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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Kuwait

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Contents

| | <i>Paragraphs</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Introduction | 1–4 | 3 |
| I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process | 5–156 | 3 |
| A. Presentation by the State under review | 5–29 | 3 |
| B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review | 30–156 | 7 |
| II. Conclusions and/or recommendations..... | 157–158 | 14 |
| Annex | | |
| Composition of the delegation | | 29 |

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Kuwait was held at the 16th meeting on 28 January 2015. The delegation of Kuwait was headed by Hend Subaih Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour/Minister of State for Planning and Development. At its 18th meeting, held on 30 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Kuwait.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Kuwait: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), India and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Kuwait:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation prepared in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/KWT/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/KWT/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/KWT/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Kuwait through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour/Minister of State for Planning and Development stated that, although basic principles of human rights were enshrined in the Constitution and laws issued for its implementation, UPR recommendations had led to progress in that field. Kuwait considered the interactive dialogue to be a process for exchanging views that could reinforce mutual understanding with the Working Group.

6. The Minister highlighted that, in seeking to follow up on its international human rights obligations and commitments, Kuwait had established a standing committee to prepare all national reports on human rights and supervise the follow-up. The second national report had been prepared by all government agencies, in coordination with civil society and non-profit organizations.

7. Since the previous review in 2010, Kuwait had established national mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights. The National Assembly's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights was one of them. The Government had drawn up a bill to establish an independent human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and also drafted three bills emanating from the voluntary pledges or UPR recommendations received in 2010. Those bills were related to the rights of the child, the establishment of a Family Court, and juveniles.

8. Kuwait attached great importance to women's rights and their protection. Participation by Kuwaiti women in the labour market had increased during 2010–2013 to 51 per cent in the private sector and 45 per cent in the government sector. The proportion of women in senior posts in both sectors had reached 20 per cent. The principle of equal pay between men and women for work of equal value in the private sector had been established. Employment of women in the judiciary was approved, while it had previously been limited to men only.

9. A new law on public assistance had been promulgated in 2011, ensuring better standards of living for members of society, especially those in low-income groups such as Kuwaiti women married to limited-income non-Kuwaiti men, as well as women over 55 years of age with no income, and married students. Furthermore, Act No. 2/2011 had introduced amendments to the Housing Welfare Act. Housing requests from Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti men after they obtained citizenship were now taken into account, and they were also granted housing loans by the Kuwait Credit Bank.

10. In its Development Plan 2015/2016–2019/2020, Kuwait had included objectives for the empowerment of women by reviewing legislation and suppressing discrimination against them through a joint committee of representatives from civil society institutions.

11. The Constitution considered the protection of children to be a fundamental social principle, through which the integrity of the family was preserved and its ties strengthened (art. 9). The State was obligated to protect children from exploitation and from moral, physical, and spiritual neglect (art. 10).

12. In the light of the above, Kuwait had decided to raise the standard of living of children by issuing the new Public Assistance Act No. 12/2011 and decree No. 23/2013 concerning entitlement to public assistance, and to provide a suitable environment for children to prepare them for pre-public education, through the Private Crèches Act No. 22/2014.

13. Kuwait was a country that attracted foreign workers. Their number was constantly increasing and had exceeded 1.496 million. In total, foreign workers amounted up to more than two-thirds of the population, representing more than 164 different nationalities. Kuwait had made sure during the review of its labour regulations that the new Private Sector Employment Act No. 6/2010 included more rights and legal safeguards for workers.

14. In that context, the Public Manpower Authority had been established under Act No. 109/2013. This authority had the exclusive responsibility of bringing over foreign workers based on employers' requests to facilitate their transition and mitigate the influence of the employers on them. Furthermore, a permanent shelter had been inaugurated to house foreign workers facing labour disputes.

15. Kuwait was determined to provide a decent life for illegal residents, through various legislation and procedures. The Central Agency for Regularization of the Status of Illegal Residents had been established by Amiri Decree No. 467/201. Ministerial Decision No. 409/2011 concerning the provision of facilities and services for illegal residents provided for their access to medical treatment, education, the issuance of official documents, such as birth and death certificates, marriage and divorce certificates, succession certificates, passports, driving licences, ration cards and employment. Act No. 8/2010 concerning the rights of persons with disabilities applied to illegal residents without discrimination or exclusion. Illegal residents were entitled to housing welfare and social services. They also had the right to seek legal redress and enjoy public freedoms.

16. For dissemination of the culture of human rights, a legislative amendment had been made to the law of the Constitutional Court, which had opened the way for citizens to directly address the Court to challenge the constitutionality of laws. In the education sector,

human rights curricula were taught in both the general and higher education segments. Teachers were receiving training in the domain and were regularly updated on human rights issues, and provided with the Human Rights Education Manual.

17. Employees in the judiciary and law enforcement, as well as prison supervisors were trained with international organizations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had also included in its development plan a major project that sought to consolidate the concepts and values of human rights, through specialized training courses in collaboration with local and international agencies.

18. Kuwait remained firmly committed to submitting its periodic reports to treaty bodies. Since the previous UPR in 2010, Kuwait had submitted reports to the Committee against Torture (CAT), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Human Rights Committee (HR Committee), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Furthermore, its third periodic report had been submitted to HR Committee in November 2014. In 2015, Kuwait would be submitting its third periodic report to CAT in June, its fifth and sixth periodic reports to CEDAW in October, and its first periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September.

19. Kuwait had welcomed the request by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences to visit the country during January–March. Kuwait had also welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. However, owing to internal commitments related to the country's presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council Summit, the Arab Summit, and the African-Arab Summit, the visit had not taken place. The Permanent Mission in Geneva would take the necessary measures to agree with the Special Rapporteur on a date for the visit.

20. Kuwait had established consistent principles for providing humanitarian assistance to peoples of disaster-stricken countries and to poor nations. It had relied on guiding instruments that could assess the real humanitarian needs of those countries, bearing in mind that human rights issues could not be divided. This philosophy was summarized by His Highness the Amir when he said that since gaining its independence, the State of Kuwait had followed a consistent approach in its foreign policy, based essentially on the need to render humanitarian assistance to all needy countries, regardless of their geographic location, religious beliefs or ethnic composition, in keeping with its firm faith in international partnership and the importance of activating global efforts to maintain and preserve the quintessence of life itself, namely the human spirit.

21. Kuwait had spared no effort to ease the humanitarian crisis. For that reasons, His Highness the Amir had accepted the appeal of the Secretary-General to host the third donor conference to assist the Syrian people in Kuwait on 31 March 2015. It should be recalled that Kuwait had not hesitated to accept the requests of the United Nations to host the previous two donor conferences for the relief of the Syrian people, in 2013 and 2014. The international community had succeeded on those occasions in raising a total of 3.9 billion dollars, of which 800 million dollars had been contributed by Kuwait and paid in full to the United Nations relief bodies.

22. Accordingly, as a token of the international community's appreciation for the important humanitarian role of Kuwait, His Highness the Amir was granted the title of "humanitarian leader" by the Secretary-General on 9 September 2014, and Kuwait was henceforth considered to be a "humanitarian hub". In parallel, His Highness the Amir had also been granted awards and certificates of appreciation by many international humanitarian organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

23. The Minister underscored that Kuwait would tirelessly pursue its endeavours to further promote human rights, in accordance with its national plans and objectives and its Arab and Islamic heritage. The Minister then invited members of the delegation to elaborate on some specific issues.

24. The delegation indicated that Kuwait had taken a number of measures to guarantee the rights of women. Article 9 of the Constitution stipulated that the family was the prime entity of society, and article 29 referred to equality between men and women. There was no discrimination on the grounds of race, origin, language or religion. All of those rights were protected by the establishment of the Constitutional Court. Kuwait had also promulgated a number of laws aimed at the protection of women from violence. The Penal Code contained provisions which criminalized violence against women and considered it under aggravating circumstances. The Personal Status Code guaranteed the right of women to request a divorce on the grounds of harm and their right to custody, pension and housing.

25. The Government had submitted to Parliament a bill of law on the establishment of a family court, whereby a Family Court would be established in every governorate in order to resolve conflicts within a family. A fund had been set up under the Ministry of Justice to provide assistance to women and wives or divorced women and children as necessary. A department within the Ministry of Interior provided counselling and assistance in the case of domestic violence. The labour codes required equal pay for equal work. Kuwait had been endeavouring to provide a preponderance of places to women in civil service, military, judiciary and diplomatic services. Kuwait had also been ensuring that the State Development Plan for the coming years would guarantee the rights of women.

26. With regard to the question of illegal residents, the delegation stated that it was not limited to Kuwait. However, unlike other countries, Kuwait provided them with many services, which were equivalent to those given to its citizens. "Illegal resident" was the term used in Decree No. 467/2010. Those residents had contravened the Kuwaiti Residence of Aliens Act No. 17 of 1959 by applying for Kuwaiti citizenship while concealing their passports. In order to address the situation, a roadmap had been adopted by the Council of Ministers.

27. Those who applied for regularization of their situation would not be prevented from applying for Kuwaiti citizenship. A full review of the files of some of those illegal residents, who were eligible for Kuwaiti citizenship in line with the Citizenship Law, would be conducted. The roadmap also indicated that their situation would be regularized, passports issued, and free residency in the country for a period of five years granted, in accordance with Act No. 17 of 1959.

28. Over the previous four years, around 6,325 persons had regularized their situation and been issued with passports. The Council of Ministers had issued Decision No. 409/2011, whereby those persons would be provided with services and facilities for decent living conditions. They had been accepted for enrolment in higher education institutions and their children were exempted from presenting the necessary documents for enrolment in schools. The costs were being covered by the Charitable Fund. Children of illegal residents were issued with birth certificates and all other personal status documents. They were provided with ration cards and entitled to a driving licence. There were also other measures, such as social insurance, health insurance and housing benefits.

29. The delegation stated that the Constitution guaranteed the freedom of opinion, expression, the press and peaceful assembly. That included discussions on the social media and internet. Kuwait had eliminated obstacles to freedom of opinion in the publication and

audiovisual media, including prohibition of any prior censorship of the press. The police provided the security of demonstrations, in accordance with article 49 of the Constitution, which guaranteed observance of public order and respect for public morals. That did not go beyond the framework of article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

30. During the interactive dialogue, 113 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

31. Qatar commended the humanitarian role played by Kuwait and noted that the Amir of Kuwait had received the title of “Humanitarian Leader”.

32. Sierra Leone noted the comprehensive national Development Plan, its provisions on women’s empowerment and the open invitation to the special procedures.

33. Slovakia shared the concern expressed by treaty bodies regarding the status of stateless persons and their lack of rights.

34. Slovenia remained concerned that early marriage was permitted by law and that young girls continued to be forcibly married.

35. Somalia asked about what Kuwait planned to do to support initiatives aimed at the promotion and protection of persons with albinism worldwide.

36. South Sudan applauded the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development for providing official development assistance to developing countries.

37. Spain commended Kuwait for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and reforms undertaken with regard to gender equality.

38. The State of Palestine commended the ratification of CRPD and the Arab Charter of Human Rights.

39. The Sudan noted the efforts to promote the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly and appreciated the ratification of CRPD.

40. Swaziland commended the financial contributions made to mitigate the harsh living conditions experienced by African countries.

41. Sweden noted that, in 2013, five executions had been carried out, for the first time since 2007.

42. Switzerland expressed concern about the uncertain situation of over 100,000 stateless persons known as Bidouns.

43. Tajikistan noted the measures taken for development of accessibility to health care and environmental protection.

44. Thailand noted the improvement of women’s access to the labour market, but remained concerned about discrimination against them.

45. Timor-Leste appreciated the efforts to regularize the situation of stateless persons and to mainstream children with disabilities within regular classes.

46. Togo appreciated progress in the rights of women, children and older persons and commended the development assistance from Kuwait in Africa.

47. Tunisia encouraged Kuwait to continue to improve the legal framework for the protection of human rights by ratifying international instruments.
48. Turkey commended the ratification of CRPD, the harmonization of national legislation and improvement in conditions for foreign labourers.
49. Ukraine appreciated equality and non-discrimination efforts and encouraged Kuwait to further the advancement of women.
50. The United Arab Emirates encouraged Kuwait to pursue its efforts in the human rights sector.
51. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognized progress but remained concerned about lack of gender equality.
52. The United States of America urged Kuwait to amend nationality laws, prosecute violators of the 2013 anti-trafficking law, and strengthen protection of workers.
53. Uruguay encouraged Kuwait to ratify fundamental instruments and to protect the rights of migrant workers.
54. Uzbekistan commended Kuwait for measures taken for the protection and promotion of human rights.
55. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted progress in the implementation of UPR recommendations.
56. Yemen commended Kuwait for the manner in which the national report was prepared, in consultation with civil society and other actors.
57. Zimbabwe welcomed efforts to implement recommendations accepted during the first cycle review.
58. Afghanistan welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the establishment of the Council for Persons with Disabilities.
59. Albania noted legal and institutional reforms and commended Kuwait on its efforts to raise awareness on human rights.
60. Algeria noted legal measures taken to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrant workers.
61. Angola noted measures taken to implement the recommendations of the first cycle of the universal periodic review.
62. Argentina valued efforts to comply with UPR recommendations, notwithstanding remaining challenges.
63. The delegation of Kuwait indicated that Kuwait had been exerting efforts to find alternatives for the sponsorship system. Over the previous few years, a number of amendments and modifications had been introduced, and the scope of powers granted to employers had been reduced.
64. As for travel documents and registration, a ministerial decree prohibited retention of passports of the workers by the employer. Additionally, under the framework for the implementation of Law 91 of 2013 on human trafficking, a shelter for migrant workers had been initiated with capacity for 700 workers.
65. Legislative Decree No. 40/1992 recognized the rights of domestic workers and established a department for domestic workers to implement complementary ministerial decisions. There was also a proposed law on domestic workers. Responding to a question from Belgium about improving the working conditions of migrant workers, the delegation

emphasized that Kuwait tried to create optimal working conditions for all workers regardless of their nationality.

66. The delegation stated that Kuwait had promulgated the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants Act No. 91 of 2013 and explained some of its provisions. Article 1 contained a definition of transnational organized crime and human trafficking. Article 3 prescribed a penalty of up to 15 years of imprisonment and a fine of between 10,000 and 20,000 dinars. Article 12 allowed the prosecutor general to send victims to institutions for medical and psychological assistance. The Penal Code and other laws also had many provisions on human trafficking that applied to both foreigners and nationals.

67. With regard to the conditions of detention, the delegation indicated that 53 detention centres had been modernized in accordance with international standards and provided for the psychological and health requirements of the prisoners, as affirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Concerning female detainees, as women could now join the military, female military officers had been deployed to certain detention centres in order to guarantee the privacy and special needs of female detainees. Pregnant prisoners were provided with special care, starting from the sixth month of pregnancy.

68. The relations between Kuwait and human rights organizations were positive and transparent. Since 2010, 39 visits to detention centres by human rights organizations had been recorded, in addition to a strengthening relationship with ICRC, in designing modern detention centres.

69. On Kuwaiti citizenship, the delegation indicated that the Kuwaiti citizenship law (no. 15/1959) provided children of Kuwaiti women with Kuwaiti citizenship in certain cases for humanitarian reasons (art. 3). Article 5 also stipulated that citizenship would be passed on to the children of Kuwaiti women when those children remained residents of Kuwait at the age of majority, especially if their foreign father was a prisoner of war, or if the father had obtained a final divorce, or was deceased.

70. Armenia welcomed the efforts of Kuwait to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and the ratification of CRPD.

71. Australia expressed concern at growing restrictions on public gatherings and at discrimination against Bidouns.

72. Austria made recommendations.

73. Azerbaijan welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the cooperation of Kuwait with the United Nations human rights bodies.

74. Bahrain commended Kuwait on its cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

75. Bangladesh commended Kuwait on the provision of free education and health care and on the legal protection for foreign workers.

76. Belarus noted the active cooperation of Kuwait with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the progress made in women's representation in political and social spheres.

77. Belgium expressed concern about the situation of migrant workers and Bidouns and regretted the resumption of executions.

78. Benin noted the progress in the protection of the rights of women and children and the social integration of migrant workers.

79. Bhutan noted measures to protect the rights of women and children and the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Authority.
80. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed ratification of CRPD and the strengthened legal and institutional framework.
81. Botswana commended legislation on the protection of the rights of women and children and noted remaining challenges.
82. Brazil encouraged Kuwait to follow up on the upcoming visit of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery and to adopt policy to combat domestic violence.
83. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the enactment of measures to enhance the rights of people with disabilities.
84. Bulgaria welcomed the commitment of Kuwait to implement its voluntary pledges and recommendations accepted during the first review.
85. Canada welcomed the progress of Kuwait in advancing human rights protections domestically and internationally, including through its humanitarian leadership.
86. Chad commended the adoption of a number of laws and regulations in accordance with voluntary commitments and recommendations from the previous UPR.
87. Chile highlighted as an important step the draft law to establish a human rights institution.
88. China appreciated efforts in combating domestic violence and the strengthened protection of migrant and domestic workers.
89. Comoros commended progress made to facilitate access to equality between men and women on the labour market.
90. The Congo welcomed legislative measures regarding persons with disabilities, human trafficking, migrants and child rights.
91. Costa Rica hoped that Kuwait would soon establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.
92. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged Kuwait to strengthen measures on women's role in society and prevent domestic violence.
93. Croatia asked what further steps Kuwait had taken to better the human rights of the Bidouns.
94. Cuba recognized important achievements in the areas of health, education and the protection of elderly persons.
95. Cyprus commended the adoption of the Act preventing human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.
96. The Czech Republic appreciated the informative presentation by Kuwait and its response to some of its advance questions.
97. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea appreciated the achievements made for the protection and promotion of human rights and encouraged Kuwait to continue with the positive efforts.
98. Denmark stressed the importance of civil society actors in the UPR process and the prohibition of reprisals against them.

99. Djibouti applauded the efforts of Kuwait aimed at disseminating, and raising awareness about, human rights.
100. Egypt welcomed the adoption of numerous laws and the establishment of national human rights mechanisms.
101. Estonia welcomed positive developments in the field of women's rights despite the existence of discrimination against women.
102. Ethiopia welcomed the measures taken to protect the rights of expatriate and domestic workers.
103. France welcomed efforts made by Kuwait since its first review.
104. Gabon appreciated legislative measures taken to promote women's rights and to protect the environment and natural resources.
105. Germany thanked Kuwait for its national report.
106. Ghana applauded Kuwait for ratifying CRPD and issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures.
107. The delegation of Kuwait indicated that Kuwait had been envisaging ratification of instruments that it was not yet party to, as well as withdrawal of some of the reservations that it had entered after introducing legislative amendments.
108. Kuwait had acceded to CRPD as a response to the previous UPR recommendations and its voluntary commitment. Before accession, Kuwait had adopted Law No. 8/2010 covering the rights of persons with disabilities, as contained in CRPD.
109. National legislation contained the fundamental rights of the child. The law on the establishment of a family court would establish Family Reconciliation Centres which would welcome families and children. Kuwait had also drawn up a draft law on children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There was a national mechanism to protect the rights of the child. A draft law on juveniles was aimed at reinforcing the concept of their rehabilitation and establishing centres to provide psychosocial advice to them.
110. The delegation stated that human rights were taught at primary and intermediate levels. In terms of secondary education, there was a course on the Constitution and human rights. At university level, human rights and international law were included in the programme. There were special training sessions for teachers. Kuwait also trained those who worked in government bodies, such as prosecutors and judges. Kuwait emphasized that the public discourse contained the concept of human rights and cultural diversity.
111. The delegation reiterated that, according to the Constitution (art. 35), freedom of belief was absolute. The State protected the freedom to practise religion in accordance with established customs, provided that it did not conflict with public policy or morals. Furthermore, the State did not impose its religious belief on anyone, and non-Muslims were not obliged to receive an Islamic education. That was in line with article 18, paragraph 1, of ICCPR.
112. Greece appreciated developments for women's empowerment in the labour market, public administration and education.
113. Honduras commended Kuwait for normative and legislative efforts to improve the protection of human rights.
114. Hungary welcomed the fact that more professions were accessible to women and that non-governmental organizations could be founded and could act without impediment.

115. Iceland urged Kuwait to ensure that equal rights for women applied in all areas and that migrant workers labour standards applied to domestic workers.
116. India encouraged adoption of a comprehensive plan to further promote gender equality and commended the humanitarian aid by Kuwait.
117. Indonesia noted the formulation by Kuwait of its Development Plan and measures taken to protect the rights of migrants.
118. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the establishment of the National Assembly's Committee for the Defence of Human Rights.
119. Iraq welcomed the efforts of Kuwait to promote and protect human rights internationally and nationally.
120. Ireland commended Kuwait for its commitment to humanitarian development assistance.
121. Italy was concerned by the application of the law on blasphemy and acknowledged some measures taken to address the situation of Bidouns.
122. Jordan appreciated ongoing positive developments to promote and protect human rights as mentioned in Kuwait's national report.
123. Kazakhstan commended the achievements of Kuwait in the health-care and social security sectors and its commitment to humanitarian action.
124. Kyrgyzstan noted the ratification of CRPD and national legislation adopted on the rights of persons with disabilities.
125. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended efforts to address trafficking in persons and domestic violence.
126. Latvia requested elaboration on further steps to prevent domestic violence against women, children and the elderly.
127. Lebanon lauded exemplary leadership by the Amir of Kuwait as recognized by the Secretary-General; and commended humanitarian efforts.
128. Lesotho commended achievements in the socio-economic, civil and political spheres; and expressed its appreciation of the ratification of core human rights treaties.
129. Libya appreciated cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including UPR; particularly as regards implementation of previous recommendations.
130. Malaysia welcomed legislative and institutional measures, including those ensuring protection of children; and improvements in health-care services.
131. Maldives recognized and encouraged advances in gender equality; and appreciated awareness activities by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
132. Mauritania appreciated cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, including UPR; and efforts made to promote human rights.
133. Mexico hoped that the open invitation to special procedures extended by Kuwait during the previous review would result in the visit of a mandate-holder.
134. Montenegro enquired after measures to raise awareness of children's rights and activities to combat domestic violence.
135. Morocco commended the commitment to human rights, citing associated legislative and institutional developments in accordance with the Paris Principles.

136. Myanmar welcomed implementation of previous pledges and recommendations and praised awareness activities through publications and training courses.
137. Namibia recognized encouraging reforms and developments regarding the rights of women and noted associated legislative provisions.
138. Nepal applauded achievements realizing the rights of women and persons with disabilities and also noted contributions towards humanitarian activities.
139. The Netherlands welcomed steps involving women in the judiciary but remained concerned at the rates of participation in political debate and decision-making.
140. Nicaragua highlighted new legislation and institutions and hoped that Kuwait would continue working towards the protection of children.
141. The Niger commended regulatory developments relating to persons with disabilities and human trafficking and enhanced assistance for vulnerable persons.
142. Norway was concerned over law discriminating against women, the situation of domestic workers, and arrests of social media users.
143. Oman referenced achievements in human rights and lauded the Amir of Kuwait for international humanitarian assistance rendered.
144. Pakistan commended the passage of laws and administrative reforms to promote and protect human rights.
145. The Philippines welcomed the legislative measures to protect migrant workers and enquired about the nationality laws of Kuwait.
146. Poland noted the measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women.
147. Portugal welcomed the standing invitation to the special procedures and the bill of law on establishing a human rights office.
148. Singapore recognized efforts to promote gender equality and the support of Kuwait for United Nations humanitarian actions.
149. The Republic of Korea noted the progress made with regard to women, children and persons with disabilities.
150. The Russian Federation noted the implementation of its treaty obligations and the adoption of the Law on persons with disabilities.
151. Rwanda noted measures to combat corruption and trafficking and to protect employees, and the ratification of CRPD.
152. Saudi Arabia commended the efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.
153. Senegal noted the work of Kuwait to implement the recommendations from the first UPR in 2010.
154. Serbia encouraged Kuwait to continue to promote economic, social and cultural rights and to combat discrimination.
155. Sri Lanka noted initiatives to eliminate discrimination against women by adopting the Private Sector Labour Law in 2010.
156. In conclusion, the Minister reiterated that the importance of human rights was not only at the national level but also at the international level. The UPR mechanism had provided Kuwait with an opportunity to strengthen its commitment to its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and the interactive

dialogue with the members of the Human Rights Council gave Kuwait an opportunity to benefit from their experiences. The Minister wholeheartedly thanked the members of the Working Group and all States that had participated in the review.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

157. The following recommendations will be examined by Kuwait, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the twenty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council, to be held from 15 June to 3 July 2015:

157.1 Take the necessary steps to ratify or accede to the outstanding human rights instruments (Lesotho);

157.2. Accede to or ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP 1 and ICCPR-OP 2) (Slovenia);

157.3. Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to ratifying ICCPR-OP 2 (Australia);

157.4. Ratify ICCPR-OP 2 (Portugal) (Spain);

157.5. Consider ratification of ICCPR-OP 2, aiming at abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);

157.6. Withdraw reservations made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (Spain);

157.7. Take further legislative and other steps to enhance women's rights and consider accession by Kuwait to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OP-CEDAW) as well as the withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW (Greece);

157.8. Withdraw its reservations to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT), ICCPR and CEDAW as well as its general reservations to CRC and ratify the Rome Statute and the Optional Protocol to CAT (OP-CAT) and OP-CEDAW (Austria);

157.9. Ratify/accede to OP-CAT (Costa Rica) (Denmark) (Honduras);

157.10. Consider the ratification of the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including OP-CAT and ICCPR-OP 1 and ICCPR-OP 2, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Brazil);

157.11. Withdraw reservations to CAT and ratify OP-CAT (Estonia);

157.12. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Ghana) (Honduras) (Sierra Leone);

157.13. Consider ratifying ICRMW (Niger) (Timor-Leste);

157.14. Work towards the ratification of -(ICRMW (Benin);

157.15. Continue strengthening the effort to take measures to protect the rights of migrants, including consider ratifying ICRMW (Indonesia);

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 157.16. Consider ratifying ICRMW and International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189 (2011) concerning decent work for domestic workers (Philippines);
- 157.17. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, OPCAT and the ILO Conventions that it has not ratified to date (Chile);
- 157.18. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Costa Rica) (Ghana) (Honduras) (Latvia) (Montenegro) (Poland) (Portugal) (Sweden) (Timor-Leste);
- 157.19. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it fully at national level and accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Slovakia);
- 157.20. Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and ensure its implementation (Botswana);
- 157.21. Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute (Bulgaria);
- 157.22. Ratify and fully align Kuwaiti national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Croatia);
- 157.23. Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia) (Hungary);
- 157.24. Fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute (Germany);
- 157.25. Ratify the Rome Statute and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);
- 157.26. Ratify ICPED (Sierra Leone);
- 157.27. Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 (2011) concerning decent work for domestic workers and adapt its national legislation accordingly (Switzerland);
- 157.28. On migrant workers: ratify ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers and abandon the current Kafala system (Iceland);
- 157.29. Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Kazakhstan);
- 157.30. Ratify the Conventions on refugees and stateless persons (Honduras);
- 157.31. Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Slovakia);
- 157.32. Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, with a view to finding a permanent solution to the legal status of Bidouns in Kuwait (Australia);
- 157.33. Accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and uphold the rights of the Bidouns to nationality and access to social services (Canada);
- 157.34. Make a credible commitment to improving the status of Bidouns by ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Germany);
- 157.35. Complete the planned elaboration of a law on human rights (Belarus);

- 157.36. Continue implementing the national laws in accordance with the universally agreed human rights norms and principles (Lesotho);
- 157.37. Continue efforts to strengthen the legal framework for the promotion of human rights (Morocco);
- 157.38. Continue awareness-raising in the area of human rights (Lebanon);
- 157.39. Continue to disseminate the culture of human rights (Egypt);
- 157.40. Continue the constructive steps taken in the promotion and protection of human rights (Saudi Arabia);
- 157.41. Continue the reforms to improve policies and programmes towards promotion and protection of human rights (Lesotho);
- 157.42. Organize regional and local conferences to exchange experiences and opinions on strengthening and promoting human rights (Mauritania);
- 157.43. Continue strengthening training for public sector employees in the field of human rights (Qatar);
- 157.44. Include human rights courses in the in-service training of public and law enforcement officials (Turkey);
- 157.45. Conduct training programmes on human rights to increase awareness among public servants, especially the staff of law enforcement bodies and the judiciary (Uzbekistan);
- 157.46. Expand human rights trainings to law enforcement organs and personnel of public sector (Ethiopia);
- 157.47. Intensify programmes and activities related to human rights training to police and military personnel (Bhutan);
- 157.48. Intensify its national efforts to strengthen human rights and training (Bahrain);
- 157.49. Continue efforts and activities to raise awareness of human rights in the country (Bangladesh);
- 157.50. Continue to carry out human rights campaigns to improve the human rights awareness of the general public (China);
- 157.51. Continue positive steps for the promotion and protection of human rights (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 157.52. Strengthen training on human rights for non-governmental organizations (Morocco);
- 157.53. Enhance the skills of people in charge of teaching human rights in curricula (Sudan);
- 157.54. Develop human rights indicators as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);
- 157.55. Continue efforts to promote human rights in the world (Jordan);
- 157.56. Establish the national human rights institution (Rwanda);
- 157.57. Establish an independent national human rights institution, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);

- 157.58. Establish without delay an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ireland);
- 157.59. Create a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 157.60. Establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland);
- 157.61. Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles which complements the role of civil society organizations (Hungary);
- 157.62. Continue the ongoing procedures aimed at creating a national commission of human rights in conformity with the Paris Principles (Togo);
- 157.63. Expedite the process to establish the national human rights institution (Zimbabwe);
- 157.64. Speed up the process of establishment of the Human Rights Office in compliance with the Paris Principles (Afghanistan);
- 157.65. Step up the process of the creation of a national human rights institution (Benin);
- 157.66. Take all necessary measures to complete the process of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Greece);
- 157.67. Ensure that its new human rights institution is fully compliant with the Paris Principles (India);
- 157.68. Expedite the deliberation, and follow by enactment, of the law on the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);
- 157.69. Give continuity to the strengthening of the national human rights institutions and related mechanisms (Nepal);
- 157.70. Complete swiftly all necessary procedures so the national office of human rights begins its work (Russian Federation);
- 157.71. Consider the formulation of a comprehensive national human rights plan of action (Indonesia);
- 157.72. Promote further comprehensive protection of the rights of children (Tajikistan);
- 157.73. Continue active cooperation with human rights mechanisms (Azerbaijan);
- 157.74. Continue cooperation with international mechanisms to promote and protect human rights (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 157.75. Continue cooperation with international mechanisms concerning human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 157.76. Continue cooperating with the international mechanisms in order to promote and protect human rights (Cuba);
- 157.77. Continue cooperating with the international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nicaragua);

- 157.78. Continue to pursue its outstanding and noble activities within the Human Rights Council (Somalia);
- 157.79. Continue to submit reports to treaty bodies pursuant to conventions which the country has ratified (Morocco);
- 157.80. Step up cooperation with treaty bodies (Niger);
- 157.81. Address the concerns expressed by two treaty bodies relating to minority rights and also labour rights, made by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);
- 157.82. Step up cooperation with the United Nations special procedures by responding positively to pending visit requests (Latvia);
- 157.83. Schedule visits for the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression in line with their requests and Kuwait's 2010 standing invitation (United States of America);
- 157.84. Continue providing support for the work of international humanitarian organizations, including OHCHR (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 157.85. Continue to strengthen the relations with OHCHR (Algeria);
- 157.86. Work towards supporting the existing cooperation between OHCHR and Kuwait (Libya);
- 157.87. Engage civil society in the implementation process of the accepted UPR recommendations (Poland);
- 157.88. Enhance the cooperation with civil society (Austria);
- 157.89. Take additional legislative and other measures to address gender inequality and racial discrimination (Botswana);
- 157.90. Adopt a general law that sanctions discrimination for any reason, in particular against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons (Chile);
- 157.91. Continue implementing the policy in the area of the improvement of the rights and opportunities of women (Belarus);
- 157.92. Effectively implement the State's Development Plan for enhancement of the capacities of women through reviewing and updating of the legislation in order to eliminate forms of discrimination against women (Myanmar);
- 157.93. Continue its efforts to guarantee the rights of women (Italy);
- 157.94. Continue efforts in further promotion of women's rights (Kazakhstan);
- 157.95. Continue strengthening protective measures and legal rights for women (Norway);
- 157.96. Continue to safeguard the principle of equality between men and women in financial, educational, healthcare and housing sectors by elaborating comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Serbia);
- 157.97. Promote legislation in the area of gender equality (Chile);

- 157.98. Continue to review its legislation and implement practical measures, such as those contained in Kuwait's next Development plan, to eliminate discrimination against women, and to protect and empower Kuwaiti women (Singapore);
- 157.99. Adopt a comprehensive national gender equality action plan (Costa Rica);
- 157.100. Adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (Portugal);
- 157.101. Consider adoption of the comprehensive national plan of action to achieve gender equality (Rwanda);
- 157.102. Support social integration of women in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);
- 157.103. Continue efforts aiming at enforcing and protecting women's rights, and support social empowerment for them (Qatar);
- 157.104. Conduct further work to ensure equality of men and women (Russian Federation);
- 157.105. Continue to work towards closing the gender gaps and ensure gender parity in education (Sierra Leone);
- 157.106. Continue strengthening its policies and programmes for enhancing women's empowerment and equality (Bangladesh);
- 157.107. Ensure gender equality in all aspects of family-related matters and raise the minimum age of marriage (Italy);
- 157.108. Consider increasing the minimum age of marriage, especially for girls (Latvia);
- 157.109. Abolish the practice of early and forced marriage for girls (Slovenia);
- 157.110. Intensify its effort in ensuring gender equality, in particular, by reviewing its legal provisions in the area of civil and family law (Thailand);
- 157.111. Adopt comprehensive legislation on gender equality and include the ground of "sex" among grounds of non-discrimination, in article 29 of the Constitution, in order to guarantee women better protection against discrimination (Albania);
- 157.112. Lift discriminatory provisions against women in its domestic law, particularly in the Civil and Penal Code and in the Education Act (Poland);
- 157.113. Amend legislation that discriminates against women, such as the Nationality Law, to ensure equality between men and women and non-discrimination in enjoyment of the human rights of girls and women (Canada);
- 157.114. Modify the law relating to the nationality in a way to recognize the right of Kuwaiti women to transmit their nationality to their spouses and children (Togo);
- 157.115. Eliminate discrimination against women, including in the Nationality Act, so as to enable Kuwaiti women to pass on their nationality to their children (Austria);
- 157.116. Remove all gender-discriminatory provisions from the Nationality Law of 1959 and adopt comprehensive plans of action to achieve gender equality and to fight violence against women (Czech Republic);

- 157.117. Strengthen its efforts in order to end discrimination against women, especially by revising the Personal Status Law and granting women the right to confer their nationality (Germany);
- 157.118. Amend the nationality law to allow women equal rights to men in passing their nationality to their children (Norway);
- 157.119. Review the Nationality Act to ensure equality between women and men with regard to the acquisition, change and retention of nationality (Poland);
- 157.120. Implement the principle of non-discrimination guaranteed by the Constitution, and guarantee the rights of Bidouns to their nationality (France);
- 157.121. Abolish the death penalty (Slovenia);
- 157.122. Adopt the necessary measures to establish a moratorium on executions of the death penalty (Spain);
- 157.123. Consider abolishing the death penalty (Rwanda);
- 157.124. Introduce a de facto moratorium on capital executions (Italy);
- 157.125. Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Uruguay);
- 157.126. Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Togo);
- 157.127. Re-establish the moratorium on executions (Belgium);
- 157.128. Reinstate a moratorium on executions with a view to the definitive abolition of the death penalty (France);
- 157.129. Reinstate a de facto moratorium of the death penalty, with a view to abolish the punishment (Sweden);
- 157.130. Reinstate the de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Greece);
- 157.131. Establish the official moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);
- 157.132. Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Bulgaria);
- 157.133. Introduce an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty and commute without delay all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Namibia);
- 157.134. Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);
- 157.135. Establish a moratorium on the death penalty and advance towards the total abolition of this practice (Chile);
- 157.136. Adopt a moratorium on the death penalty with the clear objective of its complete abolition (Germany);
- 157.137. Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its future abolition (Switzerland);
- 157.138. Consider returning to a de facto moratorium on all death sentences (Ukraine);

- 157.139. **Adopt specific legislation criminalizing acts of domestic and sexual violence, including marital rape, investigate the incidents and ensure adequate remedies for victims (Slovenia);**
- 157.140. **Amend internal legislation so as to prohibit domestic violence and sexual harassment against women and children and ensure that women have equality before the law (Croatia);**
- 157.141. **Strengthen the combat against violence against women, ensuring care for victims and their access to justice (France);**
- 157.142. **On gender-based violence: establish accessible reporting mechanisms and strengthen investigation and enforcement capacity (Iceland);**
- 157.143. **Promote specific legislation introducing acts of domestic violence as specific crimes (Chile);**
- 157.144. **Adopt measures to combat domestic violence (Maldives);**
- 157.145. **Conduct awareness and education campaigns on gender-based violence and create accessible complaints mechanisms for reporting sexual and domestic violence (Canada);**
- 157.146. **Prohibit corporal punishment of children at home and other alternative care settings, as it had committed to do in the UPR (Albania);**
- 157.147. **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Slovenia);**
- 157.148. **Approve the new Law on Childhood and include the prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings (Uruguay);**
- 157.149. **Eliminate corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure in the home and take measures to establish a complaints and investigation procedure for acts of violence against children (Mexico);**
- 157.150. **Amend its legislation to provide special protection for children against violence, enabling them to file complaints independent of their guardians, and to provide a hotline and shelter for children who incur domestic violence (Ireland);**
- 157.151. **Continue exerting more efforts to develop law combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (South Sudan);**
- 157.152. **Ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of human trafficking, and ensure necessary assistance and protection services to victims (Turkey);**
- 157.153. **Establish a centralized mechanism to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (Djibouti);**
- 157.154. **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 157.155. **Continue its support for the United Nations efforts to combat human trafficking (Iraq);**
- 157.156. **Continue to combat trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants (Russian Federation);**
- 157.157. **Share their experiences in the judicial reforms with other States (Sudan);**

- 157.158. Continue efforts to develop legal skills through training of judges (Lebanon);
- 157.159. Continue judiciary and legislative reforms (Senegal);
- 157.160. Continue efforts towards the consolidation of the rule of law and its mechanisms (Nicaragua);
- 157.161. Promote efforts to consolidate the rule of law and its mechanisms (Cuba);
- 157.162. Promote efforts to consolidate the rule of law (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 157.163. Continue promoting the efforts in order to consolidate the rule of law and its mechanisms (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 157.164. Create a system of juvenile justice in line with international standards, and in this context raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (which is now: 7 years) (Poland);
- 157.165. Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 18 years (Sierra Leone);
- 157.166. Proceed to adopt a national work plan for children's rights in the juvenile justice system (Serbia);
- 157.167. Continue its measures in ensuring the promotion and protection of family and family values from social, health and security threats (Malaysia);
- 157.168. Continue to engage in the full implementation of judicial decisions concerning the family, and exerting efforts to resolve family-related disputes (Pakistan);
- 157.169. Adopt the necessary measures to eliminate in the legislation and in practice the crimes motivated by the sexual orientation of persons (Uruguay);
- 157.170. Prepare and adopt legal and administrative measures with a view to investigating and prosecuting acts of discrimination, stigmatization and violence against LGBTI persons (Argentina);
- 157.171. On lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT): stop arresting individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or appearance and repeal legislative measures that criminalize consensual homosexual conduct (Iceland);
- 157.172. Guarantee personal autonomy and individual rights, as enshrined in the Constitution, by a prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as by allowing a medical gender change to be reflected in a person's identity documents (Netherlands);
- 157.173. Legislate to guarantee the freedoms of expression, of assembly and of opinion (Australia);
- 157.174. Guarantee the right to freedom of expression and allow the use of social media without undue restrictions and limitations (Italy);
- 157.175. Fully guarantee the right to freedom of expression online/offline by revising relevant laws, including by repealing arrest, trial and imprisonment of persons exercising their freedom of opinion through media and Internet (Estonia);

- 157.176. **Revise the compliance of relevant existing laws, in particular articles 25 and 111 of the Penal Code, with international standards of freedom of expression and protect human rights defenders, journalists and bloggers against persecution and harassment (Czech Republic);**
- 157.177. **Ensure that media and internet laws fully comply with Kuwait's obligations to protect freedom of expression under international agreements (United States of America);**
- 157.178. **Enact as a matter of priority a new media law guaranteeing freedom of expression, particularly social media, so people can express views without fear of retribution and with defamation covered under the civil rather than criminal code (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 157.179. **Review existing laws including the Law on Press and Publication to ensure freedom of expression in accordance with international standards (Austria);**
- 157.180. **Protect and respect the right to freedom of expression and introduce legislation and institutions to ensure the independence of the media, prevent censorship and promote transparency in public affairs (Norway);**
- 157.181. **Ensure the realization of freedom of the press and the media, in line with ICCPR standards (Mexico);**
- 157.182. **Guarantee in law and in practice, without any abusive restrictions, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedoms of opinion and expression, on the internet and in the traditional media, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ratified by Kuwait (France);**
- 157.183. **Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of journalists, activists, human rights defenders and those who take part in demonstrations (Uruguay);**
- 157.184. **Intensify measures to enhance the participation of women in public life (Austria);**
- 157.185. **Continue strengthening the increasing participation of women in public life (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**
- 157.186. **Promote the participation of women in public affairs and increase their representation in the elected councils (Algeria);**
- 157.187. **Further encourage and facilitate the representation of women in parliament, in the judiciary and in diplomatic missions abroad (Hungary);**
- 157.188. **Implement comprehensive national policies and strategic plans to improve equal employment opportunities (Oman);**
- 157.189. **Pursue initiatives to strengthen economic, social and cultural rights in order to promote sustainable development (Armenia);**
- 157.190. **Continue to support initiatives promoting economic rights (Zimbabwe);**
- 157.191. **Pursue initiatives to improve the quality of life by diversifying of the economy (Armenia);**
- 157.192. **Continue initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life through diversification of the economy (Kyrgyzstan);**

- 157.193. Continue initiatives aimed at strengthening economic, social and cultural rights, contributing to sustainable development and transition to more developed economy (Kyrgyzstan);
- 157.194. Consider taking additional steps to promote economic development and a higher standard of living (Sri Lanka);
- 157.195. Continue strengthening social programmes to realize the interest of the Kuwaiti people (Egypt);
- 157.196. Continue to adopt necessary measures to strengthen social and cultural rights (Jordan);
- 157.197. Continue ensuring a high level of social welfare, health and education services for Kuwait's population (Kazakhstan);
- 157.198. Continue the provision of high-quality health-care services to its population (Brunei Darussalam);
- 157.199. Continue its efforts in improving its health-care system especially access for maternal, paediatric and family health services (Malaysia);
- 157.200. Strengthen laws in the area of the right to education (State of Palestine);
- 157.201. Take steps for free, compulsory and inclusive, quality education for all children (Maldives);
- 157.202. Provide equal access to education for all children regardless of their social and legal status (Thailand);
- 157.203. Reduce the gaps between the genders to ensure gender equality in the area of education (Angola);
- 157.204. Continue efforts to eradicate literacy rates (United Arab Emirates);
- 157.205. Consider the adoption of a comprehensive national policy on the protection of the rights of the child, in line with CRC (Brazil);
- 157.206. Carry on supporting the rights of the child (Oman);
- 157.207. Continue to apply measures to guarantee the implementation of CRPD (Angola);
- 157.208. Building on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, continue its efforts in order to improve their standard of living (Cyprus);
- 157.209. Strengthen institutions dealing with the rights of persons with disabilities (Lebanon);
- 157.210. Ensure more fully the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as the rights of women and of children (Russian Federation);
- 157.211. Promote the rights of persons with disabilities on the ground, despite the difficulties (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 157.212. Continue the implementation of the national strategy on the protection and implementation of living standards of persons with disabilities (Tajikistan);

- 157.213. Continue to take measures allowing persons with disabilities to be fully integrated into economic, political, social and cultural life (United Arab Emirates);
- 157.214. Improve access to public facilities for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 157.215. Intensify its efforts to support the rights of persons with disabilities to social integration and self-reliance (Brunei Darussalam);
- 157.216. Continue its efforts to provide educational facilities for people with special needs (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 157.217. Introduce further measures to strengthen the employment opportunities and self-reliance options for persons with disabilities (Ethiopia);
- 157.218. Share other countries' experiences and achievements in the field of managing institutions that provide education for people with special needs (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 157.219. Share their best practices in the field of education of children with disabilities (Bhutan);
- 157.220. Consider the adoption of a national strategy to move forward in the promotion and protection of the rights of the elderly (Uzbekistan);
- 157.221. Continue to further regulate the work of domestic workers and to improve the situation of refugees and asylum seekers (Senegal);
- 157.222. Continue to protect and promote the economic and social rights of minorities, in particular, migrant populations (Senegal);
- 157.223. Protect migrant workers in their rights, improve their living and working conditions (China);
- 157.224. Continue efforts in addressing the welfare of expatriate workers (Bangladesh);
- 157.225. Reinforce efforts aimed at improving the working and living conditions of migrant workers (Ukraine);
- 157.226. Ensure respect for the rights of migrant workers, improving their working conditions and prosecuting the perpetrators of violence against them (France);
- 157.227. Continue its efforts in safeguarding and protecting the rights of migrant workers (Myanmar);
- 157.228. Protect migrant workers from exploitation by ensuring that applicable laws and practices conform to international labour standards set by ILO (Canada);
- 157.229. Establish a legal system to protect the rights of migrant workers, consistent with international standards in this area and in particular as regards to working time and access to services and legal means to ensure the respect for contracts (Belgium);
- 157.230. Adopt specific labour legislation on the rights of foreign domestic workers in order to guarantee them the same conditions as other workers covered by the 2010 Labour Law (Albania);

- 157.231. Take additional measures to improve the situation of migrant domestic workers by extending the application of the Private Sector Labour Law to include domestic workers (Germany);
- 157.232. Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security and dignity of migrant workers, including women domestic workers, and protection of their interests through requisite institutional and legislative measures (Nepal);
- 157.233. Adopt specific labour legislation to protect the rights of domestic workers, including mechanisms for complaints and sanctions for law violations (Norway);
- 157.234. Adopt legislation for the protection of domestic workers to guarantee their rights in accordance with international standards and prosecute violence against domestic workers (Austria);
- 157.235. Introduce comprehensive legislation to protect the rights of migrant domestic workers and ensure its effective implementation (Italy);
- 157.236. Take measures to regularize the so-called “illegal residents” to ensure that all their rights are respected in accordance with international standards (Mexico);
- 157.237. Consider effective implementation of the Private Sector Labour Act, with a view to addressing problems faced by migrant labour and also address the negative aspects of the sponsorship system (India);
- 157.238. Abandon the Kafala sponsorship system (Italy);
- 157.239. Take appropriate measures to protect the human rights of foreign migrant workers in linkage with the efforts to modify the Kafala system (Republic of Korea);
- 157.240. Take further measures for ensuring appropriate protection of the human rights of the Bidoun population (Ukraine);
- 157.241. Strengthen actions to ensure that the rights of stateless individuals (Bidoun), domestic migrant workers and foreign female workers are protected and stateless children have access to education and health care (Netherlands);
- 157.242. Provide full citizenship and rights for the Bidoun population (Norway);
- 157.243. Establish a process for handling requests for nationality by Bidouns in accordance with international standards (Belgium);
- 157.244. Enhance efforts to facilitate the regularization of Bidouns, so that they can fully enjoy their rights (Italy);
- 157.245. Respect the universally recognized right to nationality set forth in the the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stop revoking citizenships, while reinstating citizenships that have already been revoked (United States of America);
- 157.246. Take proper action to improve the situation of stateless persons, including by recognizing their civil and political rights (Slovakia);
- 157.247. Ensure the issuance of legal documents for stateless persons while working on a systemic resolution of statelessness in the country in accordance with international standards (Czech Republic);

- 157.248. Take measures to regularize the situation of stateless residents in Kuwait, as well as measures for their integration in society that guarantee their economic, social and cultural rights (Spain);
- 157.249. Implement the strategic plan to resolve the issue of stateless individuals in Kuwait, through a transparent system in which individuals whose nationality and status is unresolved can either attain Kuwaiti nationality rightfully or otherwise regularize their situation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 157.250. Deepen the legal and administrative measures aiming at facilitating access to Kuwaiti nationality to stateless persons residing in Kuwait, as well as to children of foreign or stateless fathers born in the territory (Argentina);
- 157.251. Urgently take measures to grant legal status to over 100,000 stateless persons and ensure their protection under the labour law (Austria);
- 157.252. Take appropriate measures to address concerns over having withdrawn the citizenship of naturalized Kuwaiti citizens (Republic of Korea);
- 157.253. Take the necessary steps to facilitate the process of qualifying stateless individuals to be granted nationality so that they can enjoy basic human rights (Republic of Korea);
- 157.254. Regularize as soon as possible the protracted situation of the stateless Bidouns in conformity with its international obligations and commitments and accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Switzerland);
- 157.255. Step up efforts to protect the environment (Iraq);
- 157.256. Develop an environmental strategy in line with international standards (Afghanistan);
- 157.257. Develop a comprehensive strategy for the environment in order to address the problems of water contamination and air pollution (Cyprus);
- 157.258. Ensure that industrial companies implement international and national environmental and health standards (Djibouti);
- 157.259. Continue its efforts in the area of protection of the environment and natural resources by effectively implementing Law 42/2014 (Gabon);
- 157.260. Continue efforts to enhance the necessary measures related to the implementation of the National Development Plan through appropriate means (United Arab Emirates);
- 157.261. Continue the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (State of Palestine);
- 157.262. Continue its developmental role in the world (Bahrain);
- 157.263. Develop plans to promote human development programmes in the State of Kuwait (Sri Lanka);
- 157.264. Continue efforts to ensure further social and economic development that is sustainable (Mauritania);
- 157.265. Continue its efforts to provide humanitarian and development aid (Yemen);

- 157.266. Carry on its efforts in supporting development programmes for developing countries (Oman);
- 157.267. Continue providing important assistance for the development of countries in the South, particularly in the areas regarding fundamental rights (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 157.268. Continue the role that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is playing in the world (Libya);
- 157.269. Continue efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to developing countries (Mauritania);
- 157.270. Strengthen its work to further deserve the title of “Humanitarian Leader” which was given to it by the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (Comoros);
- 157.271. Continue to provide impactful humanitarian assistance to help people and families struck by natural and man-made disasters (Singapore);
- 157.272. Continue its cooperation with the international community to provide voluntary assistance to disaster relief appeals (Pakistan);
- 157.273. Continue their active partnership with the international communities in the field of humanitarian affairs (Sudan);
- 157.274. Continue to support United Nations fund related to human rights (Iraq);
- 157.275. Continue supporting the United Nations humanitarian funds (Bahrain);
- 157.276. Continue providing support to the United Nations organizations and its specialized agencies, institutions, regional and international funds concerning humanitarian assistance (Qatar);
- 157.277. Mobilize the local resources and capabilities along with supporting the collaboration with partners and agencies of the United Nations (Oman);
- 157.278. Continue to support UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies (Egypt).
158. 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

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Kuwait was headed by H.E. Ms. Hend Subaih Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour / Minister of State for Planning and Development, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Jamal ALGHUNAIM, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- H.E. Mr. Ghanem ALGHANEM, Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Khaled ALMUGHAMES, Counselor, Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Talal ALMUTAIRI, Counselor, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Meshal ALMANSOUR, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mr. Zeyad ALMASHAAN, Counselor, International Organization Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Saud ALSAFEDI, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mr. Saud ALHARBI, First Secretary, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Abdullah ALJRAIWI, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mr. Haider ABULHASAN, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Mrs. Ranya ALMULAIFI, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Ms. Maha ALKULAIB, Political Specialist, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Abrar ALLMAIAN, Legal Researcher, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Fajr ALBUAIJAN, Legal Researcher, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Latifa ALAZRAN, Legal Researcher, Coordination and follow up Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Nawaf NAMAN, Attaché, Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait in Geneva;
- Ms. Huda ALSHAYJI, Undersecretary, Department of Islamic Law, Representative of the Committee on Women's Affairs at the Cabinet;

- Dr. Saud ALHARBI, Assistant Undersecretary for Curriculum and Research, Ministry of Education;
 - Mr. Zaki ALSULAIMI, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;
 - Mr. Hassan KAZEM, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;
 - Mr. Zakareya ALANSARI, Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice;
 - Mr. Abdulrahman ALMEHANNA, Prosecutor, Public Prosecution;
 - Mr. Jamal ALDOSARI, Director General, Manpower Authority;
 - Ms. Assil ALMAZID, Head of Public and Media Relations, Manpower Authority;
 - Mr. Fayez ALZUFAIRI, Law Professor, Kuwait University;
 - Mr. Mutalak ALMUTAIRI, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs;
 - Mr. Khaled ALDAYEN, Assistant Undersecretary for Public Administration of Correctional Institutions, Ministry of Interior;
 - Mr. Ali ALLKALLAF, Citizenship and Immigration Department, Ministry of Interior;
 - Ms. Mona ATEYA, Legal Researcher, Ministry of Interior;
 - Ms. Eman ALNASER, Technical Office Manager, Central Agency for Illegal Residents;
 - Ms. May ALFARAG, Media Researcher, Central Agency for Illegal Residents;
 - Ms. Nedaa ALHOULI, Head of External Public Relations and Media, General Organization for Persons with Disabilities;
 - Dr. Nada ALTARKIT, Pediatric Consultant, Ministry of Health.
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