for its cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms.
49. Senegal noted the progress made in the areas of education, health, gender equality and the protection of vulnerable persons.
50. Serbia welcomed the efforts of Ghana to provide equal access to basic health services.
51. The delegation of Ghana stressed that the values of free and pluralistic media had been firmly backed, as Ghana was convinced that, without freedom of expression, the collective drive for an informed society and sustainable development would be impossible.

52. A coordinated mechanism for the safety of journalists was established under the independent National Media Commission, and it brings together journalists, prosecutors and legal and other experts working towards ensuring the safety of journalists.
53. On the issue of the death penalty, it was stated that the bill seeking to substitute the death penalty had been sent to Parliament for consideration. The amendment process of the articles of the Constitution pertaining to the offence of treason would require a referendum.
54. Ghana was undertaking efforts to close witch camps, but some challenges, such as the slowness of the process, persisted. At the same time, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection had embarked upon awareness-raising campaigns and relief interventions in that regard.
55. In the face of the current economic challenges, several initiatives had been undertaken to support the most vulnerable, in particular the livelihood empowerment against poverty and the national entrepreneurship and innovation programme.
56. The delegation underscored that no separate regulations had existed for the Fulbe people regarding the issuance of birth certificates or identity cards.
57. The aforementioned national mechanism for reporting and follow-up had been serving as a coordinating and tracking body in the implementation of the international human rights obligations of Ghana.
58. To ensure gender equality for older persons and to advance their socioeconomic rights, a draft bill on older persons had been presented to the Cabinet for approval.
59. Sierra Leone welcomed the adoption of the Right to Information Act of 2019.
60. Singapore noted the strong push by the Ghanaian authorities to combat corruption.
61. Slovenia commended Ghana for the adoption of relevant legislation and encouraged it to take additional measures to protect children.
62. Somalia commended the commitment of Ghana to strengthen the institutional framework for the protection of human rights.
63. South Africa made recommendations.
64. Spain welcomed the achievements by Ghana in terms of democratic governance.
65. Sri Lanka welcomed the establishment of the Right to Information Commission.
66. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to promote and protect human rights.
67. The Sudan commended enhancing the human rights legislative framework through the enactment of new laws.
68. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Ghana and made recommendations.
69. Timor-Leste welcomed the adoption of child protection policies, legal frameworks and the plan to combat domestic violence.
70. Togo welcomed policies aimed at inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular through the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme.
71. Türkiye commended efforts to develop policies regarding the protection of children and prenatal support.
72. Ukraine took note positively of the efforts to establish the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.
73. The United Kingdom remained concerned by the continued existence of alleged “witch camps”.
74. The United States commended Ghana for regional leadership on security and democracy, but expressed concern about the pace of anti-corruption and justice reforms.
75. Uruguay commended efforts to establish the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up to promote compliance with international standards.

76. Vanuatu thanked the delegation and presented its recommendations.
77. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice and the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme.
78. Viet Nam welcomed the establishment of the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up to ensure the implementation of obligations under international human rights treaties.
79. Yemen appreciated the programmes to combat poverty, corruption and trafficking.
80. Zambia took note positively of the progress made in the promotion of human rights since the previous review.
81. Afghanistan commended the implementation of human rights programmes, but remained concerned by the excessive use of force in demonstrations.
82. Albania acknowledged the efforts to promote human rights, including the establishment of the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.
83. Algeria welcomed the commitment to the universal periodic review and the efforts to implement recommendations despite economic challenges.
84. Angola commended the efforts to combat torture and the implementation of different policies to protect the rights of vulnerable groups.
85. Argentina commended the adoption of the Birth and Death Registration Act and the national strategic framework to end child marriage.
86. Armenia welcomed the child-protection policies of Ghana and the bill aimed at abolishing the death penalty.
87. Australia remained concerned about the potential criminalization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other persons and urged Ghana to strengthen the protection of women's rights.
88. Austria commended the efforts to implement recommendations, but noted gaps in some areas.
89. Azerbaijan highlighted steps towards ensuring economic rights and good governance.
90. The Bahamas applauded the policy and legislative measures to protect the right to education.
91. Bangladesh underscored the national plan to combat human trafficking and the progress made in promoting women's rights.
92. Botswana welcomed the legal amendments to protect children's rights and the initiatives to engage traditional authorities in promoting gender equality.
93. The delegation stated that Parliament had been working towards the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice. That would make it possible to strengthen Parliament's oversight of the international human rights obligations of Ghana. Together with the Office of the Attorney-General, Parliament had been working on the affirmative draft bill and was engaged in consultations with religious and traditional groups to address differences in relation to the promotion of proper human sexual rights and Ghanaian family values bill.
94. Efforts had been made to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities through the establishment of the National Council on Persons with Disability and the conduct of training and seminars for mental health professionals.
95. Furthermore, steps had been made to enforce the provisions of the Mental Health Act and the national mental health policy. Accordingly, Ghana had integrated mental health services into its health-care system at all levels.

96. In its fight against child labour, Ghana had approved the national action plan aiming at reducing the prevalence of the worst forms of child labour, with a focus on the cocoa, mining and fishery sectors.
97. As a precursor to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, Ghana had been revising its legal framework and strengthening linkages between various child protection programmes.
98. To demonstrate its commitment to gender equality and empowerment, a Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection had been established. In addition, gender-responsiveness had been reflected in the national adaptation plan framework, which dealt with climate change issues.
99. Brazil commended the efforts to ensure access to education and improve health care.
100. Brunei Darussalam highlighted socioeconomic achievements, including the operationalization of the Mental Health Act.
101. Burkina Faso noted the progress made in implementing recommendations, including awareness-raising programmes on harmful practices.
102. Burundi welcomed the measures to improve prison conditions and women's access to justice and education.
103. Cabo Verde congratulated Ghana for the steps taken to criminalize female genital mutilation.
104. Cameroon acknowledged the progress made in promoting the rule of law, democracy and human rights.
105. Canada welcomed the efforts to improve accountability and transparency, including legislation on the right to information.
106. Chad commended the commitment of Ghana to promote and ensure respect for human rights.
107. Chile commended the national action plans for the elimination of child labour and human trafficking.
108. China noted the efforts to improve people's living standards, reduce poverty and promote employment.
109. Colombia welcomed the efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of female genital mutilation.
110. The Congo commended the plan of action for the elimination of trafficking in persons.
111. Costa Rica thanked Ghana for its report and presented recommendations.
112. Côte d'Ivoire commended the enactment of the Criminal Offences Act.
113. Croatia welcomed efforts to ensure a high level of school enrolment through nutritional measures.
114. Cuba commended the commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.
115. Cyprus acknowledged the steps taken to close "witch camps" and combat trafficking in persons.
116. Czechia welcomed the recent establishment of the mental health fund.
117. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the progress made for the promotion and protection of human rights.
118. Denmark expressed concern that discrimination, hateful rhetoric and harassment against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other persons had intensified.
119. Djibouti commended the national strategy to end child marriage, 2017–2026.
120. The Dominican Republic recognized the efforts to prohibit all forms of slavery.
121. Egypt commended the efforts to strengthen social protection for vulnerable groups.

122. Estonia commended the national strategic framework on ending child marriage, 2017–2026.
123. Ethiopia welcomed the legislative and institutional developments.
124. Finland welcomed the steps that Ghana had taken since the previous review.
125. France welcomed the launching of a strategic framework to end child marriage.
126. The Gambia commended the implementation by Ghana of the school feeding programme, since 2020.
127. Georgia commended Ghana for improvements in combating human trafficking and child protection policies.
128. Germany commended the improvements in combating corruption, but expressed concern for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other persons.
129. Greece commended Ghana for the improvements in health system and inclusion for vulnerable groups.
130. Iceland expressed concern over the justice system, reproductive health and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other persons.
131. India appreciated the efforts to improve the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups.
132. Indonesia commended efforts made to support the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme.
133. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the Ghana school feeding programme and national support for start-ups and small businesses.
134. Iraq appreciated the policies for equal political participation, eliminating slavery and improving prison conditions.
135. Ireland commended the efforts regarding reproductive health, but remained concerned about discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other persons.
136. Israel commended the measures for enhancing free and equal education and eliminating corporal punishment.
137. Italy applauded the measures for a moratorium on the use of death penalty.
138. Kenya commended the school feeding programme to help to promote school enrolment.
139. Latvia appreciated the recent efforts to establish an institutional human rights framework.
140. Lebanon acknowledged the framework to address violence against women and female genital mutilation.
141. Lesotho applauded the efforts to combat human trafficking and protect victims of trafficking.
142. Libya commended the improvements in economic and social rights, including health care.
143. Lithuania commended Ghana for the improvements in the promotion and protection of human rights.
144. Luxembourg congratulated Ghana for the improvements in child protection and the establishment of the Ghana AIDS Commission.
145. Malawi commended Ghana for the measures taken to end child trafficking and abduction.
146. The head of delegation thanked all participants for their candid comments and recommendations, which would guide and motivate Ghana to advance human rights for the benefit of its population.

147. It was stressed that additional progress had been achieved in eliminating witchcraft accusations, through the introduction of a targeted bill before Parliament. The bill was aimed at criminalizing any such accusations.

148. Although significant progress had been made, Ghana would be aspiring to achieve more. Responsible and effective human rights advocacy by the Government, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

149. The following recommendations will be examined by Ghana, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council:

149.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Costa Rica) (Finland) (Gambia) (Slovenia);

149.2 Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda) (Sierra Leone);

149.3 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Albania) (Argentina) (Colombia) (Côte d'Ivoire) (Estonia) (Lithuania) (Mexico) (Mongolia);

149.4 Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Algeria) (Armenia) (Lebanon);

149.5 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and implement it into national law (Ukraine);

149.6 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);

149.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communication procedure (Slovenia);

149.8 Envisage the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Greece);

149.9 Expedite the efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (India);

149.10 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Malta);

149.11 Take further progress and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);

149.12 Finalize the work towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia);

149.13 Abolish the death penalty through the signature and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Dominican Republic);

- 149.14 **Pass legislation to abolish the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**
- 149.15 **Move towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);**
- 149.16 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Malta);**
- 149.17 **Abolish the use of the death penalty and, as a first step, immediately establish an official moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Finland);**
- 149.18 **Abolish the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);**
- 149.19 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and expedite the legislative process aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Romania);**
- 149.20 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Panama);**
- 149.21 **Consider ratifying 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 on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Nepal);**
- 149.22 **Adopt the draft bill to abolish the death penalty and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**
- 149.23 **Encourage Ghana to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malta);**
- 149.24 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and develop a national action plan on children's rights that would inform budgetary decision-making and reflect priorities, indicators and targets to improve the well-being of children, with an emphasis on protection against all forms of abuse and the elimination of child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and violence (Romania);**
- 149.25 **Ratify the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education of 1960 (Somalia);**
- 149.26 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Switzerland);**
- 149.27 **Ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Congo);**
- 149.28 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Cyprus);**

- 149.29 Consider ratifying the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Mauritius);
- 149.30 Ratify the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization (Namibia);
- 149.31 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 149.32 Consider ratifying the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Rwanda);
- 149.33 Consider ratifying the international treaties and protocols to which it is a signatory (Sierra Leone);
- 149.34 Ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Somalia);
- 149.35 Take all necessary measures, in particular signature and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, in order to abolish the death penalty for all crimes and to commute all death sentences to alternative sentences (Switzerland);
- 149.36 Consider acceding to the international treaties and protocols to which it is not yet a party (Zambia);
- 149.37 Consider the possibility of ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Chad);
- 149.38 Pursue efforts to combat violence against women, in particular through the implementation of the law on domestic violence and the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (France);
- 149.39 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);
- 149.40 Ensure that the bill on the promotion of appropriate human rights, sexual and family values meets international human rights obligations and standards (Mexico);
- 149.41 Continue in its efforts to swiftly enact the Code of Conduct for Public Officers bill (Nigeria);
- 149.42 Continue targeted steps to improve national legislation in terms of respect for human rights and freedom (Russian Federation);
- 149.43 Take steps, including of a legislative nature, to prevent violations of criminal procedure legislation by law enforcement bodies (Russian Federation);
- 149.44 Include human rights guarantees in the mining bill, the petroleum (exploration, development and production) bill and the energy bill, as well as in related policies and regulations, especially in relation to the control of illegal mining activities and the integration of community rights (South Africa);
- 149.45 Continue its efforts to strengthen human rights legislative, institutional and policy frameworks (Sudan);
- 149.46 Support and adopt a legislative framework to protect the lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, intersex and other communities from all forms of discrimination and violence (Chile);
- 149.47 Intensify efforts to adopt the affirmative action bill (Estonia);

- 149.48 **Reject the promotion of proper human sexual rights and Ghanaian family values bill (Iceland);**
- 149.49 **Repeal section 104 (1) (b) of the Criminal and Other Offences Act of 1960 (Ireland);**
- 149.50 **Intensify efforts to commute death sentences to lesser punishment or full pardons (Cyprus);**
- 149.51 **Intensify efforts to implement all national human rights action plans by allocating sufficient human and financial resources (Maldives);**
- 149.52 **Continue to implement the education strategic plan, 2018–2030, and the school feeding programme (Türkiye);**
- 149.53 **Exert further efforts to fulfil international obligations for the promotion and protection of human rights by developing and implementing a comprehensive national social protection policy and strategy (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**
- 149.54 **Consider developing a national action plan on human rights, including in the business sector (Indonesia);**
- 149.55 **Prioritize the development of the national human rights action plan within the next reporting cycle (Ireland);**
- 149.56 **Continue efforts to strengthen existing structures to coordinate, develop, implement and monitor the national human rights action plan (Ireland);**
- 149.57 **Finalize the process of developing a national action plan for business and human rights (Kenya);**
- 149.58 **Strengthen the protection and promotion of civil and political rights (Cameroon);**
- 149.59 **Strengthen the capacity of vocational and technical training institutions (Ethiopia);**
- 149.60 **Strengthen the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);**
- 149.61 **Step up efforts to strengthen institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights (Ethiopia);**
- 149.62 **Continue its efforts in the human rights field to enhance the activity of the national human rights institution in order to protect human rights and public freedoms (Yemen);**
- 149.63 **Continue its work towards establishing a national institutional framework to support human rights (Georgia);**
- 149.64 **Continue to strengthen the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (Cameroon);**
- 149.65 **Strengthen its national mechanism for the implementation of, and reporting and follow-up to, human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**
- 149.66 **Continue to actively participate in capacity-building programmes to implement the recommendations received from the human rights mechanisms and to regularize treaty body reporting (Maldives);**
- 149.67 **Take concrete steps to protect all vulnerable and marginalized groups from violence and discrimination, by enforcing existing laws that protect all persons without distinction and by punishing perpetrators and ensuring victims proper access to rehabilitation and remedy (Norway);**
- 149.68 **Strengthen the national framework for the reduction of all forms of discrimination (Afghanistan);**

- 149.69 Promote the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination, as set out in the Constitution of Ghana, by developing specific legislation to protect against all forms of violence and discrimination against persons based on their actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation (Austria);
- 149.70 Uphold the rights of sexual and gender minorities and prevent and address related criminalization, discrimination and violence, including within law enforcement agencies (Canada);
- 149.71 Expedite action to pass the bill to repeal the death penalty (Montenegro);
- 149.72 Take further legal steps to abolish the death penalty (Mozambique);
- 149.73 Continue efforts to abolish the death penalty (New Zealand);
- 149.74 Definitively abolish the death penalty, promoting determined regulatory reforms for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 149.75 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes, commute death sentences to prison terms and declare a moratorium as a step prior to abolishing the death penalty (Spain);
- 149.76 Expedite action to pass the bill to repeal the death penalty (Timor-Leste);
- 149.77 Take all urgent measures necessary to remove all constitutional and legislative obstacles to the effective abolition of the death penalty (Togo);
- 149.78 Revise the Criminal Code to abolish the mandatory death penalty (Austria);
- 149.79 Continue the process to adopt the bill aimed at abolishing the death penalty (Chad);
- 149.80 Abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica);
- 149.81 Abolish the death penalty in all legal provisions at the national level (Estonia);
- 149.82 Abolish the death penalty (Iceland);
- 149.83 Consider adopting a de jure moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Italy);
- 149.84 Implement the law on community service in order to decrease prison overcrowding (Mali);
- 149.85 Set up a national preventive mechanism in line with the requirements of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);
- 149.86 Consider the establishment of an independent mechanism for the prevention and suppression of torture and enforced disappearances in order to strengthen the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Argentina);
- 149.87 Establish an independent mechanism to investigate alleged misconduct by police officers and ensure that mechanisms are in place within the police to conduct investigations in a transparent and unbiased manner (Austria);
- 149.88 Enhance programmes dedicated to the training of the personnel of law enforcement authorities and preventing and punishing cases of the excessive use of force by them (Azerbaijan);
- 149.89 Continue to implement training programmes in prisons in order to promote access to employment once detainees are released (Burundi);

- 149.90 Continue the health policy aimed at strengthening health care in prisons with a view to guaranteeing optimal health for detainees and prison staff (Burundi);
- 149.91 Establish a national preventive mechanism, in line with the requirements of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Dominican Republic);
- 149.92 Take further steps to address the issue of prison overcrowding (Indonesia);
- 149.93 Accelerate the procedures and steps for the urgent closure of “witch camps”, which are still operational on national territory (Togo);
- 149.94 Remove witch camps as soon as possible (Czechia);
- 149.95 Significantly strengthen anti-corruption efforts by enforcing existing laws and enacting and enforcing robust ethics and disclosure regulations to improve accountable governance and address pervasive public corruption (United States of America);
- 149.96 Continue measures aiming to prevent and eliminate corruption in public institutions (Azerbaijan);
- 149.97 Conduct thorough investigations of complaints of domestic violence and criminally prosecute the perpetrators (Philippines);
- 149.98 Implement justice sector reforms to ensure fairer and more efficient case resolutions, including for indigent defendants, and in interlocutory appeals and trial management processes (United States of America);
- 149.99 Ensure the safety of journalists and media organizations in line with the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (Norway);
- 149.100 Publicly recognize the legitimacy of the work of all human rights defenders, including by developing and disseminating public awareness-raising campaigns about the key role that all human rights defenders play in the defence of human rights, with the aim of countering discrimination, misinformation and hostility towards human rights defenders (South Africa);
- 149.101 Hold those who harm, intimidate or harass journalists to account (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 149.102 Guarantee full respect for the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association, including through the design of effective mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders (Uruguay);
- 149.103 Put in place practical measures to fully protect the rights of all human rights defenders (Vanuatu);
- 149.104 Implement judicial and legislative measures protecting the right of people to peaceful assembly (Afghanistan);
- 149.105 Take steps to ensure the adequate protection of media freedom and the safety of journalists and media workers from all forms of violence, harassment and intimidation (Austria);
- 149.106 Undertake measures to ensure the safety and protection of journalists, including by ensuring the full implementation of the existing framework on police-media relations and the safety of journalists (Canada);
- 149.107 Protect freedom of expression and the integrity of journalists and the full investigation of threats and attacks against them (Czechia);
- 149.108 Develop a national action plan to prevent attacks on journalists and promote media freedom (Denmark);

- 149.109 Continue to strengthen, through sufficient funding, the social protection policy to achieve the objectives contained in the national social protection policy, as well as in the national medium-term development framework, 2022–2025 (Djibouti);
- 149.110 Maintain press freedom efforts by pursuing the effective application of the law on the right to information (France);
- 149.111 Ensure that State security agents and officials put a stop to the attacks, arrests and intimidation of people, especially journalists, in order to safeguard a free press and the freedom of expression (Germany);
- 149.112 Continue ensuring freedom of expression and media freedom and pluralism and strengthen the safety of journalists by amending the respective legislation to comply with international standards (Italy);
- 149.113 Improve relevant legislation in line with the international standards to guarantee the safety of journalists and curtail impunity for crimes against them (Lithuania);
- 149.114 Continue to work with traditional and faith leaders to end harmful cultural practices and norms (Malawi);
- 149.115 Ensure the continued freedom of the press and the protection of journalists and media practitioners (Malawi);
- 149.116 Continue to strengthen legislation and institutions related to the elimination of human trafficking (Malaysia);
- 149.117 Continue to implement policies to protect the human rights of children, such as the school safety policy, and national action plans for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour and the fight against trafficking in persons (Peru);
- 149.118 Take further measures to implement the Human Trafficking Act (Timor-Leste);
- 149.119 Reinforce policies to effectively combat trafficking in persons (Cyprus);
- 149.120 Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and eliminate all forms of slavery, especially of children (Egypt);
- 149.121 Take all necessary measures to combat trafficking in human beings and support and protect victims (Libya);
- 149.122 Improve people's livelihoods and strengthen the social security system (China);
- 149.123 Continue efforts to expand the scope of social protection (Iraq);
- 149.124 Continue strengthening the social policies promoted in favour of the most needy sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 149.125 Strengthen the national health-care system by ensuring adequate funding and infrastructure and improve people's access to health-care services by removing financial and transport barriers (Malaysia);
- 149.126 Continue efforts for empowerment and poverty reduction (Mauritania);
- 149.127 Strengthen its efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including expanding access to health, education and drinking water, and continue the endeavours to improve livelihoods, eradicate poverty and support small and medium-sized enterprises (Sudan);
- 149.128 Take necessary measures to increase budget allocations in the social protection programmes to support vulnerable people (Bangladesh);

- 149.129 Increase adequately the school feeding grants to improve the quality of food and nutrition, in particular in rural areas (Botswana);
- 149.130 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development (China);
- 149.131 Continue to implement the livelihood development programme to combat poverty, as a paradigm of promoting the fundamental social rights of the people of Ghana (Cuba);
- 149.132 Strengthen its efforts for fighting against poverty and the promotion of full access to health and education, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and other partners (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 149.133 Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for all vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (Malaysia);
- 149.134 Integrate sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, into the national health insurance scheme and ensure universal access to quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives for all men, women and youth in need of such services (Panama);
- 149.135 Include refugees in the country in the national health insurance and primary education plans (Peru);
- 149.136 Continue efforts to increase access to quality and essential health-care services for all by 2030 (Qatar);
- 149.137 Scale up and expand youth-friendly and gender-sensitive programmes on comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (Sierra Leone);
- 149.138 Make further efforts towards ensuring universal health coverage for its people through tailored policies and strategies (Singapore);
- 149.139 Continue improving its programmes and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (Timor-Leste);
- 149.140 Further expand the provision of basic health services and social protections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 149.141 Expeditiously adopt and implement domestic legislation to promote the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Vanuatu);
- 149.142 Continue optimizing access to health services in the most remote communities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 149.143 Continue efforts to implement the national HIV/AIDS strategic plan in its fight against HIV and the AIDS pandemic (Bangladesh);
- 149.144 Strengthen further measures to ensure that its citizens fully enjoy good health, including mental health, as well as access to health care and support (Brunei Darussalam);
- 149.145 Intensify and expand programmes on sexual and reproductive health and related rights aimed at young people (Colombia);
- 149.146 Provide the mental health fund with adequate funding (Czechia);
- 149.147 Adopt measures to ensure universal access to reproductive health services, including legal and safe abortion, to reduce preventable deaths (Estonia);
- 149.148 Adopt and implement a sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents that includes sexual education (Estonia);
- 149.149 Continue measures to address health inequalities (Georgia);
- 149.150 Sustain efforts to integrate safe abortion care services into routine reproductive health services (Iceland);

- 149.151 **Take further measures to improve maternal health-care services in public health facilities (Indonesia);**
- 149.152 **Speed up efforts to establish a mental health levy that would fund activities involving mental health (Lesotho);**
- 149.153 **Continue the efforts for universal health care (Mauritania);**
- 149.154 **Continue efforts to enhance universal access to adequate health and education (Nepal);**
- 149.155 **Continue strengthening the national mechanisms for education, especially in relation to primary education (Saudi Arabia);**
- 149.156 **Take appropriate measures to ensure that children have access to education and reduce the enrolment gap, in particular regarding children with disabilities and children from vulnerable segments of the population (Sri Lanka);**
- 149.157 **Continue with its efforts to improve and consolidate the educational system in the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 149.158 **Continue its endeavours to increase the quality and availability of education at all levels (Algeria);**
- 149.159 **Continue taking steps to enhance access to quality education at the primary and secondary levels (Bangladesh);**
- 149.160 **Continue to intensify efforts for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those related to education (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 149.161 **Extend free education up to 12 years of age (Costa Rica);**
- 149.162 **Take additional measures guaranteeing non-discriminatory access for persons with disabilities to basic social services, in particular access to education and health services (Djibouti);**
- 149.163 **Continue efforts to reform and upgrade the education sector to include all segments of society (Libya);**
- 149.164 **Adopt and implement human rights-consistent adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures, in order to protect the population from the impacts of the climate crisis, including food insecurity (Malaysia);**
- 149.165 **Strengthen the Government's commitment to taking ambitious action to combat climate change, by implementing its nationally determined contribution and taking action to phase out all fossil fuels and shift to renewable energy, in accordance with the international human rights instruments (Vanuatu);**
- 149.166 **Promote responsible business conduct and corporate accountability, including by enforcing international best practices, such as the voluntary principles to ensure sound environmental, social and governance standards (Canada);**
- 149.167 **Adopt a human rights-based approach in extractive sector regulation (Angola);**
- 149.168 **Increase women's participation at decision-making levels (Mongolia);**
- 149.169 **Intensify its legal and policy measures to combat violence against women (Mongolia);**
- 149.170 **Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to eliminate harmful practices and stereotypes that are discriminatory against women and girls (Namibia);**
- 149.171 **Accelerate the adoption and implementation of laws prohibiting harmful practices against women and girls, including early and forced marriage**

and accusations of witchcraft, and guaranteeing the protection and rehabilitation of victims (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

149.172 Further reinforce the measures for enhancing women's role in the political arena, commercial activities and employment opportunities (Pakistan);

149.173 Redouble efforts to prevent, punish and eradicate harmful and dehumanizing traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, and "witch camps" (Paraguay);

149.174 Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee access to information and reduce the digital divide, in particular in relation to women (Paraguay);

149.175 Take steps to close the four facilities identified by the United Nations country office in Ghana as camps for women accused of witchcraft, including because they suffer from mental illness (Peru);

149.176 Enhance the enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act, including against female genital mutilation and other harmful practices (Philippines);

149.177 Optimize the utilization of the Domestic Violence Fund (Philippines);

149.178 Expedite the procedures for the adoption and implementation of the affirmative action bill on gender equality and ensure the full implementation of the 2007 Domestic Violence Act, in particular the operationalization of the Domestic Violence Fund (Romania);

149.179 Strengthen the national strategy to combat all forms of discrimination against women in the social sphere (Senegal);

149.180 Strengthen efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and trafficking (Singapore);

149.181 Accelerate the adoption and implementation of laws prohibiting harmful practices against women and girls, including *trokosi*, female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage and accusations of witchcraft, and guaranteeing the protection and rehabilitation of victims (South Africa);

149.182 Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women and end all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence (Viet Nam);

149.183 Take specific measures to prohibit harmful practices against women and girls, including *trokosi* (Angola);

149.184 Protect the human rights of women accused of witchcraft, including through education programmes and the provision of adequate shelter, and strengthen mental health and domestic violence support services (Australia);

149.185 Fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and ensure its practical application by providing sufficient funding (Austria);

149.186 Prioritize public awareness on harmful cultural practices, in particular female genital mutilation in rural areas (Botswana);

149.187 Take further measures to eradicate "witch camps" in northern Ghana, by working on raising awareness with traditional leaders, and promote the reintegration into society of the women found in those camps (Brazil);

149.188 Advance gender equality by facilitating more equitable representation of women in Parliament, including through the adoption of the affirmative action bill (Canada);

149.189 Study actions aimed at guaranteeing universal access to primary and secondary education, especially for girls and adolescents (Chile);

149.190 Deepen efforts towards the full implementation of the ban on female genital mutilation and other harmful practices affecting women and girls (Chile);

- 149.191 Permanently eradicate the so-called “witch camps” and adopt comprehensive measures for the reintegration and restoration of the rights of women who have been forcibly displaced to said camps after being accused of witchcraft (Colombia);
- 149.192 Persevere in its efforts to close the camps for women victims of accusations of witchcraft and reintegrate them into the community (Congo);
- 149.193 Guarantee the right to education, without discrimination, of pregnant and mother girls and adolescents (Costa Rica);
- 149.194 Increase access to formal and informal education programmes for pregnant girls and teenage mothers in order to improve their livelihoods and to protect their right to education (Croatia);
- 149.195 Intensify efforts aimed at increasing women’s representation at decision-making levels (Georgia);
- 149.196 Redouble efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation, including through strict enforcement of the legal prohibition and increased awareness-raising of its harmful consequences (Israel);
- 149.197 Step up efforts to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, including domestic violence (Italy);
- 149.198 Provide an adequate budget to the Domestic Violence Fund to support the provision of essential services, such as medical treatments, to victims and survivors of domestic violence (Kenya);
- 149.199 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence, in particular by ensuring the full implementation of the Domestic Violence Act of 2007 (Latvia);
- 149.200 Develop specific legislation protecting women’s right to work, non-discrimination, including sex- and gender-based discrimination, and the right to found a family (Lesotho);
- 149.201 Design and implement a strategy for the inclusion and empowerment of women in the public and private sectors, especially in leadership positions (Lithuania);
- 149.202 Put in place the Domestic Violence Fund to ensure the provision of essential services to victims (Luxembourg);
- 149.203 Strengthen measures to eradicate gender-based violence, including by fully implementing the 2007 Domestic Violence Act (New Zealand);
- 149.204 Strengthen and enforce laws to protect all girls and women from sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and accusations of witchcraft (Norway);
- 149.205 Fully implement the Law on Domestic Violence of 2007, providing victims of gender violence with comprehensive support and guaranteeing criminal prosecution of the aggressors (Spain);
- 149.206 Continue to strengthen mechanisms and policies to eliminate violence against women and girls by implementing laws that prohibit harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage (Vanuatu);
- 149.207 Investigate impartially allegations of all forms of violence against women, bring perpetrators to justice and provide victims with adequate support (Iceland);
- 149.208 Step up its efforts to end child marriage and fully implement the national strategic framework for ending child marriage (Mongolia);
- 149.209 Fully implement the national strategic framework for ending child marriage (Montenegro);

- 149.210 Continue expanding programmes to ensure birth registration, in particular in remote rural areas (Mozambique);
- 149.211 Reinforce the implementation of policies aimed at ending child, early and forced marriage (Mozambique);
- 149.212 Continue to reinforce mechanisms to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups, especially the rights of children (Pakistan);
- 149.213 Further intensify efforts, including under the inclusive and special education programme, to increase access to quality education for children, especially girls and those with special needs (Philippines);
- 149.214 Take effective measures, including at the legislative level, towards the full prohibition of child labour and ensure monitoring of their implementation (Russian Federation);
- 149.215 Intensify efforts to ensure access to basic education for all children, especially those in vulnerable situations (Senegal);
- 149.216 Develop policies and measures to assist poor communities and to eliminate child labour, as well as to prevent all forms of child abuse and violence (Serbia);
- 149.217 Intensify its efforts to improve the accessibility of health-care services and measures to curb infant mortality (Sri Lanka);
- 149.218 Strengthen efforts aimed at eradicating child labour through inclusive national policies and practices (Sri Lanka);
- 149.219 Take further steps for the protection of vulnerable children, including the elimination of child labour (Türkiye);
- 149.220 Strengthen current legislation and enforce the application of all regulations that guarantee the elimination and penalization of child labour, with special emphasis on the labour laws on the country's mining sector (Uruguay);
- 149.221 Continue efforts for the elimination of child marriage (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 149.222 Enact legislation to ensure the protection of children from all forms of violence and exploitation (Zambia);
- 149.223 Improve considerably the lives of women and children by adopting and implementing the necessary legislation, policies and programmes aimed at combating all forms of violence and exploitation, discrimination and sexual harassment (Albania);
- 149.224 Prohibit corporal punishment in education settings and ensure the legal protection for the right to education of pregnant girls and teenage mothers (Bahamas);
- 149.225 Adopt action plans at the local level and conduct awareness-raising campaigns to strengthen the implementation of laws prohibiting harmful practices, including but not limited to *trokosi*, female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriages, widowhood rites and witchcraft-related practices (Burkina Faso);
- 149.226 Consider expanding the offer of public schools to ensure education for all children up to the age of 12 (Cabo Verde);
- 149.227 Intensify efforts to eliminate child labour (Costa Rica);
- 149.228 Prohibit corporal punishment in education settings in law and enforce it in practice (Croatia);
- 149.229 Conduct awareness-raising campaigns and ensure the eradication of so-called witch camps and the social reintegration of affected women and accompanying children into society (Croatia);

- 149.230 **Implement the national strategic framework on ending child marriage fully and speedily (Czechia);**
- 149.231 **Implement safeguarding mechanisms to ensure that child labour is reduced and eventually eradicated (Germany);**
- 149.232 **Strengthen the effective efforts to combat domestic violence against women and children (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 149.233 **Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and support the victims, in particular women and children (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 149.234 **Ban corporal punishment in all settings (Israel);**
- 149.235 **Strengthen efforts to implement the legal framework prohibiting child labour (Italy);**
- 149.236 **Continue with efforts to eliminate gender- and age-based discrimination against girls (Kenya);**
- 149.237 **Ensure that national legislation is in line with the Convention on Rights of the Child, in particular by ensuring free and universal birth registration for all children born in the territory of Ghana (Latvia);**
- 149.238 **Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to eliminate child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, breast ironing, tribal marks and other harmful practices (Latvia);**
- 149.239 **Pursue efforts aimed at the delivery of free education and the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools (Lebanon);**
- 149.240 **Prohibit all forms of violence against children in all settings, including corporal punishment and harmful traditional practices (Lesotho);**
- 149.241 **Cooperate with development partners, including the United Nations, to improve conditions of detention and decriminalize minor offences (Luxembourg);**
- 149.242 **Develop a national action plan on the rights of the child (Luxembourg);**
- 149.243 **Take all measures to protect children from all forms of violence and exploitation (Malawi);**
- 149.244 **Make progress in harmonizing the Persons with Disability Act with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and allocate resources towards inclusive policies (Mexico);**
- 149.245 **Enhance protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, by amending the Persons with Disability Act of 2006 to fully align with the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);**
- 149.246 **Address discrimination against persons with disabilities, including by ensuring the implementation of the existing ban on shackling, and re-examine the Persons with Disability Act to ensure coherence with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Norway);**
- 149.247 **Allocate further resources for protecting the rights of disabled persons (Pakistan);**
- 149.248 **Amend the Persons with Disability Act of 2006, with a view to effectively combating the negative attitude of society against persons with disabilities and promoting the effective participation of such persons at all levels of society on equal basis with others (Panama);**
- 149.249 **Extend training to all mental health staff, caregivers and traditional and faith-based practitioners to reduce stigma and discrimination and move towards rights-based approaches in mental health in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);**

- 149.250 Further efforts to promote inclusive education for all and to finalize provisions to support children with severe forms of disabilities to access schools (Qatar);
- 149.251 Ensure protection in law and in practice for the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);
- 149.252 Work to include people with disabilities and enable them to contribute to economic development (Saudi Arabia);
- 149.253 Continue to place emphasis on ensuring equitable education opportunities for children with disabilities and other special needs (Singapore);
- 149.254 Harmonize national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and promote measures regarding employment and accessibility (Spain);
- 149.255 Continue its efforts to create a legal framework to safeguard the rights of people with mental disabilities, specifically psychosocial disabilities (State of Palestine);
- 149.256 Continue its efforts to deliver free education to all and to remove barriers and promote access for women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (State of Palestine);
- 149.257 Implement and enforce the existing ban on shackling people with psychosocial disabilities and ensure that those shackled are released and provided with appropriate support (Switzerland);
- 149.258 Continue efforts to guarantee access to education and educational resources for all children and to ensure that children with special needs and disabilities are at the forefront of these efforts (Viet Nam);
- 149.259 Continue its efforts in applying and reinforcing programmes and public policies on inclusion, poverty reduction, equality promotion and non-discrimination, with particular attention given to women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, among other vulnerable groups (Algeria);
- 149.260 Take additional measures to ensure inclusive education for children with disabilities (Angola);
- 149.261 Continue its efforts to deliver free education to all and place at the forefront its efforts on removing barriers and promoting access for women, children and persons with disabilities (Bahamas);
- 149.262 Consider investing more resources in supporting people with disabilities, in particular to ensure that children with disabilities are not left to survive on the street after having been rejected by their extended family members (Cabo Verde);
- 149.263 Accelerate the promotion of non-discrimination against minorities, women and persons with disabilities (Cameroon);
- 149.264 Harmonize the national legal framework with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, implement policies that favour non-institutionalization and full personal autonomy and put an end to forms of torture or ill-treatment, deprivation of liberty by means of chains and other abuses against persons with disabilities in prayer camps and other spaces (Costa Rica);
- 149.265 Carry out awareness-raising campaigns to combat negative attitudes against persons with disabilities (Cyprus);
- 149.266 Adopt a legal framework to safeguard the rights of people with mental disabilities in prayer camps and psychiatric hospitals (Gambia);

- 149.267 Continue to take measures to ensure an adequate standard of living for persons with disabilities (India);
- 149.268 Continue to develop necessary policies and measures for strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 149.269 Promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and improve the health services provided to them (Iraq);
- 149.270 Take further measures to tackle discrimination against persons with disabilities and promote their effective participation in society at all levels on an equal basis (Israel);
- 149.271 Continue to improve the legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the provisions of international conventions (Italy);
- 149.272 Continue efforts to deliver free education to all and aim to promote education possibilities for girls, as well as persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Lithuania);
- 149.273 Develop an action plan for strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in compliance with the Persons with Disability Act of 2006 (Lithuania);
- 149.274 Increase investment in education and strengthen the construction of education facilities in rural areas (China);
- 149.275 Continue the efforts to ensure that proper education is provided, especially in rural and remote areas (Greece);
- 149.276 Consider repealing section 104 (1) (b) of the Criminal Offences Act of 1960 and introduce legal provisions that protect all persons from violence, discrimination and stigma in all instances, including on matters relating to sexual orientation and gender identity (Malta);
- 149.277 Protect all individuals from any violence or discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, in conformity with the country's international obligations (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 149.278 Adopt and implement comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status (New Zealand);
- 149.279 Implement the new national HIV/AIDS strategic plan and take measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, intimidation or violence against key populations, including by repealing laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relations among adults (Portugal);
- 149.280 Decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults, by repealing section 104 (1) (b) of the Penal Code, and withdraw the promotion of proper human sexual rights and Ghanaian family values bill, which has contributed to increasing violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in the country (Spain);
- 149.281 Uphold the fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination, as enshrined in the Constitution of Ghana, by decriminalizing same-sex relationships and adopting specific safeguards against discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Switzerland);
- 149.282 Uphold its international human rights obligations, including protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other people (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 149.283 Promote the human rights of all persons in Ghana, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other persons, by opposing all discriminatory legislation, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual

orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics and effectively implementing existing laws and policies that are consistent with the fundamental freedoms expressed in the Ghanaian Constitution (United States of America);

149.284 Repeal section 104 (1) (b) of the Penal Code with the aim of decriminalizing same-sex relationships (Uruguay);

149.285 Take measures to amend laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relations (Albania);

149.286 Repeal the regulatory framework and administrative acts that criminalize, restrict and stigmatize relationships between persons of the same sex and/or gender and, likewise, carry out positive action measures for the recognition of intersex persons in accordance with their personal autonomy and human dignity, including reparation measures for the violation of their rights (Argentina);

149.287 Repeal section 104 (1) (b) of the Criminal Offences Act (1960) and guarantee fundamental human rights and freedoms for all Ghanaians, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, in accordance with its international obligations (Australia);

149.288 Consider adopting legal and policy measures to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other communities (Brazil);

149.289 Strengthen measures for the effective protection and non-discrimination of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other communities (Colombia);

149.290 Decriminalize same-sex sexual relations, withdraw the promotion of adequate human sexual rights and Ghanaian family values bill and eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in close collaboration with civil society, including through mandatory training for State officials (Costa Rica);

149.291 Protect the rights of sexual minorities and review the laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relations (Czechia);

149.292 Undertake a review of all current and future legislation passed in Parliament to ensure compliance with its commitments under international human rights and the protection of all its citizens, irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity (Denmark);

149.293 Take all necessary measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (France);

149.294 Combat violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other persons and ensure that criminal acts against them are effectively investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned, including through police and judiciary training and awareness-raising (Germany);

149.295 Repeal section 104 (1) (b) of the Criminal Offences Act and replace it with laws that protect all persons from violence, discrimination and stigma based on real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);

149.296 Strengthen its legal framework for the protection of migrants and refugees to bring it into line with international standards (Niger);

149.297 Speed up the reform of the 1992 Refugee Law and the review of the legal framework to ensure that it meets international obligations and standards (Mexico);

149.298 Take all necessary measures to amend the Refugee Law of 1992, in order to bring it into conformity with international refugee law and standards (Somalia).

150. **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 Ghana was headed by the Honorable Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and composed of the following members:

- Hon. Joe Osei-Wusu, First Deputy Speaker of Parliament;
- Hon. Diana Asonaba Dapaah, Deputy Attorney-General and Minister for Justice;
- H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Kwame Asiedu Antwi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Ghana Permanent Mission, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Mrs. Helen Akpene Awo Ziwu, Solicitor-General;
- Mrs. Sylvia Adusu, Chief State Attorney;
- Nana Abua Brenya Otchere, Principal State Attorney;
- Ms. Tricia Quartey, Principal State Attorney;
- Mother Teresa Brew, Assistant State Attorney;
- Ms. Ama Asare Korang, Assistant State Attorney;
- Ms. Sally Adjoa Asieduwaa Jackson, Head, Public Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Esther Akua Gyamfi, Executive Secretary, National Council on Persons with Disability;
- Mrs. Akosua Okyere-Badoo, Deputy Permanent Representative, Ghana Permanent Mission, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Ms. Mavis Ofosuah, Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary, National Council on Persons with Disability;
- Ms. Aba Ayebi Arthur, Human Rights Expert, Ghana Permanent Mission, Geneva, Switzerland;
- Mrs. Mary Nartey, Director for Human Rights, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice;
- Mrs. Florence Ayisi Quartey, Director, Department of Children, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection;
- Alhaji Inua Yusif, Legal Officer, Ministry of Health;
- Ms. Gloria Essandoh, Deputy Director of Prisons, Ghana Prisons Service;
- Ms. Ama Serwah Nerquaye Tetteh, Secretary-General of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, representing the Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Cyril Kwabena Oteng Nsiah, Clerk to Parliament;
- Dr. Isaac Annan, Human Rights Focal Person;
- Mr. Charles Tenzagh Dery, Senior Assistant Clerk, Parliamentary Relations and Protocol;
- Nana Adjoa Serwaa Opoku, Office of the Clerk;
- Mr. Simon Tenku, Aide Camp;
- Mr. Justice Norvor, Speaker's Special Assistant;
- Reginald Odoi, Personal Assistant to the Attorney-General.