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**Human Rights Council**

**Fifty-fourth session**

11 September–6 October 2023

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

Serbia

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-third session from 1 to 12 May 2023. The review of Serbia was held at the 15th meeting, on 10 May 2023. The delegation of Serbia was headed by the Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, Tomislav Žigmanov. At its 17th meeting, held on 12 May 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Serbia.

2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Serbia: Costa Rica, Gabon and United States of America.

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 Serbia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);[[2]](#footnote-3)

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);[[3]](#footnote-4)

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).[[4]](#footnote-5)

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, 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, the United States and Uruguay, was transmitted to Serbia 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 delegation of Serbia requested a moment of silence to honour the memory of the victims who had lost their lives on 3 and 4 May in Belgrade. The delegation emphasized the strong commitment of Serbia to the principles and values of the United Nations.

6. The delegation emphasized that its national report and the voluntary mid-term report did not include detailed information on the implementation of the recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija. Serbia clarified that it was unable to monitor the application of international human rights treaties in those territories, because, under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), its administration was fully entrusted to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

7. The delegation noted that on April 2023, Serbia had adopted a package of measures to protect the rights of Serbs and other non-Albanian populations in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, who were facing enormous human rights challenges.

8. The significant progress made by Serbia in implementing the recommendations received during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review was highlighted by the delegation. In its mid-term report and the report for the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, it had provided detailed information in that regard. The delegation also highlighted observance of Serbia of ratified international treaties and its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms.

9. Formal procedures were under way for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

10. Serbia added that its council for monitoring the implementation of recommendations received from the United Nations human rights mechanisms has expanded its membership.

11. The delegation stressed that Serbia had implemented constitutional reforms, improved its legislative and public policy frameworks and would adopt a human rights strategy based on United Nations recommendations later that year. The adoption of the new Law on the Protector of Citizens was also highlighted.

12. The delegation provided information on legislative actions to combat various types of violence. Amendments to the Criminal Code were being developed to address recommendations related to the definition of torture. In response to the tragic events that had occurred in Belgrade, Serbia had adopted a set of urgent measures, including amendments to the Criminal Code and the Law on Weapons and Ammunition.

13. The delegation emphasized that amendments to the Family Law, which would provide for the regulatory recognition of additional forms of domestic violence and improve the protection of victims, were under way.

14. Regarding the fight against trafficking in persons, the delegation provided detailed information on efforts to improve both prevention and response mechanisms. It highlighted that the Centre for Human Trafficking Victims’ Protection had signed and implemented memorandums of cooperation with approximately 30 cities and towns for the application of standard operating procedures for the treatment of victims.

15. The delegation underscored the detailed description contained in its national report of the efforts to address hate crimes and highlighted the creation of a special working group formed by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue.

16. The prosecution of war crimes was deemed a particularly sensitive issue. The delegation emphasized that the priority goals were to combat impunity, as well as to expedite investigations and criminal prosecutions in war crimes proceedings. In December 2022, Serbia had adopted a revised prosecutor’s strategy for the investigation and prosecution of war crimes, 2022–2026, along with its action plan. In addition, the Office of the Prosecutor had established, in 2022, a working group for the selection of cases to be prioritized and another focused on the issue of missing persons.

17. During the interactive dialogue, Serbia emphasized the successful implementation of its constitutional reform, which had been followed by the adoption of a set of legal reforms to the justice system. The goals were strengthening the independence of the judiciary, protecting citizens’ rights and upholding the rule of law. Organizational changes had been implemented to ensure the independence of the Office of the Public Prosecutor. Judges and prosecutors were now elected by their peers.

18. Regarding the anti-discrimination framework, the delegation noted that it had been significantly improved by amendments to the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination and that the strategy for the prevention and protection against discrimination had been adopted.

19. Regarding the protection of persons with disabilities, Serbia emphasized that amendments to the Family Law would provide for the abolition of the complete deprivation of legal capacity and regulate supported decision-making. Moreover, the strategy for improving the position of persons with disabilities had been adopted.

20. As for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the delegation indicated that amendments to the Law on Registry Books of 1 January 2019 had made it possible to register data on a gender change in the birth registry book. In addition, a draft law on same-sex unions had been developed in 2021 through a broad consultative process. However, the delegation noted that further consultations would be necessary to reconcile conflicting views.

21. As regards the exercise of the rights of national minorities, the regulatory and institutional framework was complete, but the delegation acknowledged that mechanisms at the local level needed improvement. Elections had been held for national councils of national minorities in 2022 and elections for the Council of the Albanian National Minority had been held more recently.

22. According to the delegation, Serbia was providing permanent solutions for refugees through the regional housing programme and the national programme. The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration supported asylum-seekers with integration plans and provided the basic admission conditions to migrants in vulnerable situations. Serbia provided care for 196,140 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija, who currently lacked the basic prerequisites for a sustainable return.

23. Regarding the rights of children, Serbia announced amendments to the Family Law that would ban child marriage, improve protection measures against domestic violence and enhance children’s right to express their views.

24. According to the delegation, Serbia had made significant progress in reducing poverty among all age groups, except the elderly, with the lowest national poverty rate to date, of 21.2 per cent, in 2021. Moreover, Serbia was the first country in the region to implement a pilot project on cultural indicators related to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 94 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

26. Slovakia noted the Government’s efforts to improve the media environment and the protection and safety of journalists and the adoption of the definition of antisemitism promulgated by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

27. Slovenia commended the adoption of a new law and strategy on gender equality but regretted the lack of an explicit prohibition of the corporal punishment of children.

28. Spain noted the progress made in the area of Roma inclusion, the adoption of the Gender Equality Act and the prohibition of violence against women.

29. Sri Lanka commended the adoption of a law on gender equality and the implementation of the strategy for the prevention and suppression of trafficking in human beings for the period 2017–2022.

30. The Sudan welcomed the amendments to the law on the protection of the rights of children and the adoption of a strategy for persons with disabilities.

31. Sweden welcomed constitutional reforms in Serbia and the adoption of several laws regarding the rule of law, and it noted challenges concerning freedom of the media and the rights of LGBTQI persons.

32. Switzerland made a statement and recommendations.

33. The Syrian Arab Republic commended the ratification of several international treaties and the adoption of national plans and legislation on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and the development of high-quality education.

34. Timor-Leste welcomed the legal amendments adopted to strengthen anti-discrimination legislation, as well as the adoption of a law and strategy on gender equality.

35. Togo encouraged Serbia to continue to build on progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights and urged it to place greater emphasis on the protection of vulnerable segments of society.

36. Tunisia noted the adoption of the Gender Equality Act and the strategy for preventing and combating gender-based and domestic violence for the period 2021–2025.

37. Türkiye noted the efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of minorities, the improvement of the capacity of the Office of the War Crimes Prosecutor and the adoption of the national strategy for prosecuting war crimes for the period 2021–2026.

38. Uganda commended Serbia for its efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights for its citizens.

39. Ukraine acknowledged the efforts taken by Serbia to improve the institutional and legislative framework on human rights.

40. The United Kingdom urged Serbia to address political pressure and harassment of journalists and activists, and it noted the lack of transparency over revenue sources and the limited pluralism in the media.

41. The United Republic of Tanzania noted the positive changes made by Serbia since its previous review and the measures taken for climate change mitigation.

42. The United States shared its condolences and expressed concern about impunity for attacks against journalists but commended the progress made in the prosecution of the arson attack on Milan Jovanović.

43. Uruguay noted the ratification by Serbia of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

44. Uzbekistan noted the efforts of Serbia to implement the recommendations from its third review, including institutional measures.

45. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the commitment of Serbia to the universal periodic review process and commended the steps taken to implement the recommendations accepted during its previous review.

46. Viet Nam welcomed the measures taken by Serbia to implement the recommendations received in its previous review, including introducing improvements to the anti-discrimination framework.

47. Zimbabwe welcomed the steps taken by Serbia to strengthen the human rights framework through the adoption of legislation and judicial reforms and the establishment of human rights-related institutions.

48. Afghanistan expressed its condolences and praised the recent positive progress of Serbia, including the adoption of a national strategy for prosecuting war crimes.

49. Albania expressed its condolences, encouraged Serbia to enhance the protection of minority rights and asserted the independence of Kosovo[[5]](#footnote-6) as a sovereign country.

50. Algeria praised the notable advancements of Serbia in human rights and welcomed the measures to safeguard cultural diversity within the country.

51. Serbia intervened to request that official United Nations terminology be used when referring to Kosovo, recalling that Serbia was a State Member of the United Nations, with internationally recognized borders.

52. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council appealed to speakers to adhere to United Nations terminology and standards when referring to countries. The Vice-President stated that, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Council adhered to United Nations terminology as reflected in the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. The Working Group would therefore reflect United Nations terminology in its report.

53. Angola acknowledged the inclusion by Serbia of the “leave no one behind” principle in its normative framework and encouraged the country to address youth issues.

54. Argentina welcomed the amendments made by Serbia to the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination and the approval of the strategy and action plan to fight discrimination, 2021–2030.

55. Armenia commended Serbia for its achievements in the area of human rights and highlighted the implementation of the guidelines for the prosecution of hate crimes as a good practice.

56. Australia praised Serbia for enacting constitutional changes to its judicial system and amending anti-discrimination laws, encouraging the country to implement those changes and enhance political and civil liberties.

57. Austria offered its condolences for the recent tragic school shooting in Belgrade and praised the progress made by Serbia in implementing recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review, including on judicial reform and a media strategy.

58. Azerbaijan expressed its condolences and applauded the legislative measures taken by Serbia to protect and promote human rights.

59. Bangladesh commended the establishment of the National Council for Climate Change and the adoption of several national strategies. It noted the challenges in preventing transnational human trafficking.

60. Belarus expressed its condolences and acknowledged the active cooperation of Serbia with United Nations human rights mechanisms, along with the progress made in implementing previous recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review.

61. Belgium appreciated the efforts and positive progress made by Serbia since the previous universal periodic review cycle, but highlighted challenges in combating impunity, preserving press freedom and upholding LGBTQI+ rights.

62. Brazil welcomed the democratic elections held in Serbia in 2022 and encouraged the country to further strengthen democratic institutions. It also commended Serbia for reinforcing judicial independence.

63. Brunei Darussalam acknowledged the notable improvement by Serbia in the provision of health services, particularly in the realm of mental health care.

64. Bulgaria acknowledged the ongoing endeavours of Serbia to safeguard human rights, yet highlighted the economic underdevelopment and unaddressed ecological challenges faced by the Bulgarian minority.

65. Burkina Faso praised the adoption by Serbia of a strategy to combat gender-based and domestic violence and encouraged the country to continue its efforts to eliminate violence against women and children.

66. Canada welcomed the strengthened independence of the judiciary and the participation of all political parties in the 2022 elections, but expressed concern over the death threats against journalists.

67. Chile welcomed the progress made in environmental legislation and the establishment of the National Council for Climate Change.

68. China noted the progress made by Serbia and appreciated its efforts to combat hate speech, eliminate sexual violence, promote gender equality, protect the human rights of vulnerable groups, including ethnic minorities, refugees and immigrants, and achieve sustainable development.

69. Colombia made recommendations.

70. Costa Rica welcomed the approval of the Law on Climate Change, the strategy for the implementation of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and the strategy on combating gender violence and domestic violence.

71. Croatia noted that hate speech was used in public discourse and the media. It encouraged Serbia to fully cooperate with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals.

72. Cuba expressed its condolences and thanked Serbia for its commitment to the universal periodic review.

73. Cyprus expressed its condolences and commended the national human rights institution for its conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and implementing several human rights strategies.

74. Czechia welcomed the constitutional reform undertaken by Serbia and its implementation of strategies on combating trafficking in persons and discrimination. It noted that some of its previous recommendations had yet to be fully implemented.

75. Denmark expressed its concern at reports on the media and journalists operating under restrictive conditions and noted the decision to reassign two prosecutors that were investigating an embezzlement case.

76. Djibouti welcomed the gender equality law and the strategy on gender equality and its action plan. It appreciated the efforts to combat discrimination against minorities.

77. The Dominican Republic commended the Law on Climate Change and the establishment of the National Council for Climate Change.

78. Ecuador highlighted the application of the strategy for the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons.

79. Egypt commended the efforts to strengthen the institutional human rights framework and policies for the promotion of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

80. Estonia expressed its condolences, encouraged Serbia to continue reforms to strengthen the judiciary and commended the introduction of two laws for implementing constitutional reform.

81. Finland expressed its condolences and recognized the steps taken since the last review, including the provision of human rights training for public authorities.

82. France expressed its condolences and commended efforts to strengthen the legislative human rights framework.

83. The Gambia welcomed the delegation and thanked it for its continued and constructive engagement with the universal periodic review process.

84. Georgia expressed its condolences and commended the adoption of the law on gender equality and measures to combat discrimination and trafficking in persons.

85. Germany commended the revision of the anti-discrimination and equality laws. It remained concerned about the lack of media pluralism and the lack of empowerment of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities.

86. Greece welcomed the constitutional amendments adopted by Serbia in 2021 and the adoption of an important legal framework for strengthening the independence and accountability of the judiciary.

87. Honduras commended Serbia for protecting the rights of minorities, especially political rights. Honduras highlighted the measures taken by Serbia to protect the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons.

88. Hungary acknowledged the efforts of Serbia aimed at strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the rights of the child and noted with appreciation the commitment of Serbia to the protection of the rights of national minorities.

89. India commended Serbia for its efforts to promote and protect human rights since its last review and noted the adoption of the Law on Gender Equality.

90. Indonesia commended the efforts of Serbia to improve its legislative and institutional framework, including training programmes for public officers and the climate change framework.

91. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the determination of Serbia and its effective legislative and administrative measures to protect the rights of women and children and reduce family violence.

92. Ireland remained concerned by threats and physical attacks against civil society organizations and journalists in Serbia, as well as gender-based violence against female journalists.

93. Italy welcomed the efforts of Serbia to promote and protect human rights, including by combating discrimination, preventing domestic violence and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

94. Kazakhstan appreciated the efforts to combat human trafficking, including the provision of training for public officials on supporting victims.

95. Kyrgyzstan welcomed Serbia and thanked it for its presentation.

96. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic commended the legal and institutional progress made by Serbia in promoting human rights, including the adoption of the Law on Gender Equality.

97. Latvia noted the measures taken by Serbia since the previous review and encouraged further efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations.

98. Lebanon welcomed the progress made by Serbia in resolving the issue of missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

99. Lithuania commended the determination of Serbia to promote and protect human rights and welcomed the constitutional amendments strengthening the independence and accountability of the judiciary.

100. Luxembourg welcomed the efforts of Serbia in implementing the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle.

101. Malawi noted the establishment by Serbia of the council to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

102. Malaysia commended Serbia for the improvements that have been made to its legislative and institutional framework towards the advancement of human rights.

103. Maldives commended Serbia for combating climate change, adopting the Law on Climate Change and establishing the National Council for Climate Change.

104. Malta welcomed the efforts of Serbia to enhance human rights protection by adopting constitutional amendments.

105. Mauritius welcomed the support provided by Serbia to students from vulnerable social groups by providing them with free textbooks.

106. Mexico welcomed the amendments to the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, of 2021, and the adoption of the anti-discrimination strategy and action plan, 2021–2030.

107. Montenegro welcomed the progress made by Serbia in the field of the promotion and protection of human rights by strengthening the anti-discrimination framework.

108. Morocco noted the progress made by Serbia in the promotion of human rights through the implementation of several recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review.

109. Nepal appreciated the efforts of Serbia to protect the rights of women through legislative measures and various actions, such as the provision of free legal aid, campaigns and training programmes.

110. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Serbia for its fight against impunity for attacks on journalists.

111. Norway commended the progress made by Serbia since the previous universal periodic review cycle, but expressed its concern over the lack of media diversity and violence against women and LGBTIQ persons.

112. Pakistan appreciated the efforts made by Serbia to advance human rights, including the establishment of the National Council for Climate Change and the adoption of anti-discrimination and anti-trafficking strategies.

113. Paraguay commended the progress made on legislation for minorities, the new child protection strategies and the strategy and action plan on combating trafficking in persons.

114. Peru commended the achievements of Serbia in the area of human rights, including the adoption of the action plan to combat discrimination, 2021–2030.

115. Poland commended Serbia for promoting human rights, including by reducing overcrowding in detention facilities.

116. Portugal commended Serbia for the efforts undertaken in the area of the judiciary, namely, the constitutional revision of 2022.

117. Qatar expressed its appreciation for the ratification by Serbia of several international agreements and its efforts to combat climate change, discrimination and trafficking in persons and to protect minorities.

118. The Republic of Korea commended the establishment of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue and welcomed the efforts to reform the judiciary and combat corruption.

119. The Republic of Moldova expressed its condolences and commended the adoption of the Law on Gender Equality, as well as the new legislation aimed at preventing and combating discrimination.

120. Romania commended the inclusion of representatives of national minorities in the preparations for the October 2022 census and the holding of new elections for the national minority councils, recalling that their proper functioning and independence remained important.

121. The Russian Federation expressed its condolences, commended the efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, and shared its concerns over human rights in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

122. The Serbian delegation expressed its gratitude for the evaluations received, which acknowledged the positive efforts and the results achieved and highlighted the remaining challenges.

123. A member of the delegation from the newly established Ministry for Family Care and Demography presented further details on the legislation, policies and strategies aimed at safeguarding children from violence and abuse. The delegate emphasized the significance of the strategy for the prevention and protection of children from violence, 2020–2023, which included sexual exploitation and human trafficking as forms of violence.

124. The delegation outlined initiatives carried out by the National Coalition for combating Child Marriage, including the legal proposals aimed at abolishing the possibility of child marriage, the “Childhood, not marriage” awareness-raising campaign and the support for civil society projects in that field, including those focused on Roma women.

125. Regarding the institutionalization of children, Serbia noted a significant reduction in the number of children living in residential care, due to a 90 per cent placement rate in foster care. The strategy on deinstitutionalization and the development of social protection services in the community, 2022–2026, was aimed at ending the institutional placement of children under 7 years old.

126. Information on the legal, policy and institutional efforts to advance gender equality in the country was also provided. The delegation referred to the adoption of the Law on Gender Equality, in 2021, and the strategy for combating gender-based violence, 2021–2025.

127. Serbia emphasized that article 54 of the Constitution guaranteed freedom of assembly, which could only be restricted on the grounds of public safety or public health. The delegation thanked the States for their interest in protecting media freedoms and their recommendations in that regard.

128. The delegation emphasized that Serbia was among the few countries in Europe with special criminal protection for journalists. The delegation also highlighted other safety mechanisms in place, such as two working groups, a 24-hour SOS phone line, a platform for preventing attacks against journalists and a government commission for investigating the murders of journalists.

129. The head of the delegation concluded by acknowledging challenges and reaffirming the commitment of Serbia to protecting and promoting human rights. The delegation expressed its satisfaction with the review, thanked all delegations and reiterated its willingness to collaborate with civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders, including members of the international community.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

130. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Serbia and enjoy the support of Serbia:**

130.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Cyprus) (Ecuador) (Maldives) (Ukraine);**

130.2 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Lithuania) (Republic of Moldova);**

130.3 **Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro);**

130.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France);**

130.5 **Take all necessary measures to harmonize the legislative framework governing education with ratified international standards and treaties (Morocco);**

130.6 **Continue monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations human rights mechanisms through an electronic database (Lebanon);**

130.7 **Continue improving the legislative and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights, paying attention to vulnerable categories of the population that require additional support (Belarus);**

130.8 **Adopt the law on public information and media, the law on electronic media and the law on broadcasting (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

130.9 **Amend the Law on the Ombudsman in order to provide for the interaction of the Ombudsman with the international human rights system and civil society organizations (Latvia);**

130.10 **Strengthen laws and implement policies to protect all women from domestic violence (Uganda);**

130.11 **Strengthen the existing normative framework on gender equality, by securing reliable and disaggregated data on violence against women and girls in Serbia, including femicides (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

130.12 **Continue taking measures for the prohibition and prevention of all forms of discrimination through the implementation of the strategy for prevention and protection from discrimination, 2021–2030 (Azerbaijan);**

130.13 **Continue actions aimed at implementing the national strategy for the prevention and protection against discrimination (Cuba);**

130.14 **Establish a national mechanism to monitor the implementation of the anti-discrimination strategy (Egypt);**

130.15 **Strengthen the independence of the Ombudsman, including the independence of its staff responsible for facilitating the work of the national preventive mechanism and its operational autonomy (Dominican Republic) (Poland);**

130.16 **Strengthen efforts to combat hate speech (Egypt);**

130.17 **Actively counter hate speech and hate-motivated crimes (Croatia);**

130.18 **Continue to take steps to fight hate crimes and hate speech (Malawi);**

130.19 **Continue efforts to fight against hate speech and prevent hate crimes and related intolerance (Bangladesh);**

130.20 **Put in place measures to combat racism and all forms of hate speech against persons of African descent (Uganda);**

130.21 **Monitor and take the necessary measures to tackle and combat the use of discriminatory language and hate speech against persons belonging to national minority groups (Albania);**

130.22 **Continue to build an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment (China);**

130.23 **Continue the ongoing efforts on the prohibition and prevention of discrimination, including on persons in vulnerable situations (Greece);**

130.24 **Enhance efforts to combat discrimination against ethnic minority groups and ensure equal access to services, including education and health care (Kazakhstan);**

130.25 **Increase efforts to promote tolerance for persons belonging to ethnic, racial, religious and other minority groups and address all manifestations of discrimination more effectively (Malaysia);**

130.26 **Strengthen the implementation of the strategies to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, including against women and Roma persons (Italy);**

130.27 **Consolidate ongoing prison reforms to ensure better conditions of detention (Togo);**

130.28 **Adapt article 137 of the Penal Code in order to classify as a crime all the acts contemplated in articles 1 and 16 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

130.29 **Support the implementation of the national strategy for prosecution of war crimes by establishing clear measurable interim targets and clear case selection criteria for the prosecutorial strategy (Ireland);**

130.30 **Continue the comprehensive monitoring of the implementation of the national strategy for the prosecution of war crimes (Hungary);**

130.31 **Promote media pluralism and transparency of media ownership, fostering an environment in which all media have equal opportunities to report on issues of public interest (Uruguay);**

130.32 **Promote media pluralism and transparency regarding media ownership and protect journalists (Luxembourg);**

130.33 **Promote media pluralism and the transparency of media ownership (Albania);**

130.34 **Further promote the integrity, impartiality and independence of the judiciary to free it from political influence over judicial appointments and external pressures regarding judicial rulings, particularly in high profile corruption cases (Canada);**

130.35 **Continue the work of bringing national legislative and institutional frameworks into line with European standards, particularly in the area of the fight against corruption (France);**

130.36 **Enhance media freedom and pluralism by providing transparency regarding the ownership of media outlets and ensure freedom of expression by protecting journalists against undue influence, strategic laws, hate speech and smear campaigns (Germany);**

130.37 **Develop a new anti-corruption strategic framework with effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms and based on lessons learned in this area (Luxembourg);**

130.38 **Take further steps to improve media freedom by ensuring the safety of journalists and promoting media pluralism and the transparency of media ownership (Republic of Korea);**

130.39 **Continue efforts to effectively implement the Law on the Prevention of Corruption (Republic of Korea);**

130.40 **Swiftly establish regulations as a follow-up to the new laws related to the reform of the judicial system that were adopted in February 2023 in order to ensure their full implementation while respecting judicial independence (Switzerland);**

130.41 **Take extra steps to further promote the independence of the judiciary (Armenia);**

130.42 **Improve the efficiency and independence of the judiciary, including through the introduction of monitoring tools for service delivery, work allocation and modern methods of service supervision (Austria);**

130.43 **Implement measures to improve the independence, accountability and effectiveness of the justice system (Australia);**

130.44 **Take all necessary steps to mitigate the risk of political influence over prosecutors (Denmark);**

130.45 **Take concrete steps to improve the independence and efficiency of the prosecution and the judiciary, according to the judicial development strategy (Norway);**

130.46 **Improve judicial independence by addressing credible reports of political interference in investigations, prosecutions and court proceedings, including the work of the High Court Council and State Prosecutorial Council, and investigate transparently and hold accountable those who seek to unduly influence the judiciary (United States of America);**

130.47 **Conduct prompt and impartial investigations and prosecute all threats to journalists and human rights defenders and cases of hate speech against them (Slovakia);**

130.48 **Conduct prompt, impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of deaths of, and attacks, harassment and intimidation against, journalists, offline and online (Belgium);**

130.49 **Continue to effectively investigate reports of intimidation, harassment and attacks against journalists and media workers (Estonia);**

130.50 **Carry out prompt, impartial and effective investigations into cases of intimidation, assault, harassment and forms of torture against journalists and human rights defenders, both online and offline, guaranteeing full access to justice (Costa Rica);**

130.51 **Effectively investigate and prosecute the alleged perpetrators of threats and attacks against human rights defenders, including those who work in the field of transitional justice (Ecuador);**

130.52 **Continue efforts to promote a free, independent and pluralistic media environment and fully investigate cases of threats and attacks against journalists in a timely and effective manner (Austria);**

130.53 **Investigate and prosecute alleged attacks on journalists and media outlets, address the practice of strategic lawsuits against public participation, which financially drain critical media outlets, and respond effectively to thwart smear campaigns against independent media outlets (Canada);**

130.54 **Strengthen measures to identify and prosecute all those responsible for threats and attacks on journalists and media workers (Czechia);**

130.55 **Ensure that all threats, intimidation and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders are investigated and brought to a timely conclusion (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

130.56 **Ensure prompt, independent and impartial investigations of all reported cases of violations of freedom of expression, including attacks and violence against civil society, human rights defenders, journalists and media workers (Ireland);**

130.57 **Protect human rights defenders, including against threats and smear campaigns often emanating from pro-government media and elected officials (Canada);**

130.58 **Take all necessary measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, journalists, media workers and human rights defenders free from persecution, intimidation and harassment (Latvia);**

130.59 **Implement the media strategy adopted in 2020, in full partnership with civil society (Sweden);**

130.60 **Ensure media pluralism and a safe and enabling environment for journalists and ensure accountability and prosecutions for cases of physical and verbal violence against journalists and media operators (Italy);**

130.61 **Accelerate the implementation of the media strategy, including by amending the Public Information and Media Law and the Electronic Media Law, and ensure the principle of media pluralism in the licensing process of national television channels, while respecting the right to freedom of expression (Switzerland);**

130.62 **Ensure the independence of the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Media and encourage its application of existing guidelines and the institutional and editorial independence of broadcasters and telecommunications operators (United States of America);**

130.63 **Adequately prevent, investigate and prosecute attacks against journalists and media workers while protecting the freedoms of expression and the press (Brazil);**

130.64 **Implement the legal framework protecting freedom of expression, including the media strategy, and for combating hate speech and disinformation (Czechia);**

130.65 **Take measures to protect media freedom by ensuring full respect for and the implementation of legislation on freedom of speech and press, including implementation of the strategy for the development of the public information system for the period 2020–2025 adopted in January 2020 (Denmark);**

130.66 **Improve the transparency of media ownership and ensure the independence of media outlets to protect freedom of expression (Estonia);**

130.67 **Continue efforts to ensure a safe and open environment for independent journalism and fight against impunity for crimes committed against journalists (France);**

130.68 **Promote freedom of expression, including freedom of speech and information, and ensure that human rights defenders may work safely (Italy);**

130.69 **Take measures to ensure freedom of expression and prevent political and economic influence on the media (Lithuania);**

130.70 **Uphold the right to freedom of expression and combat intimidation of the media and civil society by fully implementing the media strategy (Norway);**

130.71 **Undertake further efforts to ensure that human rights defenders enjoy a safe and appropriate environment for their work (Peru);**

130.72 **Enhance measures to ensure that human rights defenders can freely carry out their activities in a safe and enabling environment (Republic of Korea);**

130.73 **Continue to strengthen and implement laws and policies to eradicate human trafficking (Uganda);**

130.74 **Continue efforts to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons (Ukraine);**

130.75 **Continue effective measures to combat trafficking in person (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

130.76 **Continue to take concrete measures to combat human trafficking (Malawi);**

130.77 **Continue efforts to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking (Argentina);**

130.78 **Continue to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons, as well as provide rehabilitation services, assistance and shelters for victims that are tailored to their needs (Spain);**

130.79 **Step up efforts to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons, especially of non-nationals (Angola);**

130.80 **Continue its positive experience in combating human trafficking within State borders, as well as intensify efforts to combat the trafficking of individuals through Serbia (Azerbaijan);**

130.81 **Strengthen the mandate and independence of bodies combating gender-based discrimination by providing them with adequate human and financial resources (Morocco);**

130.82 **Continue to strengthen efforts to promote mental health and well-being for all (Brunei Darussalam);**

130.83 **Further promote mental health literacy and awareness to enhance understanding, including through educational campaigns and programmes (Brunei Darussalam);**

130.84 **Continue the implementation of measures for promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence, including by ensuring pay parity and access to safe reproductive health services (India);**

130.85 **Continue efforts to enhance the educational and economic level of vulnerable persons (Algeria);**

130.86 **Intensify efforts to strengthen the right to education and ensure non-discriminatory access to quality education for all, including minority populations (Djibouti);**

130.87 **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns about the nature of domestic violence (Estonia);**

130.88 **Expedite the translation into Bulgarian of textbooks for primary and secondary schools, which is required for quality education in the mother tongue of students from the Bulgarian national minority (Bulgaria);**

130.89 **Continue efforts to combat domestic violence (Egypt) (Syrian Arab Republic) (Viet Nam);**

130.90 **Continue to implement the strategy for gender equality (Türkiye);**

130.91 **Form an official database on femicides in the country (Slovenia);**

130.92 **Ensure the effective implementation of national gender programmes and strengthen the legislative measures against domestic violence (Uzbekistan);**

130.93 **Step up efforts towards the empowerment of all women, including through access to paid employment and economic activity (Zimbabwe);**

130.94 **Continue efforts to support the rights of rural women and promote their economic empowerment (Algeria);**

130.95 **Take further measures to combat domestic violence, including by ensuring the availability of reliable and consolidated statistics on cases of violence against women, including femicide (Austria);**

130.96 **Continue implementing measures to combat hate speech, discrimination, violence against women and domestic violence, including through national programmes and strategies (Belarus);**

130.97 **Accelerate efforts to harmonize education legislation with the 2021 Gender Equality Law and the national gender equality strategy (Chile);**

130.98 **Continue national efforts in compliance with the strategy for gender equality and its action plan (Cuba);**

130.99 **Proceed with steps towards advancing gender equality, including through the implementation of measures envisaged under the strategy for gender equality (Georgia);**

130.100 **Swiftly adopt an action plan for combating violence against women and introduce an official database on femicides (Germany);**

130.101 **Continue efforts to implement the strategy for gender equality and the corresponding action plan (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**

130.102 **Create a national mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the gender equality strategy for the period 2021–2030 (Lebanon);**

130.103 **Strengthen the mandate and independence of the gender equality bodies and continue measures to lower the gender pay gap and increase the level of representation of women in decision-making positions (Lithuania);**

130.104 **Continue to take steps to promote gender equality (Malawi);**

130.105 **Continue to uphold the rights of women and girls and overcome the gender gap through the effective implementation of the law on gender equality and the strategy for gender equality (Malaysia);**

130.106 **Continue efforts to enhance the representation of women and minority communities in political and public life (Nepal);**

130.107 **Redouble efforts to combat misogyny in public spaces and discourses and promote the dignity of women in economic, political and social life (Paraguay);**

130.108 **Take further measures to enhance women’s participation in the labour market (Qatar);**

130.109 **Develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women (Dominican Republic);**

130.110 **Develop comprehensive strategies and plans to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and fight against gender-based violence (Ecuador);**

130.111 **Develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women (Argentina);**

130.112 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence (Angola);**

130.113 **Consider developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan to address all forms of gender-based violence (Timor-Leste);**

130.114 **Further reinforce measures to combat violence against women (Pakistan);**

130.115 **Adjust respective legislation by securing a full ban on child marriage and the prevention of domestic and gender-based violence (Czechia);**

130.116 **Improve the implementation of the Law against Domestic Violence and take measures to ensure the effective protection of all victims of gender-based violence (Spain);**

130.117 **Elaborate a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence (Ukraine);**

130.118 **Advance in the implementation of the strategy to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women and domestic violence, 2021–2025, and redouble efforts to prevent and combat discrimination and violence against women (Colombia);**

130.119 **Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and raise public awareness of the harms caused by all gender stereotypes, including femicide (Czechia);**

130.120 **Strengthen the mechanisms for preventing and combating gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, in accordance with the national strategy for the prevention and repression of violence against women and violence in the family and conjugal sphere for the period 2021–2025 (Djibouti);**

130.121 **Guarantee that all women victims of gender-based violence have unimpeded access to effective protection and justice (Ecuador);**

130.122 **Provide adequate funding for the implementation of the strategy for the prevention and fight against gender-based violence and domestic violence (Estonia);**

130.123 **Strengthen existing legislation and equally develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women, children and persons with disabilities (Gambia);**

130.124 **Consider conducting a survey on gender-based violence against women and girls, especially those in vulnerable groups (Greece);**

130.125 **Develop a comprehensive strategy and an action plan aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, in particular by combating gender stereotypes (Luxembourg);**

130.126 **Conduct a nationwide survey on the prevalence and causes of gender-based violence, with a special focus on women, girls and the elderly (Maldives);**

130.127 **Consider developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women, including by combating gender stereotypes (Malta);**

130.128 **Develop a comprehensive strategy to combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and ensure victims’ unimpeded access to effective protection against violence (Montenegro);**

130.129 **Approve revisions to the Family Law, the Penal Code and the Domestic Violence Prevention Law to eradicate child marriage, protect victims of gender-based violence and impose adequate sanctions (Paraguay);**

130.130 **Intensify efforts to combat gender-based violence and child marriage, which disproportionately affect Roma women and girls, by strengthening their access to effective protection mechanisms (Peru);**

130.131 **Explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Estonia);**

130.132 **Prescribe in law the prohibition of corporal punishment in education settings (Cyprus);**

130.133 **Establish a follow-up mechanism for the implementation of the national strategy for the prevention and protection of children against violence and the prohibition of all corporal punishment against them (Chile);**

130.134 **Intensify efforts to uphold the rights of the child and protect children from physical abuse, especially in instances of corporal punishment in schools (Pakistan);**

130.135 **Strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the protocol on violence against children and prohibit corporal punishment of children at home (Poland);**

130.136 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children by law, including in the family, and further strengthen protective mechanisms and measures to protect children from violence, including children with disabilities living in closed systems (Austria);**

130.137 **Continue working on the process for the amendment of the Family Law towards the abolition of child marriage and the prohibition of the corporal punishment of children (Greece);**

130.138 **Discuss efforts to increase youth employment, in dialogue between the government, employer and worker’s representatives, and devise programmes with measurable goals dedicated to increasing employment among young people (Slovenia);**

130.139 **Continue efforts to extend support for children and students from vulnerable social groups and address the needs of children, students and adults for additional educational, health care and social support (Sri Lanka);**

130.140 **Continue promoting the protection of the rights of the child (Sudan);**

130.141 **Continue efforts to improve the right to education for children (Sudan);**

130.142 **Improve the normative framework for the protection of children’s rights (Syrian Arab Republic);**

130.143 **Continue efforts to protect and promote the rights of the child, in particular to improve the situation of children belonging to vulnerable social groups (Tunisia);**

130.144 **Redouble efforts to prevent and combat child labour by improving the national regulatory framework to ensure the protection of children’s rights (Uruguay);**

130.145 **Strengthen measures to support the vulnerable groups of the population, including women, children and national minorities (Uzbekistan);**

130.146 **Improve the normative framework for the promotion and protection of children’s rights (Viet Nam);**

130.147 **Intensify efforts to abolish child marriage through the amendment of the Family Law (Zimbabwe);**

130.148 **Strengthen the education system’s capacity to increase access for all children (Angola);**

130.149 **Adopt a definition of the child in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and guarantee all persons under the age of 18 the same protection in criminal matters (Burkina Faso);**

130.150 **Continue to improve laws and policies to protect the rights of women and children (China);**

130.151 **Continue efforts to promote opportunities for access to education for children from vulnerable social groups (Georgia);**

130.152 **Consider progressive policy and legislative measures for improving the framework for the promotion and protection of children’s rights (India);**

130.153 **Ensure adequate access for all children to education, in particular by allocating more of the budget to this sector (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

130.154 **Remove barriers to the birth registration of girls and boys born on Serbian territory, regardless of the status of their parents (Mexico);**

130.155 **Continue to strengthen national efforts to protect the rights of the child (Nepal);**

130.156 **Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly among the highest-risk groups, such as unaccompanied and separated women and children (Paraguay);**

130.157 **Revise and endorse the revisions of the Family Law, the Criminal Code and the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence to secure a full ban on child marriage (Poland);**

130.158 **Increase actions in order to effectively and systemically prevent and fight trafficking in human beings, with a focus on women and children (Republic of Moldova);**

130.159 **Continue efforts to improve the situation of persons with disabilities, especially within the framework of the implementation of the relevant strategy for the period of 2020–2024 (Tunisia);**

130.160 **Continue improving and developing a legal and strategic framework to improve the status of persons with disabilities (United Republic of Tanzania);**

130.161 **Fully implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child in domestic legislation, continue to reduce the number of children in institutional care and ensure that children with disabilities have sufficient support to live in their communities (Australia);**

130.162 **Intensify government efforts and advance legislation to improve the situation of people with disabilities (Cuba);**

130.163 **Continue to strive for inclusive education, especially for girls, minorities and students with disabilities (Dominican Republic);**

130.164 **Improve access to the labour market for persons with disabilities (Finland);**

130.165 **Take further measures to ensure full access for children with disabilities to education and health care (Indonesia);**

130.166 **Strengthen efforts towards promoting and protecting the human rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**

130.167 **Develop a strategy to provide inclusive access to education to all students, in particular to girls and students with disabilities (Mauritius);**

130.168 **Review mental health laws and policies to ensure their compatibility with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mexico);**

130.169 **Implement human rights-based mental health policies aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by investing in community-based mental health services, with a view to eliminating stigma, discrimination and coercion in mental health care (Portugal);**

130.170 **Continue efforts to provide inclusive education for all, especially girls, minorities and students with disabilities (Qatar);**

130.171 **Continue its work, in law and practice, to promote and protect the rights and freedoms of the vulnerable groups of the population, including children, women, persons with disabilities and older persons (Russian Federation);**

130.172 **Ensure effective access to basic health-care services to vulnerable groups and the rural population to reduce regional disparities and equity gaps (Sri Lanka);**

130.173 **Ensure effective access for Roma to public services, including quality education, and implement action plans to reduce the existing inequality gap (Spain);**

130.174 **Continue efforts for the promotion and protection of rights of national minorities (Türkiye);**

130.175 **Take the necessary steps to ensure equal representation of persons belonging to national minority groups and to promote their representation in political institutions at the national and local levels, as well as in various socioeconomic spheres (Albania);**

130.176 **Continue working to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking, especially of members of ethnic minority groups, who are especially vulnerable to this crime (Dominican Republic);**

130.177 **Continue the effective implementation of policy documents and legislation related to the rights of national minorities (Hungary);**

130.178 **Strengthen measures by developing institutional capacities aimed at improving the socioeconomic inclusion of ethnic minorities (Indonesia);**

130.179 **Continue efforts to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons and focus efforts on members of ethnic minority groups and non-citizens, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking (Kyrgyzstan);**

130.180 **Improve disaggregated data collection on minorities and further promote the representation of minorities in public institutions at the national and local levels (Montenegro);**

130.181 **Adopt positive action measures to recognize the gender identity of all people, in accordance with their personal autonomy and human dignity (Argentina);**

130.182 **Ensure the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of expression for LGBTQI+ persons and for civil society organizations and secure the protection of both the public events and gatherings that they organize (Belgium);**

130.183 **Take measures to ensure the exercise of freedom of assembly and expression of LGBTIQ+ people and the civil society organizations that defend their rights (Chile);**

130.184 **Pursue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and violence, in particular against persons belonging to minority groups and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other persons (France);**

130.185 **Protect fully the freedom of association and peaceful assembly of LGBTIQ+ persons (Luxembourg);**

130.186 **Consider enhancing training programmes for law-enforcement and judicial authorities to protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in exercise of their fundamental freedoms, including the right to peaceful protest (Malta);**

130.187 **Establish mechanisms to guarantee the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and prevent, investigate and punish acts of discrimination, as well as hate speech and crimes against them (Mexico);**

130.188 **Step up measures to combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and other persons in all spheres of life, including by promoting awareness and increasing initiatives and training among law enforcement, health and education personnel (Portugal);**

130.189 **Take adequate measures to strengthen the prevention, suppression and punishment of trafficking in persons among migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers (Togo);**

130.190 **Increase efforts to provide support and access to services for all migrants, especially women and children, and ensure the implementation of antitrafficking policies (Kazakhstan);**

130.191 **Ensure that all non-citizens, including migrants and asylum-seekers, enjoy their human rights and have access to adequate humanitarian services (Kyrgyzstan);**

130.192 **Increase efforts to identify, prevent and combat trafficking in persons among migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular among groups at heightened risk, such as unaccompanied and separated children (Poland);**

130.193 **Adopt regulations to guarantee the right to nationality and prevent cases of statelessness, including by easing the process for the newly born of undocumented parents (Indonesia).**

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

131.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh) (Burkina Faso) (Kyrgyzstan) (Mexico) (Morocco) (Paraguay);**

131.2 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Togo);**

131.3 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Colombia);**

131.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Gambia);**

131.5 **Finalize ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Afghanistan);**

131.6 **Pursue further technical assistance and capacity-building opportunities (United Republic of Tanzania);**

131.7 **Amend laws and policies to guarantee media freedom, including protecting journalists against threats and political interests, and ensure that independent media can function free of intimidation (Australia);**

131.8 **Bring the national criminal law provisions on rape into line with the consent-based definition of rape (Slovenia);**

131.9 **Take measures to prevent nationalistic hate speech (Germany);**

131.10 **Promptly address all manifestations of ethnic intolerance and hate speech, especially those based on fabricated historical narratives (Bulgaria);**

131.11 **Continue paying particular attention to non-discrimination and the full respect of the rights of persons belonging to all national minority groups in Serbia, with a view to tangible improvements in the effective exercise of their education rights, in the use of minority languages, including access to media and religious services in minority languages, and representation in public administration and representative bodies (Bulgaria);**

131.12 **Address all forms of ill-treatment of detainees, including the recommendations made by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe (Norway);**

131.13 **Classify enforced disappearance as an independent crime in the Penal Code, in line with treaty obligations (Paraguay);**

131.14 **Consider carrying out the necessary reforms to classify enforced disappearance as an independent crime in the Penal Code and continue with the ongoing processes for the approval of the draft law on missing persons (Peru);**

131.15 **Cooperate fully with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, commit to prosecute suspected criminals, act to stem the denial and relativization of genocide and war crimes and end complacency towards graffiti celebrating convicted war criminals (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

131.16 **Prosecute all known perpetrators of war crimes from the 1990s, decisively, proactively and with respect for internationally accepted practices, as recommended by the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Belgium);**

131.17 **Ensure the effective implementation of the national strategy for the prosecution of war crimes by prioritizing the prosecution of high-ranking individuals in cooperation with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and with prosecutors working on war crimes in the region, including by promoting the exchange of information on the fate of missing persons (Switzerland);**

131.18 **Increase efforts to investigate the role of suspected senior-level perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, establish comprehensive mechanisms to afford reparations to all victims, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, and ensure that State officials respect court decisions (Albania);**

131.19 **Prioritize investigations into the role played by high-ranking alleged perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide and establish comprehensive and non-discriminatory mechanisms to provide redress to victims (Argentina);**

131.20 **Establish educational programmes for the prevention of genocide and, at the legislative level, a comprehensive reparation mechanism for victims and survivors of war crimes and end impunity for high-ranking alleged perpetrators (Costa Rica);**

131.21 **Adopt necessary measures to ensure reparations to all victims of war crimes and to their families, in line with international standards (Croatia);**

131.22 **Contribute to meaningful regional cooperation regarding war crimes by avoiding conflict of jurisdictions and related issues (Croatia);**

131.23 **Condemn, investigate and prosecute all cases of intimidation against journalists and guarantee the freedom of the press by discontinuing direct government influence on the press (Finland);**

131.24 **Formulate safeguards in the legal framework to deal with obviously unfounded or abusive court proceedings against public participation that aim to curtail the freedom of the media (Slovenia);**

131.25 **Take proactive measures to identify cases of human trafficking and ensure the rehabilitation of the victims (Armenia);**

131.26 **Take measures to improve labour rights and the status of workers, investigate allegations of labour exploitation and trafficking in persons and extend support to all victims of labour exploitation (Sri Lanka);**

131.27 **Adopt measures to regulate the operational activities of multinational businesses in the territory of Serbia and multinational businesses with headquarters in Serbia to mitigate the negative human rights impact, especially in the areas of health and the environment (Honduras);**

131.28 **Take all necessary measures to eliminate gender stereotypes in the family and society, including in education and employment (Latvia);**

131.29 **Ensure the consistent, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the legislation for the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national minority groups, throughout the entire territory of Serbia, and continue efforts towards improving the conditions for persons belonging to national minority groups to maintain and develop their own culture, to benefit from adequate representation in the public administration and judiciary and to have access to education, religious services and media in their own languages, throughout the entire territory of Serbia (Romania);**

131.30 **Scale up efforts to implement climate change and environmental degradation laws (Timor-Leste);**

131.31 **Reconsider the practice of applying economic sanctions and other unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to international law and have a widespread negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights (Belarus);**

131.32 **Within bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms on missing persons, ensure full access to relevant information, including to State and military archives, (Croatia);**

131.33 **Establish an inclusive regulatory framework that promotes equal opportunities and non-discrimination and the eradication of hate speech, especially for women, girls, youth and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex populations (Costa Rica);**

131.34 **Speed up measures to reduce the wage gap between men and women across all sectors in the workplace and increase women’s participation in high-paying jobs in accordance with the strategy for gender equality, 2021–2030, especially focusing on Roma and rural women (Honduras);**

131.35 **Put in place a definitive anti-poverty policy and ensuing measures to reduce gender inequality between women and men and to increase women’s participation in economic activities (Mauritius);**

131.36 **Implement a comprehensive policy to combat discrimination and violence against women, as well as discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Norway);**

131.37 **Institute measures to ensure the effective protection of all victims of gender-based violence, including through the establishment of victim-friendly centres at police stations (Zimbabwe);**

131.38 **Prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence and collect disaggregated data on all forms of violence, including in cases of femicide (Cyprus);**

131.39 **Accelerate efforts to amend the Family Law to ensure the abolition of child marriage, provide effective protection for victims of gender-based violence and align the definition of rape with international standards, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Malaysia);**

131.40 **Ensure that specialized women’s civil society organizations can provide gender-responsive and timely free legal aid to victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

131.41 **Continue to strengthen its social programmes in favour of the most needy sectors, with an emphasis on groups at risk, such as the elderly, women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

131.42 **Continue efforts with the aim to adopt a comprehensive law on the rights of the child and establish an office of an ombudsman for children (Cyprus);**

131.43 **Consider legislative changes to align the legal definition of rape with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and implementing a full ban on child marriage (Malta);**

131.44 **Adopt a comprehensive law on the protection of the rights of children and adolescents (Mexico);**

131.45 **Consider amending the Law on the Prevention of Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities, in order to adapt its content for greater protection of this vulnerable group (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

131.46 **Harmonize legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, through an inclusive educational framework, the non-institutionalization of people with psychosocial disabilities and the prohibition of all forced medical intervention (Costa Rica);**

131.47 **Continue efforts to strengthen awareness-raising on the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular with regard to women and girls with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

131.48 **Take targeted measures to promote the participation of women, in particular Roma women, women with disabilities and rural women, in the labour market (Latvia);**

131.49 **Introduce a law to legalize same-sex partnerships (Germany);**

131.50 **Approve a law that regulates same-sex unions, in addition to protecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons against discrimination and hate crimes (Spain);**

131.51 **Adopt comprehensive legislation on legal gender recognition and ensure trans and intersex affirming health care (Finland);**

131.52 **Adopt a comprehensive law on legal gender recognition and secure trans and intersex affirming health care, in line with international human rights standards and best practices, as well as adopt the law on same-sex partnership that was finalized in 2021 (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

131.53 **Legalize same-sex unions as part of efforts to guarantee equal protection under the law for members of same-sex couples (United States of America);**

131.54 **Advance the adoption of the law on de facto unions between persons of the same sex (Colombia);**

131.55 **Swiftly conclude the adoption of a same-sex partnership law, where a draft version has been processed but needs to be adopted in the parliament (Sweden);**

131.56 **Advance in the protection and promotion of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including through the adoption of inclusive legislation that guarantees full and equal civil rights for same-sex unions (Brazil);**

131.57 **Investigate and prosecute crimes involving gender-based violence and trafficking in persons and crimes targeting LGBTQI+ individuals (United States of America);**

131.58 **Increase efforts leading to the adoption of a law on unions between same-sex couples, thus guaranteeing the recognition of sexual and gender diversity (Uruguay);**

131.59 **Eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ persons and ensure the freedoms of assembly and of expression for them (Finland);**

131.60 **Refrain from limitations on the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, including of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex communities (Germany);**

131.61 **Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of social and economic rights of all refugees and migrants and ensure their unhindered access to health care (Pakistan);**

131.62 **Ensure the timely and fair processing of asylum claims and ensure consistent respect for the principle of non-refoulement (Afghanistan);**

131.63 **Continue in its effort to provide protection to people fleeing from Ukraine due to the Russian war of aggression, including the full respect of human rights (Slovakia).**

132. **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 Serbia was headed by H.E. Mr Mr. Tomislav Žigmanov, Minister for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue and composed of the following members:

• Mr. Dejan Zlatanović, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office at Geneva;

• Mr. prof. dr. Rejhan Kurtović, State Secretary, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue;

• Mr. Vladimir Vinš, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Justice;

• Ms. Jasmina Pekmezović, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Family Welfare and Demography;

• Ms. Ivana Joksimović, Assistant Minister, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue;

• Ms. Gordana Predić, Advisor to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, Coordination Body for Gender Equality;

• Mr. Milivoj Nedimović, Police Colonel, Head of Department for the Control of Police Work in the Police Directorate and President of the Commission for the Implementation of Standards of Police Action in the Field of Prevention of Torture, Ministry of Internal Affairs;

• Ms. Marina Nikodijević, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic og Serbia to the United Nations Office at Geneva;

• Mr. Danko Jovanović, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the United Nations Office at Geneva;

• Ms. Maja Vasović, Head of the Missing Persons Group in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia, Commission for Missing Persons, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration;

• Ms. Bojana Anđelković, Senior Advisor, Office for Kosovo and Metohija;

• Ms. Branislava Mitrović, Independent Advisor, Office for Kosovo and Metohija;

• Ms. Maja Zarić, Head of Unit for Support of International Cooperation in the Field of Public Information, Department for Information and Media, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications;

• Mr. Miloš Mihajlović, Head of the Department at the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration;

• Ms. Danijela Čukić Vlahović, Senior Advisor in the Unit for Normative Legal Affairs and System Issues, Department for Social Protection, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs;

• Ms. Jelena Vasić, Senior Advisor in the Unit for Active Labour Market Policies, Department for Labor and Employment, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veterans and Social Affairs;

• Mr. Igor Kušić, Special Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Justice;

• Ms. Verica Ćurčić-Pantelić, Head of Unit for the Promotion of Gender Equality, Inclusion of People With Special Needs and Integration of Marginalized Social Groups in the Process of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection;

• Ms. Aleksandra Rašković, Head of Cabinet, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue;

• Ms. Svetlana Đorđević, Senior Advisor, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue;

• Ms. Aleksandra Đorđević, Advisor for the Promotion of Artistic Production of Socially Vulnerable Groups, Department of Contemporary Artistic Production, Ministry of Culture;

• Ms. Tanja Srećković, Independent Advisor, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue;

• Ms. Lidija Kapičić, Interpreter;

• Mr. Marko Božović, Interpreter.

1. \* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [A/HRC/WG.6/43/SRB/1](http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/43/SRB/1). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [A/HRC/WG.6/43/SRB/2](http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/43/SRB/2). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [A/HRC/WG.6/43/SRB/3](http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/43/SRB/3). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)