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**Universal periodic review**

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

**Guinea-Bissau**

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

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-ninth session from 28 April to 9 May 2025. The review of Guinea-Bissau was held at the 9th meeting, on 2 May 2025. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau was headed by the Director-General for Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Degol Mendes. At its 16th meeting, held on 7 May 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Guinea-Bissau.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Guinea-Bissau: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Kyrgyzstan and Malawi.

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 Guinea-Bissau:

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

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Costa Rica, on behalf of the 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, Panama, on behalf of the members of the core group of sponsors of the resolution on the open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the rights to early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education (Armenia, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Romania and Sierra Leone), Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Guinea-Bissau through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that the previous universal periodic review, which had taken place in 2020, had proven to be an important opportunity to measure progress achieved by Guinea-Bissau and to highlight the remaining challenges facing the country. Guinea-Bissau had welcomed the positive spirit that had prevailed during the third cycle of the universal periodic review and had committed to implementing the recommendations it had received.

6. The national report provided an overview of the main progress achieved during the period under review and of the challenges faced by Guinea-Bissau in the promotion, protection and implementation of public policies focused on human rights during the past five years. The progress in implementing the recommendations received had included, notably, the reactivation of the ad hoc constitutional review committee and the development of various legal and legislative frameworks for the justice sector. Those developments included revisions to the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Criminal Code and the

<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/49/GNB/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/49/GNB/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/49/GNB/3](#).

Code of Criminal Procedure, all of which had been concluded and were awaiting approval by the National People's Assembly.

7. The objective of that exercise had been to improve the current legal framework, to expand the response capacities of the judicial institutions and to address the limitations that had arisen in applying the law, as well as to promote good governance.

8. The Government recognized that corruption was one of the main obstacles to governance and had therefore developed a national anti-corruption strategy, which had been approved in April 2022. Additionally, the Government was currently focusing on training key anti-corruption officers and providing training in ethics and integrity to support the application of the law.

9. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau had adopted Decree No. 9/2018 of 14 December 2018 creating the Asset Management and Recovery Bureau, which aimed to recover unlawfully obtained assets. The members of the Bureau had been appointed in 2020 by means of two regulatory orders issued by the Minister of Justice. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau had adopted a comprehensive national plan on combating drugs and organized crime and reducing risk and a corresponding action plan for the period 2021–2027. In that connection, Guinea-Bissau had carried out a second round of mutual evaluation in 2022 regarding the risks of money laundering.

10. To comply with exiting commitments on child protection, several legal instruments had been developed, namely the National Policy for the Comprehensive Protection of Children, the Civil Registry Code, the Transitional Law on Protection Systems and the Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children.

11. Guinea-Bissau considered the dignity of the human person to be an absolute value, and accordingly, the country's Constitution contained important guarantees for citizens; any restrictions on rights, freedoms and guarantees could only occur in exceptional situations.

12. Several structural reforms were under way seeking to guarantee access to justice for all, regardless of their economic situation. To that end, Guinea-Bissau was focusing on strengthening the institutional framework for access to justice centres and reviewing the legal framework. In that regard, several bills had been developed, including the revised Act on the Organization of the Sectoral Courts, the revision of the Act and Regulations on the Organization of the Supreme Court, the Mediation Act and the Traditional Justice Act.

13. In the field of labour, the new Labour Code had been adopted, with a view to strengthening the protection of workers and ensuring conditions aimed at guaranteeing decent work.

14. Guinea-Bissau, with support from the United Nations system, through the Peacebuilding Fund, had also prepared a National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and a related plan of action, for the period 2022–2026. That instrument reflected the human rights situation in the country and contained an overall vision of action needed to address the existing structural challenges.

15. Moreover, the National Commission for Human Rights and Citizenship functioned as an independent national institution and brought together representatives of different public and private institutions. Recently, new statutes had been adopted for the National Commission.

16. Regarding female genital mutilation, the National Committee on the Eradication of Harmful Practices was updating the National Strategy for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation which covered the period 2025–2030.

17. In order to implement inclusive policies, Guinea-Bissau had adopted the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, the National Strategic Plan for Inclusive Education, and a bill on the basic law on the protection, promotion and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

18. Regarding the health sector, the delegation highlighted, among other things, the development, in 2020, of a strategic plan for the Operational Centre for Health Emergencies covering the period 2021–2023, which had helped the country handle the coronavirus disease

(COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the polio and measles epidemics that had broken out in 2022.

19. In the area of education, a national strategy for out-of-school children and the corresponding budget implementation plan had been adopted. Additionally, the Accelerated Learning Programme had been finalized in 2024, and the pilot phase of the Accelerated Formal Education Programme had been launched in two regions.

20. Social protection and the protection of dignified work had been strengthened with the approval of the National Social Protection Policy and of the strategy for its implementation, which were aimed at implementing the State's commitment to strengthening the protection mechanisms against risks that threatened the right to a dignified life, free from the fear of destitution or hunger and from difficulty in accessing essential services such as healthcare and education.

21. In the area of combating violence against women, a project on the right to a life free from violence, titled "No tene diritu a um vida sem violência", had been created, strengthening the mechanisms to protect victims in Guinea-Bissau. The project had created a space for dialogue among ministries, civil society organizations and public and private actors involved in the relevant sectors, promoting political coordination aimed at developing and presenting draft laws, and facilitating dialogue and advocacy on the issue.

22. To ensure compliance with the international obligations undertaken under the different international conventions and as a result of the recommendations received by Guinea-Bissau during the third cycle, several national reports had been prepared for treaty bodies under the different international instruments to which the country was a party. In addition, Guinea-Bissau had submitted its report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (the voluntary national review).

23. The Government had drawn up a National Development Plan for the period 2022–2023. Moreover, a new development plan was being prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning and Regional Integration, with the aim of implementing several projects.

24. Guinea-Bissau had made efforts at various levels to seek cooperation for the protection of human rights, including through the strategic cooperation programme between Portugal and Guinea-Bissau for 2021–2025, under which various cooperation priorities had been identified, and through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Guinea-Bissau 2022–2026.

25. Regarding the judicial sector, in addition to the reforms to the legal framework, work was also under way to strengthen the human and material conditions for justice system operators. Great importance had been given to actions to strengthen the capacities of justice system operators, the rehabilitation of judicial infrastructures, the expansion of the judicial network, and the strengthening of mechanisms aimed at ensuring the independence of the judiciary from the political power.

26. The delegation noted with appreciation the involvement in and contribution of the United Nations to the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office and a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. The involvement of non-governmental organizations and civil society in the consultation process for the creation of the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up was welcome, as their contribution represented an important added value for this exercise.

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

27. During the interactive dialogue, 79 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

28. Ukraine commended efforts by Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its human rights protection mechanisms, in particular through the adoption of important legislative and regulatory texts, and encouraged the continuation of that progress.

29. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed efforts to protect women and girls. It expressed concern about the weakening of public and democratic institutions, and about limitations on opposition groups.
30. The United Republic of Tanzania applauded the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87).
31. Uruguay praised the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to ensure the protection of the human rights of its population.
32. Vanuatu welcomed the National Strategy for Inclusive Education to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the education sector, and the National Development Plan 2020–2023 which prioritized agriculture, water resources and sustainable forest management.
33. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the creation of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking and of several national institutions tasked with combating climate change, including the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas.
34. Zambia applauded Guinea-Bissau for the progress made in implementing the recommendations it had received in the third cycle, particularly the adoption of the National Social Protection Policy and the strategy for its implementation.
35. Zimbabwe commended Guinea-Bissau for its efforts in implementing recommendations it had received during the last universal periodic review.
36. Armenia commended the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its human rights framework, including the adoption of the Human Rights Action Plan and of the new National Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking 2024–2028.
37. Australia welcomed the active engagement of Guinea-Bissau in United Nations human rights mechanisms and expressed concern about increased restrictions on civic space and a lack of progress towards ending sexual and gender-based violence.
38. Belgium expressed appreciation for the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to improving the human rights situation, as demonstrated by the recent submission of four reports to treaty bodies.
39. Botswana welcomed the legal and legislative reforms that had been undertaken by Guinea-Bissau, including those awaiting adoption, and the progress achieved, and noted that several challenges remained.
40. Brazil commended the adoption of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship 2022–2026 and of health plans and strategies, which should be allocated the necessary resources to ensure the gradual expansion of health services and maternity support.
41. Burkina Faso welcomed the legal and institutional reforms undertaken in the field of human rights and noted the development of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and the establishment of committees to prepare reports for human rights treaty bodies.
42. Burundi welcomed the early warning mechanism set up by Guinea-Bissau to combat trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced labour and marriage, and commended the efforts made to protect children, particularly the progress made in increasing birth registration.
43. Cabo Verde welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Corruption 2021–2030, and of the National Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drugs and Organized Crime as well as its corresponding action plan, covering the period 2021–2027.
44. Cameroon noted with satisfaction the progress made by Guinea-Bissau on human rights, particularly the adoption of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and the accompanying action plan.

45. Canada commended efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to protect children's rights, and the implementation of the country's first National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and the accompanying action plan.
46. Chile welcomed legal and policy measures that Guinea-Bissau had adopted, including to combat human trafficking and to ensure parity in politics and decision-making, as well as the new statutes of the National Human Rights Commission.
47. China welcomed measures adopted by Guinea-Bissau to combat climate change, to protect children, persons with disabilities and women, and to reduce poverty and ensure a decent standard of living, by creating a social security system.
48. Colombia made recommendations.
49. The Congo welcomed the enhancement of the legal framework on human rights, following the implementation of accepted recommendations, and encouraged Guinea-Bissau to pay special attention to children with disabilities.
50. Costa Rica welcomed the launch of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and its related action plan, for the period 2022–2026.
51. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed measures that had been adopted to combat trafficking in persons, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and drugs and organized crime. It encouraged Guinea-Bissau to revise the Constitution to fully integrate human rights.
52. Cuba commended Guinea-Bissau for its adoption of the Labour Code, and of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and the related action plan for 2022–2026, as well as for its cooperation with special procedure mandate holders.
53. Cyprus welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship, and the national child protection commission. Cyprus encouraged Guinea-Bissau to implement existing human rights legislation and strategies.
54. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the adoption of the National Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking 2024–2028 and the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship.
55. Equatorial Guinea welcomed the ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).
56. The delegation responded to comments regarding the strengthening of measures to combat sex-based discrimination and violations of children's rights. It noted that an early warning system to prevent child trafficking, particularly for the purposes of exploitation, had been implemented.
57. Regarding sex discrimination, several laws had been adopted, including laws addressing domestic violence, gender-based violence, reproductive health and family planning. Guinea-Bissau also indicated that a date had been set for parliamentary elections, in November 2025, after which the National People's Assembly would be operational, and the country would have a full array of functioning democratic institutions.
58. Responding to recommendations on women's political participation, the delegation highlighted the Parity Act, which had established quotas for women's representation on party electoral lists. It observed that if the law was correctly enforced, the representation of women in Parliament would be substantial and that, therefore, political parties must make a commitment to respect the law.
59. Regarding measures for child protection, the delegation recalled that the Civil Registry Code had been revised to ensure that all children were registered at birth, regardless of their location or economic condition. To further address this issue, the new Code provided that no fees would be charged for the birth registration of children up to the age of 7. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau was striving to implement a mobile registration campaign and was receiving support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the issue.
60. The new Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children sought to provide comprehensive protection, including for children on the move. Under the new Code, children

who left the national territory were obliged to carry identity documents which could be checked to ensure that they were protected and did not fall victim to human trafficking.

61. Regarding gender-based violence, the delegation confirmed ongoing collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the national network to combat gender-based violence, noting that this was an issue that was deeply rooted in societal culture and that therefore action taken must be carried out not only on the legal front but also to raise awareness about the issue.

62. With regard to the national human rights institution, efforts were being made to bring it into line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), such as revision of its statutes, but the current situation made it impossible to submit these for approval by the parliament since it was not operational. Those circumstances also affected the possibility of ratifying additional international instruments, and the constitutional review process.

63. Traditional justice still played an important role, as the justice system did not cover the whole country, and many conflicts were mediated through traditional justice mechanisms. It was therefore important to train those persons responsible for the administration of traditional justice to ensure that it was administered along the same principles as the official justice system.

64. In response to recommendations on strengthening the human rights network and the protection of human rights defenders, the delegation noted that a draft law for the protection of human rights defenders was being developed. Collaboration with civil society in regard to that law was ongoing, particularly with the Guinean League of Human Rights.

65. Guinea-Bissau had set as a priority ensuring that children attended school and therefore no fees were charged for basic education.

66. To combat early marriage, school dropout, and discrimination against girls and women in education, awareness efforts targeting traditional community leaders were being carried out in partnership with non-governmental organizations. The reproductive health and family planning act set a minimum legal age for marriage and included penalties for those violating the act.

67. The health sector had received significant budget allocations. New hospitals were under construction, the health network was expanding, and a new referral hospital and haemodialysis unit were being built.

68. The delegation concluded by emphasizing that the National Development Plan reflected the State's priorities and that the new plan should improve the State's responses and strengthen the capacity of all national institutions.

69. Eritrea welcomed the adoption of various legal and policy measures to protect persons, including children, with disabilities, including measures on inclusive education and to prevent health emergencies – in particular the National Polio Response Plan and the Measles Control Plan.

70. Estonia encouraged Guinea-Bissau to make further efforts to strengthen primary healthcare. Estonia was concerned about challenges in realizing the right to education.

71. Ethiopia commended progress made by Guinea-Bissau in promoting human rights, in particular through its efforts to implement recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review.

72. France noted the positive measures taken by Guinea-Bissau since its last universal periodic review.

73. Gabon noted with satisfaction the development of new legislative texts, and the recruitment and training of new magistrates and bailiffs, and welcomed the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2021–2030.

74. The Gambia commended Guinea-Bissau on its adoption of the National Social Protection Policy and the strategy for its implementation, for the period 2025–2029, and on steps to establish a national mechanism for reporting, implementation and follow-up.

75. Georgia commended Guinea-Bissau for the 2022 national strategy and action plan on human rights, and for steps taken to submit reports to treaty bodies and its first report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
76. Germany expressed appreciation for the adoption in 2022 of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy but expressed concern about continued restrictions on freedom of assembly and of the press. Germany urged Guinea-Bissau to strengthen its efforts to combat gender-based violence, especially female genital mutilation.
77. Ghana commended Guinea-Bissau for its efforts to address the problems of drug use and trafficking in persons through its collaboration with Portugal under the new Strategic Cooperation Programme 2021–2025 and for its efforts to improve access to education for persons with disabilities.
78. The Holy See thanked Guinea-Bissau for its engagement in the universal periodic review process.
79. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Guinea-Bissau and its national report.
80. India thanked Guinea-Bissau for presenting its national report.
81. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the adoption of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and its action plan, and for positive developments in the areas of social protection, education, and judicial reform.
82. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to advance and protect the rights to education and health, as well as its work against trafficking in persons.
83. Iraq commended the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to present the national report to the universal periodic review, and the timely presentation of periodic reports despite difficulties that it faced regarding the implementation of recommendations.
84. Ireland welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship but regretted the lack of progress on creating a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors and human rights defenders.
85. Italy welcomed the adoption of the new National Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking 2024–2028.
86. Japan welcomed steps to regulate the Land Act so as to ensure equal access to land for all, especially women, and to ensure accountability for violations of land rights.
87. Jordan commended the new National Development Plan 2022–2023 and the strengthening of the 2022–2026 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework with a focus on the protection of human rights.
88. Lesotho noted positively the significant increase in birth registrations among children under 5 years of age, and applauded the drafting of the Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and expressed the hope that it would be swiftly adopted.
89. Malawi noted the progress made by Guinea-Bissau in the promotion and protection of human rights, exemplified by the strengthening of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Guinea-Bissau and the ratification of international human rights instruments.
90. Malaysia acknowledged the progress made by Guinea-Bissau in advancing economic, social and cultural rights, particularly access to water, sanitation, health services and employment.
91. Maldives commended policies adopted by Guinea-Bissau on the protection of children, its efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and its pledge under the Human Rights 75 initiative.
92. Mali welcomed the progress made by Guinea-Bissau on birth registration, and the efforts to strengthen health policy following the development of the National Community



Health Strategic Plan 2021–2025, which included measures to support communities in cases of emergency.

93. The Marshall Islands noted the submission by Guinea-Bissau of the revised nationally determined contribution, and praised its efforts to mainstream human rights across national policies, including through its national strategy and action plan on human rights.

94. Mauritania expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to re-establish the constitutional and legislative frameworks, to revise the Constitution and human rights legislation, and to adopt the Labour Code and the Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children.

95. Mauritius welcomed the initiatives by Guinea-Bissau to promote and protect human rights.

96. Mexico recognized efforts made by Guinea-Bissau, particularly the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Female Genital Mutilation 2025–2030.

97. Montenegro encouraged Guinea-Bissau to maintain its positive momentum in providing regular reporting to the treaty bodies and acknowledged measures taken on the border control system to reduce the risks of child exploitation and trafficking but noted that challenges persisted regarding child vulnerability.

98. Morocco praised the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to launch the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and to fulfil international commitments in the field of human rights, including the adoption of relevant legislation and policies.

99. Mozambique expressed its appreciation for the comprehensive presentation made by Guinea-Bissau on the human rights situation in the country.

100. Namibia commended the steps taken by Guinea-Bissau to submit overdue reports to the treaty bodies, particularly under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

101. Nepal expressed appreciation for efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to implement the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review and for measures related to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

102. The Kingdom of the Netherlands stated that additional measures by Guinea-Bissau to revise the basic education law would be welcome and expressed concern about the restrictions on freedom of expression and increased violence against journalists.

103. Panama welcomed the national report and made recommendations.

104. The Philippines praised the steps taken by Guinea-Bissau to strengthen domestic institutions and normative frameworks, particularly the ratification of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) and the adoption of the national human rights strategy and action plan.

105. Portugal welcomed the adoption by Guinea-Bissau of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship 2022–2026, and its accession to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention).

106. The Russian Federation welcomed the measures taken by Guinea-Bissau to establish the Office of the Ombudsman, to improve the justice system and conditions for pretrial detention, and to enhance access to free healthcare and education.

107. Rwanda commended Guinea-Bissau for the ongoing amendments to legal instruments and its commitment to human rights and climate change issues, notably by holding its first National Dialogue on the Environment and joining the West and Central Africa Alliance.

108. Saudi Arabia commended the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to improve the national health system, including the preparation of a national action plan on health to improve health coverage and primary healthcare, especially in rural areas.

109. Senegal welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship, the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, and the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies.

110. Sierra Leone commended Guinea-Bissau for implementing several child protection policies aimed at addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable children, in particular Talibé and refugee children, and for the adoption of the National Strategy for Inclusive Education.

111. Slovenia noted the adoption of several policy documents, including the national human rights plan and the updated strategy on combating female genital mutilation. It expressed concern at reports of women facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence.

112. South Africa commended Guinea-Bissau for strengthening the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Guinea-Bissau 2022–2026, for the adoption of measures to facilitate access to justice and for the approval of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2021–2030.

113. Spain welcomed the approval of the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship and the related plan of action in 2022.

114. The Sudan commended the progress achieved on the legal framework, which included the adoption of the Labour Code, the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship, the National Development Plan, and the prison sector strategy.

115. Switzerland welcomed the delegation and made recommendations.

116. Thailand welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities and the National Social Protection Policy, and commended the efforts to promote community-level health programmes, including on maternal and reproductive health.

117. Timor-Leste commended Guinea-Bissau for adopting the National Social Protection Policy and the strategy for its implementation, for the period 2025–2029, and for developing the National Strategy for Human Rights and Citizenship. It welcomed the amendments to the statutes of the National Human Rights Commission.

118. Togo welcomed the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to implement the recommendations it had received, particularly its adoption of the National Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking 2024–2028.

119. Tunisia welcomed reforms to develop the justice system, improve detention conditions, combat corruption and tackle trafficking in persons. It commended measures relating to social protection, and supporting the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities.

120. Regarding the recommendation to raise the legal minimum age for marriage to 18, the delegation noted that the new Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children had set the age of marriage at 18. However, final adoption of the Code by Parliament was pending. Once adopted, the law would definitively establish 18 as the legal minimum age for marriage.

121. Moreover, the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy was ongoing. The legislation on asset recovery was aimed at combating crime also by recovering assets acquired through criminal means, so that perpetrators would not be able to benefit. Recent efforts had included the confiscation of aircraft and other assets linked to drug trafficking, which had now been returned to the State.

122. In conclusion, the delegation stated that it had taken note of all recommendations made by the States that had taken the floor. Guinea-Bissau would examine the recommendations received to determine their relevance and alignment with the situation in the country and indicate a position to the Human Rights Council. Similarly to its action during the third cycle, the country would then take the necessary measures to follow up on and implement the recommendations it had received, considering the national circumstances and the available resources.

123. Guinea-Bissau expressed appreciation to the members of the Human Rights Council, to the members of the troika for their support and to the Office of the High Commissioner

for Human Rights for funding the participation of a member of the delegation. It also expressed appreciation to the United Nations Development Programme for funding the participation of members of the delegation in the interactive dialogue.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

124. The following recommendations will be examined by Guinea-Bissau, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council:

- 124.1 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Côte d'Ivoire) (France) (Uruguay);
- 124.2 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi) (Namibia);
- 124.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Colombia) (Costa Rica) (Cyprus) (Ghana) (Zambia);
- 124.4 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);
- 124.5 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mexico);
- 124.6 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);
- 124.7 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);
- 124.8 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in line with the recommendation previously made by Uruguay (Uruguay);
- 124.9 Strengthen efforts in the fight against impunity and victims' access to justice, by considering ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Marshall Islands);
- 124.10 Finalize the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 124.11 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Iraq);
- 124.12 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education, as recommended by UNESCO (Mauritius);
- 124.13 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Costa Rica);
- 124.14 Continue cooperation and technical assistance actions in the area of human rights protection (Cuba);
- 124.15 Continue cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant organizations to enhance national legislation and ensure its alignment with international human rights standards (India);
- 124.16 Continue constructive cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, special procedures and treaty bodies (Jordan);
- 124.17 Continue cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Malawi);

- 124.18 Strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks as well as national mechanisms that safeguard human rights (Zimbabwe);
- 124.19 Expedite efforts to complete the revision of the Constitution through an inclusive and transparent process, to entrench its human rights obligations (Gambia);
- 124.20 Address political instability to facilitate the effective implementation of human rights legislation and reform initiatives (Mozambique);
- 124.21 Finalize the process of adoption, by the National People's Assembly, of the Code for the Comprehensive Protection of Children, and the proposed amendments to the Civil Code, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cuba);
- 124.22 Encourage all political and social actors, according to their respective competencies, to engage in sincere and inclusive dialogue for national reconciliation and peaceful conflict resolution, recognizing that lasting peace is not achieved through force, but through patient dialogue and mutual respect (Holy See);
- 124.23 Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Canada);
- 124.24 Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Spain);
- 124.25 Establish a national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 124.26 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);
- 124.27 Continue efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, building on the recent progress with the National Human Rights Commission and the planned Ombudsman's Office (Indonesia);
- 124.28 Intensify efforts to finalize the establishment of the national human rights institution according to international standards (Botswana);
- 124.29 Accelerate efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 124.30 Expedite the process of transforming the National Human Rights Commission into an independent institution in line with the Paris Principles (Gambia);
- 124.31 Continue initiatives to bring the laws governing the National Human Rights Commission into line with the Paris Principles (Morocco);
- 124.32 Bolster efforts to strengthen the capacity of the National Human Rights Commission in order to align its functioning with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);
- 124.33 Accelerate the accreditation of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mauritania);
- 124.34 Put measures in place to guarantee the independence of the National Human Rights Commission to monitor the State's human rights obligations (South Africa);
- 124.35 Continue to develop the system of national human rights institutions (Russian Federation);
- 124.36 Strengthen national institutions created to promote and protect the rights of the entire population, providing them with the technical and financial

resources necessary for their effective and efficient operation (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

124.37 Accelerate efforts to establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (Morocco);

124.38 Accelerate the efforts to form the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up of recommendations received during the cycles of the universal periodic review (Botswana);

124.39 Strengthen the role of civil society in following up on the implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms (Mauritania);

124.40 Continue to strengthen existing laws to ensure that they uphold the principle of equality (Ukraine);

124.41 Continue to revise existing laws to ensure that they serve to uphold the principle of equality and non-discrimination (Malawi);

124.42 Promote protection and support for particularly vulnerable persons and strengthen the implementation of provisions relating to the rights to sexual and reproductive health and on combating violence and discrimination against women (France);

124.43 Continue implementing inclusive public policies aimed at guaranteeing the human rights of the most vulnerable populations, prioritizing children and adolescents, older adults and persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

124.44 Ensure the appropriate legal training for security forces and judicial authorities, with a view to guaranteeing the protection of citizens' rights (Cyprus);

124.45 Provide human rights training to police officers and law enforcement officials in the country (Mexico);

124.46 Continue to take measures to address the problem of prison overcrowding (Russian Federation);

124.47 Continue efforts in the field of combating corruption (Tunisia);

124.48 Ensure the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy adopted in 2021, by putting in place effective mechanisms for adequate prevention and repression (Togo);

124.49 Implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy with a view to promoting good governance and sustainable development (Morocco);

124.50 Redouble efforts to combat corruption, particularly by ensuring the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for the period 2021–2030 (Gabon);

124.51 Take all necessary measures deemed pertinent to ensure the effective implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the protection of human rights defenders (Cabo Verde);

124.52 Take stronger action to combat corruption, which undermines democratic governance and a stable society (Mozambique);

124.53 Take greater steps to guarantee that investigations into corruption proceed in an unbiased and transparent manner (Lesotho);

124.54 Ensure that justice and law enforcement institutions can work free of political and economic influence (Germany);

124.55 Continue its efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Mauritania);

- 124.56 Continue efforts to expand access to justice programmes at a national level (Mozambique);
- 124.57 Ensure the adoption of all bills aimed at reforming the judicial sector (Gabon);
- 124.58 Urgently adopt legal and policy measures to strengthen the independence of the courts and other actors in the field of justice (Colombia);
- 124.59 Strengthen the independence of the judiciary and improve institutional accountability, as essential foundations for peace and reconciliation (Holy See);
- 124.60 Continue and strengthen policies to uphold the independence of the courts and other justice actors and to protect the right to fair trial (Japan);
- 124.61 Reform the justice and law enforcement system to enable decentralized universal access to adequate legal protection (Germany);
- 124.62 Adopt measures to strengthen the administration of justice and the independence of judges and lawyers, as well as the State's capacity to fulfil its human rights commitments (Cabo Verde);
- 124.63 Provide training for traditional authorities on human rights to ensure the compliance of traditional justice with international human rights standards, as well as developing a legal framework for recourse to traditional justice (Belgium);
- 124.64 Establish effective mechanisms for investigating all allegations of human rights violations, ensuring that perpetrators are identified and held accountable in accordance with the law (South Africa);
- 124.65 Reinforce the juvenile justice system (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 124.66 Fully protect fundamental human rights, including freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression, and the right to peaceful assembly (Holy See);
- 124.67 Continue to protect the right to freedom of expression, including press freedom, by decriminalizing defamation and insult in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);
- 124.68 Further strengthen measures to protect civic space by ensuring fundamental freedoms and the right to freedom of expression, including through ongoing legislative reforms (Japan);
- 124.69 Ensure full realization of freedom of expression and media freedom, online and offline (Estonia);
- 124.70 Consider adopting measures to guarantee freedom of expression and the protection of human rights defenders (Chile);
- 124.71 Strengthen legal protection for journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that they can work in an environment without fear of reprisals (Slovenia);
- 124.72 Adopt measures to ensure freedom of expression and association, including by ceasing persecution and arbitrary detentions of journalists and political and environmental activists and by guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary (Italy);
- 124.73 Guarantee respect for the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, assembly and association, including by investigating all reports of crimes against civil society actors, human rights defenders and journalists, and by bringing perpetrators to account (Ireland);
- 124.74 Guarantee full exercise of the right to freedom of expression by ensuring that violations and crimes committed against journalists and media

workers are impartially investigated and prosecuted and that perpetrators are held accountable (Switzerland);

124.75 Uphold rights to freedoms of expression, assembly and association, including by investigating alleged attacks on journalists and by allowing peaceful demonstrations to take place (Australia);

124.76 Put an end to the intimidation, arbitrary detention and attacks suffered by human rights defenders, journalists, judicial operators and opponents in the exercise of their legitimate work, and adopt the National Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (Spain);

124.77 Take all possible action to protect civic space and the right to peaceful assembly (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

124.78 Protect the right to peaceful assembly, by refraining from intervening in peaceful gatherings, lifting suspensions to freedom of peaceful assembly, and revising Act No. 3/92 of 6 April 1992 on freedom of demonstration and assembly to ensure its compliance with international standards (Canada);

124.79 Repeal legal regulations and administrative practices that restrict the free exercise of the right to assembly and critical media reporting (Germany);

124.80 Ensure full respect for the right of peaceful assembly without excessive use of force, and establish effective investigation mechanisms to bring to justice those responsible in cases of violations (Switzerland);

124.81 Fully guarantee freedom of expression, the press, and peaceful assembly, inter alia by repealing the Government's decree of January 2024 suspending the right to demonstrate, and revising the Press Freedom Law in line with international standards (Spain);

124.82 Take the necessary measures to ensure that free, transparent and inclusive elections are held in accordance with international standards (Switzerland);

124.83 Ensure the restoration of public and democratic institutions, including the National Assembly, as swiftly as possible (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

124.84 Ensure an electoral process that allows the people of Guinea-Bissau to express their vote freely and without constraint (Italy);

124.85 Promote the participation of women and girls in the democratic process for the upcoming presidential and legislative elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

124.86 Encourage the continuation and strengthening of training programmes for human rights defenders (France);

124.87 Set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years (Colombia);

124.88 Set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years (Estonia);

124.89 Pursue efforts to amend its legislation on marriage to set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years (Mauritius);

124.90 Raise the minimum age for marriage for girls to 18 years (Iceland);

124.91 End child, early and forced marriage (Iceland);

124.92 Legalize same-sex marriage between consenting adults (Iceland);

124.93 Prevent and combat trafficking in persons (Equatorial Guinea);

124.94 Continue its efforts to strengthen and support collaboration between public social service institutions and civil society actors in order to provide early support to victims of trafficking (Burkina Faso);

- 124.95 Strengthen collaboration between State social services institutions and civil society actors to ensure timely support for victims of trafficking (Timor-Leste);
- 124.96 Endeavour to provide adequate resources for the effective implementation of the action plan to combat human trafficking (Philippines);
- 124.97 Continue efforts to support the effective implementation of the National Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2024–2028), as well as providing legal, health and social support to victims (Iraq);
- 124.98 Strengthen the response to trafficking in persons by institutionally strengthening the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons (Portugal);
- 124.99 Expand efforts to combat child exploitation and trafficking, including the full enforcement of anti-trafficking laws (Armenia);
- 124.100 Take urgent action to combat trafficking in children (Timor-Leste);
- 124.101 Take urgent action to combat trafficking in children (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.102 Strengthen its commitment to the protection of human life from conception to natural death, in all circumstances, including by ensuring the effective investigation and prosecution of crimes, including trafficking in human beings and organ trafficking (Holy See);
- 124.103 Improve labour inspection capacity to identify and refer cases of exploitation (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.104 Scale up measures to reduce the gender pay gap and promote decent work (Nepal);
- 124.105 Continue to strengthen and expand the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy, with a focus on improving access to essential services for vulnerable groups, including women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities (Ethiopia);
- 124.106 Allocate adequate resources for full implementation of the National Social Protection Policy 2025–2029 (Malaysia);
- 124.107 Allocate the necessary domestic funding for the implementation of the recently approved National Social Protection Policy (Panama);
- 124.108 Continue policy measures on poverty reduction, reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, and increasing the income of vulnerable groups (China);
- 124.109 Step up efforts to combat poverty by ensuring universal access to essential basic services, notably by increasing public investment in health, education and social protection, with a special focus on rural areas and vulnerable populations (Portugal);
- 124.110 Step up efforts to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups (Congo);
- 124.111 Implement comprehensive strategies to combat child malnutrition by expanding nutrition programmes nationally, and promoting food security for vulnerable households (Indonesia);
- 124.112 Implement affordable housing initiatives for all, including providing full access to basic necessities (Malaysia);
- 124.113 Take effective measures to ensure the right to housing and guarantee women's access to land (Togo);
- 124.114 Facilitate access to drinking water in the most vulnerable areas (Equatorial Guinea);



- 124.115 Continue efforts to guarantee the widest possible access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation (Maldives);
- 124.116 Continue efforts to increase the availability of safe, potable water and of adequate sanitation facilities, particularly in rural areas (Georgia);
- 124.117 Adopt a water and sanitation sector policy at the national level that integrates a human rights-based approach, addresses essential aspects for the health, safety and well-being of women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, and contributes to the prevention of diseases related to water quality (Panama);
- 124.118 Continue implementing policies that ensure equitable access to education, healthcare and social protection of vulnerable communities (Zimbabwe);
- 124.119 Facilitate access to healthcare and education (Equatorial Guinea);
- 124.120 Continue increasing input in health, better guaranteeing the people's right to health, especially those in poor areas (China);
- 124.121 Continue to strengthen primary healthcare in underserved areas by enhancing community-based approaches and reinforcing the connection between community health efforts and formal health services (Thailand);
- 124.122 Pursue the development of the health infrastructure and expand basic services, in accordance with the needs of the rural population (Saudi Arabia);
- 124.123 Continue efforts to train medical staff and renovate health infrastructure (Senegal);
- 124.124 Review the national health policy and draw up a strategic monitoring and evaluation document that will make it possible to measure the impact of budget allocations to the sector (Mali);
- 124.125 Continue strengthening routine immunization systems to maintain high coverage and to be able to quickly respond to emerging health threats (Eritrea);
- 124.126 Redouble efforts to guarantee sexual and reproductive health services and information, including for adolescents, and address gender-based violence by strengthening national capacity, improving supply chains and evaluating existing strategies and programmes (Uruguay);
- 124.127 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services (Estonia);
- 124.128 Provide comprehensive access to quality sexual and reproductive health services across the country (Iceland);
- 124.129 Continue providing health services to prevent, screen and treat HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, with a focus on providing health services for the most vulnerable populations (Lesotho);
- 124.130 Modernize infrastructures and strengthen the obstetric care capacity of community health workers and midwives (Mali);
- 124.131 Continue its efforts to reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates, including by improving access to nutrition during pregnancy and early life (Marshall Islands);
- 124.132 Promote universal education through awareness campaigns on children's right to education (Timor-Leste);
- 124.133 Continue efforts to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education for all, in line with international standards and national development goals (Ethiopia);

124.134 Continue to invest in improving school infrastructure and promoting inclusive, quality education (Senegal);

124.135 Explore and implement innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of free education for children, possibly drawing on models such as the International Finance Facility for Education and other public-private partnerships (Sierra Leone);

124.136 Ensure access to continued quality education, by increasing budget allocations to the education sector and creating community-based programmes that provide economic support to families, thus reducing reliance on girls for domestic labour and encouraging their continued education (Cyprus);

124.137 Increase investments in the education sector and implement targeted strategies to increase school enrolment and combat illiteracy, particularly among women and rural communities (Indonesia);

124.138 Promote the right to education by significantly increasing funding for the education sector and by taking measures to combat school dropout by girls (Cameroon);

124.139 Enact legislation guaranteeing 12 years of free primary and secondary education (Zambia);

124.140 Consider extending free education to the third cycle of primary education (grades 7–9) and to secondary education (grades 10–12) (Sierra Leone);

124.141 Pursue the national policy already initiated to ensure access to schooling for all and to reduce school dropout rates, especially for children from rural and disadvantaged areas (Burundi);

124.142 Increase the compulsory school age to reduce educational disparities and school dropout rates (Costa Rica);

124.143 Take further measures to reduce the primary education dropout rate, especially for girls and children in rural areas, who experience the highest dropout rates (Lesotho);

124.144 Take concrete measures to combat school dropout rates, especially among girls in primary education (Thailand);

124.145 Step up measures to reduce school dropout rates, especially among girls in rural areas, and strengthen community-based interventions for improved maternal and child health outcomes (Philippines);

124.146 Further strengthen the child protection system, reduce the school dropout rate and ensure access to quality education for all (Nepal);

124.147 Strengthen efforts to ensure that girls have access to and remain in school, enabling their continued education (Maldives);

124.148 Continue promoting equal enjoyment of the right to education for children and eliminate any form of discrimination against women, thus better guaranteeing the rights and interests of specific groups (China);

124.149 Implement policies and programmes that promote gender equality in education by removing barriers that prevent girls from attending school, such as child marriage, teenage pregnancy and harmful social norms, facilitating the reintegration of adolescent mothers into school and creating safe and inclusive school environments for all (Panama);

124.150 Ensure that all children, particularly also girls, have access to education (Estonia);

124.151 Address the challenges of illegal deforestation and ensure that environmental protection laws are upheld (Ghana);

- 124.152 Continue making efforts to mitigate, adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change (India);
- 124.153 Adopt comprehensive human rights-based approaches in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies and align the 2025 nationally determined contribution submission with these principles (Marshall Islands);
- 124.154 Redouble efforts to address internal displacement situations caused by climate insecurity, particularly in island communities (Colombia);
- 124.155 Continue implementing all measures aimed at guaranteeing the right to development of its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 124.156 Continue national policies and programmes aimed at implementing the sustainable development agenda, including to combat poverty and youth unemployment, and to ensure access to education, health and drinking water services to its people (Sudan);
- 124.157 Continue efforts for the comprehensive implementation of the National Development Plan (2020–2023) (Cuba);
- 124.158 Strengthen regulatory and enforcement frameworks to ensure that private sector activities, including in forestry and natural resource extraction, are conducted with respect to business and human rights, and taking into account the impacts on the environment and health (Thailand);
- 124.159 Continue efforts to promote gender equality and advance women's rights (Tunisia);
- 124.160 Take concrete measures to promote women's participation in politics, governance and business and implement the national policy for gender equality and equity (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 124.161 Adopt legislative and administrative measures to ensure women's meaningful political participation, substantially increasing their representation both in the parliament and in executive positions at the local level (Colombia);
- 124.162 Continue efforts to increase women's representation in the decision-making systems (Nepal);
- 124.163 Establish the mechanism provided for in the regulations of the Parity Law to monitor and ensure the implementation of the law and promote greater participation by women in politics (Mexico);
- 124.164 Ensure the effective implementation of Act No. 4/2018 on parity for women in politics and decision-making, by revising the electoral legislative framework in accordance with the law's requirements, by 2027, to ensure more inclusive governance structures (Canada);
- 124.165 Promote gender equality by ensuring the implementation of the gender parity law in political and public institutions and by strengthening measures to combat gender-based violence (Armenia);
- 124.166 Strengthen support for women in the informal sector, including through improved access to microcredit and sustainable income-generating opportunities (Malaysia);
- 124.167 Firmly commit to strengthening the creation of equal opportunities between men and women, both in the public and the private sectors, and expand women's access to microcredit and other forms of economic empowerment (Cabo Verde);
- 124.168 Redouble efforts to promote the economic empowerment of women and their participation in decision-making bodies (Burundi);
- 124.169 Continue and advance efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls with a view to ensuring the

**implementation of the relevant policies for which sufficient resources have been allocated (Japan);**

**124.170 Criminalize fully all forms of gender-based violence (Iceland);**

**124.171 Fully implement laws that criminalize all forms of gender-based violence (Estonia);**

**124.172 Fully implement legislation criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence, including by increasing resources and strengthening the justice system (Mozambique);**

**124.173 Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, through the effective enforcement of laws against gender-based violence and the provision of support services to survivors (Gambia);**

**124.174 Develop a national strategy and application plan to combat sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators (Germany);**

**124.175 Continue its efforts to strengthen the judicial system with a view to effectively implementing legislation to combat violence against women and girls (Burkina Faso);**

**124.176 Enhance access to justice for victim-survivors of all violence and abuse against women and girls, including through education campaigns that aim to reduce social stigma, training for the judiciary, and criminalization of participation by medical professionals in acts of female genital mutilation (Australia);**

**124.177 Ensure the effective implementation of Act No. 4/2018 on parity for women in politics and decision-making, the Domestic Violence Act and the Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2018 (Spain);**

**124.178 Intensify efforts to implement existing legislation criminalizing sexual and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, by strengthening the judicial system and conducting awareness-raising campaigns among traditional and religious leaders (Belgium);**

**124.179 Ensure resources to implement actions to combat gender-based violence and eradicate female genital mutilation (Brazil);**

**124.180 Strengthen the protection of women and girls by establishing effective mechanisms to combat gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation and child marriage, and ensure access to justice for victims (Cameroon);**

**124.181 Prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation, child marriage, domestic violence and sexual abuse (Costa Rica);**

**124.182 Increase efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including domestic violence, and take further steps to combat child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (Italy);**

**124.183 Strengthen its efforts to effectively implement laws and policies to prevent discrimination and violence against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and child marriage (Slovenia);**

**124.184 Implement comprehensive measures to combat multiple forms of discrimination against women and girls, including female genital mutilation, child marriage, intimate partner violence, sexual abuse and femicide; and prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Cyprus);**

**124.185 Ensure robust enforcement of laws against gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage, and**

enhance access to justice and support services for victims and survivors (Philippines);

124.186 Take necessary measures to eliminate gender-based violence, including by ensuring timely prosecution of perpetrators and fully enforcing the existing ban on female genital mutilation (Ireland);

124.187 Continue making progress in protecting the rights of women and girls and in eradicating gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, by increasing the resources available for investigation and strengthening the judicial system (Chile);

124.188 Strictly enforce laws criminalizing female genital mutilation, particularly in high-prevalence regions such as Gabu and Bafatá, and include its eradication in the national strategy and application plan (Germany);

124.189 Eradicate female genital mutilation (Iceland);

124.190 Continue strengthening mechanisms to combat all kinds of violence against women, including female genital mutilation (India);

124.191 Continue efforts to implement the prohibition of female genital mutilation and develop a strategy to train all professionals involved in combating this practice (Switzerland);

124.192 Take effective measures to address the cultural beliefs underlying the harmful practice of female genital mutilation, with a view to its complete elimination (Namibia);

124.193 Effectively implement measures to counter violence against children, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and human trafficking (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

124.194 Ensure the effective implementation of legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against children, including child marriage, female genital mutilation and gender-based violence (Portugal);

124.195 Take all necessary steps to prevent all forms of violence against children, including child labour (Ukraine);

124.196 Harmonize the legal provisions on the age of completion of compulsory education of children and the minimum age for admission to work in a way that would guarantee elimination of the risk of economic exploitation of children aged 14 to 16 (Montenegro);

124.197 Devise a national plan to combat child labour (Ghana);

124.198 Adopt all necessary measures to protect children, particularly from trafficking, and ensure access to quality education for all, especially girls (Italy);

124.199 Implement internationally agreed norms and strengthen State institutions to enhance child protection in all its forms (United Republic of Tanzania);

124.200 Continue strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the care and protection of children (Sudan);

124.201 Enhance measures to protect children's rights, particularly by adopting the Comprehensive Child Protection Code, and ensuring compulsory access to free and quality education for all children (Gambia);

124.202 Take measures to speed up the adoption of the Comprehensive Child Protection Code, based on the principle of the best interests of the child (Tunisia);

124.203 Promote and protect children's rights, with particular attention to the adoption of the Child Protection Code, the expansion of birth registration, the increase of the compulsory education age to 16, and the implementation of

**measures to combat corporal punishment, malnutrition, child marriage and child trafficking (Brazil);**

**124.204 Intensify steps towards prohibition of corporal punishment of children at schools (Georgia);**

**124.205 Enact legislation strictly prohibiting corporal punishment of children in day-care centres, both in early childhood and for older children (Montenegro);**

**124.206 Strengthen birth registration campaigns, so that all children are registered (Colombia);**

**124.207 Improve birth registration procedures, by raising the awareness of the population and facilitating access to birth registration centres (Chile);**

**124.208 Continue improving its birth registration procedures, including by raising public awareness and facilitating and expediting access to birth registration centres (Vanuatu);**

**124.209 Strengthen birth registration campaigns to ensure that all children are registered (Timor-Leste);**

**124.210 Facilitate birth registration in the civil registry for the most vulnerable groups of people (Equatorial Guinea);**

**124.211 Strengthen its policies and mechanisms on promotion and protection of the rights of children and the rights of persons with disabilities (Zimbabwe);**

**124.212 Strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities (Equatorial Guinea);**

**124.213 Continue strengthening the legal and institutional framework for the rights of persons with disabilities (Sudan);**

**124.214 Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in concrete actions set out in public and macroeconomic policies (South Africa);**

**124.215 Finalize the adoption of the bill on the basic law on the protection, promotion and inclusion of persons with disabilities (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

**124.216 Accelerate the adoption and implementation of the disability rights bill, while fully understanding and respecting the challenges faced (Eritrea);**

**124.217 Pursue the implementation of national strategies related to the integration of persons with disabilities in education, to support them in an inclusive and supportive manner (Saudi Arabia);**

**124.218 Develop and implement strategies to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (United Republic of Tanzania);**

**124.219 Continue supporting the National Strategy for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2022 (Jordan);**

**124.220 Take appropriate measures for the effective care of neglected children with disabilities (Congo);**

**124.221 Enhance measures aimed at the eradication of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Ukraine);**

**124.222 Ban conversion therapy (Iceland);**

**124.223 Expand opportunities for safe and regular migration, and improve the protection of migrants (Colombia);**

**124.224 Expand safe and regular migration opportunities and strengthen the protection of migrants in countries of destination (Islamic Republic of Iran).**

**125. 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 Guinea-Bissau was headed Mr. Degol MENDES, Director-General for Justice Policy, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Fernanda Maria da Costa; President of the National Commission for Human Rights;
  - Eudalice de Pina; Legal Adviser to the Minister of Justice;
  - Aua Camará; Director of the Studies and International Relations Department;
  - Fátima Camará; Legal Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities.
-