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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

Iraq

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 Iraq was held at the 12th meeting, on 27 January 2025. The delegation of Iraq was headed by the Minister of Justice, H.E. Mr. Khalid Salam Saeed. At its 17th meeting, held on 31 January 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Iraq.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Iraq: Burundi, Chile and the Marshall Islands.

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 Iraq:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);[[1]](#footnote-2)

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, 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, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Iraq 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, 93 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 following recommendations will be examined by Iraq, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

6.1 **Ratify outstanding international human rights treaties (Gambia);**

6.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile); (Denmark); (Latvia); (Switzerland; (Togo); (Ukraine);**

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

6.4 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**

6.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and adopt a moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards definitive abolition (Spain);/ Immediately establish a moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Croatia);/ Apply a moratorium on the application of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);**

6.6 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);**

6.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against women (Sierra Leone);**

6.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);**

6.9 **Ratify all pending Optional Protocols to human rights treaties, including the Second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR aiming to abolish the death penalty (Malta);**

6.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

6.11 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Mexico);**

6.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

6.13 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);**

6.14 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Senegal);**

6.15 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**

6.16 **Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**

6.17 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cyprus);**

6.18 **Continue efforts to strengthen its legal framework on human rights by ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Burkina Faso);**

6.19 **Lift reservations on Articles 9 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia);**

6.20 **Amend new and existing domestic legislation, including the Personal Status Law, in compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Norway);**

6.21 **Strengthen efforts to educate and train law enforcement personnel on human rights standards relevant to their field of work (Qatar);**

6.22 **Continue to develop national legislation on human rights and strengthen mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

6.23 **Continue efforts to strengthen the legal framework related to human rights (Sudan);**

6.24 **Continue to bring its national legislation in line with its international human rights obligations (Russian Federation);**

6.25 **Expand human rights education for law enforcement agents, strengthen training on respecting human rights, and enhance mechanisms for investigating and addressing misconduct to ensure accountability (Brazil);**

6.26 **Facilitate the creation, legal recognition, financing and operation of civil society organizations (Colombia);**

6.27 **Strengthen its positive efforts to implement the National Human Rights Plan by providing the necessary financial and human resources (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

6.28 **Continue efforts to implement the National Human Rights Plan 2021–2025 and provide the necessary support to put the plans and programs contained therein into practice (Bahrain);**

6.29 **Continue the implementation of national strategies for the promotion, protection, and enjoyment of the human rights of its people, with special priority given to the most vulnerable populations (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

6.30 **Continue efforts to make the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights more effective in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti); Strengthen the independence and effectiveness of the Iraqi Commission for Human Rights, ensuring its full compliance with the Paris Principles (Armenia); Take further measures to ensure that the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights complies with the Paris Principles (Qatar);**

6.31 **Expedite the appointment of the board of human rights commissioners to ensure the implementation of its human rights protection mandate in line with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);**

6.32 **Enhance efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Institution and ensure effective implementation of its recommendations (Kazakhstan);**

6.33 **Provide additional support in terms of human and financial resources to the Iraqi High Commission for Human Rights to enable it to perform all its duties effectively and independently (Morocco);**

6.34 **Establish a permanent National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up of Recommendations on human rights (Paraguay);**

6.35 **Repeal all provisions from the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and other laws of the country that contradict the rights of women and discriminate against them in relation to men (Cabo Verde);**

6.36 **Repeal all gender-discriminatory provisions of the Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and other legislation to ensure equal legal protections for women (Iceland);**

6.37 **Take legislative and policy measures to ensure non-discrimination against women and girls, including by withdrawing reservations to Articles 2 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and observing the provisions of these articles in Iraqi national legislation concerning Personal Status (Finland);**

6.38 **Continue efforts to promote the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life in accordance with the Women's Empowerment Strategy 2023–2030 (Djibouti);**

6.39 **Decriminalize and legalize abortion under all circumstances (Iceland);**

6.40 **Decriminalize same-sex relations and gender-affirming care (Iceland);**

6.41 **Continue legislative efforts undertaken to expedite the adoption of national laws for the prevention and eradication of discrimination and hate speech (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

6.42 **Continue implementing measures to combat discrimination and hate speech, as well as to protect the rights of minorities (Belarus);**

6.43 **Continue efforts to prepare relevant laws and legislation to prevent discrimination and hate speech to guarantee the rights of all citizens regardless of their religious beliefs (State of Palestine);**

6.44 **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Latvia); (Montenegro);**

6.45 **Abolish the death penalty in all its instances (Malta); Abolish the death penalty (Canada);**

6.46 **Adopt an immediate moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Albania); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view towards abolishing it (Finland); Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing capital punishment (Slovenia);**

6.47 **Establish immediately a moratorium on executions and commute all death sentences with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sweden);/ Establish immediately a country-wide moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty and commute all death sentences (Belgium);**

6.48 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty and seek alternative outcomes for those already sentenced to capital punishment (Australia);**

6.49 **Impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty and ensure respect for prisoners' rights, including by investigating allegations of torture and inadequate medical care (Norway);**

6.50 **Immediately suspend executions and adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Dominican Republic);**

6.51 **Consider establishing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);/ Consider placing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition (Sierra Leone);/ Take into consideration the possibility to introduce a de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Italy);**

6.52 **Adhere to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and prohibit the use of the death penalty for crimes that still provide for it (Colombia);**

6.53 **Review current legislation in order to reduce the types of crimes punishable by death, in accordance with art. 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to total abolition (Paraguay);**

6.54 **Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and limit them to the most serious crimes under international law, in accordance with Iraq's international obligations (Switzerland);**

6.55 **Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and encourage public debate on its moratorium (Chile);**

6.56 **Abolish the death penalty and ensure in law and in criminal justice practice that the right to life and fair trial guarantees are fully respected (Costa Rica);**

6.57 **Promote public debate and public awareness campaigns on the complete abolition of the death penalty (Lithuania);**

6.58 **Reduce prison overcrowding by adopting alternatives to incarceration, ensure separation of minors from adults in detention facilities, and provide adequate healthcare, nutrition, and humane conditions for detainees (Gambia);**

6.59 **Take legislative measures to end the use of torture in detention centers (Albania);**

6.60 **Intensify efforts to investigate cases of enforced disappearances by allocating additional funds and personnel to the specialized national team and create a public and centralized registry of missing persons (Croatia);**

6.61 **Implement a domestic legal framework, aligned with international legal standards, for the prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes (Australia);**

6.62 **Continue efforts to make sure that Iraqi citizens stop suffering on the hands of not yet fully neutralized terrorists and organized crime, as well as the consequences of past internal conflicts (Russian Federation);**

6.63 **Sustain its fight against terrorism, and officially designate PKK as a terrorist organization (Türkiye);**

6.64 **Increase efforts towards establishing a state monopoly on the use of force, preventing militia groups from overall engagement in state affairs and accessing government resources, and ensure their legal accountability (Germany);**

6.65 **Continue efforts to combat corruption and ensure accountability for perpetrators (Qatar);**

6.66 **Ensure that due process rights, from arrest and detention through to a fair trial, are respected as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ireland);**

6.67 **Undertake judicial system reforms to enhance the transparency of legal proceedings and ensure defendants' rights to due process (Brazil);**

6.68 **Take all measures deemed necessary to guarantee, de jure and de facto, the full independence, impartiality and security of judges and prosecutors when making decisions (Cabo Verde);**

6.69 **Intensify efforts to safeguard judicial independence and impartiality by implementing comprehensive anti-corruption strategies alongside measures to prevent impunity (Republic of Korea);**

6.70 **Ensure that judicial practices consistently respect Iraq's criminal code, that the law is applied consistently and that steps are taken to develop comprehensive legislation on international crimes (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

6.71 **Approve the bill on enforced disappearance, which would classify enforced disappearance as an autonomous crime, and strengthen collaboration with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (Mexico);**

6.72 **Conduct immediate, impartial, thorough and transparent investigations into all credible allegations of torture and ill-treatment and enforced disappearances, in accordance with international standards and ensure accountability for these crimes (Chile);**

6.73 **Ensure the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and media freedom, are fully respected and protected, both online and offline (Canada);**

6.74 **Ensure full respect for freedom of expression by strengthening its commitment to safeguarding freedom of expression across all platforms, including social media (Ukraine);**

6.75 **Ensure freedom of expression, allowing civil society, journalists, human rights defenders, faith-based organizations and others, to participate in public discourse without fear of retaliation (Norway);**

6.76 **Ensure full respect for freedom of expression by adopting protective measures that allow journalists, activists, and individuals to express their views without fear of reprisal both online and offline (Republic of Korea);**

6.77 **Protect the right to freedom of assembly, including by holding accountable any perpetrators of violence against protestors (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.78 **Review and align national laws and practices with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in order to safeguard freedom of expression (Denmark);**

6.79 **Respect and protect the right of human rights defenders and journalists to undertake their legitimate work without fear of harassment, intimidation or reprisals (Finland);**

6.80 **Remove all restrictions imposed on freedom of expression and media freedom and on access to Internet (Estonia);**

6.81 **Promote an enabling, safe and secure environment for journalists and media workers in line with the international human rights standards (Latvia);**

6.82 **Facilitate favourable conditions for civil society organisations, journalists and other media workers to freely exercise their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly (Lithuania);**

6.83 **Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, press, association and peaceful assembly, including by amending all provisions of the Penal Code that restrict these rights in order to align them with international human rights standards (Switzerland);**

6.84 **Take necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders can work safely and exercise their right to freedom of expression without fear of being persecuted, intimidated or detained (Spain);**

6.85 **Adopt effective measures to protect the freedom of peaceful assembly, ensuring impartial and thorough investigations into acts of violence against protesters (Dominican Republic);**

6.86 **Implement specific protection measures for journalists and media workers to prevent harassment, intimidation and unjust prosecutions and establish independent bodies to investigate and ensure accountability for those actions (Portugal);**

6.87 **Re-establish the Media and Publications Court, ensuring that sanctions imposed on journalists are proportionate and do not include prison sentences, and release all journalists detained for their professional work (Dominican Republic);**

6.88 **Expand access to comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school settings (Iceland);**

6.89 **Repeal all provisions in the Personal Status Law that discriminate against women and girls, including in marriage, divorce and custody (Iceland);**

6.90 **Set the minimum age of marriage at 18 with no exceptions by removing the exceptions in article 8(1) of the Personal Status Law (Sweden);**

6.91 **Ensure compliance of national legislation, including the provisions of the Personal Status Law, with international standards, particularly by raising to 18 years the minimum legal marriage age (Italy);**

6.92 **Repeal the amendments to the Personal Status Law No. 188 which allow the religious authorities to decide on marriages of children and re-establish the previous ban on the marriage of children under the age of 18 (Croatia);**

6.93 **Remove existing legal exceptions allowing child marriage (Lithuania);**

6.94 **Eliminate provisions that allow marriage before the age of 18, with judicial authorization (Colombia);**

6.95 **Continue legal measures to address underage marriage, reduce dropout rate of girls from school and provide training to build capacities among girls (Maldives);**

6.96 **Take the necessary measures to eradicate de jure and de facto cases of child marriage and forced marriage (Paraguay);**

6.97 **Reverse immediately all legislations and policies curtailing the rights of the child, including by resetting the age of marriage at 18 years old years for both girls and boys (Slovenia);**

6.98 **Adopt a national plan to eliminate child marriage (Cyprus);**

6.99 **Repeal the recently passed legislation that further lowers the age of consent (Israel);**

6.100 **Repeal article 398 of the Penal Code, which exempts offenders of rape from prosecution if they marry their victim (Denmark);**

6.101 **Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in order to repeal all discriminatory laws and practices and ensure equality in all matters relating to family and marital relations; and repeal legal provisions that pardon punishment for rapists who marry their victims (Uruguay);**

6.102 **Continue efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons and exploitation of women and children (Egypt);**

6.103 **Step up efforts to implement the anti-trafficking in person strategy (Jordan);**

6.104 **Increase efforts seeking to combat the crime of human trafficking, by mobilizing appropriate financial resources, building the capacities of law enforcement personnel, and benefiting from best practices in this regard (Bahrain);**

6.105 **Continue implementing measures to combat human trafficking, including within the framework of the national action plan for the implementation of the anti-human trafficking strategy 2023–2026 and other policy documents (Belarus);**

6.106 **Repeal the amendment of 27 April 2024 to the Anti-Prostitution Law (Sweden);**

6.107 **Increase efforts to address unemployment (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

6.108 **Increase efforts to address unemployment and underemployment with targeted public-sector employment schemes, vocational training and public-private sector partnerships (Malaysia);**

6.109 **Promote economic empowerment programs for vulnerable groups, including youth and persons with disabilities, through fostering vocational training and creating more sustainable job opportunities (Viet Nam);**

6.110 **Strengthen labour laws in line with international standards (Sri Lanka);**

6.111 **Continue enhancing the social security system, particularly through support for low-income individuals (Pakistan);**

6.112 **Continue to improve the social security system and ensure that low-income groups can share the benefits of social development (China);**

6.113 **Continue efforts to strengthen the system of social security (Cuba);**

6.114 **Continue efforts to strengthen the social protection system (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

6.115 **Enhance social and economic support mechanisms for families living in poverty to improve their living conditions (Indonesia);**

6.116 **Continue working on the development and stability program to ensure that support reaches the most needy groups (Saudi Arabia);**

6.117 **Continue to take action towards poverty eradication through the strengthening of its current services and programmes (Brunei Darussalam);**

6.118 **Strengthen those social protection programs that prioritize rural areas as well (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

6.119 **Continue to support the rights of those covered by social protection benefits in order to ensure an improvement in their standard of living (Oman);**

6.120 **Continue strengthening measures to ensure access to adequate and affordable housing, safe drinking water and sanitation (Pakistan);**

6.121 **Continue implementing development projects, especially those relating to clean drinking water and healthcare (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

6.122 **Continue its efforts to improve access to food across Iraq (Singapore);**

6.123 **Improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, healthcare, education, public transport, electricity, waste disposal services and other services (Malaysia);**

6.124 **Continue its effort to achieve higher economic growth so as to raise the standard of living of people, especially the vulnerable groups (Uzbekistan);**

6.125 **Continue the policy of socio-economic development to eliminate poverty, ensure access to health care and quality education, as well as to improve the well-being of children and protect them from all forms of violence (Russian Federation);**

6.126 **Take more effective measures to eradicate illiteracy and address obstacles to access to education, especially for girls (Morocco);**

6.127 **Strengthen measures for human rights education through awareness-raising, training and capacity-building campaigns (Egypt);**

6.128 **Take steps to improve maternal and child health indicators by improving access to affordable maternal healthcare, sanitation and adequate nutrition to women in rural and remote areas (India);**

6.129 **Continue the efforts made to enhance mother and child healthcare and to secure reproductive health services for all women, particularly in rural areas (Tunisia);**

6.130 **Take action to ensure right to health with access to healthcare for every citizen without discrimination (Sri Lanka);**

6.131 **Double efforts to ensure that health services reach all segments of society (Saudi Arabia);**

6.132 **Expand access to healthcare services, particularly for rural communities (Viet Nam);**

6.133 **Prioritize universal access to health coverage to promote and protect the right to health for all, including by addressing the special needs of children and adults with physical and mental disabilities, and vulnerable populations (Bangladesh);**

6.134 **Continue efforts to improve universal health coverage (Samoa);**

6.135 **Collaborate with relevant UN agencies to address food insecurity and increase student attendance, including by implementing school-meals programmes (Malaysia);**

6.136 **Maintain the ongoing efforts to improve public health through the development of a national strategy for nutrition and the implementation of a health-related national strategy (Ethiopia);**

6.137 **Develop health care through enhancing access to psychosocial support services (United Arab Emirates);**

6.138 **Increase health coverage and ensure equitable access to quality health services (Uruguay);**

6.139 **Continue to invest in its healthcare system and the advancement of primary healthcare (Brunei Darussalam);**

6.140 **Continue efforts to ensure equal access to education for girls and marginalized communities, addressing barriers to inclusive education (Ethiopia);**

6.141 **Continue its efforts to increase access to education in Iraq (Singapore);**

6.142 **Continue efforts aimed to give priority to developing education and ensuring equal educational opportunities (United Arab Emirates);**

6.143 **Continue the efforts already undertaken to ensure access to education for all children and to combat school dropouts, particularly in marginalized areas (Burundi);**

6.144 **Continue to strengthen the education system by increasing the education sector budget and reflecting all cultures in the educational curricula (State of Palestine);**

6.145 **Improve the education system and its budget (Jordan);**

6.146 **Implement the inclusive education framework, ensuring equitable access to quality education for girls and boys and young women and men with disabilities (Ukraine);**

6.147 **Continue efforts to ensure the provision of at least nine years of compulsory education, as recommended by UNESCO (Mauritius);**

6.148 **Guarantee at least 9 years of compulsory schooling and inclusive education that covers girls, boys, young women, and men with disabilities (Cabo Verde);**

6.149 **Continue the ongoing efforts of the Republic of Iraq to adopt new measures in the field of education, prioritizing educational development, conducting awareness-raising campaigns, training and capacity building, ensuring equal educational opportunities for Iraqi women and men (Nicaragua);**

6.150 **Strengthening programmes and procedures that contribute to improving education and eradicating illiteracy (Saudi Arabia);**

6.151 **Take further measures regarding education in the field of human rights through awareness campaigns, training, and capacity building (United Arab Emirates);**

6.152 **Take further measures to develop the education system and improve the quality of educational services, including for children with disabilities (Uzbekistan);**

6.153 **Take further steps aimed at protecting, restoring, and rehabilitating the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of all communities in Iraq (India);**

6.154 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, infrastructure development in the areas of housing and drinking water, and promote and protect the economic, social and cultural rights of the Iraqi people (China);**

6.155 **Enhance economic, social and cultural rights (Türkiye);**

6.156 **Continue implementing development projects, especially those related to clean drinking water and health care (Kuwait);**

6.157 **Continue efforts to ensure the sustainable and effective management of water resources, and promote new economical and sustainable irrigation technologies (Bangladesh);**

6.158 **Ensuring the sustainability of water resources by increasing resources allocated to address water scarcity and environmental degradation (Kuwait);**

6.159 **Implement a national policy with a human rights-based approach to protect the environment, including on combating biodiversity loss, adaptation to climate change and for the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste, and activate and create mechanisms to promote citizen participation, including of environmental human rights defenders, in initiatives aimed at addressing this triple planetary crisis (Costa Rica);**

6.160 **Continue cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organisation to alleviate food insecurity, as recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mauritius);**

6.161 **Continue efforts for realising the right to development including by emphasising a right to development perspective in policy formulation and implementation (Pakistan);**

6.162 **Step up support to the initiative for transfer of technologies and capacity-building to promote the effective implementation of the right to development (Cuba);**

6.163 **Continue its efforts for better public services, accountability, reconstruction, development and Iraq’s reintegration with the region (Türkiye);**

6.164 **Strengthen the work of the National Committee for Sustainable Development in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

6.165 **Strengthen disaster risk reduction for communities who are vulnerable to disasters resulting from natural hazards with the support from relevant partners (Samoa);**

6.166 **Seek necessary international cooperation to advance socio-economic development and improve the well-being of its citizens (Nigeria);**

6.167 **Enhance international cooperation to assist in the effective implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Samoa);**

6.168 **Continue strengthening laws and policies that promote gender equality and enhance women’s participation in the workforce and political spheres (Ethiopia);**

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

6.170 **Continue efforts to empower women economically and increase their participation in decision-making (Sudan);**

6.171 **Continue its efforts in empowering women in decision making and financial sectors, through greater political participation and improvement in access to education (India);**

6.172 **Enhance the participation of women in public life (Jordan);**

6.173 **Continue its policy to promote the representation of women in public life, and to strengthen women's economic empowerment (Burundi);**

6.174 **Continue to ensure sufficient resources for the implementation of the National Strategy for Iraqi Women 2023–2030 and the National Strategy for Combating Violence Against Women and Girls 2018–2030 (Philippines);**

6.175 **Continue to enhance women’s representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Gambia);**

6.176 **Continue efforts to increase representation of women in decision-making bodies (Nepal);**

6.177 **Make additional efforts to increase the representation of women in public and political life (Bangladesh);**

6.178 **Ensure that the rights and freedoms of all, as outlined in Iraq’s national and international obligations, are effectively protected by law, with particular attention to the rights of minorities, as well as the rights of women and girls within the codification process following the recent approval of amendments to the Personal Status Law (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

6.179 **Continue efforts to further promote the rights of women and children (Libya);**

6.180 **Ensure the further practical implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uzbekistan);**

6.181 **Redouble efforts to promote and protect the rights of women, girls, and persons with disabilities (Burkina Faso);**

6.182 **Continue efforts aimed to empower women within the framework of the strategies related to them (Algeria);**

6.183 **Intensify efforts to empower women and promote the role of women in social, economic and political life (Oman);**

6.184 **Increase efforts to guarantee the rights of women and children (Azerbaijan);**

6.185 **Ensure that amendments to Iraq’s Personal Status Law, including the code to be subsequently developed, are in line with Iraq’s international commitments on women and children’s rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.186 **Pay particular attention to financing programmes for the protection of children’s rights and the economic and social empowerment of women (Senegal);**

6.187 **Ensure the protection of women’s rights and pass a law against domestic violence (Germany);**

6.188 **Take all necessary measures to respect the rights of women and girls, including by criminalizing marital rape in all circumstances and by setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 without exception, in accordance with Iraq’s international obligations (Switzerland);**

6.189 **Repeal all legislation that violates the rights of women, girls and minorities (Canada);**

6.190 **Fully criminalize marital rape in all circumstances and repeal article 41.1 of the Iraqi Penal Code which gives the husband a legal right to punish his wife (Israel);**

6.191 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and carry out public policy actions to overcome gender stereotypes that do not allow women equal conditions of participation in politics, education and employment (Costa Rica);**

6.192 **Enact comprehensive legislation criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, in compliance with international human rights standards (Estonia);**

6.193 **Adopt and enforce a comprehensive law to combat gender-based violence and honour killings (Montenegro);**

6.194 **Enact and implement comprehensive legislation to combat gender-based violence and honour killings and strengthen women's participation in the workforce (Chile);**

6.195 **Enact comprehensive legislation against all forms of domestic violence (Cyprus);**

6.196 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women, in particular by fully implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and by eradicating domestic violence and female genital mutilation (Italy);**

6.197 **Strengthen further efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, as well as forced and child marriages (Philippines);**

6.198 **Strengthen the implementation of the National Strategy to combat violence against women and girls and adopt specific legislation against domestic violence and providing justice and reparations for the victims (Romania);**

6.199 **Fully implement the National Strategy for Combating Violence against Women and Girls as a step towards elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (Latvia);**

6.200 **Pass and implement legislation which prohibits all forms of gender-based violence and upholds its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Australia);**

6.201 **Amend the Penal Code to criminalize gender-based violence, and modify the provisions that allow corporal punishment to be applied to wives and children to discipline them (Spain);**

6.202 **Criminalize honor killings and ensure that perpetrators of violence against women are held accountable (Germany);**

6.203 **Repeal provisions in the Penal Code that allow for the defence of ‘honour’ as a mitigating circumstance for homicide (Australia);**

6.204 **Adopt the bill on domestic violence in accordance with international standards (Albania);**

6.205 **Promote legal reforms to punish all cases of physical, psychological and sexual violence against women, without exceptions or mitigating circumstances (Paraguay);**

6.206 **Take concrete measures to adopt a law protecting women and girls from domestic violence and to end the practice of early marriage, including by strengthening legislation to protect children from child marriage, prohibiting such practices and defining child marriage as an offence in the Criminal Code (Belgium);**

6.207 **Promote the adoption of a comprehensive law against domestic violence that includes cases such as marital rape or eliminates mitigating factors for so-called “honor” crimes (Colombia);**

6.208 **Take concrete measures to combat early, child and forced marriages and to further protect women in cases of divorce or inheritance, including by not amending the Personal Status Law in a way that would restrict women’s and children’s rights (Portugal);**

6.209 **Continue and enhance efforts aimed at the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls (Georgia);**

6.210 **Protect women from all forms of violence, enhancing their empowerment through education, skills training, facilitating their access to the labour market, and their participation in public and political life (Lebanon);**

6.211 **Adopt a law on the protection of women and girls victims of domestic violence giving victims protection short term and prospect of reintegration into the society in the medium term (France);**

6.212 **Allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of the Domestic Violence Law, including by ensuring that the Directorate for Combating Violence Against Women and the Family receives sufficient funding to carry out its mission and provide effective protection for survivors (Malta);**

6.213 **Strengthen the capacity and independence of the judicial system to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence, and provide effective and necessary support for victims (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

6.214 **Redouble efforts to ensure that victims of crimes committed by the Islamic State, especially women and girls, obtain justice and reparation (Colombia);**

6.215 **Provide more comprehensive support for survivors of crimes committed by ISIS, particularly for women with children born out of conflict-related sexual violence, and ensure that mothers and their children have access to all public services (Germany);**

6.216 **Introduce exceptions to the personal status laws in order for children born out of conflict-related sexual violence to take on the name and religion of their mothers, and encourage implementation of already existing legal possibilities (Germany);**

6.217 **Enhance strategies and resources for combating violence against women and promote women’s political participation (Maldives);**

6.218 **Adopt and implement the draft Child Protection Law, which should include provisions prohibiting child early and forced marriage and online child sexual exploitation (Italy);**

6.219 **Institutionalize child protection by developing preventive frameworks, including by adopting the draft child protection law, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights law (Ukraine);**

6.220 **Adopt a child protection law in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights laws, which addresses issues such as children lacking legal documentation and accountability for child recruitment by armed groups (Belgium);**

6.221 **Align the federal child protection law and the law on children`s rights with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Estonia);**

6.222 **Implement the new Personal Status Law in conformity with Iraq’s commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to ensure the protection of the rights of young girls (Ireland);**

6.223 **Take immediate measures to issue legal documentation, such as birth registration, for all children in Iraq (Romania);**

6.224 **Provide civil documentation, such as birth registration, to all children in the country (Costa Rica);**

6.225 **Implement simplified and expedited procedures for obtaining civil documentation for children and their caregivers, particularly those in vulnerable situations (Bangladesh);**

6.226 **Take necessary measures to address stillbirths and infant mortality (Sri Lanka);**

6.227 **Ensure access to education for children residing in correctional facilities (Indonesia);**

6.228 **Implement programs to guarantee access to education for displaced children, refugees, and persons with disabilities (Yemen);**

6.229 **Strengthen the mechanism of including all children in the education system (Mauritania);**

6.230 **Ensure better access to schools for all children, specially in rural areas, at the primary level (Mauritania);**

6.231 **Redouble efforts to ensure equitable access to education for girls, and children with disabilities (Nepal);**

6.232 **Explore the possibility of incorporating a new curriculum at all educational levels that promotes respect for human rights, specifically children’s rights (Armenia);**

6.233 **Continue efforts to promote children’s rights, especially regarding education, health care, safe drinking water and protection from all forms of violence (Morocco);**

6.234 **Redouble efforts to guarantee the human rights of girls and boys including education, health services, drinking water, and protection against all forms of violence and discrimination (Cuba);**

6.235 **Make more efforts to improve the welfare of children, especially girls, in terms of access to education, health care, and all conditions of a nurturing environment (Lebanon);**

6.236 **Continue to strengthen the protection of children's rights and improve systems for their education, healthcare and safe drinking water (China);**

6.237 **Continue efforts made to improve social protection and healthcare for children and persons with disabilities (Algeria);**

6.238 **Continue the efforts made to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, secure their needs, and enhance educational and employment opportunities for their benefit (Tunisia);**

6.239 **Continue to take measures to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities in a manner consistent with international treaties (Azerbaijan);**

6.240 **Continue to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in all regions of Iraq, and provide them with job and education opportunities in line with international treaties (Oman);**

6.241 **Promote training of public sector personnel in the field of human rights and implement policies aimed at supporting the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in society, as well as their active participation in community life (Djibouti);**

6.242 **Continue efforts aimed at improving access to healthcare services and quality education, particularly for children with disabilities and special needs, as well as internally displaced children (Georgia);**

6.243 **Take immediate steps to ensure that effective protection of persons belonging to religious minorities from all forms of violence and harassment, including by investigation and prosecution of such acts (Israel);**

6.244 **Consolidate the freedom of religion and belief and intensify the efforts to protect religious minorities (Italy);**

6.245 **Accelerate the process for the adoption of a comprehensive legislation to protect minority communities and effectively combat all forms of discrimination (Philippines);**

6.246 **Fully and equitably implement all the provisions of the 2021 Yazidi Survivors’ Law (Italy);**

6.247 **Focus on inclusive policies and prevent any attempts or fait accompli that may disrupt the delicate balances among the components of the Iraqi society, including in Kirkuk (Türkiye);**

6.248 **Investigate all allegations of violence against persons targeted because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, and publicly and expressly condemn violence of this kind (Chile);**

6.249 **Take concrete steps to combat all forms of discrimination, investigate crimes and end violence, including killings, against LGBTIQ+ persons (Finland);**

6.250 **Enact anti-discrimination legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);**

6.251 **Decriminalize same-sex relations, as well as eliminate all those that are discriminatory, in order to combat the stigmatization of sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);**

6.252 **Decriminalize same-sex relations by repealing the Anti-Prostitution Law (Malta);**

6.253 **Repeal the 2024 anti-LGBT+ law (Mexico);**

6.254 **Strengthen measures to ensure the safety and rights of migrant workers, protecting them from physical and labor abuse, including by ensuring no impunity for employers or agents who violate their obligations under the law (Indonesia);**

6.255 **Step up efforts to enhance migrant workers’ access to justice and ensure their equal rights in the labour market (Nepal);**

6.256 **Make legal and financial means available to reconstruct in areas under former occupation of Da’esh and restore public services of the Iraqi State in those territories to ensure the safe return and sustainable integration of internally displaced persons (France);**

6.257 **Take action to address the issue of internally displaced persons and ensure safe return to their communities (Sri Lanka);**

6.258 **Intensify efforts to facilitate the safe return of internally displaced persons to their communities (Canada);**

6.259 **Continue implementing measures to ensure a safe and orderly resettlement of willing internally displaced persons still living in camps (Sierra Leone);**

6.260 **Take possible steps to resettle tent camps with more than 1 million internally displaced persons (Russian Federation);**

6.261 **Protect and ensure the rights of all internally displaced persons, including the right to a voluntary return in safety (Norway);**

6.262 **Continue and sustain ongoing efforts to promote human rights by further strengthening mechanisms to protect the rights of women, children and Internally Displaced Persons (Nigeria);**

6.263 **Develop a comprehensive transition plan for the remaining IDP camps and all their inhabitants, including Yazidis, providing conditions for a safe and decent livelihood in the areas of return, as well as future prospects (Germany).**

7. **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 Iraq was headed by Minister of Justice, H.E. Mr. Khalid Salam SAEED and composed of the following members:

• H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Hashim Mostafa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to UNOG;

• H.E Mr. Abdul Kareem Toma Kaab, Ambassador, Head of the Human Rights Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

• H.E. Mr. Zaidan Khalaf Obaid, Prime Minister's Advisor for Human Rights;

• Mr. Dindar Farzanda Zebari, Coordinator of International Recommendations, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG);

• Mr. Jaafar Abdulsada al Darraji, Counsellor, Council of State;

• Ms. Yusra Kareem Mohsin, Director General of the National Department for Iraqi Women, The General Secretariat of the Iraqi Cabinet;

• Mr. Ahmed Hadi Buniya al-Lami, Director General of the Legal Department, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs;

• Mr. Ehab Naji Abbas Hamad, Director General of the Directorate of Studies, Planning and Follow-up, Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research;

• Mr. Amer Abbas Zghair, Director General of the Planning and Follow-up Department / Ministry of Migration and Displacement;

• Mr. Riyadh Kareem Abdullah, Director General of the General Directorate of Methods;

• Mr. Obay AL-TAII, Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq to UNOG;

• Ms. Zainab al Abtan, Counselor, Permanent Mission of Iraq to UNOG;

• Mr. Salam Ali Yawer, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Iraq to UNOG;

• Mr. Jaffar Mohamed Ali, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Iraq to UNOG;

• Mr. Mohamad S. Mohamadsalah, Ministry of Justice;

• Mr. Haidar Abdulelah Aref; Director of the Human Rights Department, Ministry of Justice:

• Ms. Huda Jawad Abdulridha al-Saedi, Legal Department, The General-Secretariat of the Iraqi Cabinet;

• Ms. Meena Thair Abdullah, Director of the Human Rights Directorate at the Ministry of Interior;

• Mr. Salam Hussein Kadhim, Director of the Human Rights Directorate at the Ministry of Defense;

• Ms. Shaymaa Salahaldeen Alabdwahid, Director of the Community Development Department, Ministry of Health;

• Mr. Dashti Salam Saeed; Ministry of Justice/ Media;

• Ms. Hiba Mahmood Mubarak, Ministry of Justice- Human Rights Department- Director of international report writing section;

• Mr. Muayad Radhi Fadhil Akabi, Assistant Director of the Report Writing Department, Human Rights Department, Ministry of Justice;

• Ms. Medya Hoshyar Naqshabandi, Office of the Coordinator of International Recommendations, KRG;

• Mr. Khaleel Sulaiman Hussein, Office of the Coordinator of International Recommendations, KRG;

• Mr. Miran Tofiq Abdalqadir, Ministry of Justice;

• Mr. Ali Hasan Ghafil, Ministry of Justice / Media;

• Mrs. Awara Jalali, Media;

• Mrs. Donia Assi Abi Saab, Media;

• Mr. Assi Moussa.

1. A/HRC/WG.6/48/IRQ/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/WG.6/48/IRQ/2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A/HRC/WG.6/48/IRQ/3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)