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Universal periodic review

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

### Syrian Arab Republic

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

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-sixth session from 31 October to 11 November 2016. The review of the Syrian Arab Republic was held at the 2nd meeting, on 31 October 2016. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic was headed by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Hussam Edin Aala. At its 10th meeting, held on 4 November 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Syrian Arab Republic: Bangladesh, Botswana and Paraguay.

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 Syrian Arab Republic:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/SYR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/SYR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/26/SYR/3 and Corr.1).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Mexico, Slovenia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Syrian Arab Republic 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 delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic reviewed developments since its first report, including the implementation of accepted recommendations, and described challenges stemming from the acts of terrorist armed groups supported and financed from abroad and resulting from unilateral economic measures. The Government had been obliged to preserve security and the lives of its citizens by combating the crimes and massacres perpetrated by terrorist groups and foreign terrorists entering its territory from neighbouring countries to fight alongside terrorist organizations.

6. The Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan since 5 June 1967 constituted the main impediment to the exercise by Syrian citizens in that area of their economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights, owing to the oppression and arbitrary detention practised by the Israeli occupation forces and to the discriminatory policies that had deprived the rightful owners of Syrian land of their natural resources. Moreover, the confiscation of land and sources of livelihood for illegal settlement schemes constituted a violation of international law, international humanitarian law and relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolution 497 (1981).

7. In its report, the Syrian Arab Republic had described the normative and institutional framework for the promotion of human rights, highlighting the Constitution adopted in 2012 and the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights it enshrined. It had also described the impact of the crisis on human rights and the exceptional circumstances in which the Government was seeking to comply with its obligations. It had reviewed the impact of terrorism on the rights to life, security, dignity, health, education, employment, food and a decent standard of living. It had provided information on the systematic destruction of basic facilities and of public and private property by terrorists; the methods adopted to perpetrate manslaughter, enslavement, bondage and forced labour; violations of the rights to freedom of religion and belief and to celebrate religious rites; forced and child marriage; the recruitment of children; systematic kidnapping; and collective punishment through deprivation of water and electricity. It had highlighted the impact of unilateral coercive measures on Syrian citizens' enjoyment of the rights to housing, food, medicines, health care, education, transport and development, as well as the scale of human loss resulting from air raids conducted by the illegal alliance led by the United States under the pretext of combating terrorism.

8. Steps had been taken to implement a comprehensive national reform programme and adopt laws in support of democracy and human rights. The Constitution served as a guideline for State action and State institutions and as a source of legislation. It enshrined the basic principles of independence and sovereignty, the rule of the people based on elections, political pluralism, protection of national unity, cultural diversity, public freedoms, human rights, social justice, equality of opportunity, citizenship and the rule of law.

9. The Government had organized and engaged in several rounds of dialogue among Syrians. In parallel with its efforts to combat terrorism, the Government had opted for national reconciliation in order to halt the shedding of Syrian blood and to restore normal living conditions and public services to areas cleared of armed groups. The reconciliation process had produced results in a number of areas and amnesty decrees had been adopted. The most recent was decree No. 15, which had been issued on 28 July 2016 by the President, Bashar al-Assad, and then extended for three months on 27 October 2016.

10. As for the accepted recommendations calling for a peaceful settlement based on a national dialogue, the Government had entered into an inter-Syrian dialogue with a view to achieving a political settlement to the crisis that would enable Syrians to exercise their inalienable right to determine the future of their country without foreign interference. The Government continued to advocate seriously for a comprehensive national dialogue involving all Syrians, as the only means, alongside combating terrorism, of ending the crisis.

11. As for the development of national legislation, a legal reform plan developed in 2012 had provided for the review and enactment of several laws pertaining to women's and children's rights and to civil and political rights. The Code of Civil Procedure had been amended, steps had been taken to amend the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure and the draft law on children's rights had almost been completed. Practical steps had been taken to implement the act on combating trafficking in persons and to criminalize the involvement of children in armed conflict.

12. With regard to cooperation with the Human Rights Council mechanisms, the Government had hosted the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights of internally displaced persons, on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and on the right to food. It was considering requests for visits from the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. It had invited the

Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. It had twice received the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. It was awaiting a visit from the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth.

13. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic had adopted, since its establishment, a selective and politicized approach. Micromanagement of the work of the Commission of Inquiry by States involved in the war against the Syrian Arab Republic, by means of politicized resolutions circulated to the Security Council before each report, had converted the Commission of Inquiry and its reports into an utterly biased platform against the Government.

14. The Government had submitted periodic and follow-up reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The submission of a second national report to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to a constructive interactive dialogue, as did its voluntary commitment to promoting the universality of human rights.

15. The Government was about to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

16. As for the recommendations concerning the strengthening of national mechanisms to investigate human rights violations, the criminal courts tried all cases of violence and enforced disappearance and prosecuted the perpetrators pursuant to the relevant Syrian legislation. As for the right to liberty and the amendment of the regulations governing detention, article 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, concerning the period for which suspects could be detained in the case of offences against State security and public safety, had been amended. A joint military investigation committee had been created to investigate complaints against army and police officers. The committee had investigated complaints, disciplinary penalties had been imposed and those found guilty had been referred to the relevant courts. A total of 282 complaints had been dealt with by the committee prior to the preparation of the report. The definition of the crime of torture in the new draft Criminal Code was in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. As for the protection of persons from enforced disappearance, Act No. 20 of 2013 criminalized all forms of kidnapping and prescribed severe penalties for the perpetrators.

17. Regarding humanitarian access, the Syrian Arab Republic had cooperated with the United Nations and other international organizations in the framework of successive response plans based on the guiding principles set out in General Assembly resolution 46/182, which included respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States and compliance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. For the Government, meeting the humanitarian needs of its people constituted a permanent and fundamental obligation.

18. Moreover, the number of steps required by humanitarian organizations to obtain consent from the authorities for the passage of humanitarian assistance and relief convoys had been reviewed and reduced from eight to just two.

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

19. During the interactive dialogue, 71 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. The Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the country had been facing a terrorist insurrection that had gravely affected human rights. It expressed concern about the difficulties faced in ensuring the rights of children in the occupied Syrian Golan.
21. Iraq welcomed the efforts made to respect international human rights treaties given the crisis prevailing since 2011 and the attacks perpetrated by terrorist groups.
22. Ireland condemned the atrocities committed by the Syrian Arab Republic and its allies, including the deliberate targeting of civilians, the suppression of protests, forced displacement and mass detention without trial.
23. The Syrian Arab Republic raised a point of order. It pointed out that speakers were required, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, to use diplomatic language when addressing the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.
24. The President of the Human Rights Council encouraged all speakers to use standard United Nations terminology in the interactive dialogue.
25. Israel stated that the national report presented an imaginary picture. It was appalled by the atrocities perpetrated in the country, including the use by the Syrian Arab Republic of gas and barrel bombs against its own people.
26. Italy deplored the gross violations of human rights and considered the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to be primarily responsible. Italy was extremely concerned about the violations perpetrated in Aleppo.
27. Japan condemned the use of sieges and the inducement of starvation as means of warfare, the extreme limitation imposed on access to daily necessities and the repeated attacks on medical facilities.
28. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted that, despite the conditions prevailing in the country, the Government had made efforts to strengthen human rights and, in particular, to empower women.
29. Latvia recalled the concerns regarding the human rights situation expressed on previous occasions, particularly during the sessions of the Human Rights Council.
30. Luxembourg expressed concern regarding the security and humanitarian situation. It deplored the fact that many of the recommendations accepted during the first cycle had not been implemented.
31. Maldives condemned the human rights violations committed in the Syrian Arab Republic and urged all parties to the conflict to find a political solution to the violence.
32. Mexico expressed concern about the worsening human rights situation and encouraged the Syrian Arab Republic to improve its cooperation with the international human rights system.
33. Montenegro asked about progress made to ensure the protection of children from recruitment as child soldiers. It encouraged the Government to enhance cooperation with the treaty bodies and the special procedures.
34. Namibia was concerned about the conflict in the country, which had had an impact on the region and the world. The loss of lives and the financial implications of the conflict were horrendous and should be stopped.
35. The Netherlands stated that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had succeeded, in just a few years, in destroying the entire meaning of Syrian civilization, which had developed over millennia.

36. New Zealand remained concerned at the grave and deteriorating human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, which had both helped cause the current conflict and was exacerbated by it.

37. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic rejected the lessons in human rights offered by Israel, given that country's long record of violating all human rights, as documented in many United Nations reports. Israel had been exploiting the current situation in the region to consolidate its occupation of the Golan, in flagrant violation of relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly 497 (1981), and by supporting Nusrah Front terrorists along the disengagement zone.

38. The Syrian armed forces had complied fully with the obligation to protect civilians from the atrocities committed by armed terrorist groups. The situation in Aleppo afforded conclusive evidence of those heinous crimes, including the indiscriminate shelling of residential neighbourhoods, markets, schools and hospitals in western parts of the city by terrorist groups, keeping a hold on some parts of the city and using civilians there as human shields.

39. Concerning humanitarian assistance to the so-called besieged areas, the sieges were not imposed by the Government but by the armed terrorist groups. The Government had cooperated with the United Nations in the delivery of assistance to all areas. According to the available data, relief had been provided on a monthly basis, under the response programmes and in cooperation with humanitarian agencies, to about 4.5 million beneficiaries in all parts of the country without exception. Since the beginning of 2016, the Government had facilitated the implementation of additional monthly response plans aimed at providing assistance to unstable areas, in cooperation with United Nations humanitarian agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). According to the most recent high relief committee data, humanitarian and health-care assistance had been provided to 1,553,402 beneficiaries in 79 districts during the period from January to August 2016.

40. As for Aleppo, the Government had complied with its obligations under the agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States on the cessation of hostilities, while the groups supported by the United States had continued to attack army positions and residential areas. Six safe passages had been created for humanitarian relief and two such passages had been created for the evacuation of militants. However, the armed groups had targeted the passages and threatened those attempting to flee.

41. The State had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Act No. 11 of 2013 had amended the Criminal Code to criminalize the recruitment of children. A national committee had been established to document violations of children's rights, to combat the recruitment of children by armed groups and to treat those children as victims.

42. The Government was prepared to cooperate with those Human Rights Council mechanisms that were interested in securing a consensus but not with those whose approach was conducive to polarization. The results of the votes in the Council on resolutions pertaining to the work of the Commission of Inquiry demonstrated the scale of the discord concerning its mandate.

43. Responding to Luxembourg, the delegation stressed that so-called barrel bombs did not exist in the Syrian army records and that the army used conventional weapons, targeting only terrorists who threatened civilians.

44. The Government invited the United Nations to conduct an inquiry into the first incident involving chemical weapons, which had occurred in Aleppo in 2013, and noted that the Governments currently raising concerns had delayed the inquiry at the time. The

Syrian Arab Republic was party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and was committed to fulfilling its obligations under that convention. Moreover, it had provided the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons with information on the storage and use of such weapons by terrorist groups in several parts of the country. The Government condemned the use of chemical weapons by terrorists on Syrian territory.

45. The delegation reassured Namibia and Slovenia that the Government was considering all aspects of cases of discrimination against women and was determined to address them.

46. Nicaragua reiterated its solidarity with the people and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for having faced, for several years, an internal conflict exacerbated by external aggression.

47. Nigeria noted that, despite the challenges faced by the country, which had been caused by both internal and external factors, the Government had reaffirmed its determination to observe the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

48. France stated that the bombing of civilians, the targeting of humanitarian actors and hospitals and the use of famine as a weapon by the Syrian Arab Republic and its allies could constitute war crimes.

49. Pakistan encouraged the Syrian Arab Republic to continue implementing the recommendations arising from the universal periodic review. It remained concerned about the violence and the human rights abuses being committed by all parties to the conflict.

50. Portugal was concerned about the human rights and international humanitarian law violations and about the verified cases of recruitment and use of children in hostilities and of child abduction.

51. The Republic of Korea regretted the disgraceful human rights violations carried out by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the killing, arbitrary detention, torture, summary execution of and sexual violence committed against the Syrian population.

52. The Russian Federation said that the Syrian Arab Republic had been tackling humanitarian problems and providing services. In those circumstances, the Government in Damascus should continue to comply with its obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

53. Rwanda reminded the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic of its responsibility to protect its population and condemned the widespread and systematic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

54. Sierra Leone encouraged the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to make more efforts to stop trafficking and end sexual violence and slavery. All parties must cease air strikes to enable humanitarian assistance to reach those in need. It emphasized that international humanitarian norms must be respected.

55. Singapore was concerned about the humanitarian crisis and urged the Government to do its utmost to alleviate the impact of the conflict and uphold the human rights of Syrians, particularly women, children and the elderly.

56. Slovenia was gravely concerned at the continuing reports of human rights violations against the most vulnerable groups and at the cycle of violence and loss of human life.

57. Spain welcomed the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic and appreciated its involvement in the universal periodic review.



58. The Sudan considered that the coercive unilateral measures exacerbated the bad situation and impeded the enjoyment of fundamental rights. It urged all parties to end the violence and find a peaceful solution to the humanitarian crisis.

59. Sweden noted that the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic continued to deteriorate in besieged areas and that the delivery of humanitarian assistance continued to be severely hampered by a number of factors.

60. Norway was concerned about reports of systematic violations of international humanitarian and human rights law by the authorities. It noted reports that the Government had carried out attacks and bombardments against civilians.

61. Thailand remained concerned about the deteriorating situation and violations of human rights owing to the intensification of attacks, particularly against civilians and medical facilities. Thailand called upon all parties to exert every effort to end the destruction and violence and to achieve peace.

62. The Syrian delegation deplored the allegations of war crimes made by France and called upon the French delegation to convey its recommendations to its own authorities, especially since French warplanes, acting as part of the illegal United States-led alliance, had killed 120 civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic in May 2016.

63. Despite exceptional circumstances and challenges, the Syrian Arab Republic had fully implemented the majority of the recommendations accepted during the first cycle of the universal periodic review.

64. The Government was preparing a national strategy for women and a programme to respond to gender-based violence. Access to education had been secured for more than 4 million children every year.

65. The State had accepted the Security Council resolutions mentioned by Sweden but also underlined the importance of the following Council resolutions concerning terrorism: 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2253 (2015).

66. The delegation said that secret detention centres did not exist in the Syrian Arab Republic, rejecting allegations of torture and arbitrary detention made by certain delegations. The Government cooperated voluntarily with ICRC, allowing it to visit prisons.

67. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia condemned the use by the Syrian authorities of barrel bombs, cluster munitions and weapons causing atrocities among civilians, and urged the Government to lift the blockade on the besieged areas most affected by the conflict.

68. Turkey categorically rejected the baseless allegations made in the national report and noted that the suffering experienced by the Syrian people had reached unimaginable levels. The Syrian authorities had to be held accountable for their crimes against humanity.

69. Ukraine stated that the Government had not taken appropriate measures to protect human rights and ensure their application in practice, and urged the Syrian authorities and all parties to the conflict to allow immediate and sustained humanitarian access throughout the Syrian Arab Republic.

70. The United Kingdom condemned the constant and appalling abuse of human rights, the killing of civilians and the arbitrary arrests involving hundreds of thousands of people. It noted that the Syrian Arab Republic was rightly subject to the most stringent mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

71. The United States stated that, since the 2011 uprising, the Government had continued to engage in flagrant violations, atrocities and abuses, all of which had been

documented by the Commission of Inquiry. It reiterated its call for an immediate end to all violations and abuses, and for the accountability of perpetrators.

72. Uruguay thanked the Syrian Arab Republic for its presentation of the national report and regretted the situation of extreme violence across the country, which had serious effects on the civilian population.

73. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that the Government had reiterated its commitment to human rights through its participation in the universal periodic review and reiterated its support to the Syrian Arab Republic for maintaining national unity and fighting terrorism.

74. Algeria noted the difficult situation of the country, which was engaged in a five-year war against terrorism, and the Government's efforts to decrease the impact of the crisis on civilians.

75. Angola congratulated the Government for the continued cooperation with the human rights mechanisms but noted with concern the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Angola urged all parties to the conflict to exhaust all diplomatic options to put an end to hostilities.

76. Argentina noted with regret that hospitals, medical units and staff, humanitarian convoys, international bodies and schools had been targeted by the military, in contravention of international norms.

77. Australia condemned the violations and the abuse of human rights and international humanitarian law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic. Not only had the Government failed to protect the human rights of its people but it had committed some of the conflict's worst atrocities.

78. Austria pointed out that the violations of international humanitarian law and the accountability of the Government for the horrors suffered by the Syrian people throughout the conflict had been addressed by the Human Rights Council in regular and special sessions.

79. Belarus was concerned about the unilateral coercive measures and considered that it was of paramount importance to restore peace in order to ensure respect for human rights. Belarus was particularly concerned about violations of the right to life.

80. Belgium deplored the systematic and widespread gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests, and the impact of the conflict on children.

81. Botswana took note of the efforts made by the Syrian Arab Republic to address human rights issues despite a long political crisis. Botswana believed that only a stop to hostilities could bring the country towards peace and stability.

82. Brazil acknowledged the efforts of the Government to protect religious minorities in an increasingly deteriorating scenario.

83. Burundi welcomed the efforts of the Government to improve the human rights situation despite the difficult situation prevailing in the country owing to terrorism. Burundi appreciated the efforts made by the Government to re-establish peace and security throughout the country.

84. Canada considered that the indiscriminate attacks carried out by the Government and its backers on civilians and civilian infrastructures, including the deliberate targeting of medical facilities and personnel, amounted to gross violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

85. Chile was concerned at the lack of substantial progress towards peace, condemned all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict and expressed solidarity with all victims.
86. China stated that the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic must be fully respected and that the international community should seek an acceptable solution to the conflict within a Syrian-led process.
87. Costa Rica condemned the violent repression of civilian protests and the widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by all parties.
88. Croatia called upon all sides to allow humanitarian aid to reach Aleppo. It especially encouraged the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with the international community in that regard.
89. Cuba reiterated its trust that the Syrian people would be able to resolve their differences by themselves and called for an end to foreign interference in domestic affairs.
90. Czechia appreciated the responses provided by the delegation to some of the questions it had transmitted in advance of the meeting and expressed grave concern about the suffering of civilians.
91. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the Government for its efforts to protect human rights while combating terrorism and wished it success in its struggle to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
92. Denmark strongly condemned the gross human rights violations committed by the Syrian Arab Republic and deplored the attacks on essential civilian infrastructure. It reminded the Government of its duty to implement Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2254 (2015).
93. Ecuador acknowledged the efforts made to follow up on the recommendations from the first review, especially in the midst of the escalating violence by terrorist and irregular armed groups supported by other States in violation of national sovereignty.
94. Egypt was concerned about the human rights developments resulting from the war and called upon the Human Rights Council to address, within its mandate, the root causes of the conflict, including the support provided to and the proliferation of terrorist groups. It supported the international efforts to achieve peace.
95. El Salvador expressed concern about the human rights situation of vulnerable groups suffering the consequences of the armed conflict. El Salvador called upon all parties to search for lasting solutions.
96. Estonia noted that the Syrian Arab Republic had failed to comply with its obligations under international law and that those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable. It called upon all parties to cease the hostilities and urgently ensure access for humanitarian aid.
97. Finland regretted the significant deterioration in the human rights situation owing to the disregard shown by the Government for its international and domestic obligations. Finland stressed the importance of implementing an inclusive political transition process.
98. Switzerland was concerned at the extent of the humanitarian crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, the systematic use of torture and the lack of independence of the judiciary, and called upon the Government to take all available measures to protect civilians.
99. Georgia expressed its solidarity with the Syrian people and remained concerned at the extremely grave human rights and humanitarian situation.

100. Germany stated that it felt awkward holding a “standard” universal periodic review session on the Syrian Arab Republic given that the gravest of human rights violations were currently taking place in that country.
101. Ghana encouraged the Government to continue the United Nations-backed dialogue aimed at resolving the conflict.
102. Guatemala called for the immediate cessation of all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and for unfettered access for humanitarian aid.
103. The Holy See welcomed the Syrian delegation and the presentation of its second national report.
104. Hungary was gravely concerned by the attacks on civilians carried out by all parties but mainly by government forces. It emphasized the need for a negotiated political solution and a full cessation of hostilities.
105. Iceland called for an immediate end to indiscriminate aerial bombardments, the use of heavy and chemical weapons and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. It stressed that widespread impunity and the rejection of cooperation with OHCHR, in particular the Commission of Inquiry, was not acceptable.
106. Indonesia appreciated the active participation by the Syrian Arab Republic in the universal periodic review and hoped that the Government would maintain its commitment to engaging with other human rights mechanisms. It called upon all parties to immediately end all human rights and humanitarian law violations.
107. The Syrian delegation stated that denial did not relieve Turkey from its responsibility for opening its borders to supporters of terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic and for exploiting and trading the suffering of Syrians for political and financial benefit.
108. Commenting on the remarks of the United Kingdom, the delegation stressed that the legitimacy of Governments came from their own people, not from other Governments seeking to revive extinct colonial glories. The delegation rejected the recommendations made by the United Kingdom and the United States, whose delegates should direct them to their own Governments. The United Kingdom and the United States should refrain from supporting terrorism and attacking Syrian sovereignty and halt their mendacious campaigns.

## **II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\***

**109. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below will be examined by the Syrian Arab Republic, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council.**

- 109.1 **Consider ratifying all core human rights conventions (Algeria);**
- 109.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Uruguay) (Rwanda);**
- 109.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture (Guatemala);**

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\*\* The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 109.4 **Become party to the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (El Salvador);**
- 109.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Uruguay);**
- 109.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Uruguay);**
- 109.7 **Ratify and accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 15 (4) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Sierra Leone);**
- 109.8 **Ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (Uruguay);**
- 109.9 **Ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Holy See);**
- 109.10 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay) (Croatia); Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Montenegro);**
- 109.11 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Sweden);**
- 109.12 **Accede to the Rome Statute and adapt national legislation, including by incorporating provisions to rapidly and fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**
- 109.13 **Ratify and effectively implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Czechia);**
- 109.14 **Amend the Penal Code and the Criminal Code to eliminate mitigated sentences for rapists who marry their victims for so-called “honour crimes” (Sierra Leone);**
- 109.15 **Adopt national legislation criminalizing domestic violence (Sierra Leone);**
- 109.16 **Enact the child rights bill (Maldives);**
- 109.17 **Strengthen its institutional framework to allow it to defend its sovereignty and protect the human rights of its people (Nicaragua);**
- 109.18 **Continue to promote dialogue with all States, on the basis of mutual respect, sovereign equality, self-determination and the right to choose their own political, economic and social system (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);**
- 109.19 **Implement Security Council resolutions in order to facilitate a (peaceful) political transition led by the Syrian people and based on the Geneva communiqué (Guatemala);**

- 109.20 **Implement the cessation of hostilities agreement to achieve a full, comprehensive ceasefire which will provide the grounds for improving human rights (Egypt);**
- 109.21 **Continue protecting its population from the effects of unilateral coercive measures imposed on the country and consider establishing a national mechanism to monitor and assess the negative impact of such measures on the country (Nicaragua);**
- 109.22 **Continue taking measures to face the perverse effects of the illegal coercive unilateral measures imposed on the country by some powers (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 109.23 **Establish a national mechanism to monitor and assess the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights of the Syrian people (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 109.24 **Continue disclosing human rights violations by the Israeli regime in the Occupied Syrian Golan and other Arab territories (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 109.25 **Continue its efforts for the full realization of the rights of Syrian children in the occupied Syrian Golan (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 109.26 **Continue strengthening State institutions for the protection of its people, giving special attention to the defence of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 109.27 **Consider the possibility of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Russian Federation);**
- 109.28 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Algeria);**
- 109.29 **Strengthen the work of all existing national human rights institutions in the Syrian Arab Republic (Indonesia);**
- 109.30 **Adopt a national plan to promote and protect the rights of all women and girls, in particular those victims of the conflict, making sure that resources for its implementation are available (Chile);**
- 109.31 **Cooperate with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria in order to immediately establish a negotiated and sustainable ceasefire in Aleppo (Italy);**
- 109.32 **Work jointly with the mechanisms of the United Nations system, in particular the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (Argentina);**
- 109.33 **Continue cooperating with the international community to alleviate the effects of the crisis on Syrian citizens (Nicaragua);**
- 109.34 **Preserve its model of peaceful coexistence of different religious faiths and cultural identities, which was working so well in the Syrian Arab Republic until a few years ago; Continue raising awareness about the dangers of excluding ideologies (Nicaragua);**
- 109.35 **Continue efforts to restore security and stability and to achieve a national comprehensive reconciliation (Nigeria);**
- 109.36 **Intensify its efforts to cooperate with the international community to alleviate the repercussions of the crisis on Syrian citizens (Nigeria);**

- 109.37 **Cooperate with the internal United Nations board of inquiry on its investigation into attacks on the United Nations-Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief operation (Republic of Korea);**
- 109.38 **Bring in humanitarian assistance, including food and medical supplies, to all civilians in need, without discrimination (Egypt);**
- 109.39 **Ensure full and unhindered humanitarian access in compliance with Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015) and 2268 (2016) (Sweden);**
- 109.40 **Continue to engage all international bodies which are involved in the implementation of humanitarian assistance, such as ICRC, the International Organization for Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Indonesia);**
- 109.41 **Immediately open humanitarian access and unconditionally permit access for the Commission of Inquiry (Italy);**
- 109.42 **Issue a standing invitation to all thematic special procedures and cooperate fully with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry (Rwanda);**
- 109.43 **Cooperate fully with OHCHR, the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, in particular the Commission of Inquiry (Latvia);**
- 109.44 **Allow access to its territory to the Commission of Inquiry and cooperate fully with the Commission (Luxembourg);**
- 109.45 **Allow the Commission of Inquiry access and allow it to carry out its work freely (Mexico); Cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and allow it to access the Syrian Arab Republic (Sierra Leone);**
- 109.46 **Allow access to the country by the Commission of Inquiry (Portugal);**
- 109.47 **Implement all recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, while fully cooperating with the Commission and allowing it access into the Syrian Arab Republic (New Zealand);**
- 109.48 **Facilitate humanitarian access to civilians, lift the blockade on all besieged areas and grant full and unimpeded access to the Commission of Inquiry (Slovenia);**
- 109.49 **End impunity through a thorough, independent inquiry into all human rights violations allegations, as previously recommended, including by giving access to the Commission of Inquiry (Spain);**
- 109.50 **Cooperate with the Human Rights Council and allow full access to the Commission of Inquiry in its territory (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**
- 109.51 **Provide the Commission of Inquiry with full cooperation (Uruguay);**
- 109.52 **Allow full access to and cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry and civil society monitors (Australia);**
- 109.53 **Organize on-site visits by the Commission of Inquiry and establish a dialogue with the Commission (Brazil);**

- 109.54 **Adopt a policy of cooperation with OHCHR and other United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, and allow these mechanisms to visit the country (Chile);**
- 109.55 **Provide and ensure unfettered access to the country for the Commission of Inquiry (Costa Rica);**
- 109.56 **Start full cooperation with the Commission of Inquiry, including by ensuring access to the country so that it may carry out its mandate (Croatia);**
- 109.57 **Ensure immediate and unhindered access by the Commission of Inquiry and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council to the country and provide them with all necessary assistance (Czechia);**
- 109.58 **Cooperate fully with relevant United Nations authorities, in particular by guaranteeing access to the Syrian territory for the Commission of Inquiry (Switzerland);**
- 109.59 **Provide without delay unhindered, safe and sustained access and full cooperation to independent human rights actors, including OHCHR, the Commission of Inquiry and special procedure mandate holders (Georgia);**
- 109.60 **Grant full access to the Commission of Inquiry, to allow the Commission to undertake investigations inside the country and thus to enable it to fulfil its mandate to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law since March 2011 in the Syrian Arab Republic (Germany);**
- 109.61 **Allow complete and unfettered access to the Commission of Inquiry and implement all Human Rights Council resolutions on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (Guatemala);**
- 109.62 **Fully cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry (Iceland);**
- 109.63 **Fully cooperate with the United Nations and the international community to resume the political process as soon as possible (Japan);**
- 109.64 **Continue supporting international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, through a Syrian-Syrian dialogue led by the Syrian Arab Republic in a spirit of peace and reconciliation and without foreign interference, based on the principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, self-determination and the right of peoples to choose their own political, economic and social systems (Nicaragua);**
- 109.65 **Redouble its efforts towards reaching a political settlement to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic through comprehensive dialogue with all parties (Sudan);**
- 109.66 **Continue its efforts to strengthen national reconciliation and national dialogue (Sudan);**
- 109.67 **Continue international cooperation and support international efforts to reach a peaceful and comprehensive settlement to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic (Sudan);**
- 109.68 **Continue participating in opportunities for the search to an end to the crisis and achieve peace and stability in the country, under the principles of respect of independence, international legality and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**



- 109.69 Continue supporting dialogue and international efforts to move towards a political solution, which is the exclusive responsibility of the Syrian people in their own right to self-determination without any foreign interference (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 109.70 Continue to seek a political solution to the crisis based on dialogue and reconciliation between the Syrian parties without foreign intervention in the internal affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic (Algeria);
- 109.71 Resume efforts to find a negotiated political solution to the Syrian people's tragedy (Argentina);
- 109.72 Continue endeavours to advance the process of political settlement to the Syrian issue (China);
- 109.73 Maintain the position that the solution to the crisis in the country is political and should be based on a national dialogue under the aegis of the Syrian people and without preconditions (Cuba);
- 109.74 Work diligently to stop the war and end the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic by bringing all efforts to achieve a political settlement by the Syrians themselves and have control over it in accordance with the Geneva communiqué (Egypt);
- 109.75 Renew all efforts to foster dialogue and to find a political solution to the ongoing conflict so as to bring stability to society through the protection of the human rights of all civilians (Holy See);
- 109.76 Respect and fully engage in international efforts towards a political settlement (Iceland);
- 109.77 Facilitate and enhance the dialogue process among all relevant stakeholders in the Syrian Arab Republic in order to find a lasting, peaceful solution and to immediately end any form of violence and destruction of civil and public facilities (Indonesia);
- 109.78 Continue its efforts towards national reconciliation (Cuba);
- 109.79 Cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Republic of Korea);
- 109.80 Extend a standing invitation to all special representatives of the United Nations (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia); Issue standing invitations to all special procedure mandate holders (Ghana);
- 109.81 Make efforts to improve cooperation with human rights mechanisms and special procedures by extending to them a standing invitation (El Salvador);
- 109.82 Cooperate with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Belgium);
- 109.83 Allow independent access to United Nations entities, including OHCHR, to all areas, to enable them to monitor the prevailing human rights situation (Ghana);
- 109.84 Strengthen the deployment of specific measures to foster the rights of vulnerable social groups, including children, adolescents, women, refugees and internally displaced people, as well as persons with disabilities (Ecuador);

- 109.85 **Immediately implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on women and peace and security, including by taking special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and to hold perpetrators of such acts accountable (Finland);**
- 109.86 **Continue and strengthen efforts in the fight for gender equality (Nicaragua);**
- 109.87 **Strengthen and expand the relevant legal provisions for the promotion of the rights of women, in particular by strengthening their autonomy and advancing their participation in political, economic and social life (Nicaragua);**
- 109.88 **Take steps to incorporate provisions on gender equality and discrimination against women in the Constitution or national legislation (El Salvador);**
- 109.89 **Continue to enhance women's empowerment and greater representation in all sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 109.90 **Amend the citizenship law of 1969, which prevents women from granting citizenship to their children, to ensure women's right to grant citizenship to their children (Namibia);**
- 109.91 **Conduct a review of the personal status law and other relevant laws, which will remove the provisions that are discriminatory towards women, such as those not granting them guardianship of their children, disabling them from travelling on their own with their children or not allowing them to transfer their citizenship to their children (Czechia);**
- 109.92 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions in the personal status code and ensure equality of rights between men and women (Ghana);**
- 109.93 **Protect the rights of children (Pakistan);**
- 109.94 **Continue to protect human rights and especially the rights of children (Angola);**
- 109.95 **Immediately comply with its obligations under international law and abolish the use of illegal weapons (Portugal);**
- 109.96 **Stop and investigate military operations targeting civilians and their facilities, especially in Aleppo (Republic of Korea);**
- 109.97 **Ensure that all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law cease immediately (Rwanda);**
- 109.98 **Cease all violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including indiscriminate attacks on medical workers and facilities, schools, civilian infrastructure and the civilian population (Slovenia);**
- 109.99 **Protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, in accordance with international humanitarian law and customary international law, and stop its indiscriminate aerial bombardments, including the use of barrel bombs (Sweden);**
- 109.100 **Step up measures to bring an end to attacks against hospitals and their personnel, humanitarian and health units, and humanitarian convoys, and bring perpetrators to justice (Argentina);**

109.101 **Take all measures to protect civilians, especially women and children, and cease the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (Botswana);**

109.102 **Immediately cease all acts of violence and abuses committed against civilians and allow for the effective, timely and unfettered delivery of humanitarian assistance, particularly in hard-to-reach and besieged areas (Canada);**

109.103 **Protect the civilian population in the armed conflict, with particular emphasis on the rights to life, food, education and health, including through the protection of the medical impartiality, and ensure accountability for all cases of violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law (Czechia);**

109.104 **Take immediate measures in order to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law (Georgia);**

109.105 **Abide by the laws of war, especially by immediately ending all deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against civilians (Hungary);**

109.106 **Immediately end all human rights violations and repression against the civilian population (Iceland);**

109.107 **End the indiscriminate bombing of residential areas and the targeting of civil facilities, including schools and hospitals (Italy);**

109.108 **Cease without any delay deliberate and indiscriminate attacks against civilians, as well as the targeting of hospitals and schools, including through the use of barrel bombs and chemical weapons (Luxembourg);**

109.109 **Cease all bombings and ground attacks, including those conducted with the aid of its allies (Maldives);**

109.110 **Immediately cease all violations of international humanitarian law, including all targeted or indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure and on medical facilities and personnel, and also immediately cease the indiscriminate use of weapons (New Zealand);**

109.111 **Put an end to indiscriminate attacks on civilians, ensure the protection of hospitals and medical staff and allow the passage of humanitarian relief (Spain);**

109.112 **Immediately cease all aerial bombardments over Aleppo (Norway);**

109.113 **Cease immediately all bombings and indiscriminate attacks with any sort of ammunition, against civilians and civilian assets such as hospitals and schools (Uruguay);**

109.114 **Comply with its binding legal obligation to protect citizens, desist from using illegal arms and adopt the necessary measures so that, in line with the report of the Commission of Inquiry, the indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on the civilian population cease immediately (Costa Rica);**

109.115 **Abide by international humanitarian law, including by refraining from all deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against the**

**civilian population and civilian infrastructure such as medical facilities (Finland);**

109.116 **End all indiscriminate bombings of residential areas, hospitals and all other civilian targets with immediate effect (Germany);**

109.117 **Take all necessary measures to avoid the bombing of medical units, respect the principle of medical neutrality and grant special protection to medical units as allowed by international law (Ghana);**

109.118 **Fulfil its obligations, including under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and international humanitarian law, and cease all deliberate, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks against civilians (Australia);**

109.119 **Authorize and facilitate the medical evacuation of civilians (Brazil);**

109.120 **Take measures to ensure respect for the basic rights of the people, such as their rights to food and safe drinking water, as well as welfare, such as health care, during times of conflict (Thailand);**

109.121 **Strengthen the protection of hospitals and school infrastructure in conflict zones (Angola);**

109.122 **Cease attacks and prevent further strikes on medical facilities (Australia);**

109.123 **Take measures to allow for the immediate, safe and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to all persons in need, allow for the visit of humanitarian agents to all places of detention and protect humanitarian agents and medical personnel operating in areas that are under siege or hard to reach (Brazil);**

109.124 **Cooperate fully with the United Nations to ensure rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to those in dire need (Botswana);**

109.125 **Facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access to civilians in all areas affected by the current civil war (Rwanda);**

109.126 **Enable full and unimpeded humanitarian access to all besieged and hard-to-reach areas and that all parties to the conflict take constructive actions (Japan);**

109.127 **Allow access by humanitarian personnel to vulnerable populations in need of assistance and cooperate fully with the United Nations humanitarian organizations (Maldives);**

109.128 **Urgently provide essential and indispensable food and medical supplies to besieged areas and facilitate the arrival of unrestricted humanitarian aid and assistance, in particular to the areas most affected by the conflict (Namibia);**

109.129 **Immediately allow unrestricted humanitarian access to all areas, particularly those defined by the United Nations as besieged and hard to reach, on the basis of needs identified by the United Nations and its implementing partners (New Zealand);**

109.130 **Guarantee and widen humanitarian access (Republic of Korea);**

- 109.131 **Provide immediate, full, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access to the country (Norway);**
- 109.132 **Allow access without restrictions for United Nations humanitarian assistance and independent humanitarian organizations (Uruguay);**
- 109.133 **Take concrete measures to facilitate and ensure access to humanitarian assistance, especially for affected civilians and vulnerable groups in conflict areas (Thailand);**
- 109.134 **Avoid besieging, and ensure for the population access to food, basic services and medical assistance (Uruguay);**
- 109.135 **Facilitate access for humanitarian aid and humanitarian personnel to the Syrian territory, especially in remote areas and areas most affected by the conflict (Chile);**
- 109.136 **Redouble efforts to establish safe and neutral corridors for humanitarian evacuations (Costa Rica);**
- 109.137 **Strengthen efforts focusing on facilitating and ensuring access of humanitarian aid, particularly in the areas of armed conflict, and on protecting the civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, including by maintaining and strengthening cooperation with ICRC (Ecuador);**
- 109.138 **Facilitate rapid and unrestricted humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies in order to provide assistance to all civilians in need (Georgia);**
- 109.139 **Immediately grant full and unconditional humanitarian access for the United Nations to the entire country, especially to the territories under siege by government forces (Germany);**
- 109.140 **Grant unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to populations in need of assistance (Ghana);**
- 109.141 **Ensure full and unhindered humanitarian access, in the territories under control, to all people in need (Hungary);**
- 109.142 **Allow for the free and unimpeded access of human rights observers, humanitarian organizations, medical teams and ambulances to affected areas (Iceland);**
- 109.143 **Allow the United Nations humanitarian agencies full and unconditional countrywide humanitarian access (Latvia);**
- 109.144 **Ensure the safe passage, without the risk of attacks, of humanitarian convoys, allowing for safe, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access, and the evacuation of civilians in need of medical assistance (Luxembourg);**
- 109.145 **Guarantee unrestricted and unconditional access for medical personnel and vehicles and humanitarian assistance, particularly in the city of Aleppo, which has been severely affected in recent weeks (Mexico);**
- 109.146 **Ensure accountability for the systematic and widespread violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law that are being committed on a large scale throughout the Syrian Arab Republic by all parties, some of which may amount to crimes against humanity (Portugal);**

- 109.147 **Hold all those responsible for violations and abuses of international law, including human rights law and international humanitarian law, accountable in accordance with international standards (Sweden);**
- 109.148 **Allow for thorough, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of alleged human rights violations and abuses, as well as violations of international humanitarian and human rights law since March 2011, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Canada);**
- 109.149 **Combat impunity by ensuring that all persons guilty of what could constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity are brought to justice (Luxembourg);**
- 109.150 **Lift immediately sieges and allow full, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access to civilians in need (Australia);**
- 109.151 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as an interim measure before its abolition and the implementation by the Syrian Arab Republic of its human rights obligations, including the core international human rights treaties (Portugal);**
- 109.152 **Put an end to enforced disappearances and torture in all places of deprivation of liberty, as well as extrajudicial executions (Luxembourg);**
- 109.153 **Offer redress for the many enforced disappearances and summary executions (Spain);**
- 109.154 **Investigate and hold to account persons involved in cases of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and acts of corruption or extortion associated therewith, and communicate the findings of such investigations to the victims' families (Brazil);**
- 109.155 **Immediately halt the practice of enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, and the systemic use of torture, and meet its obligations as a State party to the Convention against Torture (Canada);**
- 109.156 **Put an end to the practice of torture, inhumane and degrading treatment in detention facilities and sexual violence, especially against women and children (Spain);**
- 109.157 **Immediately end all acts of torture and stop the arrest of human rights defenders, journalists and political dissidents (Norway);**
- 109.158 **Prohibit and punish all acts of torture perpetrated by security services, government armed forces or affiliated militias (Chile);**
- 109.159 **Stop the widespread use of torture, enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention (Uruguay);**
- 109.160 **Prohibit the use of torture, respect the principle of medical neutrality and the special protections granted to medical units by international humanitarian law, and protect and support humanitarian workers in their work (Costa Rica);**
- 109.161 **Cease the unacceptable practices of unlawful detention and torture, allow in independent observers and immediately release all prisoners of conscience (Australia);**
- 109.162 **Take legislative and concrete measures to prevent the use of torture and bring to justice those responsible for such violations (Switzerland);**

109.163 **Take all steps necessary to stop immediately the practice of torturing detainees in formal and informal detention facilities run by the Government and militias affiliated with it (Austria);**

109.164 **End all practices of arbitrary abduction, torture and murder in detention facilities. All persons unjustifiably detained must be released immediately; all others must be treated according to international standards. Full international monitoring must be permitted (Germany);**

109.165 **Prohibit and prevent torture in all its forms, particularly of children, and end alleged human rights violations committed by security forces and armed groups (Ghana);**

109.166 **Make every effort to impede the use of torture, to assure humane conditions for prisoners in conformity with international standards and to abide by international humanitarian law (Holy See);**

109.167 **Immediately release human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience, particularly those detained and imprisoned for participating in peaceful demonstrations since March 2011 (Canada);**

109.168 **Stop arbitrary detention and release all those unfairly and indiscriminately arrested, as previously recommended (Spain);**

109.169 **Respect international obligations, release all political detainees, immediately stop the use of all kinds of inhumane or degrading treatment, including torture, grant relevant international organizations, such as ICRC, access to all detention facilities and inform the families of detained or deceased persons of their whereabouts and mental and physical state (Sweden);**

109.170 **Grant full access to enable international monitoring of detention facilities under the control of the Government and its supporters (Austria);**

109.171 **Ensure that adequate medical care is available to all persons in detention facilities maintained by the Government and militias affiliated with it (Austria);**

109.172 **Allow independent international monitoring bodies unconditional access to detention facilities in order to perform their functions (Belgium);**

109.173 **Release all those found to be unduly or arbitrarily detained (Brazil);**

109.174 **Inform families about the whereabouts of persons in detention facilities and regularly publish lists of detainees who have died in detention facilities operated by the Government and militias affiliated with it (Austria);**

109.175 **Publish a list of all detainees in places under its control, together with information on the grounds for their detention (Brazil);**

109.176 **Draft and adopt legislation to end violence and discrimination against women (Maldives);**

109.177 **Protect women from sexual violence and abuse (Pakistan);**

109.178 **Take concrete steps to stop sexual violence against women and girls and ensure that victims are given protection and assistance with their recovery (Singapore);**

- 109.179 **Include the women's rights perspective in the peace negotiations and, specifically, ensure that sexual violence concerns are raised consistently in the peace process and reflected in any peace agreement (Slovenia);**
- 109.180 **Protect women and girls from child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**
- 109.181 **Prohibit early and forced marriage (Ghana);**
- 109.182 **Guarantee effective protection of children's rights, including access to education and protection from child labour (Belgium);**
- 109.183 **Adopt urgently measures to protect all children from the impact of the conflict, prohibit the recruitment, kidnapping, abuse and sexual violence of children by parties to the conflict and punish perpetrators of these violations (Chile);**
- 109.184 **Adopt the measures necessary to protect and demobilize minors forcibly recruited as combatants, so that those responsible for such acts are brought to justice (Mexico);**
- 109.185 **Protect children by ensuring the full and immediate demobilization of all children; the prohibition of forced recruitment of children into the armed forces and the prosecution and punishment of those responsible for forcibly recruiting children (Portugal);**
- 109.186 **Implement and strengthen measures to protect the rights of the child, including by preventing and combating the recruitment of child soldiers and trafficking in children (Singapore);**
- 109.187 **Put an end to the recruitment and use of children by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. Children should be treated primarily as victims and those in detention should be freed and put in the care of those responsible for child protection (Luxembourg);**
- 109.188 **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in human beings and providing psychological, social and legal assistance to victims (Russian Federation);**
- 109.189 **Ensure the prompt, impartial and effective investigation into and put a stop to the arbitrary detention, harassment and persecution of human rights defenders (Slovenia);**
- 109.190 **Increase access to electricity, basic sanitation and running water (Maldives);**
- 109.191 **Continue efforts to provide full access to basic medical services and education and to protect children from the worst forms of child labour (Holy See);**
- 109.192 **Ensure equal access to education for all vulnerable people, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 109.193 **Provide access to education to children (Pakistan);**
- 109.194 **Take effective steps to address the educational needs of all children, even in these difficult conditions (Singapore);**
- 109.195 **Step up efforts for the protection of schools with a view to ensuring that education may continue (Argentina);**



- 109.196 Strengthen its cooperation with national and international non-governmental organizations in providing assistance to internally displaced persons (Russian Federation);
- 109.197 Reinforce policies to address the needs of migrants and refugees by providing for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes and ensuring the rehabilitation of affected areas in accordance with international law (Holy See);
- 109.198 Strengthen its efforts to increase shelter options for internally displaced persons (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 109.199 Continue its combat against terrorism to restore security and stability to the Syrian Arab Republic and pave the way for the return of displaced persons to their homes (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 109.200 Develop programmes of compensation and reintegration for victims of terrorism (Russian Federation);
- 109.201 Join hands with the international community to prevent and fight terrorism (China);
- 109.202 Provide appropriate assistance and rehabilitation to the victims of terrorism according to relevant national laws and within the available resources (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 109.203 Put into place guarantees, in particular public hearings and the right to appeal, including in the framework of the fight against terrorism, to ensure the right to a fair trial (Switzerland).
110. The recommendations listed below did not enjoy the support of the Syrian Arab Republic and would thus be noted.
- 110.1 Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, so that the atrocities committed in the Syrian Arab Republic could be the subject of a rigorous and impartial exam by an independent court (France);
- 110.2 Implement fully the Geneva communiqué of 2012 and Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) (Ukraine);
- 110.3 Allow the Commission of Inquiry to go to the Syrian Arab Republic in order to pursue its work and investigations in conformity with the mandate assigned to it by the Human Rights Council, and fully cooperate with the Commission (France);
- 110.4 Put an end to attacks on civilians and grant unfettered access to humanitarian organizations and independent international human rights monitors, particularly the Commission of Inquiry (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 110.5 Cease violence against civilians immediately and enter into good-faith negotiations on a political solution to the conflict (United States of America);
- 110.6 Stop violating international human rights and humanitarian law (Turkey);
- 110.7 Comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law by immediately ceasing its excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians (Ireland);

- 110.8 **Stop bombing its own civilian population, including with the use of barrel bombs, chemical weapons and incendiary bombs contrary to international humanitarian law (Netherlands);**
- 110.9 **Cease bombardments, the use of chemical weapons, attacks against civilians and immediately lift all sieges (France);**
- 110.10 **Stop the aerial bombardments and the indiscriminate attacks against civilians (Ukraine);**
- 110.11 **Stop using chemical weapons as documented by the relevant United Nations organs (Turkey);**
- 110.12 **Allow immediate, complete, continued and unimpeded humanitarian access to all populations in need throughout the whole territory, in particular in besieged and hard-to-reach areas (France);**
- 110.13 **Grant unfettered access to humanitarian assistance, including in besieged and hard-to-reach areas (United States of America);**
- 110.14 **Allow the United Nations and other international organizations to access those in need, particularly in all besieged and hard-to-reach areas (Ukraine);**
- 110.15 **Live up to all its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law and provide immediate, full and unhindered humanitarian access to all populations in need throughout the Syrian Arab Republic (Denmark);**
- 110.16 **Lift all restrictions on humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance, in particular to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and ensure the safe evacuation of those civilians who wish to leave, particularly those in Aleppo and 15 other territories that the United Nations has classified as besieged by Syria (Ireland);<sup>1</sup>**
- 110.17 **Stop the sieges of Syrian cities and towns, including east Aleppo, in breach of international humanitarian law. Humanitarian access must be immediately ensured to all the Syrian people in need (Netherlands);**
- 110.18 **Respect the right to life and stop killing its own people (Turkey);**
- 110.19 **Stop the widespread practices of enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and the use of sexual violence, torture and ill-treatment in its detention centres. This includes granting international monitoring bodies immediate access without undue restriction to all detainees, and publish a list of all detention facilities (Denmark);**
- 110.20 **Stop the systemic use of ill-treatment and torture (Turkey);**
- 110.21 **Release all those who are arbitrarily detained and put an end to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of detainees,**

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<sup>1</sup> The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: “Lift all restrictions on humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance, in particular to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and ensure the safe evacuation of those civilians who wish to leave, particularly those in Aleppo and 15 other territories that the United Nations has classified as besieged by the regime.” A point of order was raised by the Syrian Arab Republic on the need for United Nations standard terminology to be used when addressing the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

including those belonging to the moderate opposition that started the non-violent protest against the Government (Netherlands);

110.22 **Immediately free unconditionally all persons arbitrarily detained by the Syrian authorities, as a priority women, children and older persons (France);**

110.23 **Release the thousands of Syrians unlawfully detained, especially women and children (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

110.24 **Cease egregious abuses against prisoners, allow for the immediate, unfettered access to medical services for all detainees and release Syrians who have been arbitrarily imprisoned and held without trial (United States of America);**

110.25 **Stop collaborating with Daesh, the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations (Turkey);**

110.26 **Investigate the torture and death of 18,000 detainees in its prisons since March 2011, and publish a clear report on the subject (Israel);**

110.27 **Investigate the numerous cases of aerial bombardments (Israel);**

110.28 **Adopt measures against those responsible for the use of chemical weapons and hold them accountable (Israel).**

111. **The recommendations listed in paragraphs 110.1-110.25 did not enjoy the support of the Syrian Arab Republic as it considers that they were presented by Governments of Member States that are parties in the war against the Syrian Arab Republic or adopt extreme hostile positions against the Syrian Arab Republic.**

112. **The Syrian Arab Republic considered that the recommendations in paragraphs 110.26-110.28 could not be accepted because the Syrian Arab Republic does not recognize Israel and considers that they were submitted by an occupying power to part of the Syrian territory.**

113. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic was headed by Mr. Hussam Edin Aala, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Abdulmaola Al Nuqari, Minister Counselor to the Syrian Mission;
  - Ms. Rania Al Haj Ali, Counselor to the Syrian Mission;
  - Dr. Yaser Kilzy, Consultant in the Ministry of Interior;
  - Mr. Ali Daghman, First Secretary to the Syrian Mission.
-