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**Universal periodic review**

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

**Gambia**

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\* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-eighth session from 20 to 31 January 2025. The review of the Gambia was held at the 3rd meeting, on 21 January 2025. The delegation of the Gambia was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Dawda A. Jallow. At its 10th meeting, held on 24 January 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on the Gambia.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Gambia: Colombia, Kenya and Spain.

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 the Gambia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, 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, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Gambia through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that it was presenting its national report at a time when the Gambia had just concluded a successful first term as a member of the Human Rights Council. During that time, the Gambia had actively contributed to advancing the Council's mandate through initiatives that had demonstrated the country's unwavering commitment to promoting human rights, both globally and domestically. Through its membership of the Council, the Gambia had enriched its understanding and had strengthened its resolve to lead by example as the country embarked on its second term, from 2025 to 2027.

6. The national report had offered an opportunity to review the progress made by the Gambia since its previous review in 2019, to highlight ongoing challenges and to outline future commitments as the Gambia endeavoured to build a just, inclusive and democratic society. The report had been prepared through a participatory process, involving consultations with government institutions, civil society organizations and international partners.

7. The universal periodic review mechanism had been instrumental in fostering a spirit of collaboration and accountability among member States. Its review process provided a vital platform for the advancement of human rights and the global sharing of lessons learned.

8. At the previous review, the Gambia had supported 207 of the 222 recommendations it had received. The recommendations had served as a road map for the country's reform agenda, focusing on transitional justice, institutional strengthening, gender equality and

<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/48/GMB/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/48/GMB/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/48/GMB/3](#).

socioeconomic rights. Despite the challenges posed by limited resources and emerging global crises, the Gambia had made commendable strides in implementing the recommendations.

9. The Gambia had ratified all nine core United Nations human rights treaties and key optional protocols. Several legislative reforms had been enacted, including the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2023, the Labour Act, 2023, and the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021.

10. The Constitution of the Republic of The Gambia Promulgation Bill had been submitted to the National Assembly and was expected to be considered during its session in March 2025. The draft constitution, which enshrined fundamental rights and freedoms, was a cornerstone of governance reform and inputs had been incorporated following an extensive public consultation process, which had underscored the commitment to participatory governance. Key provisions included the abolition of the death penalty, the introduction of a term limit for the President, expanded protection for vulnerable groups, affirmative action for increasing the representation of women and vulnerable groups in the National Assembly, and strengthened mechanisms for accountability.

11. The establishment and operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission had significantly bolstered the institutional framework for protecting human rights. The Commission had been accredited with A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and had continued to play a critical role in addressing human rights concerns nationwide.

12. The conclusion of the work of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission had represented a critical milestone in the transitional justice journey. The Government had accepted 263 of the 265 recommendations made by the Commission, and efforts to implement them were under way through the Post-Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission Unit that had been established in the Ministry of Justice. Sixteen per cent of the accepted recommendations had already been implemented, including through key legislative reforms and victim support initiatives. The Government's implementation plan had encompassed a broad array of areas, including justice and accountability, reparation for victims, institutional and legislative reforms, and peacebuilding and reconciliation.

13. The prosecution of about 70 individuals, as recommended by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, was being conducted pursuant to the Special Accountability Mechanism Act, which provided for the establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor, the Special Criminal Division of the Gambian High Court and the Special Tribunal, in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States.

14. The estimated cost of the establishment of the special tribunal was \$60 million. Once 60 per cent of those funds had been secured, the process of establishing the tribunal would commence in earnest. The office of the special prosecutor was expected to be established by June 2025, to initiate domestic prosecutions, where feasible.

15. Significant progress had been made in collaborating with international partners to prosecute individuals accused of gross human rights violations in the Gambia, through the application of the principle of universal jurisdiction.

16. Reparation for victims had remained a key priority and had led to the enactment of the Victims Reparations Act, 2023. The Commissioners for the Victim Reparations Commission, who had been identified through an open, transparent and impartial process, had been confirmed by the National Assembly and would soon be appointed and sworn in by the President. That Commission was thereafter expected to assume the responsibility and management of all victims' affairs, including the administration of the reparations fund.

17. Pursuant to the Access to Information Act, 2021, the Access to Information Commission had been established and had become operational in 2024. The efforts made by the Gambia to promote and protect freedom of expression and media freedom had been recognized globally, with the Gambia ranking tenth in Africa on the 2024 World Press Freedom Index.

18. In an effort to guarantee judicial independence, measures had been implemented to promote oversight and ensure that justice was served without government interference.

Judgments in recent landmark cases had attested to the independence of the judiciary. Judicial reforms had aimed to expedite legal processes through digitization and the Government had solicited the support of partners in that endeavour.

19. Efforts to combat torture and ill-treatment had been reinforced through the enactment of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2023, which had criminalized acts of torture in line with international standards. In addition, human rights training was being provided to law enforcement officers and the criminal justice framework was being revised. The Police Bill, currently awaiting parliamentary approval, proposed robust oversight mechanisms to prevent abuse and ensure accountability. Those reforms had been undertaken with the technical and financial assistance of United Nations agencies and other development partners.

20. The right to health had been prioritized through substantial investment in healthcare infrastructure and services. The National Health Policy 2021–2030 aimed to ensure universal health coverage, with a focus on maternal and child health, infectious disease control and mental health services. The Policy had led to an increase in maternal healthcare coverage and had significantly reduced the maternal mortality rate. Renovations and expansions of healthcare facilities, particularly in rural areas, had improved access to quality care for underserved populations.

21. Education was a cornerstone of the development agenda. Budgetary allocations for education had increased, and inclusive policies ensured that children with disabilities and those in marginalized communities had access to quality education. Efforts to promote technical and vocational education and training had further enhanced opportunities for youth empowerment.

22. Decisive action had been taken to protect the rights of women and children, combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality, including through several legislative amendments.

23. A multifaceted approach to combating child marriage had been adopted, comprising criminalization, prevention, education and dialogue, especially with religious leaders.

24. The rights of persons with disabilities were being promoted and protected through the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021, and through adherence to advice from the National Human Rights Commission.

25. Notable progress had been made in addressing environmental challenges through the National Environment Agency. A hyperlocal, real-time, georeferenced air quality monitoring network had been established. Air sensors had been installed in key population centres nationwide.

26. The initiative to expand rural water supply systems included the implementation of solar-powered boreholes and piped water systems in rural and remote areas. It was aimed at increasing access to sustainable and clean drinking water and had been supported through partnerships with international organizations and development partners. In addition, the National Sanitation Improvement Plan focused on expanding sanitation coverage in rural communities.

27. Significant investment had been made in upgrading urban sanitation infrastructure to reduce aquifer pollution and improve wastewater management in densely populated areas. That had been complemented by the implementation of the National Water Resources Management Policy to enhance governance, protect water sources and regulate water quality standards, along with integrating climate adaptation strategies to protect water resources from pollution, as well as the impacts of droughts and floods.

28. Noteworthy initiatives had been taken in relation to environmental protection, including developing the Climate Change Policy, updating the Gambia Environment Action Plan and creating the National Biodiversity Action Plan. The National Environment Management Act, environmental impact assessment procedures, environmental quality standards and regulations on hazardous chemicals and pesticides had also been reviewed. In addition, the Gambia was committed to international agreements such as the Paris Agreement. In 2021, the Gambia had been recognized as one of the few countries to have

adopted climate action plans that were compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5°C, as set out in the Paris Agreement.

29. The Gambia was committed to implementing adaptive measures to mitigate the impact of climate change, including reforestation and sustainable resource management. Through initiatives such as the expansion of solar-powered water supply systems and the advancement of community-led sanitation programmes, the intersection of environmental and socioeconomic challenges was being addressed. Recognizing the global nature of those issues, the Gambia was eager to strengthen partnerships and mobilize international support to ensure a sustainable and inclusive future.

30. The delegation stated that significant challenges remained to the country's progress, particularly in ensuring adequate resources for implementing reforms. It called on the international community to support the transitional justice efforts, particularly through funding the special tribunal and strengthening programmes for victim reparations. Partnerships were also crucial in addressing youth unemployment through skills training and promoting digital inclusion in underserved areas.

31. The Gambia stood steadfast in its commitment to upholding human rights and fostering a society rooted in justice, equality and dignity. It valued the universal periodic review mechanism for its shared accountability and collaboration.

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

32. During the interactive dialogue, 112 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

33. Kuwait, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Bangladesh made statements. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.<sup>4</sup>

34. The delegation of the Gambia stated that the Inclusive Education Directorate within the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education had been working towards ensuring that children with disabilities had access to quality education. Those efforts had been supported by the deployment of itinerant teachers, the provision of assistive technologies such as Braille machines, hearing aids and lenses, and the introduction of incentive programmes to increase teacher availability in rural areas. Access to education for persons with disabilities had been further bolstered by the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021, and the development of the Disability Policy 2022.

35. The education gap between urban and rural areas had been bridged through the decentralization of teacher training to rural regions and the introduction of hardship allowances. The Gambia had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and had made significant amendments to the Children's Act, 2005, to enhance protection against child marriage and

<sup>4</sup> See <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k11/k111666h48>.

female genital mutilation. Key legislative measures, such as the Sexual Offences Act, 2013, and the Labour Act, 2023, had further strengthened protection against exploitation and abuse. The Cybercrime Bill, 2023, once enacted, would also strengthen protection against exploitation and abuse.

36. The National Child Protection Strategy and Plan of Action included robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and were being implemented nationwide. Plans were under way to develop a comprehensive national children's policy. Concrete measures had been taken to enhance child safety through the establishment of child protection units across security agencies, the judiciary and other relevant institutions.

37. Complaint mechanisms had been significantly enhanced through the establishment of toll-free helplines, which had ensured confidential and free reporting of child abuse. Community child protection committees, supported by government agencies and with legal assistance from the National Agency for Legal Aid, had actively monitored and reported cases of abuse and exploitation. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare had worked to strengthen its coordinating role across sectors to ensure a unified approach to child protection.

38. Key legislation such as the Children's Act, 2005, the Tourism Offences Act, 2003, and its amendments, the Domestic Violence Act, 2013, the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021, and the Women's Act, 2010, had provided a solid foundation for protecting children from abuse, exploitation and harmful practices. To address emerging challenges, the Children's Act, 2005, was under review with a view to incorporating provisions for combating online sexual exploitation.

39. In relation to children in institutional care, revised standards had emphasized that temporary residential care was a transitional measure pending reintegration into families or foster families. A detailed compliance checklist ensured that care homes upheld child safeguarding standards. While challenges remained, the Gambia was resolute in its efforts to safeguard the rights of children and promote gender equality.

40. Various initiatives had been taken to combat discriminatory practices and promote the rights of women and girls, including: (a) community sensitization and engagement on issues such as child, early and forced marriage and the harmful effects of practices that discriminated against girls; and (b) the implementation of a re-entry policy, enabling girls who had left school as a result of their pregnancy, financial constraints or early marriage to return to the school of their choice. Those girls had received counselling, monitoring and sponsorship through the School Improvement Grant programme. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education had also collaborated with partners to raise awareness among communities about the Women's Act, challenge patriarchal norms and empower women to participate in community decision-making.

41. The Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education had taken initiatives to address gender-based violence and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. For example, it had developed a gender training manual for teachers and conducted training for teachers, provided students with accurate information on sexual and reproductive health through comprehensive health education, established a reporting mechanism for cases of gender-based violence in schools and disseminated the guidelines on the sexual harassment policy and on preventing sexual abuse in schools to ensure safer learning environments.

42. There had been challenges in ensuring access to adequate, clean, potable water and in reducing air pollution. In 2020, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and Strategic Plan had been developed with the primary aim of creating an enabling environment where all households were well-informed about the importance of safe and sanitary practices and hygiene for improved health outcomes. Those initiatives had been directed towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals relating to sanitation, hygiene and universal access to those essential services.

43. Legislation such as the Anti-Littering Regulations, 2007, and the Tobacco Control Act, 2016, had aimed to reduce environmental hazards, including air pollution. In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), water, sanitation and

hygiene facilities had been constructed in schools, addressing the issue of open defecation and promoting personal hygiene.

44. Access to healthcare had considerably improved with the introduction of community ambulance services. Many health facilities had been refurbished and new facilities had been constructed, bringing the Gambia closer to achieving the target of ensuring that no community was more than a 3-kilometre radius from a health facility.

45. Following the acute kidney injury incident that had claimed the lives of 73 children, and to prevent such tragedies in the future, the construction of a food and drug laboratory was in the process of being completed; it should be operational before the end of 2025. In addition, all drugs purchased for use currently underwent a stringent registration process, including testing in World Health Organization-accredited laboratories either prior to shipment or before distribution.

46. Despite an increase in the budgetary allocation for medication, it continued to fall short of meeting the country's need, forcing the prioritization of essential drugs. The digitization of private services had remained a priority, as it would streamline and enhance healthcare delivery.

47. Children born out of wedlock were entitled to birth certificates irrespective of the lack of supporting documents relating to their parents. The children were also eligible for national documents and access to health services.

48. Children and adults with disabilities had access to health facilities, including disability-friendly sanitation facilities, free vaccination services, rehabilitation services, mental health support and other necessary interventions. Persons with disabilities, including those with albinism, had been exempted from paying premiums under national health insurance scheme. However, specialized healthcare services and awareness-raising programmes to meet the unique needs of children with albinism had been limited. Nevertheless, initiatives were being taken in that regard, with the Government recognizing the need to address their unique medical needs. Training of healthcare professionals had remained a priority. However, challenges had persisted in securing adequate funding. The Association of Gambian Albinos, established in October 2021, had focused on raising awareness about albinism, dispelling myths and reducing stigma. International Albinism Awareness Day was commemorated annually.

49. In response to comments received from participating delegations, the delegation of the Gambia stated that an invitation had been sent to the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; that visit was expected to take place in the second quarter of 2025. On the issue of the abolition of the death penalty, both the amended criminal code and the draft constitution were currently before the National Assembly and, once they had been adopted, the death penalty would be abolished. The implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission was dependent on the availability of resources. The Gambia had invited and solicited cooperation from partners in that regard. The members of the Victim Reparations Commission would soon be appointed. A call for applications to serve on the Anti-corruption Commission had recently been made and once the Commission was operational, it would combat corruption. The Gambia would urgently look into ratifying some of the optional protocols that had been the subject of recommendations received. A bill on mental health was in the process of being finalized.

50. Combating trafficking in persons had been a top priority and the Gambia had expressed its interest in partnerships and collaborations in that regard. A bill on mental health and a bill relating to prisons were in the process of being finalized. Plans to build a new correctional facility were at an advanced stage and resources had been mobilized for that purpose. The draft constitution contained affirmative action provisions designating seats in the National Assembly for women and persons with disabilities.

51. The Gambia had embarked on a transformative journey over the past few years, guided by the country's unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting human rights for all. The current review reaffirmed the country's determination to address key challenges and strengthen the mechanisms that were necessary for justice, equality and dignity.

52. The delegation noted participating delegations' recognition of the efforts that had been made by the Gambia in areas such as transitional justice, legislative and institutional reforms, women's and children's rights, access to education, implementing the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, advancing gender equality and enhancing access to health and education. It also acknowledged that significant challenges remained, such as youth unemployment, climate resilience and the digital divide, which required innovative approaches and sustained international cooperation. The Gambia was committed to addressing those challenges. The feedback and recommendations that had been received were invaluable and provided the Gambia with a road map for further advancing human rights.

53. The Gambia expressed its appreciation for the invaluable support that the universal periodic review voluntary trust fund provided for the participation of delegations from small island developing States and least developed countries, including the Gambia.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

54.1 **Ratify the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education of 1960 (Madagascar);**

54.2 **Expedite the process of ratification of the remaining core international human rights treaties (Yemen);**

54.3 **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Congo);**

54.4 **Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and ensure its integration into domestic law and its effective implementation (Côte d'Ivoire);**

54.5 **Ratify the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments) (Liechtenstein);**

54.6 **Consider ratifying the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) (Mauritius);**

54.7 **Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education of 1960 (Mauritius);**

54.8 **Issue a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council's special procedures (Luxembourg);**

54.9 **Issue a standing invitation to the United Nations human rights special procedures (Czechia);**

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

54.11 **Continue efforts to strengthen cooperation with regional and international human rights bodies (Guinea);**

54.12 **Continue its efforts with the support and assistance of the international community in the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (Bangladesh);**

54.13 **Take steps to fully domesticate the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi);**

54.14 **Strengthen the constitutional framework and complementary legal norms with a human rights approach (Cuba);**



- 54.15 Ensure that the process of revising the Constitution, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure is conducted in accordance with international human rights standards (Guinea);
- 54.16 Accelerate the adoption of the new Constitution and the Criminal Offences Bill, which provides for the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);
- 54.17 Finalize the constitutional process with a view to adopting the new Constitution and abolishing the death penalty (Italy);
- 54.18 Incorporate at the constitutional level the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica);
- 54.19 Ensure that the new Constitution reflects the desire of the citizens for a democratic government and the rule of law (Slovakia);
- 54.20 Renew the social contract between the people of the Gambia and their elected leaders (Slovakia);
- 54.21 Conclude the adoption of the law on the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 54.22 Accelerate the adoption of the Mental Health Bill and integrate mental health services into primary healthcare (Malaysia);
- 54.23 Develop a mental health bill in line with international human rights standards and strengthen institutions that provide mental health services (Vanuatu);
- 54.24 Fully integrate the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the national legal framework (Dominican Republic);
- 54.25 Continue to work towards the adoption of a law on the victims of domestic violence, especially women and children (Algeria);
- 54.26 Finalize and adopt the Children's Code, ensuring its compliance with international standards, especially regarding the age of marriage and the rights of children born out of wedlock (Belgium);
- 54.27 Continue adopting practical measures to ensure the rights of women and children, including persons with disabilities, as well as their broad involvement in human rights education programmes (Uzbekistan);
- 54.28 Promote awareness programme to increase public knowledge of human rights (Mozambique);
- 54.29 Take further measures to strengthen the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission (Uzbekistan);
- 54.30 Continue to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, providing it with the financial resources necessary for its functioning (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 54.31 Strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission to promote the rights of women, including their free and democratic participation on an equal basis in political and public, as well as family life (Cyprus);
- 54.32 Undertake inclusive national consultations to establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, taking into consideration the Marrakech guidance framework as a reference guide, to collate, coordinate and track domestic progress on the implementation of recommendations from all international human rights mechanisms (Morocco);
- 54.33 Take further actions to combat any forms of discrimination and enforce anti-discrimination norms across multiple sectors (Azerbaijan);
- 54.34 Adopt and implement anti-discrimination legislation and/or strategies regarding gender and race (Guyana);

- 54.35 Continue implementing measures that promote gender equality (Sierra Leone);
- 54.36 Continue with all efforts to raise public awareness on gender equality (Malawi);
- 54.37 Continue implementing initiatives to advance gender equality (Ghana);
- 54.38 Strengthen measures aimed at eradicating discrimination and violence against women and promote their participation in public life (Chile);
- 54.39 Adopt the necessary measures for the implementation of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights resolution on the protection and promotion of the rights of communities discriminated by work or descent (Colombia);
- 54.40 Abolish the death penalty (Iceland);
- 54.41 Abolish the death penalty in domestic law (France);
- 54.42 Formally and permanently abolish the death penalty (Australia);
- 54.43 Fully and effectively abolish the death penalty in all circumstances (Liechtenstein);
- 54.44 Abolish the death penalty in all circumstances in line with the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Malta);
- 54.45 Adopt all legislative and operational measures to abolish the death penalty (Cabo Verde);
- 54.46 Continue efforts to abolish the death penalty permanently by amending the relevant constitutional and legislative provisions (Ireland);
- 54.47 Continue with efforts to abolish the death penalty by amending relevant constitutional and legislative provisions (Montenegro);
- 54.48 Continue the efforts to abolish the death penalty by finalizing the amendment of relevant laws and regulations (Uzbekistan);
- 54.49 Continue efforts to address torture, extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force by public authorities (Italy);
- 54.50 Adopt a strategy to detect and curb hate speech, sex-based speech and intimidation (Guinea);
- 54.51 Improve conditions of detention in prisons (Albania);
- 54.52 Continue efforts to improve prison conditions in terms of overcrowding, inadequate access to food and medical care, and poor sanitation (Bangladesh);
- 54.53 Adopt a strategy to address hate speech, cyberbullying and other defamatory speech directed against women, including online violence, harassment, stalking and sexist hate speech (Montenegro);
- 54.54 Intensify efforts to fight corruption through the creation of relevant information and national commissions (Lebanon);
- 54.55 Establish an independent anti-corruption commission (Cameroon);
- 54.56 Strengthen anti-corruption measures to ensure transparent and accountable governance by implementing the anti-corruption law of 2023 (Canada);
- 54.57 Continue enhancing transparency and accountability in the delivery of public services through the effective implementation of an e-governance system (Azerbaijan);

- 54.58 Continue strengthening legal instruments for the protection of human rights and taking measures aimed at improving the judicial and penitentiary systems (Russian Federation);
- 54.59 Further strengthen the transitional justice mechanism for sustainable peace in the country (Togo);
- 54.60 Continue with the transitional justice programmes and processes, including the strengthening of the judiciary and increasing efforts aimed at guaranteeing reparation for victims of human rights violations (Honduras);
- 54.61 Continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Sudan);
- 54.62 Continue its commendable initiatives to ensure that individuals accused of serious human rights abuses, including enforced disappearance, are not granted special amnesty and establish a dedicated prosecution system for such cases (State of Palestine);
- 54.63 Implement the recommendations in the white paper on the report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Switzerland);
- 54.64 Fully implement the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission without delay (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 54.65 Ensure that the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission takes measures to provide equitable reparations to victims and protect victims from reprisals (Zambia);
- 54.66 Continue and accelerate the implementation of all of the recommendations made by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, and support and facilitate the work of the Special Accountability Mechanism institutions (Belgium);
- 54.67 Continue implementing the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission, ensuring accountability and reparation mechanisms for victims (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 54.68 Implement the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission to promote reconciliation, fight impunity and implement institutional and legal reforms to prevent such human rights violations (Canada);
- 54.69 Take adequate measures to fully ensure the right to freedom of expression (Albania);
- 54.70 Take further steps to ensure the rights to freedom of expression and access to information in close consultation with civil society groups (Republic of Korea);
- 54.71 Consider reviewing laws to uphold freedom of expression (Portugal);
- 54.72 Ensure freedom of expression by repealing restrictive laws and provisions of the Criminal Code and strengthening the right to peaceful assembly (Spain);
- 54.73 Put in place a legal framework governing the media sector to ensure and guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of the press (South Africa);
- 54.74 Continue and strengthen policies to uphold the fundamental freedom and right of expression, particularly for the media, enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including through ongoing legislative reforms (Japan);
- 54.75 Protect freedom of expression and independent media and journalists (Czechia);

- 54.76 Ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, journalists and members of the opposition and adopt comprehensive data protection legislation (Spain);
- 54.77 Continue to promote safe digital inclusion, particularly for vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Thailand);
- 54.78 Create an enabling environment for the engagement of women human rights defenders and civil society in the promotion and protection of women's rights (South Sudan);
- 54.79 Ensure that domestic laws on data protection and cybersecurity are consistent with international human rights standards (Estonia);
- 54.80 Reform the electoral law, including on personal data protection (Slovakia);
- 54.81 Develop strategies to ensure the protection of digital rights along with online safety (Niger);
- 54.82 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (India);
- 54.83 Maintain efforts to combat trafficking in persons with a commitment to supporting and protecting victims (Tunisia);
- 54.84 Redouble efforts to enforce the Trafficking in Persons Act, providing the necessary resources, ensuring support for victims and punishing those responsible (Chile);
- 54.85 Further strengthen the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons through more partnerships with neighbouring countries and relevant multilateral institutions, as appropriate, in line with national priorities (Philippines);
- 54.86 Allocate more resources for awareness-raising on the crime of trafficking in persons and the reporting process to the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (Eswatini);
- 54.87 Continue national efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons, particularly of women and girls, through mobilizing appropriate financial resources, building the capacities of law enforcement personnel and benefiting from best practices in this regard (Bahrain);
- 54.88 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly the exploitation of children and women, by strengthening the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);
- 54.89 Further enhance efforts aimed at the elimination of trafficking in persons (Georgia);
- 54.90 Enhance actions to eliminate slavery, child labour and trafficking in persons (Guyana);
- 54.91 Implement effective programmes focused on youth economic empowerment and job creation, to reduce the incessant irregular migration and to combat substance use (Niger);
- 54.92 Continue efforts to support young people economically and enable them to have sustainable job opportunities (Tunisia);
- 54.93 Continue efforts to respond to youth issues and needs in creating job opportunities and vocational training (Sudan);
- 54.94 Develop and implement tailored youth employment programmes that provide skills training aligned with market demands and promote entrepreneurship through accessible funding mechanisms (Viet Nam);
- 54.95 Redouble efforts to combat child labour, particularly in family businesses (Congo);

- 54.96 Continue efforts to increase access to social protection (Nepal);
- 54.97 Continue to expand the social safety net within the framework of the National Social Protection Policy (2015–2025) (Oman);
- 54.98 Continue to strengthen the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy to ensure the provision of comprehensive support to the most needy groups (Saudi Arabia);
- 54.99 Expand the scope of social protection, consolidate it and make the inclusion of vulnerable sectors broader within the framework of implementing the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan (2023–2027) (Bahrain);
- 54.100 Expand and consolidate social security measures to better protect vulnerable sections of society (India);
- 54.101 Continue efforts aimed at enhancing the living standards of families, as well as the need to expand the scope of social care (Iraq);
- 54.102 Continue its efforts in enhancing the socioeconomic well-being of its people and ensuring their full enjoyment of human rights (Nigeria);
- 54.103 Continue its commitment to economic development to further eliminate poverty and the gap between the rich and the poor, and improve the living standards of its population (China);
- 54.104 Increase investment in water infrastructure to provide equitable access to clean and safe drinking water, particularly in rural and underserved areas (Malaysia);
- 54.105 Step up efforts to ensure equitable and non-discriminatory access to drinking water and sanitation (Honduras);
- 54.106 Enshrine the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in its national legal framework (Portugal);
- 54.107 Continue implementing measures to enhance food security (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 54.108 Strengthen efforts to enhance access to nutrition through increased agricultural productivity and targeted measures for women and children (Pakistan);
- 54.109 Persist in efforts to build robust and inclusive health and education systems (Senegal);
- 54.110 Continue expanding access to healthcare and education (Ethiopia);
- 54.111 Sustain investments in healthcare and education, promoting equitable access and addressing social and economic inequalities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 54.112 Take effective measures to enhance the provision of quality, accessible and affordable healthcare services (India);
- 54.113 Strengthen measures to access quality healthcare, including maternal and child health services in rural areas (Armenia);
- 54.114 Sustain or further strengthen commendable initiatives in the health sector (Eritrea);
- 54.115 Continue to promote investments in healthcare infrastructure, particularly in rural areas (Oman);
- 54.116 Strengthen primary healthcare by improving infrastructure, training medical personnel, increasing rural coverage and reducing maternal mortality (Mexico);
- 54.117 Continue the development of works to improve the national health infrastructure, especially in rural areas (Cuba);

- 54.118 Continue efforts to ensure adequate space and sufficient resources for mental health services in the context of national health policies (Kuwait);
- 54.119 Enact mental health legislation (Morocco);
- 54.120 Enhance efforts to increase mental health literacy and care, such as the provision of mental health information and services (Brunei Darussalam);
- 54.121 Continue the necessary measures to expand and strengthen social protection in order to provide access to quality healthcare to all components of society, particularly rural populations, in accordance with the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023–2027 (Djibouti);
- 54.122 Continue its measures to implement the National Health Policy 2021–2030 aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals to enhance healthcare access and ensure inclusivity for all (State of Palestine);
- 54.123 Continue efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity by providing financial and logistical support and ensuring the availability of qualified professionals and supplies for the health sector (Thailand);
- 54.124 Enhance efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, including through improving access to obstetric and neonatal care (Indonesia);
- 54.125 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and modern contraceptives (Estonia);
- 54.126 Protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for all (Iceland);
- 54.127 Explicitly guarantee 12 years of free education, supported by improved facilities and adequate funding (Costa Rica);
- 54.128 Enact legislation guaranteeing 12 years of free basic education, and undertake to improve all learning facilities through adequate funding of the Ministry of Education (Ghana);
- 54.129 Continue to promote the right to education for all, especially through technical and vocational education for women and girls and persons with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 54.130 Improve access to quality education for all, especially for girls and children from rural or marginalized communities (Armenia);
- 54.131 Consider increasing the budget allocation for education (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 54.132 Expand investments in education infrastructure and quality, particularly in rural areas, to ensure equitable access for all (Viet Nam);
- 54.133 Strengthen efforts to improve access to education in rural areas (Sri Lanka);
- 54.134 Continue efforts related to advancing the right to education, especially in rural areas (Egypt);
- 54.135 Intensify efforts aimed at developing the educational system and ensuring equal access to it, especially in rural and remote areas (Iraq);
- 54.136 Further strengthen measures to improve access to education in rural areas (Brunei Darussalam);
- 54.137 Continue to advance inclusive education by institutionalizing the inclusive education directorate, through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (Eritrea);
- 54.138 Redouble efforts to promote access to education for girls to combat non-enrolment and the resulting high rate of illiteracy among women and girls (Djibouti);

- 54.139 Adopt measures that guarantee effective access for girls to allow them to go to school, particularly in rural areas (Honduras);
- 54.140 Continue efforts to improve access to education for girls as well as children with disabilities (Indonesia);
- 54.141 Continue providing inclusive and targeted adult literacy programmes for women, prioritizing those in rural areas (Cyprus);
- 54.142 Redouble efforts to reduce illiteracy rates to acceptable levels, particularly among women and girls (Cabo Verde);
- 54.143 Intensify the development of adult literacy programmes for vulnerable groups, prioritizing rural areas, and ensure systematic evaluation of these programmes for their impact and effectiveness (Maldives);
- 54.144 Enhance nationwide digital literacy programmes to empower citizens to safely engage in the digital environment and utilize technology for socioeconomic advancement (Malaysia);
- 54.145 Ensure that digital access is inclusive and equitable and tackle the gender digital divide (Estonia);
- 54.146 Develop and integrate digital literacy education into school curricula (Estonia);
- 54.147 Strengthen existing government efforts to support education for all, with attention to the education of women and girls (Bahrain);
- 54.148 Solve environmental problems and protect the rights of those most affected (Niger);
- 54.149 Continue to prioritize the sustainable management of land, water and forests to mitigate the effects of climate change (Cuba);
- 54.150 Take additional measures to address environmental challenges and protect the rights of the most affected population (Angola);
- 54.151 Develop a comprehensive national climate adaptation and mitigation strategy and strengthen legal frameworks to protect the environment and ensure climate justice (Kenya);
- 54.152 Expand climate action by accelerating community-focused adaptation strategies and integrating climate education into school curricula (Bahamas);
- 54.153 Continue the implementation and execution of the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023–2027, with special emphasis on vulnerable populations (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 54.154 Maintain its efforts to implement the Recovery-Focused National Development Plan 2023–2027 (Türkiye);
- 54.155 Accelerate the implementation of reparation programmes for all victims of human rights violations, as recommended by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Republic of Korea);
- 54.156 Accelerate the adoption and implementation of an efficient normative framework for the protection of women's and children's rights (Cameroon);
- 54.157 Increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare and enhance training programmes for its staff (Jordan);
- 54.158 Increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, and strengthen the gender-specific expertise among all staff to enhance its ability to effectively coordinate efforts in promoting gender equality (Mozambique);

- 54.159 Promote gender equality, concretely through increasing the resources allocated to the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare and by stepping up efforts to effectively address violence against women and girls (Portugal);
- 54.160 Fully enhance ways for women to access justice, education and decent work, and to protect them from all forms of violence, including female genital mutilation (Lebanon);
- 54.161 Intensify the implementation of provisions on sexual and reproductive rights and health, including the fight against female genital mutilation, and intensify the fight against violence and discrimination against women and girls (France);
- 54.162 Increase the representation of women in public service (Albania);
- 54.163 Step up measures to enhance the number of women in public office (Germany);
- 54.164 Intensify efforts to increase the participation of women in politics and leadership positions, including through capacity-building programmes and affirmative actions (Indonesia);
- 54.165 Ensure equal and inclusive representation of women in national decision-making bodies, especially women who are discriminated against based on their work or descent (Mexico);
- 54.166 Take further measures in enhancing the representation of women in national and local institutions, including the National Assembly (Bangladesh);
- 54.167 Promote gender equality by setting clear targets for women's political participation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 54.168 Strengthen training programmes to encourage women and girls to participate in political life (Congo);
- 54.169 Continue efforts related to empowering women and enhance their participation in public and political life (Egypt);
- 54.170 Enhance efforts in empowering women and youth through targeted programmes aimed at improving livelihoods and increasing access to drinking water in rural areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 54.171 Enhance training and mentorship programmes to empower women and girls to participate in political and public life, thereby advancing gender equality and equitable representation (Maldives);
- 54.172 Continue advancing efforts to empower women and promote gender equality (Ethiopia);
- 54.173 Repeal all legislation that discriminates against women, girls and young people in all areas, including sexual and reproductive health, education and economic activities (Uruguay);
- 54.174 Take further measures to address discrimination and promote the participation of women and girls in public and political life (Thailand);
- 54.175 Continue to promote gender equality, including through ensuring equal access to education for women and girls, and enhancing support for women entrepreneurs (Singapore);
- 54.176 Continue to promote gender equality, particularly in public spaces, with a focus on eliminating sexual harassment and gender stereotypes (Costa Rica);
- 54.177 Enhance women's awareness of their rights and the remedies available to claim those rights, through means including legal literacy programmes (Jordan);



- 54.178 Continue to enhance the protection of the rights and interests of specific groups, such as women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities and pay greater attention and input to vulnerable groups (China);
- 54.179 Continue efforts to address all forms of discrimination, violence and exploitation against women and girls (Tunisia);
- 54.180 Strengthen the measures to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Ukraine);
- 54.181 Take further concrete steps to end gender-based violence and ensure accountability (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 54.182 Continue legislative and educational efforts to eradicate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and early or forced marriage (Republic of Korea);
- 54.183 Continue efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality (Sri Lanka);
- 54.184 Continue its efforts to raise awareness among political, community and religious leaders, in order to further promote the rights of women and girls as well as their full participation in local and national development initiatives (Burkina Faso);
- 54.185 Establish a process to monitor and evaluate efforts made to incorporate the gender perspective into its development plans (Dominican Republic);
- 54.186 Continue to take measures to foster inclusive development by implementing policies that empower women and youth to meaningfully participate in and benefit from national development (Uganda);
- 54.187 Continue to promote women's economic empowerment and increase their access to financing and entrepreneurship programmes (Kazakhstan);
- 54.188 Support women's empowerment by increasing their participation in the formal economy in a meaningful and substantive manner and by putting an end to caste-based discrimination (Romania);
- 54.189 Strengthen the implementation mechanisms for the Women's Act, 2010, through, inter alia, conducting nationwide awareness campaigns about the provisions of the Act, as well as providing specialized training for law enforcement and the judiciary on gender-sensitive approaches to cases involving women's rights (Kenya);
- 54.190 Enforce the Women's Act and eradicate female genital mutilation (Iceland);
- 54.191 Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to effective remedies and legal protection (Cyprus);
- 54.192 Address the cultural beliefs underlying the harmful practice of female genital mutilation aimed at its complete elimination (Namibia);
- 54.193 Increase efforts to address gender-based violence, including by combating impunity and stigmatization of victims, as well as by ensuring access to effective remedies and protection (Liechtenstein);
- 54.194 Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to effective protection and remedies (Slovenia);
- 54.195 Raise awareness among women of their rights under the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act (Slovenia);
- 54.196 Enforce the ban on female genital mutilation (Czechia);
- 54.197 Redouble efforts to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Colombia);

- 54.198 Strengthen efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation by raising awareness of its serious physical and mental consequences and of the need to criminalize it, by establishing safe reporting mechanisms and by improving access to support services for survivors (Luxembourg);
- 54.199 Strengthen efforts to implement the 2015 amendment to section 32 (a) and (b) of the Women's Act and effectively combat female genital mutilation in all its instances (Malta);
- 54.200 Effectively implement the Women's (Amendment) Act, 2015, by investigating and prosecuting all cases of sexual and gender-based violence, in particular cases of female genital mutilation and child marriage (Spain);
- 54.201 Diligently investigate and prosecute all cases of sexual and gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation, and create an accessible shelter infrastructure, provide women with information about their rights and train police specifically on sexual and gender-based violence cases (Germany);
- 54.202 Take measures to stop the practice of female genital mutilation and rehabilitate victims (Sri Lanka);
- 54.203 Redouble efforts in the fight against female genital mutilation and with a view to ensuring that victims have access to support and rehabilitation services (Burkina Faso);
- 54.204 Eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation and forced child marriage (Burundi);
- 54.205 Strengthen measures to effectively combat violence against women and girls and eliminate harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and early and forced child marriage (Switzerland);
- 54.206 Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns on the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and campaigns to disseminate and take ownership of the Women's (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Canada);
- 54.207 Further intensify efforts to combat gender-based violence, including through awareness-raising initiatives on the profound impact of gender stereotypes and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (Philippines);
- 54.208 Strengthen the implementation of the national policy on female genital mutilation by expanding community awareness campaigns and ensuring resources for the support of services, especially in rural areas (Bahamas);
- 54.209 Increase the adoption of measures aimed at eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women (Honduras);
- 54.210 Address the cultural beliefs and social norms that underpin the practice of female genital mutilation, and enforce the Women's (Amendment) Act, 2015 (Ireland);
- 54.211 Continue and strengthen efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, including through the implementation of measures to fulfil its commitment to addressing the root causes of female genital mutilation and child marriage (Japan);
- 54.212 Pursue its efforts to combat female genital mutilation (Gabon);
- 54.213 Invest in the active prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, including through comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (Germany);
- 54.214 Promote measures to protect children from all manifestations of violence, including the guarantee of their safety on the Internet (Kazakhstan);
- 54.215 Continue to take comprehensive legal measures to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and emerging digital threats (Oman);

- 54.216 Strengthen efforts to combat violence against children (Mauritania);
- 54.217 Enact a law to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings (Estonia);
- 54.218 Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all circumstances (Liechtenstein);
- 54.219 Intensify efforts to detect, investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of the sale and exploitation of children (Zambia);
- 54.220 Enhance efforts to ensure that the principle of the best interests of the child is applied across the child protection and justice system (Thailand);
- 54.221 Continue to ensure that Child Protection Units are adequately resourced and the personnel are equipped with the knowledge and skills to effectively provide the necessary services to victims of sexual abuse and exploitation (Philippines);
- 54.222 Take concrete measures to prevent the economic exploitation of children, especially child labour in family businesses, in the context of Qur'anic schools and in the informal sector (Eswatini);
- 54.223 Establish effective procedures to investigate cases of sexual abuse and harassment of girls in schools (Cyprus);
- 54.224 Ensure that the 2016 law prohibiting child marriage is implemented, particularly in rural areas (Gabon);
- 54.225 Continue to put in place measures to eliminate early and child marriage and protect girls from sexual and gender-based violence (Uganda);
- 54.226 Take additional measures to better implement the ban on child marriages (Malta);
- 54.227 Eliminate barriers faced by girls in accessing education by carrying out appropriate and effective measures to fully combat child marriage and by eliminating discriminatory practices against pregnant students (Romania);
- 54.228 Adopt concrete actions to ensure the full implementation of legislation aimed at preventing all harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation and early, child and forced marriages (Italy);
- 54.229 Take specific measures to ensure that children's dietary requirements are met (Sri Lanka);
- 54.230 Enforce provisions on the prohibition of enforced and organized child begging (Germany);
- 54.231 Continue efforts for the inclusion and care of older persons within the National Development Plan, taking into account the obstacles they face of social exclusion and limited access to services (Dominican Republic);
- 54.232 Continue to take measures aimed at combating all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities (Mauritania);
- 54.233 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and achieve equality for persons with disabilities (Algeria);
- 54.234 Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including by intensifying the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2021 (Nigeria);
- 54.235 Continue steps aimed at the full implementation and enforcement of the Persons with Disabilities Act (Georgia);
- 54.236 Continue addressing existing challenges in order to improve education for persons with disabilities (United Republic of Tanzania);

- 54.237 Continue to enhance support for persons with disabilities, and ensure the prompt and full implementation of its disability policy (Singapore);
- 54.238 Continue efforts to promote social inclusion and provide support for persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);
- 54.239 Continue working to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities, by developing the educational infrastructure and providing the necessary resources to ensure their equal access to education (Saudi Arabia);
- 54.240 Adopt and implement legislation that guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities, and provide infrastructure and services that facilitate their integration into society (Yemen);
- 54.241 Enhance implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act by improving resource allocation and accessibility nationwide (Bahamas);
- 54.242 Ensure that the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and ethnic minorities, are protected in law and in practice (Russian Federation);
- 54.243 Consider taking concrete measures to address caste and descent-based discrimination to ensure social harmony (Sierra Leone);
- 54.244 Facilitate the carrying out of the traditional funeral rights and practices of various religious communities (India);
- 54.245 Continue implementing effective programmes for youth economic empowerment and sustainable job creation as a means to curb irregular migration (Angola);
- 54.246 Ensure that refugee children born in or who arrived in the country receive identity documents (Uruguay);
- 54.247 Conduct and publish cartographic studies and collect data on cases of statelessness in the country (Colombia);
- 54.248 Facilitate universal birth registration (Sri Lanka);
- 54.249 Ensure that refugee children born in the country or who arrived in the country as minors are issued with identity documents to avoid any risk of statelessness (Mali).

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

- 55.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Liechtenstein);
- 55.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);
- 55.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);
- 55.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Armenia) (Chile) (Côte d'Ivoire) (France) (Madagascar) (South Africa) (Switzerland);
- 55.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);
- 55.6 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish the national preventive mechanism in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol (Czechia);

55.7 Continue its national efforts towards ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Romania);

55.8 Redouble the ongoing efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);

55.9 Continue efforts to combat torture, including through ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Lebanon);

55.10 Ratify the core optional protocols to which the Gambia is not yet a party, in particular, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Namibia);

55.11 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chad);

55.12 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cyprus);

55.13 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (South Sudan);

55.14 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Côte d'Ivoire) (Ghana) (Sierra Leone);

55.15 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Rwanda);

55.16 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Nepal);

55.17 Conclude the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

55.18 Consider accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia);

55.19 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Ukraine);

55.20 Ratify and the Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and declare its recognition of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications (South Africa);

55.21 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Rwanda);<sup>5</sup>

55.22 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (South Africa);

55.23 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (South Sudan);

55.24 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Rwanda);

<sup>5</sup> The recommendation made during the interactive dialogue was: "Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child."

55.25 Consider completing the ratification process of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Senegal);

55.26 Continue its commendable efforts in implementing international human rights conventions by ratifying all human rights treaties and key optional protocols (State of Palestine);

55.27 Continue collaboration in the implementation of the initiative to establish a hybrid court (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

55.28 Consider the creation of a special criminal responsibility court to carry out criminal investigations and prosecutions in accordance with the recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (Colombia);

55.29 Continue to provide the necessary support to remove the obstacles to the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Kuwait);

55.30 Harmonize the national legal framework on freedom of expression with international human rights norms and standards, eliminating laws that criminalize sedition, fake news and defamation (Mexico);

55.31 Repeal or amend laws that restrict the right to freedom of expression, online and offline, in accordance with international obligations (Switzerland);

55.32 Repeal legislation that restricts freedoms of speech and expression, including sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code (Denmark);

55.33 Protect media freedom and uphold the right to freedom of expression, including by amending or repealing sections 51, 52, 59 and 181A of the Criminal Code (Australia);

55.34 Guarantee freedom of expression by completing the legislative reform process in accordance with the review conducted by the National Media Law Review Committee (Chile);

55.35 Before the next election, address the main recommendations of the European Union Election Observation Mission in order to enhance the legitimacy and credibility of the electoral process (Slovakia);

55.36 Strengthen the legal framework and policies to guarantee the equal rights of men and women in marriage (Uganda);

55.37 Allocate at least 4 to 6 per cent of gross domestic product to education (Mali);

55.38 Take legal measures to prohibit corporal punishment in schools, regardless of the circumstances (Gabon).

56. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by the Gambia and have been noted by the Gambia:

56.1 Ensure that the current process of revising the Constitution, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure is carried out in full compliance with international human rights standards (Chad);

56.2 Endeavour to harmonize its domestic legislation, in particular the Constitution, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, with international human rights standards (Cabo Verde);

56.3 Align its national legal provisions with international standards on freedom of expression, as outlined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and repeal section 173A of the Information and Communications (Amendment) Act of 2013, and amend section 25, paragraph 4, and section 209 of the Constitution (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

- 56.4 **Develop an act to enforce comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of discrimination against persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (Iceland);**
- 56.5 **Enhance protection of vulnerable and at-risk groups (Guyana);**
- 56.6 **Continue developing national programmes to address discrimination in all its forms and manifestations and protect groups in vulnerable situations (Cuba);**
- 56.7 **Implement a national strategy to encourage religious and common-law courts, law enforcement officials and imams to respect the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that Muslim women enjoy equal rights to men in marriage, divorce, inheritance, marital property, adoption, burial and transfer of property on death (Costa Rica);**
- 56.8 **Amend sections 27 and 33 (5) of the Constitution and section 45 of the Women's Act to include a guarantee of women's equal rights in marriage, family relations and their dissolution, inheritance, child maintenance and custody (Zambia);**
- 56.9 **Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances (Iceland);**
- 56.10 **Increase efforts to enforce existing legislation banning gender discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, and include marital rape as an offence in the Sexual Offences Act (Belgium);**
- 56.11 **Seek to guarantee the rights of women, in particular by expanding access to education, healthcare and employment, to protect them against violence, to revoke any discriminatory provisions in civil, family and inheritance law, and to adhere to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Brazil);**
- 56.12 **Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 to explicitly criminalize marital rape (Denmark);**
- 56.13 **Criminalize marital rape by amending section 33 of the Sexual Offences Act (Iceland);**
- 56.14 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual acts and adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, provide access to effective remedies for victims and take steps to change social attitudes towards LGBTIQ+ persons (Luxembourg);**
- 56.15 **Amend the Criminal Code to decriminalize and legalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);**
- 56.16 **Decriminalize homosexual relations and combat discrimination against LGBT+ people (France);**
- 56.17 **Take steps to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations and end the arbitrary arrests of LGBTI+ persons (Malta);**
- 56.18 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations, and prevent and prosecute violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Spain);**
- 56.19 **Decriminalize same-sex relations and adopt anti-discrimination policies in that regard (Brazil);**
- 56.20 **Repeal sections 144, 145 and 147 of the Criminal Code criminalizing consensual same-sex relations (Australia);**
- 56.21 **Review and repeal all repressive and discriminatory laws that criminalize homosexuality (Uruguay);**

56.22 **Repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality and combat violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation (Chile).**

57. **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 the Gambia was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, H.E Dawda JALLOW and composed of the following members:

- H.E Ftou Kinteh - Minister of Women, Children & Social Welfare;
  - H.E. Prof. Muhammadou M.O. Kah – Permanent Representative of The Gambia in Geneva;
  - Mr. Baboucarr Jobe – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance;
  - Mr. Demba Sowe – Assistant Inspector General of Police;
  - Hon. Madi MK Ceesay – National Assembly Member;
  - Mr. Louis Moses Mendy – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education;
  - Dr. Yusupha Touray – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health;
  - Mr. Kajali Sonko – Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare;
  - Ms. Aji Adam Ceesay – Curator of Intestate Estate, Ministry of Justice;
  - Ms. Harriet Bass – Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare;
  - Ms. Bintou PA Njie – Office of The President;
  - Ms. Isatou Camara – Senior State Counsel, Ministry of Justice; and
  - Ms. Bafou Jeng – Counsellor for Human Rights Matters at the Permanent Mission of The Gambia in Geneva.
-