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**Human Rights Council**

**Fifty-eighth session**

24 February–4 April 2025

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

 **Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

 **Bhutan**

 Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-seventh session from 4 to 15 November 2024. The review of Bhutan was held at the 6th meeting, on 6 November 2024. The delegation of Bhutan was headed by Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Mr. D.N. Dhungyel. At its 16th meeting, held on 13 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Bhutan.

2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bhutan: Costa Rica, Malaysia and the 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 Bhutan:

 (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);[[1]](#footnote-2)

 (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);[[2]](#footnote-3)

 (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).[[3]](#footnote-4)

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Costa Rica, members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), 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 Bhutan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

**I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process**

[To be completed by 22 November 2024]

 **A. Presentation by the State under review**

**B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

5. During the interactive dialogue, 72 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

**II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

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

6.1 **Consider ratifying international instruments for the protection of human rights to which they are not yet party (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

6.2 **Continue its efforts towards ratification of other human rights treaties (Thailand);**

6.3 **Ratify international human rights instruments, which Bhutan has not yet ratified (Ukraine);**

6.4 **Accede to the main international human rights instruments (Iraq);**

6.5 **Further strengthen the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights by considering ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and by becoming a party to other relevant international human rights instruments (Burkina Faso);**

6.6 **Ratify the main international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Luxembourg);**

6.7 **Ratify core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);**

6.8 **Ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

6.9 **Ratify all fundamental human rights instruments, to which the state is not yet a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Italy);**

6.10 **Ratify human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil);**

6.11 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger);**

6.12 **Consider becoming party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights (Nepal);**

6.13 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and harmonize the national legal framework with other fundamental human rights Treaties (Spain);**

6.14 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Botswana);**

6.15 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);**

6.16 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile);**

6.17 **Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Colombia);**

6.18 **Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and undertake reviews of prison conditions (Australia);**

6.19 **Move forward towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

6.20 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Botswana; Switzerland); Accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia); Become party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.21 **Become a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United States of America);**

6.22 **Consider ratifying both the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as previously recommended (Armenia);**

6.23 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Niger); Consider ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d’Ivoire);**

6.24 **Ratify the core human rights treaties, to which it is not yet a party, as well as the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Paraguay);**

6.25 **Consider extending an open invitation to the special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Chile);**

6.26 **Extend standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders (Montenegro; Ukraine); Extend an open and standing invitation for special procedures mandate holders to visit the country (Paraguay);**

6.27 **Redouble efforts to fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia);**

6.28 **Undertake further steps to enhance human rights protection in line with its international obligations (Algeria);**

6.29 **Continue efforts to build a legal framework for the protection of human rights, by ratifying the main international conventions, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**

6.30 **Consider the creation of an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Chile); Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principle (Nepal);**

6.31 **Redouble efforts to create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Côte d’Ivoire);**

6.32 **Establish an independent national human rights institution (Gambia);**

6.33 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Armenia); Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia);**

6.34 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**

6.35 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

6.36 **Establish a permanent National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up of Recommendations on human rights, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**

6.37 **Ensure, at the legislative level and within the framework of law enforcement practices, the protection of the rights of socially vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, as well as ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);**

6.38 **Strengthen its regulations to prohibit all forms of discrimination (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

6.39 **Adopt measures to eradicate torture and ill-treatment, in particular by explicitly criminalizing it and ensuring that it is investigated and punished appropriately (Paraguay);**

6.40 **Allow independent observers, including diplomats and representatives of international organizations, to visit prisons (United States of America);**

6.41 **Enhance its anti-corruption efforts and programmes to build on existing momentum and address emerging challenges (Malaysia);**

6.42 **Continue strengthening good governance and the fight against corruption to combat poverty (Senegal);**

6.43 **Support the emergence and work of civil society organizations by easing legal restrictions on their creation and their contributions to the full realization of all human rights for all people in Bhutan (Luxembourg);**

6.44 **Increase compliance of places of detention with international standards (Luxembourg);**

6.45 **Ensure full protection of the human rights of prisoners, by allowing independent monitoring of prison conditions and reviewing the National Security Act to ensure its compliance with international standards of human rights protection (Germany);**

6.46 **Continue expanding access to justice and legal aid, particularly for marginalized groups, to ensure that all citizens can effectively claim their rights (Armenia);**

6.47 **Continue efforts to promote access to justice (Pakistan);**

6.48 **Guarantee legal representation for all persons criminally prosecuted, during all phases of the trial, as one of the minimum individual guarantees of the human right of access to justice (Costa Rica);**

6.49 **Review all criminal convictions resulting in lengthy prison sentences to ensure that fair trial rights and related guarantees are met (Canada);**

6.50 **Review long-term prison sentences to ensure compliance with the right to a fair trial, adequate legal representation and protection from torture or other inhuman treatment (Spain);**

6.51 **Take concrete measures to enhance press freedom by amending the National Security Law to protect legitimate journalistic activities and reforming BICMA regulations to ensure independence to guarantee journalists' access to state-held information, and to diminish content restrictions on journalists (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

6.52 **Implement legislative measures that guarantee the protection of the rights of freedom of expression, freedom of the press and access to public information (Spain);**

6.53 **Promote the right to freedom of expression for the members of the press and media, including through ending the imprisonment of journalists for activities linked to the exercise of this right and the decriminalization of defamation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.54 **Foster a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations to organize freely and to work on any issue they choose (Canada);**

6.55 **Eliminate restrictive financial requirements for civil society organizations to legally operate and allow them to organize freely (United States of America);**

6.56 **Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society, including by lifting onerous restrictions to the registration and activities of civil society organizations under the amended Civil Society Organizations Act, and ensure that adequate support and funding opportunities are made available to civil society (Ireland);**

6.57 **Facilitate the registration of civil society organizations (Colombia);**

6.58 **Continue promoting the rights and welfare of every citizen in the context of digital transformation (Cambodia);**

6.59 **Continue taking targeted steps to improve national legislation in terms of upholding human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);**

6.60 **Grant amnesty to all individuals detained for peacefully expressing political views or participating in political activities and allow for monitoring of prison conditions (Portugal);**

6.61 **Review the registration system for religious organizations to ensure that registration is not a prerequisite for exercising the right to freedom of religion or belief (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

6.62 **Enhance freedom of religion by ensuring all religious groups can freely practice their faith without discrimination, and allowing the construction of places of worship for these groups in line with their beliefs (Gambia);**

6.63 **Facilitate civil society organizations to register by lowering the minimum amount they must have at their disposal (France);**

6.64 **Consider amending its data protection legislation with a view to strengthening protection of children’s right to privacy (Republic of Korea);**

6.65 **Continue strengthening the digital inclusion of children in need, including children in rural areas and children with disabilities; promoting equal and affordable access to online services and the Internet, and ensuring that laws and policies relating to access to information and the digital environment protect children from harmful content and online risks and respect their privacy (Togo);**

6.66 **Promote the equal sharing of parental responsibilities, in particular by guaranteeing paid maternity and paternity leave for parents working in the private sector and increasing the duration of paid paternity leave in all sectors, introducing flexible working arrangements for both parents and providing incentives for fathers to play an active role in raising children (Togo);**

6.67 **Take steps to strengthen measures to ensure the early identification and referral of victims of trafficking to appropriate services (Sri Lanka);**

6.68 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and provide the necessary training for law enforcement authorities in this regard (Egypt);**

6.69 **Continue strengthening policies to guarantee the right to work, especially for young people and vulnerable populations (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

6.70 **Sustain the efforts developed by the System of Responsibility in Employment to guarantee young people different job opportunities and offers (Cuba);**

6.71 **Continue strengthening its social policies with the aim of improving the quality of life of its people (Kuwait);**

6.72 **Continue promoting economic and social development to eradicate poverty and improve the standard of living, particularly in rural areas (Malaysia);**

6.73 **Continue promoting economic and social development with the aim of eradicating poverty and improving the standard of living of the population, particularly in rural areas (Djibouti);**

6.74 **Continue national efforts to combat poverty and provide social protection (Egypt);**

6.75 **Implement key objectives of economic development and social protection as envisaged in its five year plan (India);**

6.76 **Continue efforts to improve the living conditions of people living in rural and remote areas (Lesotho);**

6.77 **Intensify its efforts towards improving living conditions, particularly those in rural and remote areas, as well as of vulnerable populations (Mongolia);**

6.78 **Continue strengthening national initiatives aimed at promoting standard of living and advancing women empowerment in the country (Pakistan);**

6.79 **Extend the National Strategy and Action Plan in the field of nutrition aimed at combating malnutrition with a focus on socially vulnerable groups (Russian Federation);**

6.80 **Take further measures to fully implement the National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan 2021–2025 to address undernutrition among vulnerable population (Bangladesh);**

6.81 **Intensify its efforts to ensure access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (Bangladesh);**

6.82 **Strengthen measures to ensure that all children had access to quality health services by increasing the pool of health professionals and expanding health services in remote areas (Maldives);**

6.83 **Strengthen and expand the health infrastructure to meet the needs of society (Oman);**

6.84 **Continue its efforts to ensure access to quality health-care services, including mental health services, for all (Singapore);**

6.85 **Continue its efforts in the implementation of its health programmes (Mauritius);**

6.86 **Continue efforts to further increase its vaccination coverage and guaranteeing universal primary healthcare to its citizens (Sri Lanka);**

6.87 **Further strengthen its practice of universal free basic healthcare (Brunei Darussalam);**

6.88 **Provide accessible sexual and reproductive health services for all women and girls, including in remote areas (Estonia);**

6.89 **Continue efforts to enhance childcare services and programmes in rural areas and work to reduce social and health gaps in those areas (Iraq);**

6.90 **Continue promoting the initiatives planned as part of the National Mental Health Strategy (Cuba);**

6.91 **Continue the work on developing the National Mental Health Strategy that began in 2023 (Oman);**

6.92 **Continue efforts to finalize the national mental health strategy (Brunei Darussalam);**

6.93 **Continue its holistic efforts in dealing with the drug problem, particularly in the areas of rehabilitation and aftercare, as well as preventive education on the harm of drugs (Singapore);**

6.94 **Ensure access to free family planning and contraceptive services for women, girls and vulnerable groups (Chile);**

6.95 **Decriminalize abortion, expand the range of family planning and reproductive health services and increase access to them for vulnerable populations (Luxembourg);**

6.96 **Decriminalize abortion under all circumstances (Iceland);**

6.97 **Expand women's and girls' access to comprehensive family planning services and sexual and reproductive health and rights services, including contraceptives, pregnancy testing, and legal and psychosocial support services (Mexico);**

6.98 **Further strengthen its efforts to provide quality and inclusive education (Japan);**

6.99 **Further enhance national policies and measures to improve quality and inclusive education in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

6.100 **Continue making efforts to improve the quality and access to education for all children, especially children from rural communities (Mauritius);**

6.101 **Redouble efforts to strengthen measures to ensure that all children, particularly those in rural areas, have access to inclusive primary education (Indonesia);**

6.102 **Continue improving access to early childhood education, especially in rural areas (Kuwait);**

6.103 **Continue efforts to increase access to education for children in remote, rural and widely dispersed villages (Nepal);**

6.104 **Continue its efforts in enhancing educational services, particularly for remote and rural areas, by strengthening the infrastructure of extended classroom facilities and promoting access to digital learning resources (Viet Nam);**

6.105 **Take further measures to ensure access to inclusive and quality education, especially for children living in poverty and children in rural areas (Thailand);**

6.106 **Take legislative measures to make primary education compulsory for all children and implement social protection programmes to support children in disadvantaged situations to access education (Portugal);**

6.107 **Adopt legislative measures to ensure, as a matter of priority, that primary education is compulsory and applicable in public and private educational institutions, as well as in monastic schools and nunneries (Panama);**

6.108 **Ensure that all Bhutanese children have equal access to education regardless of religion or belief (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.109 **Continue taking effective measures to promote equal and equitable access to quality education to all children and youth, including by increasing the number of accessible educational facilities for children and youth with disabilities (Republic of Korea);**

6.110 **Strengthen inclusive education policies at all educational levels to improve access to quality education for students with disabilities, including the adaptation of accessible infrastructures (Mexico);**

6.111 **Strengthen the promotion of inclusive, quality education by increasing school attendance, especially for girls (Senegal);**

6.112 **Strengthen efforts to provide technical and vocational education in schools and further increase female enrolment for such programs (Sri Lanka);**

6.113 **Continue implementing reforms for improved access to quality education (India);**

6.114 **Continue investing in quality education through effective teacher training and recruitment and by harnessing ICT (Philippines);**

6.115 **Take measures to address the gaps that still remain in technical and vocational training (United Republic of Tanzania);**

6.116 **Ensure effective implementation of its national climate change policy and other relevant programmes to address environmental protection and climate change (Mongolia);**

6.117 **Strengthen adaptive capacity and integration of climate measures into national development strategies and planning (Vanuatu);**

6.118 **Strengthen measures to ensure the sustainable use of water resources and increase the resilience of infrastructure for water, sanitation and health with a view to reducing the risk of climate change-related hazards (Timor-Leste);**

6.119 **Continue remaining carbon neutral through its nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement (Sri Lanka);**

6.120 **Incorporate at the constitutional level the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica);**

6.121 **Remove financial barriers to improve the capacity of civil society organizations to contribute to Bhutan's social, environmental and development objectives by encouraging greater empowerment of local organizations (Switzerland);**

6.122 **Continue efforts to promote sustainable development and reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

6.123 **Continue vigorously developing the economy to achieve sustainable development and constantly improving people's standard of living (China);**

6.124 **Expand its National Disaster Management and Contingency Plan, with particular attention to the needs of women, children, and persons with disabilities during disaster events (Viet Nam);**

6.125 **Continue seeking support of the international community to ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation from the LDC category (Brunei Darussalam);**

6.126 **Continue strengthening international cooperation and actively respond to climate change and natural disasters (China);**

6.127 **Continue the implementation of plans and public policies to guarantee gender equality (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

6.128 **Intensify efforts to adopt the national policy for gender equality (Iraq);**

6.129 **Continue strengthening measures towards advancing gender equality and equity and increasing women’s representation in political and public life (Mongolia);**

6.130 **Promote greater gender equality and participation of women in public life, including in decision-making and political processes as well as increase women representation in civil service (Thailand);**

6.131 **Beef up measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against ethnic minority women (Lesotho);**

6.132 **Step up efforts to increase the proportion of women in political posts and in civil service, especially in senior positions (Republic of Korea);**

6.133 **Continue increasing women's participation in political and economic fields (Oman);**

6.134 **Implement legislative and public policy measures to promote equal inclusion of women in positions of popular representation and leadership such as parity rules at the electoral level (Costa Rica);**

6.135 **Implement targeted initiatives to increase women’s representation in political affairs, particularly in the National Assembly and local governance (Indonesia);**

6.136 **Implement mechanisms and policies to make justice more accessible to women, especially in the case of police complaints (Dominican Republic);**

6.137 **Develop policies to combat discrimination in the workplace and ensure equal access to education and training for women and girls (Switzerland);**

6.138 **Pursue and strengthen the legal framework and policies to further increase women's participation in political and public life (Djibouti);**

6.139 **Continue efforts aimed at reducing the structural barriers faced by women that prevent their full participation in political and public life (Chile);**

6.140 **Continue efforts towards women's empowerment and increasing their participation in politics and leadership (Azerbaijan);**

6.141 **Continue developing initiatives to promote and protect the rights of women and children (Cuba);**

6.142 **Continue efforts to promote the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and combat all forms of discrimination against them (Egypt);**

6.143 **Continue efforts as regards strengthening of the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children (Algeria);**

6.144 **Develop further initiatives to empower women in political and civic life, thereby advancing gender equality in leadership roles at all levels (Viet Nam);**

6.145 **Improve resources for programmes supporting women's participation in governance and increase protections for children against exploitation and violence (Ukraine);**

6.146 **Increase awareness campaigns aimed at informing Bhutanese women of their rights and ways to claim them, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas (Jordan);**

6.147 **Adopt cross-cutting measures to mainstream gender budgeting across all government ministries, including the Ministry of Finance and the Royal Civil Service Commission (Panama);**

6.148 **Support women’s empowerment and gender inclusivity by increasing women’s representation at all levels of public office (Canada);**

6.149 **Bolster efforts to advance women’s political participation in the electoral process (Lesotho);**

6.150 **Accelerate the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Gender Equality and advocate the rights of women and children (Japan);**

6.151 **Step up efforts to promote gender parity by fostering an enabling environment for greater women participation in the political and economic spheres, including through human rights education and training (Philippines);**

6.152 **Increase representation of women in politics and workforce and strengthen legal frameworks to ensure stronger protection against gender-based violence (Timor-Leste);**

6.153 **Improve women's access to financial credits (Luxembourg);**

6.154 **Continue making efforts to combat unemployment and gender gap in the labour force, and address the gender gap in the political representation (India);**

6.155 **Continue efforts to combat violence against women and ensure effective protection for victims of gender-based violence (Maldives);**

6.156 **Align the classification of marital rape in the Penal Code with the classification of rape outside marriage and allocate sufficient resources to ensure the comprehensive protection of victims of gender-based violence (Iceland);**

6.157 **Continue its efforts to address violence against women more effectively and strengthen multi-sectoral coordination to provide comprehensive support to survivors of gender-based violence (Burkina Faso);**

6.158 **Strengthen implementation of relevant laws against gender-based violence, including domestic violence, ensuring access to justice and support to survivors, among other measures (Philippines);**

6.159 **Address gender-based violence by enforcing protective measures, improving support services for survivors, and ensuring accountability for perpetrators (Gambia);**

6.160 **Continue adopting measures to combat gender-based violence and provide services to all survivors of violence and ensure the provision of survivor-centred training and skills development (Estonia);**

6.161 **Introduce laws to provide effective protection orders against violent partners, and ensure additional resources for victims of gender-based violence (Ireland);**

6.162 **Modify the legal definition of marital rape to consider it a crime that cannot be resolved by agreement between the parties to ensure that it is treated with the same severity as other forms of rape (Costa Rica);**

6.163 **Amend the classification of marital rape under the Penal Code to align with that of rape outside marriage (Ireland);**

6.164 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro); (Slovenia);**

6.165 **Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Estonia);**

6.166 **Take appropriate measures to ensure that the rights of children are respected, including by prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment and improving conditions of access to education (Italy);**

6.167 **Amend the Criminal Code to fully ban corporal punishment in all settings and raise public awareness on violence against children (Costa Rica);**

6.168 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with international standards (Colombia);**

6.169 **Continue implementing child protection measures to eradicate violence and exploitation (Cuba);**

6.170 **Redouble efforts to ensure the rights of children and adolescents (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

6.171 **Improve child protection by bringing the provisions on children's rights in its national legislation more into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Luxembourg);**

6.172 **Develop more early childhood care and development centres to cater for more children (United Republic of Tanzania);**

6.173 **Continue promoting digital inclusion of children in disadvantaged situations, including children in rural areas and children with disabilities (Dominican Republic);**

6.174 **Ensure that laws and policies on access to information and digital environment protect children from online risks (Dominican Republic);**

6.175 **Ensure children's rights to public education and health services, especially those living in rural areas (Dominican Republic);**

6.176 **Continue efforts aimed at improving children's access to quality education and healthcare services, including in rural areas (Georgia);**

6.177 **Continue efforts to educate the population and youth about the harmful effects of child and forced marriages (Dominican Republic);**

6.178 **Pay greater attention and increase investment in the rights of young people, older persons and other specific groups (China);**

6.179 **Continue to take a holistic approach to implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while engaging with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations (Japan);**

6.180 **Develop a plan to implement the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, along with inclusive and non-discriminatory policies on access to health, education and employment, formulated with and supported by persons with disabilities (Panama);**

6.181 **Take necessary domestic action under the National Policy for Persons with Disability, to give full force to its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Australia);**

6.182 **Take appropriate measures to implement the recently ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, especially to avoid all discrimination against vulnerable persons (Italy);**

6.183 **Take measures to ensure the effective implementation of the National Disability Policy Action Plan (Djibouti);**

6.184 **Strengthen the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities by improving access to services, education, employment, and ensuring inclusive infrastructure across urban and rural areas (Gambia);**

6.185 **Work to guarantee inclusive education for all children with disabilities in public schools (Jordan);**

6.186 **Continue its efforts to provide appropriate medical care for persons with disabilities (Kuwait);**

6.187 **Further uphold and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring effectiveness of related laws and policies (Thailand);**

6.188 **Guarantee to persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, access to rights for their free development and equal opportunities (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

6.189 **Continue measures aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**

6.190 **Continue implementing further measures for the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in particular through enhancing their access to social protection (Georgia);**

6.191 **Ensure the secret and effective vote of persons with disabilities, with access to adapted forms under the same conditions as the rest of the population, and guarantee the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (Spain);**

6.192 **Take measures to ensure the elimination of all forms of ethnic discrimination against the Lhotshampas, guaranteeing their rights to nationality, health and education, as well as their cultural rights (Brazil);**

6.193 **Promote measures that benefit ethnic minorities, including facilitating birth registration or the repatriation of refugees (Colombia);**

6.194 **Grant equal treatment to non-governmental organizations of minorities and ensure the possibility of registration of such organizations (Germany);**

6.195 **Develop a legal framework to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);**

6.196 **Ensure access to reproductive health and family planning services for all, including persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);**

6.197 **Review the Marriage Act of 1980 to ensure it reflects the rights and needs of all, including persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);**

6.198 **Intensify its efforts, in conjunction with Nepal, to find a sustainable solution to the situation of Bhutanese refugees in Nepal (France);**

6.199 **Implement measures to prevent statelessness and eliminate discriminatory practices that impede access to Bhutanese nationality, allowing children of Bhutanese mothers married to foreigners to have access to nationality (Mexico);**

6.200 **Amend legislation to guarantee Bhutanese nationality to all children born in its territory, without distinction as to the nationality or marital status of their parents, and grant the possibility to children of Bhutanese born abroad of opting for Bhutanese nationality (Paraguay);**

6.201 **Amend the Nationality Law of Bhutan to extend birthright citizenship to individuals born in Bhutan who would otherwise be stateless, including members of religious and ethnic minorities (United States of America);**

6.202 **Adapt its legislation to provide for the acquisition of nationality by descent (*ius sanguinis*) for having at least one parent who is a Bhutanese national, regardless of the identification or nationality of the other parent (Costa Rica);**

6.203 **Facilitate Bhutanese nationality for children with only one Bhutanese parent (France).**

7. **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 Bhutan was headed by Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Mr. D.N. DHUNGYEL and composed of the following members:

• H.E Mr. Tenzin Rondel WANGCHUK, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva;

• Mr. Karma GALAY, Director General, Department of School Education, Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD);

• Mr. Tashi NAMGYAL, Director, Department of Education Programme, MoESD and Member Secretary, National Commission for Women and Children;

• Ms. Pelden WANGMO, Judge, Family and Child Bench, Thimphu, Royal Court of Justice;

• Mr. Laigden DZED, Chief Program Officer, Non-Communicable Diseases Division, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health;

• Mr. Pema LETHO, Chief Civil Registration and Census Officer, Department of Civil Registration and Census, Ministry of Home Affairs;

• Ms. Dechen PELMO, Chief, Social and Development Division (SDD), Department of Multilateral Affairs, MoFAET;

• Mr. Rinchen SAMDRUP, Chief Planning Officer, Strategic Planning Division, Office of the Cabinet Affairs and Strategic Coordination, Cabinet Secretariat;

• Ms. Tshering YANGDON DY, Chief Attorney, Finance and Corporate Division, Office of the Attorney General;

• Ms. Jigme WANGMO, Asst. Desk Officer, SDD, Department of Multilateral Affairs, MoFAET;

• Ms. Rinchen DEMA, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bhutan, Geneva.

1. A/HRC/WG.6/47/BTN/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/WG.6/47/BTN/2; A/HRC/WG.6/47/BTN/2/Corr.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A/HRC/WG.6/47/BTN/3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)