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**Human Rights Council**

**Fifty-ninth session**

16 June–11 July 2025

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

Gambia

**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 Minister of Justice, Hon. Mr. 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);[[1]](#footnote-2)

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, 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, 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

[To be completed by 7 February 2025]

A. Presentation by the State under review

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

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

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

1. **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960 (Madagascar);**
2. **Expedite the process of ratification of the remaining core international human rights treaties (Yemen);**
3. **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Congo);**
4. **Ratify the International Labour Organization Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and ensure its integration into domestic law and its effective implementation (Côte d’Ivoire);**
5. **Ratify the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);**
6. **Consider ratifying the ILO Convention C190 on Violence and Harassment (Mauritius);**
7. **Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention Against Discrimination in Education 1960 (Mauritius);**
8. **Issue a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council's special procedures (Luxembourg);**
9. **Issue a standing invitation to the UN human rights Special Procedures (Czechia);**
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);**
11. **Continue efforts to strengthen cooperation with regional and international human rights bodies (Guinea);**
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);**
13. **Take steps to fully domesticate the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi);**
14. **Strengthen the constitutional framework and complementary legal norms with a human rights approach (Cuba);**
15. **Ensure that the process of revising the Constitution, the Penal Code, and the Code of Criminal Procedure is conducted in accordance with international human rights standards (Guinea);**
16. **Accelerate the adoption of the new Constitution and the Criminal Offences Bill, which provides for the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**
17. **Finalize the constitutional process with a view to adopting the new Constitution and abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**
18. **Incorporate at the Constitutional level the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica);**
19. **Ensure that the new constitution reflects the desire of the citizens for a democratic government and the rule of law (Slovakia);**
20. **Renew the social contract between the people of the Gambia and their elected leaders (Slovakia);**
21. **Conclude the adoption of the law on the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**
22. **Accelerate the adoption of the Mental Health Bill and integrate mental health services into primary healthcare (Malaysia);**
23. **Develop a mental health bill in line with international human rights standards and strengthen institutions that provide mental health services (Vanuatu);**
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);**
25. **Continue to work towards the adoption of a law on the victims of domestic violence, especially women and children (Algeria);**
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);**
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 programs (Uzbekistan);**
28. **Promote awareness program to increase public knowledge of human rights (Mozambique);**
29. **Take further measures to strengthen the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission (Uzbekistan);**
30. **Continue to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, providing it with the financial resources necessary for its functioning (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**
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, public as well as family life (Cyprus);**
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);**
33. **Take further actions to combat any forms of discrimination and enforce anti-discrimination norms across multiple sectors (Azerbaijan);**
34. **Adopt and implement anti-discrimination legislation and/or strategies regarding gender and race (Guyana);**
35. **Continue implementing measures that promote gender equality (Sierra Leone);**
36. **Continue with all efforts to raise public awareness on gender equality (Malawi);**
37. **Continue implementing initiatives to advance gender equality (Ghana);**
38. **Strengthen measures aimed at eradicating discrimination and violence against women and promote their participation in public life (Chile);**
39. **Adopt the necessary measures for the implementation of the Resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the protection and promotion of the rights of communities discriminated against on the basis of caste or descent (Colombia);**
40. **Abolish the death penalty (Iceland);**
41. **Abolish the death penalty in domestic law (France);**
42. **Formally and permanently abolish the death penalty (Australia);**
43. **Fully and effectively abolish the death penalty in all circumstances (Liechtenstein);**
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 (Malta);**
45. **Adopt all legislative and operational measures to abolish the death penalty (Cabo Verde);**
46. **Continue efforts to abolish the death penalty permanently by amending the relevant constitutional and legislative provisions (Ireland);**
47. **Continue with efforts to abolish death penalty by amending relevant constitutional and legislative provisions (Montenegro);**
48. **Continue the efforts to abolish the death penalty by finalizing the amendment of relevant laws and regulations (Uzbekistan);**
49. **Continue efforts to address torture, extrajudicial executions, and excessive use of force by public authorities (Italy);**
50. **Adopt a strategy to detect and curb hate speech, sex-based speech and intimidation (Guinea);**
51. **Improve conditions of detention in prisons (Albania);**
52. **Continue efforts to improve the prison conditions in terms of overcrowding, inadequate access to food and medical care, and poor sanitation (Bangladesh);**
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. **Intensify efforts in fighting corruption, through the creation of relevant information and national commissions (Lebanon);**
55. **Establish an independent anti-corruption commission (Cameroon);**
56. **Strengthen anti-corruption measures to ensure transparent and accountable governance by implementing the Anti-Corruption Law of 2023 (Canada);**
57. **Continue enhancing transparency and accountability in the delivery of public services through the effective implementation of an e-governance system (Azerbaijan);**
58. **Continue strengthening legal instruments for the protection of human rights and to take measures aimed at improving the judicial and penitentiary systems (Russian Federation);**
59. **Further strengthen the transitional justice mechanism for sustainable peace in the country (Togo);**
60. **Continue with the transitional justice programs and processes, including the strengthening of the judiciary and increasing efforts aimed at guaranteeing reparation for victims of human rights violations (Honduras);**
61. **Continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparation Commission (Sudan);**
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);**
63. **Implement the recommendations of the White Paper on the Report of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Switzerland);**
64. **Fully implement the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission without delay (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
65. **Ensure that the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission takes measures to provide equitable reparations to victims and protect victims from reprisals (Zambia);**
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);**
67. **Continue implementing the recommendations of the Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission, ensuring accountability and reparation mechanisms for victims (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
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);**
69. **Take adequate measures to fully ensure the right to freedom of expression (Albania);**
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);**
71. **Consider reviewing laws to uphold the freedom of expression (Portugal);**
72. **Ensure freedom of expression by repealing restrictive laws and provisions of the Criminal Code and strengthening the right to peaceful assembly (Spain);**
73. **Put in place legal framework governing the media sector to ensure and guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of the press (South Africa);**
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);**
75. **Protect freedom of expression and independent media and journalists (Czechia);**
76. **Ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, journalists and members of the opposition and adopt comprehensive data protection legislation (Spain);**
77. **Continue to promote safe digital inclusion, particularly for vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Thailand);**
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);**
79. **Ensure that domestic laws on data protection and cybersecurity are consistent with international human rights standards (Estonia);**
80. **Reform the electoral law, including on personal data protection (Slovakia);**
81. **Develop strategies to ensure the protection of digital rights along with online safety (Niger);**
82. **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (India);**
83. **Maintain efforts to combat trafficking in persons with a commitment to supporting and protecting victims (Tunisia);**
84. **Redouble efforts to enforce the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, providing the necessary resources, ensuring support for victims, and punishing those responsible (Chile);**
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);**
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);**
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);**
88. **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly the exploitation of children and women, by strengthening the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);**
89. **Further enhance efforts aimed at elimination of trafficking in persons (Georgia);**
90. **Enhance actions to eliminate slavery, child labour, and trafficking in persons (Guyana);**
91. **Implement effective programmes focused on youth economic empowerment and job creation, to reduce incessant irregular migration and to combat substance use (Niger);**
92. **Continue efforts to support young people economically and enable them to have sustainable job opportunities (Tunisia);**
93. **Continue efforts to respond to youth issues and needs in creating job opportunities and vocational training (Sudan);**
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);**
95. **Redouble efforts to combat child labour, particularly in family businesses (Congo);**
96. **Continue effort to increase access to social protection (Nepal);**
97. **Continue to expand the social safety net within the framework of the Social Protection Policy (2015–2025) (Oman);**
98. **Continue to strengthen the implementation of the National Social Protection Law, to ensure the provision of comprehensive support to the most-needy groups (Saudi Arabia);**
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);**
100. **Expand and consolidate social security measures to better protect vulnerable sections of society (India);**
101. **Continue efforts aimed at enhancing the living standards of families, as well as the need to expand the scope of social care (Iraq);**
102. **Continue its efforts in enhancing the socio-economic well-being of its people and ensuring their full enjoyment of human rights (Nigeria);**
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);**
104. **Increase investment in water infrastructure to provide equitable access to clean and safe drinking water, particularly in rural and underserved areas (Malaysia);**
105. **Step up efforts to ensure equitable and non-discriminatory access to drinking water and sanitation (Honduras);**
106. **Enshrine the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in its national legal framework (Portugal);**
107. **Continue implementing measures to enhance food security (United Republic of Tanzania);**
108. **Strengthen efforts to enhance access to nutrition through increased agricultural productivity and targeted measures for women and children (Pakistan);**
109. **Persist in efforts to build robust and inclusive health and education systems (Senegal);**
110. **Continue expanding access to healthcare and education (Ethiopia);**
111. **Sustain investments in healthcare and education, promoting equitable access and addressing social and economic inequalities (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
112. **Take effective measures to enhance provision of quality, accessible and affordable health care services (India);**
113. **Strengthen measures to access quality health care, including maternal and child health services in rural areas (Armenia);**
114. **Eritrea recommended to sustain or further strengthen commendable initiatives in the health sector (Eritrea);**
115. **Continue to promote investments in health-care infrastructure, particularly in rural areas (Oman);**
116. **Strengthen primary health care by improving infrastructure, training medical personnel, increasing rural coverage, and reducing maternal mortality (Mexico);**
117. **Continue the development of works to improve the national health infrastructure, especially in rural areas (Cuba);**
118. **Continue efforts to ensure adequate space and sufficient resources for mental health services in the context of national health policies (Kuwait);**
119. **Enact a mental health legislation (Morocco);**
120. **Enhance efforts to increase mental health literacy and care, such as the provision of mental health information and services (Brunei Darussalam);**
121. **Continue the necessary measures to expand and strengthen social protection in order to provide access to quality health care to all components of society, particularly rural populations, in accordance with the Recovery Focused National Development Plan 2023–2027 (Djibouti);**
122. **Continue its measures in implementing the National Health Policy 2021–2030 aligned with the SDGs to enhance healthcare access and ensure inclusivity for all (State of Palestine);**
123. **Continue efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity by providing financial and logistical support and ensuring availability of qualified professionals and supplies for the health sector (Thailand);**
124. **Enhance efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, including through improving access to obstetric and neonatal care (Indonesia);**
125. **Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and modern contraceptives (Estonia);**
126. **Protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for all (Iceland);**
127. **Explicitly guarantee 12 years of free education, supported by improved facilities and adequate funding (Costa Rica);**
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);**
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);**
130. **Improve access to quality education for all, especially for girls and children from rural or marginalized communities (Armenia);**
131. **Consider increasing the budget allocation for education (United Republic of Tanzania);**
132. **Expand investments in education infrastructure and quality, particularly in rural areas, to ensure equitable access for all (Viet Nam);**
133. **Strengthen efforts to improve access to education in the rural areas (Sri Lanka);**
134. **Continue efforts related to advancing the right to education, especially in rural areas (Egypt);**
135. **Intensify efforts aimed at developing the educational system and ensuring equal access to it, especially in rural and remote areas (Iraq);**
136. **Further strengthen measures to improve access to education in rural areas (Brunei Darussalam);**
137. **Continue to advance inclusive education by institutionalizing the inclusive education directorate, through the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (Eritrea);**
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);**
139. **Adopt measures that guarantee effective access for girls to allow them to go to school, particularly in rural areas (Honduras);**
140. **Continue efforts to improve access to education for girls as well as children with disabilities (Indonesia);**
141. **Continue providing inclusive and targeted adult literacy programmes for women, prioritizing those in rural areas (Cyprus);**
142. **Redouble efforts to reduce illiteracy rates to acceptable levels, particularly among women and girls (Cabo Verde);**
143. **Intensify the development of adult literacy programs for vulnerable groups prioritising rural areas, and ensure systematic evaluation of these programs for their impact and effectiveness (Maldives);**
144. **Enhance nationwide digital literacy programmes to empower citizens to safely engage in the digital environment and utilise technology for socio-economic advancement (Malaysia);**
145. **Ensure that digital access is inclusive and equitable and tackle the gender digital divides (Estonia);**
146. **Develop and integrate digital literacy education into school curricula (Estonia);**
147. **Strengthen existing government efforts to support education for all, with attention to the education of women and girls (Bahrain);**
148. **Solve environmental problems and protect the rights of those most affected (Niger);**
149. **Continue to prioritize the sustainable management of land, water and forests to mitigate the effects of climate change (Cuba);**
150. **Take additional measures to address environmental challenges and protect the rights of the most affected population (Angola);**
151. **Develop a comprehensive National Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy and strengthen legal frameworks to protect the environment and ensure climate justice (Kenya);**
152. **Expand climate action by accelerating community-focused adaptation strategies and integrating climate education into school curricula (Bahamas);**
153. **Continue the implementation and execution of the National Development Plan Focused on Recovery 2023–2027, with special emphasis on vulnerable populations (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**
154. **Maintain its efforts to implement the Recovery Focused National Development Plan 2023–2027 (Türkiye);**
155. **Accelerate the implementation of reparation programs for all victims of human rights violations, as recommend by the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (Republic of Korea);**
156. **Accelerate the adoption and implementation of an efficient normative framework for the protection of women's and children's rights (Cameroon);**
157. **Increase the human, technical, and financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare and enhance training programmes for its staff (Jordan);**
158. **Increase the human, technical, and financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Women, 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);**
159. **Promote gender equality, concretely through the increase of resources allocated to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and by stepping up efforts to effectively address violence against women and girls (Portugal);**
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);**
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);**
162. **Increase the representation of women in public service (Albania);**
163. **Step up measures to enhance the number of women in public office (Germany);**
164. **Intensify efforts to increase the participation of women in politics and leadership positions, including through capacity-building programs and affirmative actions (Indonesia);**
165. **Ensure equal and inclusive representation of women in national decision-making bodies, especially women discriminated against based on their work or descent (Mexico);**
166. **Take further measures in enhancing representation of women in national and local institutions, including the National Assembly (Bangladesh);**
167. **Promote gender equality by setting clear targets on women's political participation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
168. **Strengthen training programmes to encourage women and girls to participate in political life (Congo);**
169. **Continue efforts related to empowering women and enhance their participation in public and political life (Egypt);**
170. **Enhance efforts in empowering women and youth through targeted programs aimed at improving livelihoods and increasing access to drinking water in rural areas (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
171. **Enhance training and mentorship programs to empower women and girls to participate in political and public life, thereby advancing gender equality and equitable representation (Maldives);**
172. **Continue advancing efforts to empower women and promote gender equality (Ethiopia);**
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);**
174. **Take further measures to address discrimination and promote participation of women and girls in public and political life (Thailand);**
175. **Continue to promote gender equality, including through ensuring equal access to education for women and girls, and enhancing support for women entrepreneurs (Singapore);**
176. **Continue to promote gender equality, particularly in public spaces, with a focus on eliminating sexual harassment and gender stereotypes (Costa Rica);**
177. **Enhance women’s awareness of their rights and the remedies available to claim those rights, through means including legal literacy programmes (Jordan);**
178. **Continue to enhance the protection of the rights and interests of specific groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities and pay greater attention and input to vulnerable groups (China);**
179. **Continue efforts to address all forms of discrimination, violence and exploitation against women and girls (Tunisia);**
180. **Strengthen the measures to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Ukraine);**
181. **Take further concrete steps to end gender-based violence and ensure accountability (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
182. **Continue legislative and educational efforts to eradicate harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation and early or forced marriage (Republic of Korea);**
183. **Continue efforts to reduce maternal and infant mortality (Sri Lanka);**
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);**
185. **Establish a process to monitor and evaluate efforts made to incorporate the gender perspective into their development plans (Dominican Republic);**
186. **Continue to take measures to foster inclusive development by implementing policies that empower women and the youth, to meaningfully participate in and benefit from national development (Uganda);**
187. **Continue to promote women's economic empowerment and increase their access to financing and entrepreneurship programs (Kazakhstan);**
188. **Support women’s empowerment by increasing their participation in formal economy in a meaningful and substantive manner and by putting an end to caste-based discrimination (Romania);**
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 provide specialised training for law enforcement and judiciary on gender-sensitive approaches to cases involving women's rights (Kenya);**
190. **Enforce the Women's Act and eradicate female genital mutilation (Iceland);**
191. **Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to effective remedies and legal protection (Cyprus);**
192. **Address the cultural beliefs underlying the harmful practice of female genital mutilation aimed at its complete elimination (Namibia);**
193. **Increase efforts to address gender-based violence, including by combatting impunity and stigmatization of victims, as well as by ensuring access to effective remedies and protection (Liechtenstein);**
194. **Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to effective protection and remedies (Slovenia);**
195. **Raise awareness among women of their rights under the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act (Slovenia);**
196. **Enforce the ban on female genital mutilation (Czechia);**
197. **Redouble efforts to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Colombia);**
198. **Strengthen efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation by raising awareness of its serious physical and mental consequences and of the need to criminalise it, by establishing safe reporting mechanisms and by improving access to support services for survivors (Luxembourg);**
199. **Strengthen efforts to implement 2015 amendment to section 32 (a) and (b) of the Women’s Act and effectively combat female genital mutilation in all its instances (Malta);**
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);**
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);**
202. **Take measures to stop the practice of female genital mutilation and rehabilitate victims (Sri Lanka);**
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);**
204. **Eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation and forced child marriage (Burundi);**
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);**
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 Act (Amendment) 2015 (Canada);**
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);**
208. **Strengthen the implementation of the National Policy for Female Genital Mutilation by expanding community awareness campaigns and ensuring resources for support of services, especially in rural areas (Bahamas);**
209. **Increase the adoption of measures aimed at eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against girls and women (Honduras);**
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);**
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);**
212. **Pursue its efforts to combat female genital mutilation (Gabon);**
213. **Invest in active prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, including through comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (Germany);**
214. **Promote measures to protect children from all manifestations of violence, including the guarantee of their safety on the Internet (Kazakhstan);**
215. **Continue to take comprehensive legal measures to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and emerging digital threats (Oman);**
216. **Strengthen efforts to combat violence against children (Mauritania);**
217. **Enact a law to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings (Estonia);**
218. **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all circumstances (Liechtenstein);**
219. **Intensify efforts to detect, investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of the sale and exploitation of children (Zambia);**
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);**
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);**
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);**
223. **Establish effective procedures to investigate cases of sexual abuse and harassment of girls in schools (Cyprus);**
224. **Ensure that the 2016 law prohibiting child marriage is implemented, particularly in rural areas (Gabon);**
225. **Continue to put in place measures to eliminate early child marriage and protect girls from sexual and gender-based violence (Uganda);**
226. **Take additional measures to better implement the ban on child marriages (Malta);**
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);**
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);**
229. **Take specific measures to ensure that children’s dietary requirements are met (Sri Lanka);**
230. **Enforce provisions on the prohibition of enforced and organized child begging (Germany);**
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);**
232. **Continue to take measures aimed at combating all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities (Mauritania);**
233. **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and achieve equality for persons with disabilities (Algeria);**
234. **Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including by intensifying the implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2021 (Nigeria);**
235. **Continue steps aimed at the full implementation and enforcement of the Persons with Disabilities Act (Georgia);**
236. **Continue addressing existing challenges in order to improve education for persons with disabilities (United Republic of Tanzania);**
237. **Continue to enhance support for persons with disabilities, and ensure the prompt and full implementation of its disability policy (Singapore);**
238. **Continue efforts to promote social inclusion and provide support for persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**
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);**
240. **Adopt and implement legislation that guarantees the rights of persons with disabilities, and providing infrastructure and services that facilitate their integration into society (Yemen);**
241. **Enhance implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act by improving resource allocation and accessibility nationwide (Bahamas);**
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);**
243. **Consider taking concrete measures to address caste and descent-based discrimination to ensure social harmony (Sierra Leone);**
244. **Facilitate carrying out of traditional funeral rights and practices of various religious communities (India);**
245. **Continue implementing effective programmes for youth economic empowerment and sustainable job creation as a means to curb irregular migration (Angola);**
246. **Ensure that refugee children born or arrived in the country receive identity documents (Uruguay);**
247. **Conduct and publish cartographic studies and collect data on cases of statelessness in the country (Colombia);**
248. **Facilitate universal birth registration (Sri Lanka);**
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).**

7. **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:**

7.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Liechtenstein);**

7.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);**

7.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

7.4 **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);**

7.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**

7.6 **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);**

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

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

7.9 **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);**

7.10 **Ratify 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);**

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.17 **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);**

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

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

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

7.21 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Rwanda);[[4]](#footnote-5)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.28 **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 Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (Colombia);**

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

7.30 **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);**

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

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

7.33 **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);**

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

7.35 **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);**

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

7.37 **Allocate at least 4 to 6 percent of gross domestic product for education (Mali);**

7.38 **Take legal measures to prohibit corporal punishment in schools regardless of the circumstances (Gabon);**

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

1. **Ensure that the current process of revising the Constitution, the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure is carried out in full compliance with international human rights standards (Chad);**
2. **Endeavour to harmonize its domestic legislation, in particular the Constitution, the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, with international human rights standards (Cabo Verde);**
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 amending Section 25, Paragraph 4, and 209 of the Constitution (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**
4. **Develop an act to enforce comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of discrimination against persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities (Iceland);**
5. **Enhance protection of vulnerable and at-risk groups (Guyana);**
6. **Continue developing national programs to address discrimination in all its forms and manifestations and protect groups in vulnerable situations (Cuba);**
7. **Implement a national strategy to encourage religious and common-law courts, law enforcement officials and imams to respect obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that Muslim women enjoy equal rights with men in marriage, divorce, inheritance, marital property, adoption, burial and transfer of property on death (Costa Rica);**
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);**
9. **Decriminalize abortion in all circumstances (Iceland);**
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);**
11. **Seek to guarantee the rights of women, in particular by expanding access to education, health care 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);**
12. **Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2013 to explicitly criminalise marital rape (Denmark);**
13. **Criminalize marital rape by amending section 33 of the Sexual Offense Act (Iceland);**
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);**
15. **Amend the criminal code to decriminalize and legalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);**
16. **Decriminalise homosexual relations and combat discrimination against LGBT+ people (France);**
17. **Take steps to de-criminalise consensual same-sex relations and end arbitrary arrest of LGBTI+ persons (Malta);**
18. **Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations, and prevent and prosecute violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons (Spain);**
19. **Decriminalize same-sex relations and adopt anti-discrimination policies in that regard (Brazil);**
20. **Repeal sections 144, 145 and 147 of the Criminal Code criminalizing consensual same-sex relations (Australia);**
21. **Review and repeal all repressive and discriminatory laws that criminalize homosexuality (Uruguay);**
22. **Repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality and combat violence based on gender identity and sexual orientation (Chile).**

9. **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.

1. A/HRC/WG.6/48/GMB/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/WG.6/48/GMB/2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A/HRC/WG.6/48/GMB/3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The recommendation made during the interactive dialogue was “Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Rwanda).” [↑](#footnote-ref-5)