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**Human Rights Council**

**Sixtieth session**

8 September–3 October 2025

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

 Lao People’s Democratic Republic

 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 the Lao People’s Democratic Republic was held at the 4th meeting, on 29 April 2025. The delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic was headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on Human Rights, Thongphane Savanphet. At its 10th meeting, held on 2 May 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic: Burundi, Chile and 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 the Lao People’s Democratic Republic:

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

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Costa Rica, members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), Germany, Panama, 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, 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 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northen Ireland was transmitted to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic 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 16 May 2025]

 A. Presentation by the State under review

 B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

5. During the interactive dialogue, 90 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 the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council:**

1. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile); (France); (Germany); (Malta); (Ukraine); (Uruguay);**
2. **Ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Czechia);**
3. **Ratify the international convention for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances and take further measures to align national legislation with the convention (Gambia);**
4. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and criminalize enforced disappearance, in accordance with international standards (Colombia);**
5. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ensure impartial and thorough investigations into this matter (Costa Rica);**
6. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ensure full and impartial investigations into allegations of enforced disappearance (Italy);**
7. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and continue to make efforts to address the case of the missing human rights defender, referred to in the document prepared by OHCHR (Japan);**
8. **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without delay, conduct investigations in an impartial, independent, prompt and effective manner, and ensure regular and transparent communication with the families concerned (Switzerland);**
9. **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**
10. **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia); (Malawi); (Mongolia); (Namibia);**
11. **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**
12. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Côte d’Ivoire); (Togo);**
13. **Ratify the First and Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Malta);**
14. **Ratify the two optional protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the Protocol to abolish the death penalty (Togo);**
15. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);**
16. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**
17. **Intensify efforts to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**
18. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (Panama);**
19. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
20. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark); (Togo);**
21. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cyprus);**
22. **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);**
23. **Continue to advance the rights of women, including by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Marshall Islands);**
24. **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Namibia);**
25. **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Serbia);**
26. **Ensure that its courts effectively apply international human rights instruments in individual cases (Mongolia);**
27. **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**
28. **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of United Nations to visit the country (Chile);**
29. **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures and respond to unanswered visit requests (Luxembourg);**
30. **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all United Nations Special Procedure mandate holders, ensuring they have unhindered access to all areas of the country (Malawi);**
31. **Make further efforts to implement the pledges made during the high-level event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Bulgaria);**
32. **Integrate the implementation of the SDGs and UPR recommendations into the upcoming 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, and strengthen regional and international human rights cooperation (Viet Nam);**
33. **Continue consolidating regional and international cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights (Cuba);**
34. **Continue efforts with the international community’s support and assistance in promoting and protecting human rights, particularly the economic, social, and cultural rights of the people of the Lao PDR (Bangladesh);**
35. **Continue to constructively cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms to promote and protect human rights in the country and abroad (Azerbaijan);**
36. **Allow UN access to Xaisomboun, and guarantee economic, social and cultural rights to the Khmu and Hmongh, including Hmong ChaoFa, ensuring that development projects respect constitutional obligations of equality, non-discrimination, freedom of movement, and the provisions of free, prior and informed consent, as well as fair compensation for resettlement (Mexico);**
37. **Ensure that the constitutional amendment process remains transparent, inclusive and participatory across all segments of society (Malaysia);**
38. **Continue to strengthen the rule of law and further develop the domestic legal framework to promote and protect human rights, including the advancement of gender equality and women’s empowerment (Cambodia);**
39. **Adopt a law on administrative procedures, which provides for the establishment of an administrative jurisdiction (Germany);**
40. **Continue to endeavor aligning domestic legal and policy frameworks with international human rights standards and obligations, including by establishing an independent national human rights institution (Philippines);**
41. **Institutionalize meaningful engagement with civil society organizations and other civic stakeholders in decision-making procedures at all levels (Ukraine);**
42. **Continue legislative reforms and enhance civil-society engagement (Türkiye);**
43. **Continue strengthening human rights training for public officials (Cuba);**
44. **Enhance the capacity of government officials in human rights promotion and mainstream inclusive policies that support poverty eradication, healthcare access, gender equality, and protection of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities (Viet Nam);**
45. **Step up efforts to improve the understanding and knowledge of human rights among law enforcement officials, including judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, and conduct regular training in this field (Mongolia);**
46. **Promote human rights awareness, especially the rights of vulnerable groups (Zimbabwe);**
47. **Consider incorporating the accepted recommendations into the tenth National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2026–2030 and other national strategies and plans (Cuba);**
48. **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile); (Colombia); (Qatar ); (Ukraine);**
49. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Latvia);**
50. **Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris principles (Gambia); (Togo);**
51. **Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**
52. **Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Côte d’Ivoire);**
53. **Establish a national human rights institution with an explicit mandate and necessary means, in line with the Paris Principles (Morocco);**
54. **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution (Bangladesh);**
55. **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Armenia);**
56. **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**
57. **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**
58. **Actively continue the improvement of existing national human rights mechanisms with the aim to establish NHRI based on the Paris Principles (Georgia);**
59. **Strengthen the National Human Rights Committee as a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and monitoring of recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**
60. **Continue improving the efficiency of existing national institutions and mechanisms that ensure promotion and protection of human rights (Zimbabwe);**
61. **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in accordance with international human rights standards (Estonia);**
62. **Establish a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation encompassing all prohibited grounds of discrimination in line with international human rights obligations (Gambia);**
63. **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that covers all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including ethnic origin and sexual orientation (Chile);**
64. **Consider adopting comprehensive antidiscrimination legislation that includes discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, in the public and the private spheres (Cyprus);**
65. **Enact Constitutional and Legislative changes to fully incorporate the prohibition of gender-based discrimination in all applicable laws (Malta);**
66. **Continue efforts to combat gender-based discrimination (India);**
67. **Develop and enforce comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of discrimination against persons of diverse SOGIESC (Iceland);**
68. **Abolish the death penalty (Canada);**
69. **Abolish the death penalty (Luxembourg);**
70. **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**
71. **Consider reducing the number of offences subject to the death penalty, with a view toward its full abolition (Timor-Leste);**
72. **Reduce the number of crimes punishable by death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition (Colombia);**
73. **Reduce the number of death penalty offences with a view of a complete abolition of the death penalty (Czechia);**
74. **Enact measures to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death penalty, in order to move towards its total abolition (Argentina);**
75. **Further reduce the number of crimes punishable by death, including drug offences, and work towards a formal moratorium and ultimately abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**
76. **Review current legislation to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death, in accordance with Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Paraguay);**
77. **Establish a moratorium on executions and commute existing death sentences (Switzerland);**
78. **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its definitive abolition (France);**
79. **Establish a formal moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);**
80. **Institute an official moratorium on executions, and commute existing death sentences to terms of imprisonment, with a view to abolishing it for all offences (Montenegro);**
81. **Consider establishing an official moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition (Marshall Islands);**
82. **Introduce a de jure moratorium on death penalty, pending its abolition, including for drug-related offences; or at least abolish mandatory death penalty and restrict its use only to crimes that meet the threshold of most serious crimes under international human rights law (Belgium);**
83. **Introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**
84. **Definitively abolish the death penalty in line with the existing de facto moratorium, or at a minimum, reform the Penal Code to reduce the number of offences for which capital punishment may be imposed (Spain);**
85. **Enhance independent monitoring and complaints mechanisms to ensure the lawfulness of arrest and detention procedures (Ukraine);**
86. **Conduct independent, impartial and transparent investigations into all alleged cases of enforced disappearance (Australia);**
87. **Conduct credible investigations into all alleged cases of enforced disappearance, including that of Sombath Somphone and other human rights defenders (Canada);**
88. **Refrain from all forms of reprisals, including enforced disappearances (Czechia);**
89. **Conduct prompt, effective, impartial, thorough, and independent investigations into all cases of intimidation, attacks, disappearance and killings of human rights defenders brought to the attention of the authorities (Belgium);**
90. **Ensure the comprehensive protection of human rights defenders and activists from human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest or detention, torture, enforce disappearance, and other judicial harassments and physical or psychological intimidation and codify this in Lao law (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**
91. **Improve conditions in detention centres, including access to legal representation, medical care and food, in compliance with the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners (the so-called Nelson Mandela rules) (Denmark);**
92. **Continue efforts to improve good governance and public administration (Azerbaijan);**
93. **Ensure the right to presumption of innocence, effective legal representation and fair trials, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);**
94. **Take steps to ensure the right to a fair trial for all, which includes enabling those accused of crimes to receive independent and competent legal representation (Lesotho);**
95. **Enhance access to justice for all and provide legal aid (Oman);**
96. **Continue the implementation of measures to ensure universal access to justice, including the provision of legal aid to vulnerable segments of the population (Belarus);**
97. **Bolster measures to provide free or reduced-fee legal aid to vulnerable populations, to enable access to justice for all persons (Lesotho);**
98. **Continue to take targeted steps to improve national legislation and law enforcement practices with regard to ensuring respect for human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);**
99. **Ensure full respect for freedom of expression and media freedom by aligning national legislation with international standards (Ukraine);**
100. **Amend existing laws and regulations in order to promote the exercise of freedom of expression, including online, without fear of sanctions or reprisals (Chile);**
101. **Review and amend legislation and practices relating to freedom of expression and assembly to fully enable the function of Non-Government Organisations and civil society (New Zealand);**
102. **Safeguard the right to freedom of expression by repealing or amending ambiguous laws, such as the 2015 cybercrime law and articles 110 on acts of betrayal towards the nation and 117 on propaganda against the State of the Penal Code (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**
103. **Amend Decree No. 327, the Cybercrime Law and Article 117 of the Penal Code to ensure that restrictions on freedom of expression comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**
104. **Remove restrictions that hinder freedom of expression and the work of independent media such as Article 23 of the Constitution and Decree No. 238/GOV on Associations of 2017, and ensure a safe environment free from intimidation, harassment, threats or reprisals for journalists, human rights defenders and individuals exercising their right to express opinions and associate peacefully (Costa Rica);**
105. **Create conditions for free press and civil society to grow, including by amending relevant laws, such as Article 65 of the Criminal Code, to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association (Australia);**
106. **Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors by repealing or amending Decree No. 238 on Associations and refraining from initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for the peaceful exercise of their human rights (Ireland);**
107. **Enhance the protection of freedom of expression, both online and offline, as well as freedom of association, by ensuring a pluralist and safe working environment for journalists and human rights defenders (Italy);**
108. **Take immediate steps to protect and promote civic space, ensuring that all individuals can freely exercise their rights without fear of reprisal (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
109. **Fully implement obligations to respect and guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of peaceful assembly, including preventing harassment of human rights defenders (Canada);**
110. **Ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigations into all the allegations of intimidation and violence against human rights defenders (Ireland);**
111. **Ensure respect for the right to peaceful assembly by safeguarding the rights and freedoms of journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders (Armenia);**
112. **Promote and protect freedom of expression and safe and secure environment for civil society and to prevent acts of intimidation and harassment against human rights defenders, civil activists, journalists and media workers (Latvia);**
113. **Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression, assembly and association, including online, by reviewing legislation to avoid obstacles to the work of NGOs and human rights defenders, and to involve them as partners in the implementation of these freedoms (Luxembourg);**
114. **Remove restrictions on the registration and activities of civil society organizations (Colombia);**
115. **Review legislation that is not in line with international human rights standards, especially concerning the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly (Brazil);**
116. **Guarantee the full enjoyment of the freedom of opinion and expression, right of association and peaceful assembly and right to privacy, offline as well as online (Czechia);**
117. **Guarantee unhindered access to domestic and foreign media for all, both online and offline (Estonia);**
118. **Revise relevant national legislation, update policies and implement effective measures to prevent and eradicate child and early marriages (Bulgaria);**
119. **Adopt legislative measures prohibiting child marriages (Romania);**
120. **Consider reviewing relevant national legislation with a view to eradicating child and early marriage (Uruguay);**
121. **Enforce relevant national legislation to eradicate child and early marriage (Czechia);**
122. **Take the necessary measures to eradicate de jure and de facto child and forced marriage (Paraguay);**
123. **Continue the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking for the period 2021–2025 (Jordan);**
124. **Continue implementing the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking (2021–2025), focusing on raising public awareness and strengthening prevention efforts (Indonesia);**
125. **Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking, by allocating the necessary resources to the prosecution of existing cases, with a particular focus on women and children, and by dismantling criminal networks (Brazil);**
126. **Take effective action to strengthen implementation of anti-trafficking legislation and allocate resources to the identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking, with a particular focus on women and children (Maldives);**
127. **Continue to work on combating trafficking in persons, including together with regional and international partners, and to strengthen the capacity of the National Steering Committee on Human Trafficking (Belarus);**
128. **Step up the fight against trafficking in persons, with a particular focus on women and children, and ensure access to services for survivors (Mongolia);**
129. **Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, allocating additional resources to the identification, investigation and prosecution of all trafficking cases, with a particular focus on women and children (Cyprus);**
130. **Enhance efforts to combat child labor and trafficking including by strengthening child protection systems and improving enforcement of existing laws (Gambia);**
131. **Continue its efforts to combat human trafficking and transnational crimes, through a human rights-based and victim-centred approach (Thailand);**
132. **Continue its endeavors in combatting human trafficking especially through enhancing regional cooperation (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
133. **Take decisive action to prevent and address trafficking in persons, forced labor and sexual exploitation, particularly when victims are girls and young women (Italy);**
134. **Continue its efforts to combat human trafficking and all forms of violence, particularly against women and children (Lebanon);**
135. **Continue efforts to expand infrastructure and support services for victims of trafficking, while further strengthening awareness-raising and training initiatives (Republic of Korea);**
136. **Combat trafficking in persons, by improving victim identification procedures, increasing cross-border cooperation, ensuring adequate protection and rehabilitation services for survivors, and combating impunity for traffickers (Costa Rica);**
137. **Take measures to establish robust trafficking screenings mechanism in high-risk areas, including border zones as it is observed that the country is becoming a destination for transnational human trafficking (Sri Lanka);**
138. **Strengthen institutional, regulatory, and policy mechanisms for preventing, combating, and punishing human trafficking and intensify awareness-raising measures, as well as victims' access to justice and support services (Paraguay);**
139. **Continue implementing policies and initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of specific groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees, and migrants, and combat human trafficking and other crimes (China);**
140. **Establish a central system for the protection of victims of human trafficking, including, among other things, the dissemination of information prior to migration and the creation of contact points offering assistance for reintegration after return (Germany);**
141. **Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, including of foreign nationals, by training law enforcement officers, prosecuting traffickers, assisting victims and enhancing international cooperation (Philippines);**
142. **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons and allocate more resources to identify, investigate, and prosecute trafficking cases, with a particular focus on women and children (Qatar);**
143. **Continue the fight against forced child labor, forced and early child marriage, as well as human trafficking (Burundi);**
144. **Ensure the effective implementation of existing regulations to combat forced labour, including that of women, and child labour and to combat forced marriages (France);**
145. **Take actions to implement comprehensive measures to hold the parties accountable for forced labour, human trafficking and online scam operations located in the country’s Special Economic Zones (Sri Lanka);**
146. **Enhance regional cooperation and data sharing to address cross-border trafficking, job scams and money-laundering (Malaysia);**
147. **Implement its international obligations under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and to collaborate with regional and international partners to address this issue (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
148. **Guarantee the realization of labour rights, by ensuring adequate working conditions for all and the right to form trade unions, with full independence (Portugal);**
149. **Amend the Labor Law and other legislation to address sexual harassment in employment and in all workplace contexts (Montenegro);**
150. **Continue to strengthen the integration of women in all aspects of the world of work (Equatorial Guinea);**
151. **Further strengthen the social security system and ensure access to basic healthcare and quality education (China);**
152. **Continue strengthening social protection measures for women, children, people with disabilities and senior citizens (Nepal);**
153. **Continue measures to alleviate poverty, assist affected families graduate from poverty, and uphold their right to development (Pakistan);**
154. **Continue and strengthen efforts to eradicate poverty and promote access to education for all citizens, especially in rural and remote areas (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
155. **Further efforts towards poverty alleviation within the framework of the SDGs (Brunei Darussalam);**
156. **Continue to implement national programs to combat poverty and promote economic and social development for all segments of society, especially the most needy groups, especially in rural areas (Egypt);**
157. **Continue implementing the national socio-economic development plan, promote sustainable socio-economic development, redouble poverty alleviation efforts and enhance people's well-being (China);**
158. **Continue measures to improve the welfare of the people and the level of social protection of vulnerable groups (Belarus);**
159. **Сontinue efforts to improve standards of living, ensure broad access to quality education and health services (Uzbekistan);**
160. **Take effective measures to ensure universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural and remote areas (Spain);**
161. **Develop strategies to guarantee water and sanitation services, prioritizing access for the most vulnerable populations and in rural areas (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**
162. **Continue efforts to build on this success and to reach those communities still in need (Eritrea);**
163. **Scale up support for community livelihood and nutrition initiatives to ensure equitable development and resilience among vulnerable populations (Malaysia);**
164. **Improve equitable access to education, health, and social services, particularly in rural and remote areas, to raise living standards and ensure sustainable development (Viet Nam);**
165. **Intensify efforts to implement the provisions of the National Nutrition Action Plan, which aims primarily to address the issue of malnutrition among women and children (Uzbekistan);**
166. **Continue its efforts to put in place adequate policies and make appropriate budgetary allocations to ensure that universal health coverage, in particular for those in rural areas (Mauritius);**
167. **Continue to further strengthen the national health system and ensure full and effective implementation of laws, national strategies and action plans related to maternal and child healthcare (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**
168. **Ensure the full implementation of the 7 health-related laws adopted Since 2021 to fully realize the right to health for all citizens especially those in rural areas (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
169. **Continue to promote the right to health for its people, particularly for women and children (Singapore);**
170. **Redouble efforts to promote inclusive and quality healthcare services across the country, with particular focus on women, children, and ethnic minorities (Republic of Korea);**
171. **Further efforts to address remaining challenges in the health sector, especially in ensuring that rural areas are fully included in these important initiatives (Eritrea);**
172. **Continue strengthening healthcare system, particularly by enhancing resources for maternal and child health programs (Ethiopia);**
173. **Implement concrete actions and allocate adequate resources to improve maternal and child health outcomes (Estonia);**
174. **Continue to increase access to health care services to women and girls, including those from ethnic minority groups, both in rural and remote areas (Serbia);**
175. **Complete programs to strengthen the national health system, including comprehensive health care services for women and children (Egypt);**
176. **Continue to improve the health status of the Lao people, by strengthening existing programmes to ensure the provision of services that is accessible to all (Brunei Darussalam);**
177. **Facilitate access to health and education for vulnerable groups (Equatorial Guinea);**
178. **Work on healthcare and education systems that reach its vulnerable communities, especially women, children, people living with disabilities, and those living in remote areas (Zimbabwe);**
179. **Guarantee access for women and girls to sexual and reproductive health services across the country (Uruguay);**
180. **Further enhance women’s access to sexual and reproductive health services (Thailand);**
181. **Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services (Iceland);**
182. **Ensure that adolescents, especially girls, have access to quality, comprehensive, age- responsive information, education and services to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, prevent unintended pregnancies, protect themselves against gender-based violence and sexually transmitted infections, and make a safe transition into adulthood, in line with ICPD25 commitments (Panama);**
183. **Maintain the focus on reducing maternal and child mortality, improving nutrition, and ensure access to medicine and medical products at reasonable prices (Pakistan);**
184. **Review the national family planning program and conduct a study to identify and address existing gaps, in order to improve maternal and child health, as well as prevent teenage pregnancies, especially in remote areas (Mexico);**
185. **Enhance data collection on victims of cluster munitions and unexploded ordnances (UXO) and allocate greater resources to their medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, and provide for their social and economic inclusion (Panama);**
186. **Decriminalize and legalize abortion (Iceland);**
187. **Continue to step up its efforts to improve the equitable access to educational opportunities by increasing public investment and improving the recruitment of teachers (Bhutan);**
188. **Continue to strengthen its education system to ensure inclusive and equitable education opportunities for all, including addressing the teacher shortages and improving school facilities (New Zealand);**
189. **Continue efforts to improve access to quality education, especially in rural areas (India);**
190. **Step up the measures to enhance access to quality education for all (Nepal);**
191. **Facilitate access to quality education for all children, especially girls and children with disabilities from low-income families (Qatar);**
192. **Continue to expand investment in educational infrastructure and resources to enhance educational quality and promote inclusivity (Ethiopia);**
193. **Intensify efforts to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities, particularly by supporting vulnerable girls and boys from low-income families and by establishing a digital-based education system (Republic of Korea);**
194. **Continue its efforts to enhancing support for students from vulnerable groups with a view to improving access to education (Mauritius);**
195. **Maintain the existing efforts to ensure the adoption of strategies to strengthen the right to education, particularly for girls (Morocco);**
196. **Strengthen efforts to promote human rights education and awareness among government officials, business actors, the media, and youth (Indonesia);**
197. **Step up its efforts to decrease dropout rates in both lower and upper secondary schools, including combating violence in educational settings (Serbia);**
198. **Consider developing a national strategy for inclusive education aimed at addressing socioeconomic difficulties affecting children’s enrollment and retention in schools (Romania);**
199. **Continue to strengthen the legal framework related to the environment (Bhutan);**
200. **Adopt human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies (Marshall Islands);**
201. **Increase investments in climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, prioritizing access for the most vulnerable populations (Maldives);**
202. **Continue with the adoption and review of laws and legal instruments, based on national realities, which enable the strengthening of the promotion, protection, and enjoyment of human rights for the entire population, including the right to development (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**
203. **Redouble efforts to advance the right to development by effectively implementing the Master Plan on National Land Allocation, aiming to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas, and promote sustainable natural resource management (Indonesia);**
204. **Continue to strengthen socio-economic development plans, with a focus on achieving development objectives and improving living standards for all citizens (Cambodia);**
205. **Further explore south- south cooperation in the process of graduation from LDC status; especially, those collective affairs related to realization of the right to development (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
206. **Remain committed to ensure continuity of programmes to promote and protect human rights, in light of its future graduation from the LDC status (Thailand);**
207. **Continue implementing development programs targeting marginalized groups (Oman);**
208. **Ensure that development projects respect the rights of affected communities, including noting the principle of free, prior and informed consent (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
209. **Continue its efforts in the clearance of the Confirmed Hazardous Areas, in which necessary assistance to affected communities could be provided (Thailand);**
210. **Ensure that the social impact of major infrastructure development projects is meaningfully considered, in line with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Luxembourg);**
211. **Ensure free, prior and informed consultation with affected communities in all development projects and establish a clear legal framework for compensation and resettlement of displaced persons under the Resettlement and Livelihoods Law (Switzerland);**
212. **Further reduce barriers to women’s participation in business and access to credit (Pakistan);**
213. **Strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation capacities and reduce the impact of climate change and natural disasters (China);**
214. **Continue supporting the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2021–2030 aiming at, among other things, strengthening the disaster prevention system, risk reduction, and preparedness and response (Jordan);**
215. **Strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Master Plan on the National Land Allocation to ensure food security, by recognizing the land traditionally used by rural communities (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**
216. **Give continuity to the national action plans for gender equality and the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (Bolivia (Plurinational State of));**
217. **Repeal all provisions in the Penal Code that discriminate against women (Iceland);**
218. **Further promote women’s and girls’ rights by increasing their access to health services and education, preventing violence against them, and forbidding forced marriage (Japan);**
219. **Continue to eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, including by strengthening legal protections, access to justice, and support services (Thailand);**
220. **Take concrete steps to combat gender-based violence and discrimination and to improve access of women and girls to labour market and education (Czechia);**
221. **Promote the participation of women at all levels of political life (Lebanon);**
222. **Enable further participation of women in decision-making positions (Türkiye);**
223. **Continue programs to strengthen women’s capacities, their economic empowerment, and their promotion in decision-making bodies (Burundi);**
224. **Continue national efforts to ensure gender equality and empower women in leadership positions and decision-making circles (Egypt);**
225. **Take initiatives to create a more conducive environment for meaningful participation of women and girls in all sectors (Bangladesh);**
226. **Take further steps to empower women in all fields (Oman);**
227. **Encourage community awareness about the importance of gender equality, and strengthen the role of the family and school in establishing a culture of respect for rights from an early age (Kuwait);**
228. **Combat violence against women and girls (Equatorial Guinea);**
229. **Make the necessary legal amendments to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence against women and adopt a definition of rape based on the absence of consent (Colombia);**
230. **Take action to improve gender equality across all sectors and address the issues related to gender-based violence, including raising awareness, expanding shelter facilities for protection of girls and women (Sri Lanka);**
231. **Revise and enforce legislation to eradicate child and early marriage as well as other forms of gender-based violence against adolescent girls, such as bride kidnapping, trafficking, sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence (Cyprus);**
232. **Intensify efforts to eradicate child and early marriage and other forms of gender-based violence against adolescent girls, such as bride kidnapping, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and intimate partner violence (Belgium);**
233. **Develop and finance a national strategy to combat gender-based violence, as well as child, early and forced marriage, which includes clear responsibilities, enforcement mechanisms, an accountability process and a clear budget (Canada);**
234. **Adopt a consent-based definition of rape that applies to all persons without discrimination (Iceland);**
235. **Criminalize marital rape (Iceland);**
236. **Amend the Law on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women to include precise legal definitions and to provide for a supportive environment necessary for women to exercise their rights, report crimes and participate in criminal proceedings, including specialised gender units within the police and prosecution systems and assistance of psychological experts (Slovenia);**
237. **Sustain redoubled efforts aimed at combating gender-based violence and discrimination and women empowerment through intensified human rights education and training among other measures (Philippines);**
238. **Continue efforts to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, by strengthening prevention and protection mechanisms, and building the capacity of stakeholders (Kuwait);**
239. **Take the necessary measures to ensure that crimes of violence against women are effectively investigated and prosecuted (Spain);**
240. **Continue in its efforts to combat gender-based violence and to facilitate women’s representation in leadership positions (Singapore);**
241. **Strengthen child protection systems and intensify efforts to eradicate child marriage (Lesotho);**
242. **Strengthen the national child protection system by increasing budget allocation, developing professional training programs for social workers and improving service delivery nationwide (Romania);**
243. **Intensify efforts to reduce school dropouts by promoting inclusive education for all children (Thailand);**
244. **Continue measures aimed at effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Georgia);**
245. **Review national legislation to bring it into line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Lebanon);**
246. **Take effective measures to fully abide by its obligations to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, by incorporating them in the forthcoming 10th National Socioeconomic Development Plan and amending legislation that restricts the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in political life, including their right to vote (Portugal);**
247. **Continue the authorities' efforts to effectively ensure the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, including access to education, employment and healthcare (Spain);**
248. **Strengthen the implementation of policies, strategies, and national action plans for persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**
249. **Continue efforts to provide improved healthcare access to persons with disabilities (India);**
250. **Make more efforts to improve the conditions of persons with disabilities, especially in the work environment (Iraq);**
251. **Continue its efforts to implement measures to protect vulnerable groups, including children and persons with disabilities (Vanuatu);**
252. **Maintain efforts to provide social services, health services and education for the vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities (Türkiye);**
253. **Strengthen the human rights-based and disability-sensitive approach in programs for the recovery of agricultural lands previously contaminated by unexploded ordnance, as well as in Victim Assistance services, especially in remote areas (Mexico);**
254. **Legislate for the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples in Lao PDR (New Zealand);**
255. **Continue with efforts to ensure the protection of rights of minority groups (Malawi);**
256. **Introduce a transparent administrative self-identification process for legal gender recognition free from intrusive requirements (Iceland);**
257. **Take appropriate measures to ensure migrants have access to healthcare and health insurance plans, facilitating legal and linguistic aspects (Colombia).**

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 Lao People’s Democratic Republic was headed by H.E. Mr. Thongphane SAVANPHET, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice- Chairman of the National Committee on Human Rights, Head of Delegation and composed of the following members:

* H.E. Mr. Daovy VONGXAY, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
* Amb. Phoukhong SISOULATH, Director General, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
* Brig. General Kongsavat BOUNLIENG, Deputy Director General, General Police Department, Ministry of Public Security, Delegate;
* Mr. Sosonephith PHANOUVONG, Director General, Department of Ethnic and Religious Affairs, Delegate;
* Mr. Nalonglith NORLASING, Director General, Justice Affairs Administration and Promotion Department, Ministry of Justice, Delegate;
* Mrs. Bounleua CHANTHAPHOMMA, Director General, the Center for Counseling and Protection of Women and Children, Lao Women’s Union, Delegate;
* Mr. Boungnalith SOUTHICHAK, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
* Mr. Bounlath VORACHITH, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Delegate;
* Mr. Thiphasone SOUKHATHAMMAVONG, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Delegate;
* Mr. Phoutsady PHANYASITH, Deputy Director General, Department of Multilateral Parliamentary Relations, Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly, Delegate;
* Mr. Phetsamone KEOVONGVICHITH, Deputy Director General, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
* Mr. Thiphasone SENGSOURINHA, Deputy Director General, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
* Mr. Phoutthabandith WARINTHRASAK, Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Division, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
* Ms. Sililat SIENGSOUNTHONE, Deputy Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Division, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
* Mrs. Oudavanh NARKKHAVONG, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
* Mr. Khamphouxay CHAMPAPHAN, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
* Mrs. Panatda LUANGLATH, Official, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Division, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
* Mr. Soukamy KEOBOUAPHONE, Administration and Technical Staff, Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
* Mr. Detsada SOUKHASEUM, Interpreter.

1. A/HRC/WG.6/49/LAO/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/WG.6/49/LAO/2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A/HRC/WG.6/49/LAO/3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)