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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

 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, Honourable Dr. 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);[[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 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 the Universal Periodic Review as a crucial mechanism that strengthened human rights advancement. It appreciated the support received through the Voluntary Fund of the Universal Periodic Review for the participation of one member of its Delegation. Dominica faced various challenges that hinder progress. Thus, the country was still in the early stages of recovery from Hurricane Maria and the COVID-19 pandemic, which worsened economic and social issues.

6. In July 2019, the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up was established to coordinate and produce reports and monitor the implementation of human rights obligations. However, the greatest challenge encountered by the national mechanism was the disruption by the COVID-19 pandemic due to temporary resource reallocation. Despite efforts to fulfill its reporting obligations, resource and capacity constraints, hindered Dominica’s timely submission of reports. The national mechanism collaborated with the Commonwealth Secretariat's Human Rights Unit to address these challenges.

7. Dominica had acceded to international treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Thus, it had become a state party to seven of the nine core international human rights instruments. In addition, it engaged with the Convention against Torture Initiative, which hosted a workshop in Dominica, in 2019. It 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 adopted the Comprehensive Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2030, outlining a clear roadmap with a view to achieve its objective to become the first climate-resilient nation, and to meet the objectives of the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030. It also adopted a gender-transformative, inclusive approach aligned with the SDGs.

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

10. The Parliament of Dominica approved a new Domestic Violence Act that entered into force in July 2023. The new law is in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women. The new Act 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 campaigns had been launched across media platforms and also in-person.

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

12. Dominica remained committed to the Beijing 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 the Commonwealth of Dominica, reflected progress in gender equality and the recognition of the Indigenous People’s rights. At the grassroots level, the government prioritized the economic independence of women through livelihood support programmes and training initiatives. Looking ahead, Dominica envisaged to approve a revised Draft National Gender Policy, aligning gender equality efforts with the nation’s climate resilience objectives.

13. Regarding the rights of children, in 2023, Dominica’s Parliament enacted five key Family Bills, enhancing protections for children and families, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A Child Protection Unit within the Department of Social Services was also established to raise awareness and advocate for child protection. School psychologists were now part of the staffing structure. Additionally, a Child Justice Bill was being finalized.

14. Regarding the rights of old persons, the Maintenance Act was adopted in 2023. A Prime Minister's Advisory Committee on Senior Citizen Issues was formed to provide policy and legislative recommendations for the care and protection of Dominica’s elderly population. Since January 2023, individuals aged 65–70 not receiving a pension, were eligible for a non-contributory government pension. Free healthcare for citizens over 60 years old 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 approved the establishment of the National Commission on Persons with Disabilities to guide policies and programmes in line with the Convention. Dominica supported initiatives like the 'build resilience concept' post-Hurricane Maria and the adoption of the Regional Building Code, aimed at creating accessible public spaces for persons with disabilities. One new institution under construction will serve as a learning center for students unable to integrate into regular classrooms setting. Financial assistance, duty-free concessions on equipment had also been offered to the Dominica Association of Persons with Disabilities.

16. More than forty safety-net initiatives aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of society were maintained despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

17. Six new health centers were designed for accessibility by Persons with Disabilities and equipped with sustainable energy solutions to ensure service continuity during emergencies. Additionally, secondary and tertiary healthcare had been improved with 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, with a goal of achieving 90% coverage in early childhood education. The Government was also prioritizing skills training through expanded Technical Vocational Education and Training programmes. Additionally, Dominica envisaged 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 post Hurricane Maria, incorporating climate-resilient infrastructure and 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 set a goal to provide 5,000 residential homes, with 39% of this target achieved during this reporting period.

20. The police force expanded with new recruits in October 2024, alongside regular training for prosecutors in key areas such as criminal law. A new magistrate was appointed to expedite proceedings, and a Registrar was being hired for enhanced court support. Investment in Magistrate Courts led to two new courtrooms in 2022. Efforts were underway to establish a Paper Committal Unit to speed up justice delivery. Dominica also benefited from the EU-funded Regional Justice Project, launched in 2023, aiming to address criminal case backlogs through technology, training, procedural reforms and community awareness 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 envisage establishing a formal moratorium on the death penalty or to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, the retention of the death penalty did not imply support for its arbitrary application.

22. In April 2024, the Dominica High Court 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 of Dominica prohibited discrimination based on sex, race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, or creed.

23. Finally, Article 49 of the Education Act of 1997 allowed corporal punishment only as a last resort and 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 like expanding school counselors and pastoral care services 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 Dominica's High Court to decriminalise same-sex 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 to improve the lives and prospects of children and persons with disabilities and commended Dominica for the efforts to tackle domestic violence and measures taken to develop resilience to climate change.

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

29. Brazil welcomed the improvement of indigenous peoples' rights; initiatives to strengthen women's political participation and protect them from violence, and acknowledged the High Court decision, ruling as unconstitutional the criminalization of consensual same-sex relations. 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 Opinions on Domestic Violence: Results of Four Focus Group Discussions", on gender-based violence, and simplified educational materials to raise awareness of citizens' rights and duties.

31. Canada commended Dominica on the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity, and encouraged Dominica 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 legislation concerning domestic violence and the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations.

33. China commended national human rights programmes, and positive results achieved by Dominica in enhancing climate adaptation capacity, combating human trafficking, in poverty reduction, social security, healthcare and education, and in safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous people.

34. Colombia welcomed Dominica's progress since the last UPR cycle, including the election of the first Indigenous woman as president.

35. Costa Rica welcomed the 2023 election 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 passing, in 2023, of the Suite of Family Laws and Dominica's efforts in implementing the recommendations accepted in previous cycles.

38. The Dominican Republic welcomed Dominica's efforts in adopting adaptation and mitigation measures on climate change, and the work done in protecting indigenous peoples' human rights.

39. Ukraine lauded the efforts undertaken by Dominica since its last review, in particular in the spheres of child protection, promoting non-discrimination, supporting vulnerable groups, women's empowerment, and climate resilience.

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

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

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

43. Germany commended the 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, as well as the decriminalization of same-sex-activity between adults, encouraging adoption of 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 its recommendations.

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

47. Indonesia commended Dominica's vision to become the first climate-resilient nation, hoping implementation ensures protection for vulnerable populations. It acknowledged the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and noted progress in free healthcare, encouraging expanded coverage for mothers, children, and rural areas.

48. Iraq welcomed the important developments made by Dominica to strengthen its international commitments, represented by its ratification of a number of international instruments.

49. Ireland acknowledged Dominica's efforts to advance human rights domestically, with concerns regarding 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, Dominica's accession to two treaties; the de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty; measures taken to protect women from violence and to promote the rights of indigenous people.

51. Jordan congratulated Dominica on the progress in implementing previous UPR recommendations and 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's efforts to combat discrimination, to achieve gender equality, to promote economic, social and cultural rights, to promote the right to an adequate standard of living, and for achievements in the sectors of health, education and the elderly.

53. Latvia highlighted the progress on adopting the Domestic Violence Act and efforts to promote gender equality the National Gender Policy. Despite these advancements, Latvia encouraged Dominica to establish a human rights institution, ratify the Convention against Torture, and consider abolishing the death penalty.

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

55. On the death penalty, the Delegation of Dominica emphasized than no individuals were on death row since 1986. The delegation expressed openness to dialogue on this issue, stressing that any decision should reflect the will of Dominica’s people and welcomed support from member states in facilitating this process. The delegation announced its intention to sign by the end of the year the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment.

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-GDP ratio of 100%. Bearing in mind the associated costs of establishing a National Human Rights Institution, Domica hoped to be supported by Member States or institutions that have consistently made this recommendation.

57. Regarding rural access to healthcare, the services were available throughout the entire country, supported by a robust primary health system. Recent investments in the National Hospital have led to an enhancement of healthcare services, particularly at the tertiary level.

58. Dominica also 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 underway.

59. The rights to clean air and water were safeguarded, with forests protected through a robust national park system. The country invested in renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Dominica was committed to continue in this way

60. The Delegation highlighted that the 2023 Domestic Violence Act and the passage of the Suite of Family Laws last year strengthened the protection of the rights of women, children, and older persons. Dominica also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and associations working on this area were supported.

61. The delegation informed that corporal punishment in schools was rarely used in educational settings due to teacher training initiatives. Legislation was being reviewed in this regard.

62. The Delegation acknowledged the need to remain vigilant regarding child labor, particularly regarding cases of sexual exploitation, and emphasized the importance of ensuring rigorous investigations and prosecutions.

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

64. Maldives welcomed Dominica's participation and praised its commitment to climate resilience through the National Resilience Development 2030 plan. Maldives recommended prioritizing support for victims of domestic and sexual violence and taking measures to reduce infant mortality.

65. Mauritius commended Dominica's increased investment in the education sector and the focus of 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 people with disabilities; and the promotion of robust social protection policies.

67. Montenegro appreciated Dominica's ratification of treaties and efforts to submit its initial reports to treaty bodies; progress in strengthening the legislative framework to protect women and children, and encouraged Dominica to take measures to address sexual harassment, ender-based violence, and trafficking and child labour.

68. Morocco commended Dominica's ratification of international instruments, the promotion of human rights in public policies and programmes, and the adoption of relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks, and various 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 relevant acts to protect women and children.

70. Nepal appreciated Dominica's engagement and cooperation with human rights mechanisms, noting positively the steps taken to implement previous UPR recommendations, and commended Dominica's National Resilience Development Strategy 2030, which envisions the country as the world's first climate-resilient nation.

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

72. New Zealand commended Dominica's human rights efforts but highlighted concerns. It recommended implementing the revised Domestic Violence Act, raising awareness among vulnerable groups, and ratifying key protocols, including the Convention against Torture, to combat cruel and inhuman treatment.

73. The Niger welcomed the cooperation between Dominica and human rights mechanisms.

74. Panama made recommendations.

75. Paraguay welcomed progress made related to ratifications, the adjustment of the national legal framework to contemporary standards, and the strengthening of the national human rights framework. Paraguay encouraged Dominica to continue efforts to address persisting challenges.

76. Peru acknowledged significant progress made for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the approval of the Social Assistance program for survivors of domestic violence and the establishment of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

77. The Philippines acknowledged the progress made in legislative reforms and initiatives that provide increased protection for vulnerable sectors and commended Dominica for adopting the National Resilience Development Strategy 2030 which recognizes 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 to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and success in ensuring the rights of the Kalinago people.

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

81. Spain congratulated Dominica on ratifying three international human rights treaties since its last UPR. Spain also commended the country for passing a new Domestic Violence Act and for the High Court's landmark decision in 2024 to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations.

82. Togo welcomed Dominica's efforts 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 Dominica's challenges such as the climate crisis. It highlighted the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, the passage of the Suite of Family Laws, and the development of a policy framework in pursuit of Dominica's goal to become the first climate-resilient nation globally.

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 as well as 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 and encouraged Dominica to ensure that the newly established National Commission for Persons with Disabilities makes tangible legislative and policy progress in alignment with the Convention.

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

87. The United States of America welcomed the recent decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations. They remained concerned by lengthy pretrial detentions and the lack of shelters in Dominica offering protection to gender-based violence survivors.

88. Vanuatu welcomed Dominica's initiatives of establishment of SMART Health Centres, resilient hurricane shelters, and the on-going 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 undertaken in 2023 to enact national laws in line with core human rights treaties, to guarantee the children and adolescents' rights, as well as the allocation of resources to strengthen the right to education.

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

91. South Africa commended Dominica for passing into law the Domestic Violence Act, as well as the enactment of the Maintenance of Children Act which seeks to bring the law of Dominica in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

92. Dominica highlighted the progress made in advancing the rights of women and Indigenous people in the country, noting that in 2023 the nation elected its first female president and first Indigenous president simultaneously. In addition, women hold 80% of senior public service roles and continue to outperform male students at all educational levels. On domestic violence, women were accessing more and more to legal protections to report incidents.

93. Established in 2000, the ministry responsible for Indigenous affairs, continues to operate. Indigenous communities have access to healthcare and water, and investments are being made to ensure adequate housing. Every child in Indigenous communities had access to education, along with free transportation and school meals.

94. Dominica highlighted that the fight for climate justice as a right, must persist, and should be safeguarded and included in discussions. While reaffirming their commitment to the UPR process, the delegation acknowledged areas for improvement.

95. Dominica emphasized its commitment to transparency and adherence to global norms as a matter of principle, not obligation. As well as extending its profound appreciation to the United Nations and its Member States who have actively contributed to this process as a small developing state facing unique challenges, it remains steadfast in addressing these issues and values multilateralism, even when it falls short in addressing global injustices. The Universal Periodic Review had provided an essential platform for reflecting on progress, challenges, and aspirations. Dominica expresses deep gratitude to UN Member States, the Commonwealth Small Office, and the OHCHR for their support, which is crucial for navigating the complex human rights landscape.

96. Dominica extends special thanks to the troika members, namely Somalia, Kuwait, and Brazil for their invaluable assistance during the review process. While resource and capacity constraints have delayed the fulfilment of some recommendations, Dominica’s commitment to human rights remains unwavering. The country appeals to OHCHR and Member States for continued support to overcome these limitations and stands ready to engage with all partners to honor 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 (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

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 formalise 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 Degrading Treatment and 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 to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 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 treaty bodies, in line with 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 Sustainable Development Plan (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 Paris Principles (Luxembourg);**

97.25 **Redouble 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 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 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 violence allegations, 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 (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

97.39 **Consider undertaking necessary reforms to provide and ensure full and effective protection against discrimination, both in public and 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, to 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 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 organisations, with a view to identifying human rights violations implicated 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 authorise 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 (EWIPA) (Costa Rica);**

97.55 **Continue efforts to combat drug trafficking, 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 to increase 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 re-integration 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 human trafficking 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 in strengthening social protection measures (Bhutan);**

97.67 **Strengthen social protection programmes to enhance support for the Elderly, 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 of accessibility to health-care 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 people 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 in pre-school 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 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

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, this is in line with UNESCO’s recommendations (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 (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**

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 shocks (Morocco);**

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

97.92 **Re-double 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 this fight against domestic violence by implementing and updating its National Policy and Plan of Action on Gender Equality, which dates from 2006 (Belgium);**

97.100 **Adopt a human rights-based approach, culturally sensitive and with a gender approach to address 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 (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

97.103 **Take further steps toward combating domestic violence and 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 toward combating domestic violence and 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 foetal 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 applying the 2023 law on domestic violence (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 amongst key and vulnerable populations of the protections available under the Act (New Zealand);**

97.118 **Strengthen 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 combatting gender-based violence, including domestic violence, by instituting effective legal and psychosocial support services to 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 combatting 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 of their lives, 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 settings, childcare and other alternative care settings to achieve progress towards Sustainable Development Goal targets 4.d and 16.2 (Panama);**

97.133 **Redouble efforts to definitively eradicate corporal punishment, with special attention on 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 that protects children from all forms of exploitation, as well as ensure effective and age-appropriate assistance services for victims (Peru);**

97.137 **Adopt a law to strengthen the child protection system by 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 **Working to support the Social Services Department established in 2023 to activate its role in the field of child protection (Jordan);**

97.143 **Continue strengthening the national programs promoted in favor of children, girls, and adolescents (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

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 their accessibility in 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 for 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 undertaken to guarantee access to health care for its entire population, especially for people with disabilities (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

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+ people (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 to introduce and pass amendments to existing legislation to broaden the definition of rape in order to include nonconsensual sexual activity perpetrated by any individual regardless of their gender identity (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

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