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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[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

Dominica

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 Dominica was held at the 7th meeting, on 7 November 2024. The delegation of Dominica was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy, Vince Henderson. At its 16th meeting, held on 13 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Dominica.

2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Dominica: Brazil, Kuwait and Somalia.

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 Dominica:

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

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, 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 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Dominica 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. Dominica recognized that the universal periodic review was a crucial mechanism that strengthened human rights advancement. It appreciated the support received from the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review for one member of its delegation. Owing to the various challenges that had hindered its progress, Dominica was still in the early stages of recovery from Hurricane Maria and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which had worsened economic and social issues.

6. In July 2019, the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up had been established to coordinate and prepare reports and monitor the implementation of human rights obligations. However, the greatest challenge the National Mechanism had encountered was the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic owing to the temporary resource reallocation. Despite its efforts to fulfil its reporting obligations, resource and capacity constraints had hindered the timely submission of reports. The National Mechanism had worked with a human rights team from the Commonwealth Secretariat to address those challenges.

7. Dominica had acceded to international human rights treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Thus, it was currently a State party to seven out of the nine core international human rights instruments. In addition, it had engaged with the Convention against Torture Initiative, which had hosted a workshop in Dominica in 2019. It had also ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).

8. Dominica had adopted the Comprehensive Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2030, outlining a clear road map for achieving its objective to become the first climate‑resilient nation and to meet the objectives of the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030. It had also adopted a gender-transformative, inclusive approach aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. The Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica had significantly advanced the resilience agenda through successful projects, initiatives and capacity-building efforts to address climate change and disaster risk management.

10. The parliament of Dominica had approved a new Domestic Violence Act, which had entered into force in July 2023. The new law was in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and aimed to provide protection to victims. The Bureau of Gender Affairs, in partnership with the Investment Climate Reform Facility, was developing an implementation plan for the Act. In addition, training sessions for social workers and law enforcement personnel and public awareness-raising campaigns had been launched across media platforms and conducted in person.

11. The Bureau of Gender Affairs actively collaborated with stakeholders to support victims of domestic violence, including on the provision of safe accommodation and holistic services for women victims.

12. Dominica remained committed to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, prioritizing women’s empowerment and decision-making. Notably, in 2023, the election of an Indigenous woman to the office of President of Dominica reflected the progress made in gender equality and the recognition of Indigenous People’s rights. At the grass-roots level, the Government had prioritized the economic independence of women through livelihood support programmes and training initiatives. Dominica was planning to approve a revised draft national gender policy in order to align gender equality efforts with the nation’s climate resilience objectives.

13. In 2023, the parliament had enacted five key family laws, enhancing protection for children and families, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Child Protection Unit had been established within the Department of Social Services to raise awareness of and advocate for child protection. School psychologists had been included in the staffing structure. In addition, a child justice bill was in the process of being finalized.

14. In 2023, the Maintenance Act had been adopted in order to improve respect for the rights of older persons. In addition, the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Senior Citizen Issues had been set up to provide policy and legislative recommendations for the care and protection of older persons. Since January 2023, individuals aged between 65 and 70 years who did not receive a pension had been eligible to a non-contributory government pension. Free healthcare for citizens aged over 60 years continued to be a major policy benefiting older persons.

15. Although there was no national policy specifically for persons with disabilities, in 2022, the Cabinet had approved the establishment of the National Commission of Persons with Disabilities to guide policies and programmes in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Dominica had supported efforts to build resilience in the wake of Hurricane Maria and the adoption of the Regional Building Code of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, aimed at creating accessible public spaces for persons with disabilities. One new institution that was currently under construction would serve as a learning centre for students unable to integrate into regular classrooms settings. Financial assistance and duty-free concessions on equipment had been provided to the Dominica Association of Persons with Disabilities.

16. More than 40 safety-net initiatives aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of society had been maintained following the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. Six new health centres had been designed to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities. They had also been equipped with sustainable energy solutions to ensure service continuity during emergencies. In addition, secondary and tertiary healthcare had been improved thanks to upgrades to two hospitals.

18. The Education Sector Plan (2020–2025) focused on addressing gender disparity and building climate resilience. Dominica had ensured universal access to primary, secondary and tertiary education, and had set a goal of achieving 90 per cent coverage in early childhood education. The Government was also prioritizing skills training through expanded technical vocational education and training programmes. Dominica planned to open a centre of excellence by 2025 to support its resilience agenda. With the help of bilateral partners, new schools were being built and existing ones renovated in the wake of Hurricane Maria, incorporating climate-resilient infrastructure and accessibility features for persons with disabilities.

19. The right to adequate housing was a key priority, due to the significant damage caused by Tropical Storm Erika in 2015 and Hurricane Maria in 2017. The Government had set a goal of providing 5,000 residential homes. It had achieved 39 per cent of that target during the current reporting period.

20. The police force had been strengthened with new recruits in October 2024, alongside regular training for prosecutors in key areas such as criminal law. A new magistrate had been appointed to expedite proceedings and a registrar had been being hired to enhance court support. Investment in magistrates courts had resulted in two new courtrooms in 2022. Efforts were under way to establish a paper committal unit to speed up justice delivery. Dominica had benefited from the Regional Justice Project funded by the European Union, launched in 2023, aiming to reduce the backlog of cases in the criminal justice system through technology, training, procedural reforms and community awareness-raising initiatives.

21. Dominica maintained the death penalty for the most serious crimes. However, no one had been sentenced to death since 1986. Currently, Dominica did not plan to establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty or to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. However, the retention of the death penalty did not imply support for its arbitrary application.

22. In April 2024, the Dominica High Court had ruled on sections 14 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act, leading to the decriminalization of “buggery” and other sexual activities between consenting adults, including same-sex partners, within the privacy of their homes. While there were no specific laws for the protection of LGBTQI+ persons, the Constitution prohibited discrimination based on sex, race, place of origin, political opinion, colour and creed.

23. Article 49 of the Education Act of 1997 allowed corporal punishment, only as a last resort, to be administered by the principal, deputy principal or a designated teacher. In recent years, the Ministry of Education had introduced alternative disciplinary approaches through programmes involving increasing the number of school counsellors and pastoral care services available in schools.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

24. During the interactive dialogue, 59 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

25. Australia welcomed the decision by the Dominica High Court to decriminalize same‑sex sexual relations.

26. Côte d’Ivoire congratulated Dominica for adopting measures to strengthen the legal protection of families and to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

27. Bhutan noted the concerted efforts made to improve the lives and prospects of children and persons with disabilities. It commended Dominica for the steps taken to tackle domestic violence and to develop resilience to climate change.

28. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized the efforts of Dominica to implement recommendations made during the previous review, despite the challenges faced in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the COVID-19 pandemic. It welcomed the establishment of the National Commission of Persons with Disabilities and the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Senior Citizen Issues.

29. Brazil welcomed the improvement of Indigenous Peoples' rights and initiatives to strengthen women's political participation and protect them from violence. It acknowledged the High Court ruling that the criminalization of consensual same-sex relations was unconstitutional. Brazil encouraged Dominica to implement its national action plan on child sexual abuse and to ratify pending core human rights treaties.

30. Burkina Faso welcomed the 2019 study entitled "Attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence: results from four focus group discussions". It also welcomed the development of plain language educational materials to increase people’s awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

31. Canada commended Dominica on the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity and encouraged it to establish a national human rights institution and address the backlog of requests for registration of civil society organizations.

32. Chile congratulated Dominica on its progress in developing legislation concerning domestic violence and the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations.

33. China commended Dominica for its national human rights programmes and the positive results it had achieved in enhancing climate adaptation capacity, combating trafficking in persons, reducing poverty, improving social security, healthcare and education, and in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and Indigenous Peoples.

34. Colombia welcomed the progress Dominica had made since the previous review cycle, including the election of the first Indigenous woman as President.

35. Costa Rica welcomed the election in 2023 of the first woman and Indigenous person as President of Dominica. Costa Rica encouraged Dominica to continue using a human rights‑based approach in all actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including on gender equality and inclusion.

36. Belgium recognized and welcomed the progress made in the fight against domestic violence with the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act in 2023.

37. Cuba welcomed the adoption in 2023 of the Suite of Family Laws and the efforts of Dominica to implement the recommendations accepted during previous review cycles.

38. The Dominican Republic welcomed the efforts of Dominica to adopt measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change, and the work achieved in the protection of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

39. Ukraine lauded the efforts made by Dominica since its previous review, in particular in protecting children, promoting non-discrimination, supporting vulnerable groups, empowering women and building climate resilience.

40. France took note of the positive steps taken by Dominica since the previous universal periodic review.

41. The Gambia praised Dominica for its strong commitment to environmental sustainability, particularly its efforts to promote climate resilience. It recognized the leadership of Dominica in integrating climate adaptation into national policies and its focus on protecting vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change.

42. Georgia noted the measures Dominica had taken to combat domestic violence and provide protection for victims, to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and to promote access to education for children with disabilities.

43. Germany commended Dominica for its ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Germany also commended the High Court decision to decriminalize same-sex activity between adults and encouraged the Government to adopt anti-discrimination laws.

44. Honduras highlighted the appointment of the first Indigenous woman as President of Dominica, the ratification of international treaties, the promotion of climate resilience initiatives and the improved access to essential services for vulnerable groups in Dominica.

45. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Dominica and made recommendations.

46. India appreciated the enactment of family laws, in line with international human rights conventions, and legislation on the welfare of children and parents and on combating domestic violence.

47. Indonesia commended Dominica for its objective to become the first climate-resilient nation, hoping that implementation would ensure protection for vulnerable populations. It acknowledged the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted the progress made in providing healthcare free of charge. It encouraged Dominica to expand coverage of that provision to mothers, children and rural populations.

48. Iraq welcomed the significant steps taken by Dominica to strengthen its international commitments, represented by its ratification of a number of international instruments.

49. Ireland acknowledged the efforts of Dominica to advance human rights domestically. It voiced concern about progress on the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty, the continuing challenge of violence against women and gender-based violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

50. Italy appreciated the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, the accession of Dominica to two international human rights treaties, the de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and the measures taken to protect women from violence and to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

51. Jordan congratulated Dominica on the progress made in implementing recommendations from the previous review cycle and in advancing human rights, particularly with the establishment of the National Commission of Persons with Disabilities in 2022 and the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Senior Citizen Issues in 2023.

52. Kuwait commended Dominica for its efforts to combat discrimination, to achieve gender equality, to promote economic, social and cultural rights and to promote the right to an adequate standard of living. It also commended the achievements of Dominica in the areas of health, education and protecting the rights of older persons.

53. Latvia highlighted the progress made with the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act, the efforts to promote gender equality and the revision of the National Gender Policy.

54. Luxembourg commended Dominica for adopting a comprehensive adaptation and mitigation strategy to increase its resilience to climate change.

55. The delegation of Dominica emphasized than no individuals had been on death row since 1986. Dominica was open to dialogue on that issue; any decision should reflect the will of the population. Dominica would welcome support from Member States in facilitating that process. Dominica planned to sign the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by the end of 2024.

56. Dominica also remained open to discussions on establishing a national human rights institution. However, the cost of rebuilding after recent climate-related natural disasters had left the country with a debt-to-gross domestic product ratio of 100 per cent. Bearing in mind the cost of establishing such an institution, Domica hoped to be supported by Member States or institutions that had consistently recommended that it establish a national human rights institution.

57. Healthcare services were available throughout the entire country, including in rural access, supported by a robust primary healthcare system. Recent investments in the national hospital had led to enhancements in healthcare services, particularly at the tertiary level.

58. Dominica had continued to promote the right to education by expanding and improving schools. Five new schools were currently under construction and the rebuilding of the national State College was also under way.

59. The rights to clean air and to water were safeguarded, with forests protected through a robust national park system. The country had invested in renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and was committed to continuing on that path.

60. The 2023 Domestic Violence Act and the adoption of the Suite of Family Laws in 2022 had strengthened the protection of the rights of women, children and older persons. Dominica had also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and associations working in that area were supported.

61. Corporal punishment was rarely used in schools or educational settings as a result of teacher training initiatives. Legislation was being reviewed in that regard.

62. The Government was aware of the need to remain vigilant regarding child labour, particularly cases of sexual exploitation. It would ensure rigorous investigations and prosecutions of such cases.

63. Malaysia appreciated the national report and commended Dominica on the establishment in 2019 of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up. Malaysia urged Dominica to strengthen its public health system, particularly for vulnerable groups, and to address the impacts of climate change, taking vulnerable populations' needs into consideration.

64. Maldives welcomed the participation of Dominica in the universal periodic review process and praised its commitment to climate resilience, through the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030.

65. Mauritius commended Dominica in its increased investment in the education sector and the focus in the Education Sector Plan on gender disparity and climate change.

66. Mexico highlighted legislative progress in the legal protection of families and addressing domestic violence, the ratification of two treaties, improvements in public infrastructure benefiting persons with disabilities and the promotion of robust social protection policies.

67. Montenegro appreciated the ratification by Dominica of core international human rights treaties and encouraged it to submit its initial reports to the treaty bodies. Montenegro welcomed the progress made in strengthening the legislative framework to protect women and children and encouraged Dominica to take measures to address sexual harassment, gender-based violence, trafficking in persons and child labour.

68. Morocco commended Dominica for its ratification of international instruments, the promotion of human rights in public policies and programmes, the adoption of relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks, and its efforts to achieve climate resilience.

69. Namibia commended Dominica for its efforts to become the first climate-resilient nation in the world and for adopting several laws and policies to protect women and children.

70. Nepal appreciated the engagement and cooperation of Dominica with human rights mechanisms, noting positively the steps it had taken to implement recommendations made during the previous review. Nepal commended Dominica for its National Resilience Development Strategy 2030.

71. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended the Government of Dominica for adopting the Domestic Violence Act in 2023, which provided greater protection for victims. However, it noted that an updated national policy was still pending and cases of domestic abuse had increased during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

72. New Zealand commended Dominica for its human rights efforts, while highlighting several concerns.

73. The Niger welcomed the cooperation of Dominica with human rights mechanisms.

74. Panama made recommendations.

75. Paraguay welcomed the progress Dominica had made in terms of ratification of international human rights instruments, bringing the national legislative framework into line with contemporary standards and the strengthening of the national human rights framework. Paraguay encouraged Dominica to continue its efforts to address persistent challenges.

76. Peru acknowledged the significant progress Dominica had made in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the establishment of a social assistance programme for survivors of domestic violence and of the National Commission of Persons with Disabilities.

77. The Philippines acknowledged the progress made in legislative reforms and initiatives that provided increased protection for vulnerable sectors of society. It commended Dominica for adopting the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030, which included recognition of the specific needs of vulnerable groups in the context of climate change.

78. Portugal commended Dominica for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for the election of its first woman President.

79. The Russian Federation noted the accession of Dominica to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It also noted the success of Dominica in ensuring the rights of the Kalinago people.

80. Slovenia welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and laws strengthening the child protection system. Slovenia praised the High Court decision to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations. It encouraged Dominica to increase its efforts to achieve full inclusion of LGBTQI+ people.

81. Spain congratulated Dominica on its ratification of three international human rights treaties since its previous review, its adoption of the Domestic Violence Act and the High Court landmark decision in 2024 to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations.

82. Togo welcomed the efforts of Dominica to promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples, noting the appointment of a minister responsible for education, housing and support programmes for Indigenous businesses.

83. Trinidad and Tobago noted the challenges Dominica faced, such as the climate crisis. It highlighted the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, the adoption of the Suite of Family Laws and the development of a policy framework in pursuit of the objective to become the world’s first climate-resilient nation.

84. Estonia welcomed the decision to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations and acknowledged the efforts to address trafficking in persons, including through the criminalization of such practices. It encouraged Dominica to establish an official formal moratorium on executions.

85. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the decision to overturn the ban on consensual same-sex relations. It encouraged Dominica to ensure that the newly established National Commission of Persons with Disabilities made tangible legislative and policy progress in alignment with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

86. The United Republic of Tanzania commended the adoption of policies and programmes to implement the recommendations accepted during the previous universal periodic review. It also commended the measures Dominica had taken to improve family life and address the impacts of climate change, including by updating the national climate resilience policy framework.

87. The United States of America welcomed the recent decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations. It remained concerned about lengthy pretrial detention and the lack of shelters in Dominica offering protection for survivors of gender-based violence.

88. Vanuatu welcomed the establishment by Dominica of Smart health centres, in line with the Smart Hospitals Initiative of the Pan American Health Organization. Vanuatu also welcomed the establishment of resilient hurricane shelters and the ongoing housing revolution programme to integrate climate resilience and disaster risk management into the National Growth and Development Planning Framework.

89. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the legislative efforts made in 2023 to enact laws in line with core international human rights treaties. It commended Dominica for its efforts to guarantee the rights of children and young people and the allocation of resources to strengthen the right to education.

90. Viet Nam commended Dominica for its efforts to ensure climate resilience and for its legislative updates, such as the recent enactment of the Suite of Family Laws, which reflected its commitment to protecting women, children and persons with disabilities.

91. South Africa commended Dominica for passing into law the Domestic Violence Act and the Maintenance of Children Act, which sought to bring national legislation into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

92. The delegation of Dominica highlighted the progress made in advancing the rights of women and Indigenous People in the country, noting that in 2023, the nation had elected its first female president and first Indigenous president. In addition, women held 80 per cent of senior public service roles and continued to outperform male students at all educational levels. Increasing numbers of women who were victims of domestic violence were reporting those incidents.

93. The ministry responsible for Indigenous affairs continued to operate. Indigenous communities had access to healthcare and water and investments were being made to ensure they had adequate housing. Every child in an Indigenous community had access to education, along with free transportation and school meals.

94. Dominica highlighted the fact that the fight for the right to climate justice must persist. That right should be safeguarded and included in discussions. While reaffirming the commitment of Dominica to the universal periodic review process, the delegation acknowledged the need for improvement in several areas.

95. Dominica emphasized its commitment to transparency and adherence to global norms as a matter of principle, not obligation. It expressed its profound appreciation to the United Nations and its Member States that had actively contributed to the review process. As a small island developing State, Dominica faced unique challenges, yet remained steadfast in valuing multilateralism, even when it fell short in addressing global injustices. The universal periodic review had provided an essential platform for reflecting on its progress, challenges and aspirations.

96. Dominica extended special thanks to the members of the troika – Brazil, Kuwait and Somalia – for their invaluable assistance during the review process. While resource and capacity constraints had delayed the fulfilment of some recommendations, Dominica remained committed to upholding human rights. It appealed to OHCHR and Member States to continue supporting it to overcome its limitations. It stood ready to engage with all partners to honour its human rights commitments and bridge existing gaps.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

97.1 **Continue to make progress towards the ratification of pending international instruments for the protection of human rights (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

97.2 **Ratify the remaining core human rights instruments to which Dominica is not yet a party (Ukraine);**

97.3 **Consider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);**

97.4 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to formalize its de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolition (Australia);**

97.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (Namibia) (New Zealand) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

97.6 **Continue efforts to facilitate a public dialogue with members of the parliament and the general public about the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the right to life under article 6, with the aim of the process being the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**

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

97.8 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (New Zealand);**

97.9 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Burkina Faso) (Estonia) (France) (Iraq) (Latvia) (Luxembourg) (Morocco) (Namibia); Accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia); Become a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United States of America);**

97.10 **Redouble efforts to continue progress towards ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

97.11 **Take further steps towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

97.12 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, and enact relevant enabling legislation (Germany);**

97.13 **Ratify the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, particularly the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Paraguay);**

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

97.15 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Namibia);**

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

97.17 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Niger);**

97.18 **Consider strengthening its legal framework for the protection of human rights by, inter alia, ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Burkina Faso);**

97.19 **Provide periodic information to the treaty bodies, in line with its international commitments (Colombia);**

97.20 **Further deepen engagement with international human rights bodies and mechanisms, including by fulfilling reporting obligations to treaty bodies (Philippines);**

97.21 **Continue cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and organizations to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Kuwait);**

97.22 **Seek technical assistance from regional and international partners, in accordance with Dominica’s needs and priorities, to enhance the country’s capacity in the field of human rights (Vanuatu);**

97.23 **Continue determined efforts to enhance national legislation in the sphere of human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);**

97.24 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Luxembourg);**

97.25 **Redouble its efforts to create a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles to ensure effective promotion of human rights (Honduras);**

97.26 **Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal) (Togo);**

97.27 **Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia);**

97.28 **Establish a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, in line with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**

97.29 **Establish a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, in line with the Paris Principles (South Africa);**

97.30 **Establish a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in line with the Paris Principles (Latvia);**

97.31 **Establish a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights (India);**

97.32 **Establish a national human rights institution and appoint an ombudsperson (Ukraine);**

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

97.34 **Establish and provide funding for an independent national human rights institution (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

97.35 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, ensuring accessible complaint mechanisms and thorough investigation of all allegations of violence, particularly against women and children (Portugal);**

97.36 **Continue improving its National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up of human rights recommendations, and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**

97.37 **Continue to strengthen its national coordination and reporting mechanism, with the ongoing support of OHCHR and the Commonwealth Secretariat, among others, to meet its reporting obligations to treaty bodies (Trinidad and Tobago);**

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

97.39 **Consider undertaking the necessary reforms to provide and ensure full and effective protection against discrimination, both in the public and the private spheres (Peru);**

97.40 **Adopt a legislative framework to criminalize discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);**

97.41 **Continue its efforts to further guarantee the rights of certain categories of persons such as women, children and persons with disabilities (Burkina Faso);**

97.42 **Ensure at the legislative level, as well as within the framework of law enforcement practice, the protection of the rights of socially vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, as well as representatives of ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);**

97.43 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada) (France);**

97.44 **Abolish the death penalty and consider the possibility of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);**

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

97.46 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and abolish the death penalty in domestic law (Mexico);**

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

97.48 **Formally abolish the death penalty and replace it with a fair and proportionate punishment that is in line with international human rights standards (Costa Rica);**

97.49 **Fully abolish the death penalty and in the interim, institute an official moratorium on executions and, in collaboration with civil society organizations, initiate a public dialogue regarding the death penalty with members of parliament and the general public, explaining the benefits of alternatives to the death penalty (Germany);**

97.50 **Formalize the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to a total abolition (Portugal);**

97.51 **Review section 5 of the Criminal Law and Procedure Act in order to impose a full moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

97.52 **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and initiate a public dialogue with members of parliament and the general public, in collaboration with civil society organizations, with a view to identifying the human rights violations involved in the process and explaining the benefits of alternatives to the death penalty (Panama);**

97.53 **Consider removing the remaining legislative provisions, first and foremost article 5 of the Criminal Code, which still authorize the use of capital punishment (Italy);**

97.54 **Sign up to the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (Costa Rica);**

97.55 **Continue efforts to combat drug trafficking and sexual exploitation, and suppress financial crimes and money laundering in line with international standards (Jordan);**

97.56 **Advance the review of legislation and policies relating to the use of force by law enforcement agents, in particular provisions allowing the use of lethal force for the protection of property (Colombia);**

97.57 **Strengthen measures to reduce the backlog of cases and enhance legal aid services to improve access to justice (Gambia);**

97.58 **Continue efforts aimed at improving the judicial infrastructure to reduce waiting time and the length of pretrial detention, as well as increasing the availability of free legal assistance, thereby guaranteeing equal access to justice (Honduras);**

97.59 **Increase judicial and law enforcement personnel to address judicial backlogs and lengthy pretrial detentions (United States of America);**

97.60 **Enhance the work of the judicial and penitentiary systems (Russian Federation);**

97.61 **Enhance the administration of juvenile justice by, inter alia, considering alternatives to custodial sentences for children and youth in conflict with the law to facilitate their early rehabilitation and reintegration into society (Philippines);**

97.62 **Ensure that the minimum age of marriage is set at 18 with no exceptions (Iceland);**

97.63 **Align the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys to 18, without setting exceptions (South Africa);**

97.64 **Intensify efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and child labour, in addition to accelerating the adoption of bills aimed at reinforcing the child protection system and strengthening the legal framework against all forms of exploitation (Paraguay);**

97.65 **Continue promoting the right to work and to an adequate standard of living for Indigenous Peoples (Cuba);**

97.66 **Continue its efforts to strengthen social protection measures (Bhutan);**

97.67 **Strengthen social protection programmes to enhance support for older persons, persons with disabilities and low-income families, ensuring their access to essential services like housing, healthcare and emergency support, particularly in the face of climate-related challenges (Viet Nam);**

97.68 **Enhance the social security system and provide higher quality public services for vulnerable groups (China);**

97.69 **Continue to intensify efforts to combat poverty, especially in rural areas (China);**

97.70 **Continue strengthening actions for social protection, equity promotion and poverty reduction (Cuba);**

97.71 **Adopt the sexual and reproductive health policy accompanied by sufficient financial resources and training for healthcare workers to deliver quality, adolescent-friendly health services (Canada);**

97.72 **Ensure that adolescents have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception and sexual education, regardless of their parents’ consent (Estonia);**

97.73 **Continue its efforts focused on increasing the accessibility of healthcare services (Georgia);**

97.74 **Continue efforts to strengthen its public health system in supporting families, households and vulnerable individuals, including through its National Resilience Development Strategy (Malaysia);**

97.75 **Enhance access to quality and equitable healthcare in rural areas, focusing on maternal and child health services (Indonesia);**

97.76 **Redouble efforts to reduce infant mortality, as envisioned by Sustainable Development Goal No. 3.2 (South Africa);**

97.77 **Enshrine in its Constitution the right of all persons to education without discrimination (Dominican Republic);**

97.78 **Promote the legislative and constitutional adjustments necessary to guarantee the right of all persons to education without discrimination, ensuring free education at least in the first 12 years of schooling (Paraguay);**

97.79 **Review existing legislation to ensure the right to education without discrimination. Within this framework, redouble efforts to guarantee free education for children under 12 years of age and improve enrolment levels, especially at preschool and secondary levels (Peru);**

97.80 **Continue efforts to guarantee equal access to education for all and to ensure that education is inclusive (Ukraine);**

97.81 **Promote education at all levels by strengthening the national Education Sector Plan (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

97.82 **Promote digital and technological inclusion in education by increasing resources and infrastructure for youth, especially in rural and minority communities (Viet Nam);**

97.83 **Continue working towards achieving the literacy plan (Kuwait);**

97.84 **Amend its legislation to ensure at least 12 years of free education with a view to increasing enrolment levels in educational institutions, in line with the recommendation** **of the** **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Mauritius);**

97.85 **Continue its efforts in building resilience to climate change through its commendable adaption and mitigation measures (Bhutan);**

97.86 **Continue and expand its commendable efforts to increase its resilience to climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures and through the Disaster Resilience Strategy to increase resilience to future natural disasters (Dominican Republic);**

97.87 **Continue efforts to implement its Disaster Resilience Strategy, with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation and in consultation with its population (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

97.88 **Continue to enhance its capacity for climate adaptation and reduce the negative impacts of climate change on human rights (China);**

97.89 **Continue to pursue efforts to bolster climate resilience and adaptation through collaboration with local, regional and international partners (Trinidad and Tobago);**

97.90 **Implement an effective social protection strategy to mitigate climate‑related shocks (Morocco);**

97.91 **Pursue its efforts in the mitigation and adaption of climate change (Mauritius);**

97.92 **Redouble already existing efforts to combat climate change (United Republic of Tanzania);**

97.93 **Pursue efforts to address the impacts of climate change, including by integrating the unique vulnerabilities and needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in climate change strategies (Malaysia);**

97.94 **Enhance Smart Sustainable Agriculture and Agro-processing for Climate Resilience (Vanuatu);**

97.95 **Strengthen education and awareness-raising initiatives for the general public to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote respect for the equal roles and responsibilities of women and men in families and society (Costa Rica);**

97.96 **Enact legislation to directly incorporate the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into local law (Australia);**

97.97 **Enact comprehensive legislation that provides effective protection against gender-based discrimination (Dominican Republic);**

97.98 **Develop a national strategic action plan to combat gender-based violence and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);**

97.99 **Continue the fight against domestic violence by implementing and updating its National Policy and Plan of Action on Gender Equality, which dates back to 2006 (Belgium);**

97.100 **Adopt a human rights-based, culturally sensitive and gender-sensitive approach to addressing the specific challenges and needs of Kalinago women and girls (Costa Rica);**

97.101 **Continue and intensify efforts to ensure women's representation in high-level public and private positions and in the national parliament (Dominican Republic);**

97.102 **Update and implement a national policy and plan of action on gender equality (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

97.103 **Take further steps towards combating domestic violence and the advancement of women’s rights, including by updating and implementing the National Policy and Plan of Action on Gender Equality (Ukraine);**

97.104 **Take further steps towards combating domestic violence and the advancement of women’s rights, including by updating and implementing the National Policy and Plan of Action on Gender Equality (India);**

97.105 **Draft and pass an updated national policy and plan of action on gender equality to better align it with best practices to combat gender-based violence (Germany);**

97.106 **Decriminalize abortion under all circumstances and remove all restrictions to access to safe abortion services (Iceland);**

97.107 **Decriminalize access to safe abortion services in cases of rape, incest, severe fetal impairment, and when a woman’s physical or mental health is at risk, in line with international human rights standards (Estonia);**

97.108 **Amend the Domestic Violence Act to explicitly define rape based on the lack of freely given consent and to apply the same definition to both marital and non-marital rape (Iceland);**

97.109 **Apply a gender lens in the development and implementation of social protection policies that explicitly address gender equality and women’s empowerment, and that provide for gender-responsive budgeting, monitoring and evaluation (Panama);**

97.110 **Redouble efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap by addressing differences in remuneration between men and women for work of equal value (Peru);**

97.111 **Expand initiatives on gender equality and empowerment by supporting programmes that encourage women’s participation in economic and decision-making processes (Viet Nam);**

97.112 **Amend national legislation to provide adequate protection to women against all forms of violence, establishing a comprehensive national data collection system to ensure timely and accurate reporting of cases of gender‑based violence (Chile);**

97.113 **Enhance protection from violence against vulnerable populations by enforcing the revised Domestic Violence Act and carrying out public awareness campaigns (Canada);**

97.114 **Strengthen laws to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, ensure that cases of such violence are thoroughly investigated, provide full support to victims of such violence, and collect comprehensive data on the incidence of violence against women (Ireland);**

97.115 **Continue efforts to combat violence against women and children, in particular through implementing the 2023 Domestic Violence Act (France);**

97.116 **Continue fighting against sexual violence and domestic violence (Italy);**

97.117 **Fully operationalize the revised Domestic Violence Act and raise public awareness among key and vulnerable populations of the protections available under the Act (New Zealand);**

97.118 **Strengthen the enforcement of gender-based violence laws through improving protection and support services for victims and increasing specialized training for law enforcement and judiciary personnel (Gambia);**

97.119 **Bring the definition of the crime of rape into line with international standards, basing it on lack of consent (Costa Rica);**

97.120 **Adopt a national action plan and legislative measures to combat all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual harassment (Luxembourg);**

97.121 **Ensure that victims of domestic or sexual violence receive adequate legal, medical and psychological assistance, while enhancing victim support facilities and mechanisms (Maldives);**

97.122 **Take further measures to combat domestic violence (Nepal);**

97.123 **Further strengthen mechanisms for combating gender-based violence, including domestic violence, by instituting effective legal and psychosocial support services for survivors (Philippines);**

97.124 **Strengthen the judicial system to ensure that victims of gender-based violence receive adequate protection and support, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);**

97.125 **Draft and pass an updated national policy and plan of action on gender equality to align with best practices in combating gender-based violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

97.126 **Continue combating domestic violence and provide assistance to survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence (United Republic of Tanzania);**

97.127 **Establish shelters for survivors of gender-based violence (United States of America);**

97.128 **Repeal article 5 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1970 and accelerate measures to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment against children in all settings, and repeal any legal defence allowing its use (Colombia);**

97.129 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Montenegro);**

97.130 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Slovenia);**

97.131 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Estonia);**

97.132 **Prohibit corporal punishment in all educational, childcare and other alternative care settings to achieve progress towards targets 4.a and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Panama);**

97.133 **Redouble efforts to definitively eradicate corporal punishment, paying special attention to persons deprived of their liberty and groups in vulnerable situations, by ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Spain);**

97.134 **Strengthen the legal framework for protection against all forms of child exploitation, including the enactment of laws aimed at strengthening the protection system, fully aligning legislation with the relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization and explicitly prohibiting the use of children in prostitution, pornography or illicit activities such as drug trafficking (Chile);**

97.135 **Adjust its legislation to prohibit all forms of child exploitation, including child prostitution and pornography (Costa Rica);**

97.136 **Bolster ongoing efforts to strengthen the legal framework on the protection of children from all forms of exploitation, and ensure effective and age-appropriate assistance services for victims (Peru);**

97.137 **Adopt a law to strengthen the child protection system, penalizing the use of children in illicit activities, including prostitution and drug trafficking (Togo);**

97.138 **Adopt legislation to explicitly prohibit the production of material involving child sexual abuse (United States of America);**

97.139 **Ensure through adequate legislative and social measures the full protection of children's rights, including by providing specific tools for situations of vulnerability (Italy);**

97.140 **Adopt appropriate measures to end child abuse (Luxembourg);**

97.141 **Scale up efforts to prevent child labour (Nepal);**

97.142 **Work to support the Department of Social Services established in 2023 to activate its role in the field of child protection (Jordan);**

97.143 **Continue strengthening the national programmes in favour of children, girls and adolescents (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

97.144 **Bolster efforts to reduce infant mortality (Maldives);**

97.145 **Develop a curriculum for children with special educational needs within the framework of the new Education Sector Plan (Morocco);**

97.146 **Implement legislation at the local level for better care and protection of older persons, such as social and economic protection services for dignified adulthood and old age (Dominican Republic);**

97.147 **Step up the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities and promoting measures to enhance the accessibility of both public and private spaces and ensuring their full social and economic inclusion, particularly in the workforce (Brazil);**

97.148 **Strengthen the capacity and resources of the National Commission of Persons with Disabilities to enable it to effectively implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Indonesia);**

97.149 **Continue efforts to develop a national policy for the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities (Cuba);**

97.150 **Ensure the integration of persons with disabilities in schools and in the education system in general (Costa Rica);**

97.151 **Continue reinforcing the measures taken to guarantee access to healthcare for its entire population, especially for persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

97.152 **Adopt legislation against all discrimination based on Indigenous status (Togo);**

97.153 **Promote robust legislation to combat discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, and ensure their effective participation in free, prior and informed consultation processes (Mexico);**

97.154 **Expand measures to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples living in its territory and involve them in the adoption or implementation of measures that may substantially affect their living conditions and ways of life (Paraguay);**

97.155 **Take appropriate measures to address discriminatory attitudes and stigma towards LGBTQIA+ persons, including through comprehensive awareness-raising activities (Brazil);**

97.156 **Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation across all spheres, including an exhaustive list of protected grounds such as sexual orientation and gender identity (Portugal);**

97.157 **Advance protections for LGBTQI+ persons by prohibiting discrimination (Canada);**

97.158 **Decriminalize same-sex relations and combat discrimination against LGBT+ persons (France);**

97.159 **Take measures to decriminalize homosexuality and promote positive action against discrimination (Italy);**

97.160 **Repeal legislative provisions that criminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations and establish legislation and policies to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and introduce and pass amendments to existing legislation to broaden the definition of rape in order to include non-consensual sexual activity perpetrated by any individual, regardless of their gender identity (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

97.161 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to protect people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics from all forms of discrimination (Iceland);**

97.162 **Adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Ireland);**

97.163 **Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity by enshrining comprehensive legislation against the criminalization, discrimination and stigmatization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (Luxembourg);**

97.164 **Promote a legal framework protecting persons from all forms of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Mexico);**

97.165 **Amend legislation to ensure safe, legal and effective access to abortion when the life of the pregnant woman or girl is at risk, especially in cases where the pregnancy is the result of rape or when it is not viable (Chile);**

97.166 **Reform the legislation to decriminalize abortion in case of fetal malformations incompatible with extrauterine life and in case of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest (Belgium);**

97.167 **Enact legislation to guarantee the protection of the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, in line with international obligations (Gambia);**

97.168 **Develop a formal regulatory and procedural framework for granting asylum and refugee protection (United States of America).**

98. **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 Dominica was headed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy, Honourable Dr. Vince Henderson, and composed of the following members:

* Ms. Adi Tama Nakinda DANIEL, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of Dominica;
* Ms. Kamila Arah Kwammie BELL, Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy.

1. \* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [A/HRC/WG.6/47/DMA/1](http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/47/DMA/1). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [A/HRC/WG.6/47/DMA/2](http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/47/DMA/2). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. [A/HRC/WG.6/47/DMA/3](http://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/WG.6/47/DMA/3). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)