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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

 Brunei Darussalam

 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 Brunei Darussalam was held at the 9th meeting, on 8 November 2024. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs II, the Honourable Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof. At its 16th meeting, held on 13 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Brunei Darussalam.

2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Brunei Darussalam: Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, and Malawi.

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 Brunei Darussalam:

 (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 Belgium, Canada, 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, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America was transmitted to Brunei Darussalam through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

 I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

 A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Head of Delegation was honoured to present the national report for the fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle on 8 November 2024 and expressed its deepest gratitude to the members of the Troika, comprising of Kyrgyzstan, Malawi and Honduras, serving as the Troika for Brunei Darussalam during this review cycle. Brunei Darussalam received 220 recommendations in the last UPR cycle, 108 of which were accepted, and 7 partially accepted. He informed that it had either implemented or was in the process of implementing all the accepted recommendations. The report was based on consultations with relevant agencies, stakeholders, and NGOs, involving all segments of society in a "whole-of-nation" approach, to ensure inclusivity and transparency. The report also reflected the country’s commitment to human rights, and the progress made to reaffirm its dedication to advancing these values.

6. The Head of Delegation indicated that Brunei Darussalam, as a small State on the northern coast of Borneo with a population of approximately 450,500 people and a GDP per capita of B$45,102.10 (2023), offered a high standard of living, with benefits such as tax-free income, high-quality healthcare, education, infrastructure, and a generous welfare system. Known as the ‘Abode of Peace’, the country has a peaceful society rooted in mutual respect and strong family values which contributed to its low crime rate and harmonious co-existence of diverse races and religions. Although it had existed as a State for centuries before its full independence, it had achieved complete autonomy just 40 years ago.

7. Brunei Darussalam highlighted that as a small, coastal, maritime nation, it faced significant challenges due to climate change, which resulted in the country taking various measures as part of its international efforts. This included establishing the Brunei Climate Change Office to develop climate policies and actions, introducing the Brunei National Climate Change Policy, and proposing, during its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2021, the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam to enhance regional cooperation on climate change issues. Domestic assistance measures were also provided to combat the impacts of climate change which include financial assistance, in-kind support and temporary housing or repairs.

8. The Head of Delegation emphasized that COVID-19 pandemic was another challenge that highlighted Brunei Darussalam's resilience and commitment to protecting its people. The country swiftly implemented stringent mandatory public health measures, including quarantine, social distancing, and contact tracing using the BruHealth mobile application and rolled out a national vaccination strategy for all people without discrimination, free of charge, with contingencies in place to reach the vulnerable and at-risk communities, as well as established National Isolation Centres. The Government provided information to the public daily and established national Committees to monitor the situation and implement the needed strategies. These included providing financial assistance to the private sector to support the economy and transitioning to online education to ensure continuity of learning. At least 10,000 youth volunteers also worked with the Government to deliver aid to those affected.

9. Brunei Darussalam’s long-term national vision 2035, *Wawasan Brunei 2035*, aspires to make Brunei Darussalam a nation widely recognised for its educated, highly skilled, accomplished people, with a high quality of life, and a dynamic and sustainable economy, by 2035. Aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a National Coordination Committee was set up to monitor its implementation and harmonisation. Brunei Darussalam submitted two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to track its progress toward achievement of the SDGs, and highlighted a strong focus on youth engagement and innovative solutions for sustainable development.

10. Brunei Darussalam continued to prioritise social welfare through programmes such as the National Welfare System (launched in 2020) and the *Skim Persaraan Kebangsaan* (SPK) retirement scheme (launched in 2023). These initiatives aimed to provide better financial assistance, for the formal and informal sector, and enhance the country's social security system. *Zakat* (alms) was also integrated into the welfare system, reflecting Brunei Darussalam’s beliefs fundamental to Islam, its national religion.

11. Brunei Darussalam stated that it made significant strides in elevating and empowering women, with their increasing presence in leadership positions in government, the private sector, and civil society. In 2023, Brunei Darussalam appointed its first ethnic Chinese woman to the Legislative Council.

12. Brunei Darussalam supported women’s entrepreneurship including through prize winning initiatives, assisted homemakers and underprivileged mothers through collaborations with the private sector, and actively led in regional and global gender equality initiatives, in ASEAN. Brunei Darussalam also informed that Guidelines for Childcare Centres in Government Buildings are being drafted, in an effort to encourage women’s participation in the public sector.

13. Furthermore, Bruneian peacekeepers, including women, continued to contribute to UN peacekeeping missions, embodying the country’s commitment to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.

14. Brunei Darussalam reiterated its commitment to the elimination of violence against women through legislation to ensure the safety of victims of domestic violence. Preventive measures were also put in place, including awareness-raising activities by the government, private sector, and NGOs, to advocate and encourage reporting such incidents while stressing the importance of women's health, welfare, and safety.

15. Brunei Darussalam continued to prioritise the well-being of children, who make up 20% of the population, with the introduction of a National Framework on Child Protection, including a Sector Assessment Protocol in 2020 and a Register of Children and Young Persons in Need of Protection, in 2022. Guidelines for alternative care options, such as foster care were in development, and various hotlines had been set up to support the welfare of children, including students. Students’ welfare sections had been established and progress meetings were held monthly between relevant agencies to support the learning needs of students suffering from abuse or from dysfunctional homes.

16. During its ASEAN chairmanship, Brunei Darussalam championed initiatives to combat bullying and enhance mental health cooperation, including with China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, as well as Australia. Brunei Darussalam highlighted that since the amendment to the Education (School Discipline) Regulations in 2018, corporal punishment had been prohibited in schools, with penalties for non-compliance.

17. Brunei Darussalam's long-standing policy guaranteed free, universal access to education, and provided opportunities for education at all levels, regardless of race, religion, or gender. In 2024, the minimum school age was lowered to five years old, and in the same year, the country established its first special school for students with severe learning needs, and provided a special education allowance among other initiatives.

18. Brunei Darussalam maintained focus on empowering the youth through its national youth policy, which addressed key issues of the economy, environment, and social welfare. Brunei Darussalam became a founding member of the Global Network for Youth Competitiveness: Hope Network in November 2024, launched by Bahrain, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

19. The Government created various opportunities for youth employment, including through the establishment of the Manpower Planning and Employment Council in 2019 to combat unemployment, develop the workforce, and promote lifelong learning. Over 60,000 individuals had been recruited in the public and private sectors between 2019 and 2023.

20. To ensure fair wages, Brunei Darussalam introduced the Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023, which established a minimum wage for selected sectors, with plans to expand coverage. A Salary Guideline for the private sector was also introduced to support competitive salary packages and enable meaningful and long-term employment.

21. Brunei Darussalam remained dedicated to ensuring equal rights for persons with disabilities (PWDs), in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). In 2021, the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act was amended to introduce a care provider allowance to support PWDs. Additionally, the Persons with Disabilities Act was introduced to establish a national definition of PWDs, a national register for PWDs, and a system of disability cards, as well as imposed penalties for abuse and neglect. Brunei Darussalam collaborates with NGOs to promote PWD inclusion in the workforce and other economic activities. National news broadcasts included sign language interpreters, with continuous training. Efforts were also underway to draft Brunei Darussalam’s first national report under CRPD.

22. Brunei Darussalam took significant steps to address statelessness, by making efforts to expedite the process of reviewing citizenships, with 4,634 people granted citizenship from 2019 and 2024 including 2,177 stateless individuals. This marked an increase from the 1,275 stateless persons granted citizenship between 2013 to 2018. Additionally, Brunei Darussalam also participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultations on Statelessness, exchanging best practices with the UN and Southeast Asian countries.

23. Brunei Darussalam underlined its approach to combat trafficking in persons which prioritised the safety of victims by law regardless of race, colour, gender, belief or nationality. Notable initiatives included the introduction of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and Prevention of People Smuggling Act in 2019 which replaced the Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons Order, 2004; establishment of a trafficking in persons Assessment Team to coordinate investigations; establishment of the Taskforce of Awareness Programme to raise public awareness; providing and upgrading dedicated shelters for trafficking victims; signing the ILO Forced Labour Convention; and ratification of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons in 2020. Brunei Darussalam also operationalised several Action Plans on trafficking in persons.

24. Brunei Darussalam also highlighted that its trafficking laws were consistent with the 2000 UN Trafficking In Persons Protocol which sets the elements of human trafficking, and that cases that have insufficient evidence to satisfy these elements may be prosecuted under other legislations as appropriate. The country also engaged in bilateral, regional and international partnerships for continued international collaboration.

25. Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to upholding its international obligations, under the various conventions it is party to, and to the principles of the UN Charter in maintaining the rule of law and upholding every nation's sovereignty to ensure global peace and stability.

26. Brunei Darussalam sought to continue and deepen collaboration with relevant UN bodies in support of national efforts to strengthen human rights protections and effectively fulfil its commitments.

27. The Head of Delegation expressed appreciation to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Brunei Darussalam expressed its honour at participating in this collective endeavour and thanked Member States for their engagement and invited them to visit Brunei Darussalam to foster deeper understanding. Brunei Darussalam remained committed to creating a future where the rights of all individuals are respected and protected.

 B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

28. During the interactive dialogue, 86 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

29. Djibouti welcomed the commitment of the authorities of Brunei to promote an economic and social development policy through the Wawasan Brunei 2035 programme.

30. Egypt welcomed Brunei's efforts to implement its vision for sustainable development 2035, and programmes to enhance the economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens.

31. Estonia commended the release of first-ever National Plan of Action on Women and commitment to delivering climate change goals; but remained concerned on corporal punishment of children still being lawful.

32. France congratulated Brunei on its ratification of the Convention against Forced Labor in 2023. It noted the positive measures taken by Brunei since the last universal periodic review.

33. The Gambia commended commitment towards advancing social welfare of its people, particularly amendment of the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act and establishment of Special Committee on the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.

34. Georgia welcomed measures in areas of economic diversification, climate transition goals, achieving net zero emissions by 2050, improving quality of life of disabled persons and preventing crimes of trafficking in persons.

35. Germany commended ratification of the ILO Forced Labour Convention, (No. 29) and continued observance of moratorium on the execution of death penalty; however, shared concerns on Syariah Penal Code Order imposing death penalty and corporal punishments.

36. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Brunei and its national report.

37. India noted Brunei's efforts to fulfil its commitment to the recommendations of the last UPR and uphold human rights obligations. Also noted Brunei's initiatives in health, education, women empowerment and social welfare.

38. Indonesia appreciated Brunei's commitment by operationalising "Wawasan Brunei 2035" to advance human rights. It commended Brunei's commitment to protecting the family institution, also advancing gender equality and empowering women.

39. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Brunei's efforts, including zakat-funded housing project, reviewing the efficiency of National Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication, and its endeavor to secure clean, safe, and affordable water with WHO standards.

40. Iraq noted the establishment of the Special Committee for National Coordination of SDGs, as well as the adoption of various programs and plans and encouraged Brunei to make further efforts to promote human rights.

41. Ireland welcomed the de facto moratorium on executions and urged Brunei to fully abolish death penalty, it was concerned that the Syariah Penal Code is inconsistent with CAT and other international human rights standards.

42. Italy welcomed the human rights initiatives taken particularly the First National Action Plan on Women of 2023, the National Framework on Child Protection and the specific law for people with disability of 2024.

43. Japan welcomed steps taken to advance gender equality and to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities notably the amendment of the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act.

44. Jordan appreciated Brunei's efforts to promote human rights, especially in areas of sustainable development and environmental protection, and its commitment to relevant international treaties.

45. Kazakhstan welcomed Brunei's efforts in human rights, commending 2021 WHO cooperation, the 2022–2025 Mental Health Action Plan, 2021 pension amendments, and 2021 anti-trafficking and human smuggling legislation.

46. Kuwait commended Brunei's Vision 2035 as an ambitious plan that will lead to prosperity with the aim of strengthening national capacities and achieving comprehensive transformation by 2035.

47. Kyrgyzstan commended Brunei's commitment to women's empowerment and has shown dedication to gender equality initiatives such as the national action plan to enhance women's rights, health care, economic empowerment, and work-life balance.

48. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Brunei for progress made in education, health, and social welfare, including advancements in the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities.

49. Lebanon commended Brunei's commitment for the wellbeing of their population and their promotion of human rights and commitment to SDGs, to mitigating the effects of climate change, and to preventing trafficking in persons.

50. Luxembourg thanked Brunei for the presentation of their national report and congratulated them on the progress made since the previous UPR cycle.

51. Malawi commended the good practices in the promotion of the right to education notably the integration of Melayu Islam Beraja into the curriculum aiming to teach students good values such as compassion, respect and anti-bullying.

52. Malaysia commended the commitment to the development of policies, community programs and social services focusing on women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities and the progress made in healthcare, environmental protection, education, and employment.

53. Maldives commended Brunei for taking significant climate initiatives particularly the establishment of the Brunei climate change Secretariat and the launch of the climate change policy in 2020 to implement low carbon and climate-resilient pathways.

54. Malta noted the appointment of women in leadership roles and the adoption of laws to protect the persons with disabilities. It welcomed the moratorium and encouraged the abolishment of the death penalty.

55. Mauritania commended Brunei's vision to develop health and education, raising the quality of life and working to build a dynamic and sustainable economy, and efforts to achieve sustainable production and consumption through green initiatives.

56. Mauritius welcomed Brunei's Wawasan vision and harmonization it with the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and commended new policies supporting special education needs and promoting women to leadership positions.

57. Mexico acknowledged the ratification of the ILO Forced Labor Convention and progress made towards inclusive education through the Strategic Plan 2023–2027.

58. Montenegro commended the efforts to promote gender equality. It encouraged fostering a society that values diversity, social cohesion and multilateral dialogue and tolerance, ensuring equal opportunities and rights. It urged revising death penalty legislation.

59. Morocco commended the Wawasan Brunei 2035, representing the vision of the future as it defines the long-term goals and framework for national development plans and implementation strategies.

60. Namibia commended Brunei for its commitment to improve the quality of life of all persons notably older persons and persons with disabilities and to eliminate violence against women.

61. Nepal took positive note of the Wawasan Brunei 2035, the establishment of Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Unit and the National Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication 2020–2024.

62. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Brunei for abolishing death penalty in practice hoping it will maintain its de facto moratorium. It expressed concern about the freedom of expression and discrimination against women and minorities.

63. The Niger welcomed Brunei's commitments on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the UDHR to empower the family, to strengthen the contribution of the family to achieving the SDGs, to prioritize family-based care in humanitarian contexts, and to support it in the digital environment.

64. Oman commended Brunei's efforts to protect the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities through various mechanisms such as the new Plan of Action for Senior Citizens 2023–2030 and amendments made to the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act.

65. Pakistan praised Brunei ongoing initiatives and progress in promoting and protecting human rights and advancing the socioeconomic prosperity of its people, including by integrating the 2030 Agenda in the Development Vision and promoting self-reliance among those in need.

66. Panama thanked Brunei for presenting their national report.

67. Paraguay welcomed the adoption of the Brunei Vision 2035 and encouraged its effective implementation with a human rights approach to address the persisting challenges.

68. The Philippines commended the wide-ranging initiatives and outcomes since the last review, including in advancing SDGs particularly on education and health. It welcomed the issuance of employment order 2023 to promote fair employment practices for both local and foreign workers.

69. Qatar encouraged Brunei to continue implementing Brunei's Vision 2035, which will contribute to improving the country's living, social and economic conditions and achieving the SDGs.

70. The Russian Federation welcomed Brunei's efforts to achieve the SDGs, commended its legal measures for human rights protection, and praised efforts to improve the quality of life and access to healthcare.

71. Saudi Arabia welcomed the launch by the Ministry of Education of Brunei of its Strategic Plan 2023–2027, which aims to strengthen and strengthen the capacity of the education system.

72. Senegal congratulated Brunei on the measures taken in vital sectors included in its Horizon 2035 action plan, which aims to achieve sustainable development goals and promoting health and education.

73. Serbia noted with appreciation the progress made to advance gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and for establishing the first National Action Plan on Women in 2023.

74. Singapore commended the actions taken to protect children with special needs, to guarantee access to education by establishing its special education school and initiatives to support those who suffered from abuse and to advance gender equality.

75. Slovenia welcomed efforts addressing gender disparity in education and employment. It remained concerned about the law rate of ratification of international human rights treaties, the persistence of the death penalty, restrictions of freedom of expression and reports on FGM.

76. Spain congratulated Brunei on the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act and the moratorium on the death penalty. It expressed concerns about the maintenance of the state of emergency decreed in 1962 and the amendments to the Penal Code in 2019.

77. Sri Lanka noted with appreciation the measures taken to promote the enjoyment of human rights notably the Wawasan Brunei 2035 and the Mental Health Action Plan 2022–2025.

78. The State of Palestine welcomed Brunei's commitments and efforts to promote and protect human rights.

79. The Sudan commended Brunei's progress in legislative and institutional reform related to human rights, represented by the establishment of the National Coordination Committee on the Sustainable Development Agenda, the adoption of a number of National Action Plans.

80. Switzerland thanked the delegation of Brunei for its presentation.

81. Thailand noted the Wawasan Brunei 2035 that has aligned its development strategy with SDGs and the adoption of the principle of universal health coverage in its healthcare system and welcomed the continued participation of women in politics.

82. Timor-Leste commended Brunei's progress in human rights advancement, including efforts to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities and welcomed the adoption of the 2020 national climate change policy.

83. Togo welcomed Brunei measures to promote the rights to health and education, social harmony and human-centred economic development. It recognized the actions encouraging women's leadership, emancipation of young people, persons with disabilities and children.

84. Tunisia commended Brunei's measures to promote economic and social development, promote education, health and poverty reduction, empower youth and women, care and integrate older persons and persons with disabilities, and prevent trafficking.

85. Türkiye commended Brunei for enhancing social welfare and healthcare systems, its commitment to SDGs, and improve access to education, support for vulnerable populations and the protection of women and children.

86. Ukraine commended Brunei's efforts in advancing social and economic development as outlined in Wawasan Brunei 2035 to improve the quality of life and promote human rights through equitable access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

87. The United Arab Emirates appreciated Brunei progress achieved in fields related to economic and social rights and commended its effort to achieve the Wawasan 35 vision.

88. The United Kingdom welcomed Brunei's steps in promoting social welfare, including education, healthcare, and reducing statelessness, and urged to ensure that its legislation protects all fundamental rights and freedoms for every individual.

89. The United Republic of Tanzania applauded Brunei's measures to improve living standards, including sustainable housing and access to clean water, and commended efforts to strengthen the healthcare system.

90. The United States of America noted Brunei's improvements in addressing labour abuses toward foreign workers but remained deeply concerned by continued discrimination against members of marginalised groups.

91. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued Brunei cooperation with the UPR and considered that voluntary mechanisms, rather than imposed ones, are those that bring greater results for human rights and the implementation of the Wawasan Brunei 2035 program.

92. Viet Nam commended Brunei's dedication to sustainable development through Wawasan Brunei 2035, efforts in advancing social security with a new retirement scheme, and proactive public health initiatives.

93. Algeria commended Brunei's National Strategy 2035, which aims to align the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with social welfare.

94. Armenia appreciated Brunei's commitment in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular legislation and policies to ensure equal opportunities in education, employment and public life.

95. Australia welcomed Brunei's commitment to ratify the Convention Against Torture, praised the increase in female representation in government, and the granting of citizenship to over 4,500 stateless residents.

96. Azerbaijan appreciated Brunei's measures in protecting human rights and valued its efforts to achieve economic diversification and climate transition goals through policy reforms and the implementation of Wawasan 2035.

97. Bahrain commended Brunei's efforts to promote human rights and noted ongoing efforts to accelerate progress achieved in various domains.

98. Bangladesh commended Brunei for progress in health care, housing, water and sanitation and improving social protection, and appreciated efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and children.

99. Belgium was concerned with the legislation framework, particularly its use of the Sharia Penal Code, which foresees, the use of death penalty, severe corporal punishments and harsh sentences for a great number of offenses with adverse impact on women and on freedoms of expression and of religion and belief.

100. Bhutan commended Brunei's measures for successfully navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued commitment to strengthen the healthcare system through the principles of Universal Health Coverage.

101. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed Brunei efforts to implement previous review recommendations, in particular ensuring access to education, improving quality of life and development for the population, and progress towards gender parity in Government decision-making spaces.

102. Brazil commended Brunei's moratorium on the death penalty and acknowledged its efforts to combat human trafficking, including providing migrant workers with access to public services.

103. Bulgaria appreciated Brunei for positive amendments in the Compulsory Education Act, the Persons with Disabilities Order, and the Old Age and Disability Pension Act, advancing education and social support.

104. Cambodia commended Brunei's effort to strengthening national human rights protection systems and promoting the rights of citizens and supported Brunei ongoing commitment to promoting social economic development and combating trafficking in persons and migrant workers.

105. Canada welcomed the ratification by Brunei of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of the International Labour Organization in June 2023.

106. Chile congratulated Brunei for integrating the SDGs and Agenda 2030 into the country's national vision and the Brunei Vision 2035 programme.

107. China welcomed the Wawasam Brunei 2035 and noted the efforts to protect the human rights of the persons with disabilities and older persons, to combat trafficking and protect the rights to health and education.

108. Costa Rica congratulated Brunei for its moratorium on the death penalty and for ratifying the ILO Convention on Forced Labour.

109. Côte d’Ivoire commended Brunei for legislative provisions and measures supporting and protecting the family and vulnerable persons, including the adoption of the multidimensional strategy to ensure the well-being and dignity of the elderly.

110. Cuba highlighted Brunei continued efforts in relation to the objectives, goals and integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

111. Cyprus appreciated Brunei's progress, including on women and increased female leadership, and its focus on promoting the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities.

112. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea commended Brunei’s efforts and progress promoting and protecting human rights through implementing Wawasan 2035.

113. Portugal commended Brunei for the adoption of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Order of 2019 and the ratification of the Forced Labor Convention and encouraged further efforts for its full implementation.

114. Colombia welcomed the presentation and the commitment of Brunei to the fourth UPR cycle and made recommendations.

115. Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation for Member States’ participation in its review process and acknowledged their interest in Brunei’s national report and progress on human rights issues. Brunei assured that the recommendations made will be studied closely.

116. Brunei Darussalam addressed a key point raised in the recommendations, namely that of its ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). It informed it had established an inter-agency working group, led by the Prime Minister’s Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was studying the convention to build a deeper understanding of its obligations and definitions and consider its alignment with and implication on its existing laws and regulations. Brunei Darussalam stressed that there was no universal approach to ratification and implementation of CAT, as each nation must carefully consider its own circumstances, to ensure acceptance domestically, and added that while ratifying expeditiously was ideal, it should not be a superficial action but must lead to meaningful and practical changes.

117. Brunei Darussalam also referenced an address made by His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei some years ago which decreed a (*de facto*) moratorium on the death penalty and reinforced the right to privacy. The Head of Delegation emphasised that the country’s laws aimed to protect all individuals while ensuring moral harmony of the country, its peoples, and societies within it.

118. The delegation also reiterated that the people of Brunei had long enjoyed a high standard of living, coexisting in peace, security and harmony, despite diverse beliefs and ethnic backgrounds.

119. Brunei Darussalam reiterated its invitation to visit and experience firsthand the country's beauty, and meet with its people to truly understand the country and its people’s priorities.

120. However, the delegation also highlighted the serious global concern of the ongoing human rights and humanitarian law violations in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, and in Lebanon. Brunei Darussalam called on all United Nations Member States, especially those members of the Human Rights Council, to take action against the violence and violations of international law in these regions and urged the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to exert pressure on the implementation of Resolution ES-10/24, concerning the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice.

121. Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to the core principles of the United Nations and expressed concern over the actions of states that violate international law with impunity, adding that this undermined trust in multilateral institutions like the UN and the Human Rights Council.

122. The Head of Delegation also reflected on the Summit of the Future in New York, where His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei emphasised the resilience of the United Nations and highlighted its core humanitarian principles as a guide for addressing global challenges, where Brunei Darussalam advocated for multilateralism, recognising the interconnectedness of nations and the need for global solutions to global challenges.

123. Brunei Darussalam ended by stressing the importance of protecting the human rights of all people equally, regardless of nationality, and for multilateral institutions like the UN to be relied upon to uphold these rights, as the key to creating a better world for current and future generations.

 II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

124.1 **Consider ratifying the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Cyprus);**

124.2 **Consider studying the feasibility of ratifying any of the core human rights treaties of which Brunei is not party to yet (Morocco);**

124.3 **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

124.4 **Take steps to ratify and implement, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

124.5 **Expedite its consideration of acceding to unratified international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which it signed in 2015 (Japan);**

124.6 **Ratify and implement the 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);**

124.7 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and their respective Optional Protocols (Malta);**

124.8 **Move towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chile);**

124.9 **Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as their optional protocols (Luxembourg);**

124.10 **Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia); (Belgium); (Colombia); (Mexico);**

124.11 **Become a Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United States of America);**

124.12 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia); (Switzerland);**

124.13 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**

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

124.15 **Amend the provisions of the Penal Code that provide for torture and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);**

124.16 **Continue progressive steps towards ratifying the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);**

124.17 **Redouble efforts aimed at ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

124.18 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);**

124.19 **Ratify the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

124.20 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Gambia);**

124.21 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Belgium);**

124.22 **Ratify the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**

124.23 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**

124.24 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Namibia);**

124.25 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d’Ivoire);**

124.26 **Ratify the core international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Gambia);**

124.27 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Belgium);**

124.28 **Ratify the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 191247 Protocol, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Paraguay);**

124.29 **Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol thereto (Colombia); (Côte d’Ivoire);**

124.30 **Consider the possibilities of acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto (Niger);**

124.31 **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Colombia);**

124.32 **Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d’Ivoire);**

124.33 **Consider the possibilities of acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Niger);**

124.34 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**

124.35 **Consider acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Malawi);**

124.36 **Accede to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and to the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Ukraine);**

124.37 **Sign the Declaration on the Use of Explosive Weapons in Densely Populated Areas (EWIPA) (Costa Rica);**

124.38 **Take effective measures to prevent and prohibit discrimination against women and minorities, starting with the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

124.39 **Consider withdrawing the reservation to article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia); (Namibia);**

124.40 **Withdraws its reservation to Article 9, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Spain) ; (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);Withdraw its reservation to Article 9(2) of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Costa Rica);**

124.41 **Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with a view to ensuring gender equality (Chile);**

124.42 **Publish its National Plan of Action on Women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

124.43 **Continue discussions on the withdrawal of the reservation to Article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding equal rights of men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and make amendments to its national legislation accordingly (Serbia);**

124.44 **Consider increasing and expanding technical cooperation and capacity building with the assistance of UN bodies, in order to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights (Cyprus);**

124.45 **Intensify efforts to implement the pledges made on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Qatar);**

124.46 **Explain the conditions that must be met to lift the state of emergency, which has restricted fundamental freedoms since 1962 (France);**

124.47 **Repeal the Emergency Powers Act and the Sedition Act (United States of America);**

124.48 **Repeal provisions in its legal system that are not compliant with international human rights norms, for example by repealing corporal punishment and decriminalizing consensual same-sex conduct (Germany);**

124.49 **Revise the amendment to the Penal Code of 3 April 2019 to bring it into line with international human rights standards (Switzerland);**

124.50 **Repeal certain criminal penalties under the Sharia Penal Code of 2013 and 2019 that are in contravention of Brunei’s international human rights commitments (United States of America);**

124.51 **Continue to strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Sudan);**

124.52 **Promote joint work and synergy between the respective national institutions to continue guaranteeing the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);**

124.53 **Continue efforts towards promoting a resilient society (Pakistan);**

124.54 **Consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);**

124.55 **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Chile); (Costa Rica); (Gambia); (Togo); (Ukraine);**

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

124.57 **Work on the development of regulations against racism and all forms of discrimination (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

124.58 **Improve gender equality , particularly in terms of access to civil service posts (Luxembourg);**

124.59 **Continue efforts to further enhance gender equality (Nepal);**

124.60 **Eliminate discrimination on any grounds, including against women and LGBTI persons (Estonia);**

124.61 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada); (Iceland); (Spain);**

124.62 **Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty (France);**

124.63 **Adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty (Italy); Implement an official moratorium on the death penalty (Australia); Formalize the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to a total abolition (Portugal);**

124.64 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**

124.65 **Strengthen its legislation to progressively move towards the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica);**

124.66 **Develop, in consultation with civil society and relevant regional bodies, a comprehensive plan of action to work towards a de jure moratorium, with a view to abolishing the death penalty, over the next four years (Panama);**

124.67 **Restrict the use of death penalty only to crimes that meet the threshold of most serious crimes under international human rights law and suppress the mandatory use of death penalty (Belgium);**

124.68 **Review laws permitting detention without trial, such as the "Internal Security Act", in accordance with international human rights standards (Brazil);**

124.69 **Continue the implementation of Wawasan Brunei 2035 towards the betterment of human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

124.70 **Ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief, as enshrined in the Constitution, is implemented, and that religious minorities are allowed to practice freely – which includes being able to maintain their places of worship and being allocated sufficient space to bury their dead (Germany);**

124.71 **Amend existing laws to ensure freedom of religion and belief, including by abolishing disproportionate sentences such as the death penalty, corporal punishment and extensive prison terms for acts of apostasy and blasphemy (Ireland);**

124.72 **Uphold its obligation to ensure freedom of religion and belief by removing restrictions on religious literature, places of worship and religious gatherings for non-Muslims and non-Shafi'i Muslim residents of Brunei (Canada);**

124.73 **Revoke the restrictions on freedom of expression of private and public faith including the open, public celebration of religious and cultural festivals and weddings, the singing and playing of religious and cultural songs and music, and the public display of religious and cultural decorations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

124.74 **Ensure the full exercise of the freedoms of association, assembly, demonstration, expression and belief, as well as amend the Sedition Act, the Harmful Publications Act and the Local Press Ordinance in accordance with its international human rights commitments (Spain);**

124.75 **Amend existing legislation to better guarantee press freedom, freedom of expression and access to information (Luxembourg);**

124.76 **Adopt legislation to ensure the full exercise of freedom of opinion and expression and assembly and association including online (Costa Rica);**

124.77 **Adopt a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

124.78 **Revise the existing legislation concerning freedom of expression to bring it fully in line with international human rights law (Estonia);**

124.79 **Review current legislation that could restrict freedom of expression and of the press in a manner incompatible with international human rights law (Paraguay);**

124.80 **Guarantee all fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression (Italy);**

124.81 **Guarantee freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association inter alia by ending the state of emergency and repealing the Sedition Act (Germany);**

124.82 **Develop a timeline for concluding the State of Emergency and the restrictions it imposes on freedom of expression and association (Australia);**

124.83 **Introduce a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards and establish an independent oversight institution with the capacity to implement the law on access to information (Ukraine);**

124.84 **Ensure equal and adequate attention to both collective and individual rights in a way that realization of the latter doesn’t happen in the cost of former (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.85 **Continue engagement with relevant stakeholders, including youth in the implementation of Wawasan Brunei 2035 (Azerbaijan);**

124.86 **Fulfil commitments in the Sultan’s 2019 Royal Decree on the implementation of the Syariah Penal Code in a manner consistent with international human rights standards, including ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and respecting individuals’ right to privacy (Australia);**

124.87 **Ensure the right to privacy applies to all sexual activity between consenting adults (Australia);**

124.88 **Continue to promote social values related to the role of the family and provide the necessary support to it as the basic unit for building society (Egypt);**

124.89 **Continue to support the family as the foundational social unit in society (Morocco);**

124.90 **Ensure the preservation and promotion of traditional family values (Qatar);**

124**.**91 **Continue in the efforts of supporting and protecting the family as provided in international human rights law (Malawi);**

124.92 **Continue its commendable efforts in implementing its policies to support and safeguard the rights of all the members of the family in alignment with the provisions of international human rights law (State of Palestine);**

124.93 **Ensure the preservation and strengthening of traditional family values, parental rights and related social heritage including support the historical family institution (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.94 **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons (Bhutan);**

124.95 **Strengthen legislation on combating trafficking in persons, and the law on the prevention of trafficking in human beings (Senegal);**

124.96 **Continue to increase efforts to ensure proper investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in cases related to trafficking in persons (Cyprus);**

124.97 **Continue steps aimed at ensuring proper investigation and prosecution in all cases of human trafficking (Georgia);**

124.98 **Continue to combat human trafficking and other crimes and improve the level of judicial protection of human rights (China);**

124.99 **Strengthen mechanisms to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons and intensify awareness-raising and sensitization measures, as well as victims' access to justice and support services (Paraguay);**

124.100 **Further enhance capacity building programs for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges on effective approaches to combating trafficking in persons (Philippines);**

124.101 **Establish comprehensive training programs for law enforcement agents, prosecutors and social service personnel to effectively identify human trafficking cases and provide the necessary support for victims and survivors (Portugal);**

124.102 **Ensure full and effective implementation of the measures contained in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Prevention of Smuggling of Persons Act, and ensure the rights of victims and provide them with protection and assistance (Qatar);**

124.103 **Take further steps to promote decent work for all (Nepal);**

124.104 **Continue to increase opportunities for women’s participation in the labour force addressing gender disparity (Sri Lanka);**

124.105 **Continue to enhance its initiatives supporting the participation of women in the workforce (Singapore);**

124.106 **Continue to strengthen the protection of workers' rights, especially social security for vulnerable groups such as migrant workers (China);**

124.107 **Implement the next phase of the minimum wage to cover all sectors of the economy (Thailand);**

124.108 **Ensure holistic protection of the rights of migrant workers and their family members to guarantee their working and living conditions (Indonesia);**

124.109 **Ensure a robust system on sustainable and affordable housing for those in need and towards contributing to their social security (India);**

124.110 **Continue to enhance community support networks to strengthen social welfare initiatives and provide assistance (Oman);**

124.111 **Continue the review of national policies on poverty eradication to raise standard of living in Brunei (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

124.112 **Continue to review national policies to eradicate poverty and raise the standard of living in Brunei (Tunisia);**

124.113 **Continue the review of national policies on poverty eradication to raise standard of living of all its citizens in the country (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**

124.114 **Continue efforts to combat poverty and improve the living standards of vulnerable populations in line with the revised National Poverty Eradication Plan 2020–2024 (Djibouti);**

124.115 **Continue to implement Vision 2035 and continuously improve the living standards of its people (China);**

124.116 **Further strengthen existing systems to alleviate poverty (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.117 **Implement fully the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Poverty 2020–2024 and engage relevant stakeholders in this endeavour (Bahrain);**

124.118 **Ensure the efficacy of the National Welfare System in meeting the needs of the people (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

124.119 **Strengthen the National Welfare System to meet the needs of the population in line with the national vision and the Sustainable Development Goals (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

124.120 **Ensure a robust system on sustainable and affordable housing for those in need and towards contributing to their social security (Kazakhstan);**

124.121 **Continue the ongoing work to improve the quality of life, including through initiatives aimed at providing sustainable and affordable housing (Pakistan);**

124.122 **Improve the water supply system to ensure access to clean, safe and affordable water, especially for the rural population (Kuwait);**

124.123 **Improve the water supply system to ensure access to clean, safe and affordable water, especially for rural residents (Cuba);**

124.124 **Continue its commendable efforts in ensuring access to clean, safe and affordable water through the enhancement of the sanitation systems (State of Palestine);**

124.125 **Continue efforts to ensure access to basic services, particularly affordable drinking water for those living in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

124.126 **Continue efforts to strengthen the health care system and ensure the provision of fair and accessible services for all (Iraq);**

124.127 **Continue its efforts in achieving a safe and trustable telehealth and telemedicine services (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.128 **Continue allocating enough resources towards strengthening the public health sector, including by giving mental health issues the importance it deserves (Lebanon);**

124.129 **Continue the positive work of implementing programmes aimed at improving the quality of life and ensuring access to healthcare services (Russian Federation);**

124.130 **Ensure the right to education by legislating on the issue (Luxembourg);**

124.131 **Promote the legislative and constitutional adjustments necessary to guarantee the right of all people to education, without discrimination of any kind, ensuring free education at least in the first 12 years of school life (Paraguay);**

124.132 **Ensure that the rights to education are guaranteed to all children without any discrimination based on the origin of the children or the parents (Italy);**

124.133 **Guarantee by law at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education and one year of free pre-school education (Panama);**

124.134 **Consider codifying free secondary education and at least one year of free pre-primary education (Bulgaria);**

124.135 **Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to education and allocate adequate human and financial resources to schools to promote their inclusive education (Kuwait);**

124.136 **Continue its efforts to ensure access and inclusivity of children with special needs in the education system (Singapore);**

124.137 **Continue advancing inclusive education for children with special needs (Viet Nam);**

124.138 **Enhance efforts to improve access to and inclusivity within the education system (Timor-Leste);**

124.139 **Strengthen and improve the capacities of children who face difficulties in accessing educational institutions (United Arab Emirates);**

124.140 **Continue to expand resources for early childhood education to support inclusive education from an early age (Oman);**

124.141 **Continue with the ongoing reforms to ensure the educational system that is inclusive, progressive and rights-oriented (Serbia);**

124.142 **Pursue efforts aiming at promoting cultural and religious harmony among the population (Lebanon);**

124.143 **Continue to promote cultural understanding and social harmony to advance the enjoyment of human rights by its people (Cambodia);**

124.144 **Strengthen the legislative frameworks to address the impacts of climate change (Nepal);**

124.145 **Strengthen its legislative framework to address environmental challenges, including climate change (Viet Nam);**

124.146 **Intensify national efforts to strengthen the legislative framework necessary to address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change mitigation and adaptation (Cuba);**

124.147 **Continue national policies and programmes aimed at protecting the environment and addressing the risks and consequences of climate change (Sudan);**

124.148 **Continue to promote policies related to environmental protection and climate change mitigation, while involving youth in these efforts (Jordan);**

124.149 **Maintain and scale up its initiatives in climate change, particularly by involving all sectors of society in the achievement of its climate goals (Armenia);**

124.150 **Remain committed to concerted efforts to address climate change (Azerbaijan);**

124.151 **Implement fully the strategies outlined in the Brunei Darussalam national climate change policy to pave low carbon and climate resilience pathways (Bangladesh);**

124.152 **Enhance institutional capacity, data collection and knowledge to better incorporate environmental and climate considerations into the national regulatory framework (Timor-Leste);**

124.153 **Incorporate into its legislation the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment preferably at the constitutional level (Costa Rica);**

124.154 **Continue to work on achieving the sustainable development goals formulated in the Millennium Declaration (Russian Federation);**

124.155 **Peruse its efforts and collaboration with various United Nations agencies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Mauritius);**

124.156 **Strengthen its collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies to further advance the Sustainable Development Goals (Türkiye);**

124.157 **Continue national policies and programmes aimed at implementing the sustainable development agenda (Sudan);**

124.158 **Actively participate in mechanisms and international meetings related to right to development (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

124.159 **Ensure synergy between the national vision and the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan (Kuwait);**

124.160 **Strengthen current and develop future policies in line with the national vision and the Sustainable Development Goals (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

124.161 **Ensure that development policies are aligned with the promotion and protection of human rights (Bahrain);**

124.162 **Take action to align development policies with the promotion and protection of human rights (Cuba);**

124.163 **Strengthen youth participation in entrepreneurship by providing strong infrastructure and supporting regulations (Bangladesh);**

124.164 **Continue to implement and strengthen the Wawasan Brunei 2035 National Programme (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

124.165 **Take further measures to ensure the full enjoyment by women of their human rights (Bulgaria);**

124.166 **Review its nationality law, in order to guarantee equal protection under the law for women and for their children (Brazil);**

124.167 **Accelerate the revision of its national action plan on women and ensure its effective implementation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (Thailand);**

124.168 **Amend national laws to reflect its obligations under international law, including through insuring the protection of human rights for women and girls and LGBTQI+ persons (Canada);**

124.169 **Continue the national action plan dedicated to women's issues and to consider the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

124.170 **Continue its efforts to formulate and implement focused strategies to improve the rights of women and children (Bangladesh);**

124.171 **Strengthen further the policies aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Cambodia);**

124.172 **Continue the policy of eliminating gender inequalities by strengthening mechanisms to increase women's participation in political and public life as well as the empowerment and economic inclusion of women and girls (Djibouti);**

124.173 **Continue implementing national programmes to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, and promote gender equality (Egypt);**

124.174 **Strengthen effective mechanisms to promote women’s development towards advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Malaysia);**

124.175 **Continue strengthening its policies and mechanisms to ensure that women participate equally in the socio-economic development of the country (Mauritius);**

124.176 **Pursue the policy for the elimination of inequalities between men and women by taking measures to increase the participation of women in the workforce (Kazakhstan);**

124.177 **Strengthen effective mechanisms to promote women's development towards advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Kazakhstan);**

124.178 **Expand the scope of the plan to further support women's political and public sector representation aligning with the best practices observed internationally (Kyrgyzstan);**

124.179 **Intensify efforts to formulate comprehensive policies that address gaps in women’s development and enhance economic empowerment initiatives for women to ensure equal opportunities (Maldives);**

124.180 **Continue to enhance its programs on the economic participation of women (India);**

124.181 **Improve and reinforce mechanisms that support women's development aiming to further advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Timor-Leste);**

124.182 **Continue efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (Tunisia);**

124.183 **Accelerate efforts on the new national action plan for women to promote equality, capacity building and personal development (Türkiye);**

124.184 **Continue its commendable efforts and initiatives towards women's empowerment and development (State of Palestine);**

124.185 **Continue efforts to promote the empowerment of women (Mauritania);**

124.186 **Promote further gender equality and women’s empowerment (Viet Nam);**

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

124.188 **Continue to strengthen mechanisms on the promotion of women empowerment and elimination of all forms of violence against women including migrants (Philippines);**

124.189 **Continue efforts to optimize women’s rights, especially by using all means aiming at protecting them against domestic violence (Lebanon);**

124.190 **Publish and implement the recommendations of the report on women's rights and combat violence against women (France);**

124.191 **Redouble its efforts to further improve the human rights situation of women and girls and to eliminate violence against women (Japan);**

124.192 **Enhance efforts as regards the protection of women and elimination of violence against women (Cyprus);**

124.193 **Adopt a comprehensive law that criminalizes all forms of domestic violence, ensuring clear protection for victims, including access to justice and support services (Iceland);**

124.194 **Continue to strengthen legal frameworks to better address the issue of domestic violence and protect all of the victims (Indonesia);**

124.195 **Continue addressing domestic violence including improving access to justice to victims and survivors of domestic violence (United Republic of Tanzania);**

124.196 **Strengthen gender protection by enacting laws to address gender-based violence, including a domestic violence law for the protection of women and children (Gambia);**

124.197 **Take measures to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence (Estonia);**

124.198 **Enshrine equal rights and protections for women and girls in law, including by criminalising domestic violence and marital rape (Ireland);**

124.199 **Ensure robust protections in the definition of rape and criminalize all non-consensual acts, including those involving authority figures (Iceland);**

124.200 **Raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years, without exceptions (Ireland);**

124.201 **Amend the existing legislation so that the minimum age for marriage is set at 18 years of age, without exceptions (Slovenia);**

124.202 **Advance efforts to protect and uphold the rights of children (Georgia);**

124.203 **Strengthen efforts to develop the child protection system (Mauritania);**

124.204 **Amend legislation, including Article 5 of the Education Regulations, to prohibit corporal punishment of children, and raise awareness of its negative effects (Mexico);**

124.205 **Consider banning corporal punishment of boys in educational institutions (Chile);**

124.206 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment against children in all settings (Estonia); Prohibit explicitly corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);**

124.207 **Encourage the abolition of corporal punishment (Italy);**

124.208 **Review national legislation to ensure that corporal punishment of children is prohibited in all settings (Colombia);**

124.209 **Promote the rights of the child including taking further measures to prevent child abuse (Sri Lanka);**

124.210 **Continue its efforts to explore ways to protect the rights of children especially in the digital domain (Bhutan);**

124.211 **Continue to improve equity and inclusivity of children with special needs in the education system (India);**

124.212 **Continue enforcing measures to ensure quality education especially for children with special needs (United Republic of Tanzania);**

124.213 **Promote and improve the capacity for children who have difficulty accessing educational institutions (Morocco);**

124.214 **Continue developing and implementing targeted strategies and activities to expand the rights of the elderly (Malaysia);**

124.215 **Continue the effective implementation of the Plan of Action for Senior Citizens to develop comprehensive strategies for the elderly (United Arab Emirates);**

124.216 **Continue to provide facilities for the elderly, including health promotion and education programmes for them (Saudi Arabia);**

124.217 **Strengthen care services with a human rights approach in the implementation of the Action Plan for Older Persons, to ensure dignified support for healthy ageing and fair working conditions for caregivers (Mexico);**

124.218 **Continue efforts to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people, ensuring the inclusiveness and equality of persons with disabilities, the advancement of women, the well-being and dignity of older persons (Senegal);**

124.219 **Continue ongoing efforts regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities as well as the efforts aiming at improving healthcare in general, and mental care in particular (Algeria);**

124.220 **Continue to prioritize the wellbeing of the elderly and people with disabilities (Oman);**

124.221 **Promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure their full inclusion and participation in society, in accordance with the obligations set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Egypt);**

124.222 **Continue the efforts towards enhancing social inclusion and accessibility, simultaneously strengthening support services for persons with disabilities and their families (Armenia);**

124.223 **Continue efforts to integrate persons with disabilities, build their capacities, and ensure their access to all services (Tunisia);**

124.224 **Consider plans and policies for an all-inclusive approach to enhance the independence of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**

124.225 **Promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their better inclusion in all aspects of life (Jordan);**

124.226 **Continue to strengthen the measures to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity and equality (Maldives);**

124.227 **Continue to work with civil society organizations and persons with disabilities or their representative organizations to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Japan);**

124.228 **Continue efforts and measures related to promoting awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities (Mauritania);**

124.229 **Continue improving infrastructure to enable access to persons with disabilities and the elderly (United Republic of Tanzania);**

124.230 **Continue efforts to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to education, and allocate adequate human and financial resources to schools to promote inclusive education (Saudi Arabia);**

124.231 **Revise its nationality law in order to remove discriminatory provisions that deny specific ethnic groups access to citizenship (Switzerland);**

124.232 **Take proactive measures to ensure full compliance with its commitments to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief by revising existing laws that discriminate against religious minorities (Portugal);**

124.233 **Repeal all discriminatory laws toward, and end all forms of discriminatory treatment of, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, women, and members of religious and ethnic minorities (United States of America);**

124.234 **Decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland); Decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults (Belgium);**

124.235 **Decriminalise consensual same-sex sexual relations and ensure respect for the human rights of the LGBTQI+ population (Chile);**

124.236 **Eliminate legislation criminalizing same-sex sexual relations, and formally recognize the right to non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);**

124.237 **Repeal all laws that discriminate against persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) (Iceland);**

124.238 **Establish procedures in line with international standards for determining refugee status and the need for international protection, including for victims of trafficking (Luxembourg);**

124.239 **Develop policies for access to nationality (France);**

124.240 **Join the UNHCR initiative "Global Alliance to End Statelessness" and improve international cooperation in this field (Montenegro);**

124.241 **Put in place legal safeguards against statelessness and provide equitable pathways to citizenship, especially for children born and raised in the country (Gambia);**

124.242 **Consider amending the Brunei Nationality Act to ensure that women have equal nationality rights as men, in particular, in relation to the acquisition and retention of their own nationality, and the conferral of their nationality on their children and non-national spouses (Malta);**

124.243 **Amend Brunei’s Nationality Act to ensure that Bruneian women have the same right as men to automatically confer Bruneian nationality on their children (Costa Rica);**

124.244 **Amend the Nationality Law to ensure that women have the same nationality rights as men, in particular in relation to the acquisition and retention of their own nationality, and the transmission of their nationality to their non-national children and spouses (Panama);**

124.245 **Review the Nationality Law to allow women to transfer nationality to their children under the same conditions as men, in order to remove legal barriers to gender equality and reduce statelessness (Mexico);**

124.246 **Allow women to transmit citizenship to their descendants to avoid statelessness (Spain);**

124.247 **Ensure that the rights to a nationality are guaranteed to all children without any discrimination based on the origin of the children or the parents (Italy);**

124.248 **Consider introducing measures to further strengthen support and assistance to stateless persons (Thailand).**

125. **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 Brunei Darussalam was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs II, the Honourable Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof and composed of the following members:

• Her Excellency Dk Mazlizah PG HJ MAHALEE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;

• Mr. Zulhusam HJ ABDUL SAMAD, Acting Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister’s Office;

• Mr. Hj Mohd Yusra HJ MOHD SALLEH, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

• Ms. Pg Hjh Siti Rahmah PG HJ MOHAMMAD, Assistant Solicitor General, International Affairs Division and Communication and Strategy Division, Attorney General’s Chambers;

• Ms. Fauziah ABDUL HAMID, Director, Research, Development and International Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;

• Ms. Dk Nooraslena PG DATO PADUKA HJ SALLEHUDDIN, Acting Director, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

• Mrs. Hjh Noridah ABDUL HAMID, Acting Director, Social Services Division, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;

• Ms. PA Mansurah Izzul BOLKIAH, Assistant Director, Department of Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

• Ms. Dk Hjh Ena Suraya PG HJ MOHAMMAD, Deputy Senior Counsel, Security and Law Division, Prime Minister’s Office;

• Mr. Pg Hj Liyan PG HJ MOHAMMAD, Head of Legal, International and Research Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;

• Ms. Hjh Fauziah HJ SULAIMAN, Deputy Senior Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney General’s Chambers;

• Ms. CHAN Chee Leong, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;

• Mr. Abhar Munawar AHMAD, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;

• Mrs. Muna Masera MASRI, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;

• Mrs. Hjh Norhartijah HJ PUTEH, Syariah Legal Officer, Islamic Legal Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs;

• Ms. Dk Nor Zaidah Hayati PG HJ SHAHMINAN, Research Officer, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

• Ms. LIM Kim Suan, Second Secretary, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

• Ms. Illyana Nadhirah MD WAFIUDDIN WA’IE, Trade Officer, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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