



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
18 April 2019

Original: English

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## Human Rights Council

Forty-first session

24 June–12 July 2019

Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

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

### Eritrea


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

GE.19-06527(E)



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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 thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of Eritrea was held at the 12th meeting, on 28 January 2019. The delegation of Eritrea was headed by Ambassador, Tesfamichael Gerhatu. At its 17th meeting, held on 31 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on Eritrea.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Eritrea: Bahamas, Bangladesh and Rwanda.
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 Eritrea:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/ERI/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.6/32/ERI/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/ERI/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Belgium, Germany, Portugal on behalf of the Group of Friends on national implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Eritrea through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Eritrea had emanated from a liberation struggle for human and people's rights, and the dignity of every citizen was central to nation-building. Unfortunately, in the past two decades the regional tension, exacerbated by external existential threats, had had a detrimental effect on the efforts of the country to ensure a dignified life for every Eritrean.
6. The transitional codes and the 178 proclamations and 125 legal notices, as well as six regional governance structures and the elected regional and local assemblies, continued to serve as an important basis for exercising basic rights and participating in public affairs.
7. Eritrea had worked to maximize the implementation of recommendations from the previous review cycle. Unfortunately, those efforts had been overshadowed by the mandates of the Commission of Inquiry and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, which served ulterior political motives with no dividend for the protection of human rights and negated the ideals of the universal periodic review mechanism. Those mandates had lost their credibility.
8. The universal periodic review intersectoral National Coordinating Body had mainstreamed the recommendations and coordinated and monitored their implementation through the Framework for Action (2015–2018). Eighty recommendations out of the 92 supported recommendations had been fully implemented and the remaining 12 recommendations had been partially implemented. More would be done in the future through a new national development plan.
9. The National Indicative Development Plan, 2014–2018, had focused on accelerating socioeconomic progress and eradicating poverty. Significant investment had been made in advancing socioeconomic progress and bridging the development gap by focusing on

vulnerable groups and areas, including women, children, persons with disabilities and rural communities. Efforts had also been directed towards housing, utilities, transportation and communication in order to improve the standard of living.

10. Cultural rights were enshrined in all national laws, the National Charter, the Macro Policy and all other legal and institutional instruments and practices. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has recognized the city of Asmara as a world cultural heritage site for its futurist and modernist architecture.

11. Food security efforts in Eritrea had transcended linear targets of adequate cereal production commensurate with annual national demand. The irrigation system had expanded and farmers were empowered to increase household and national food security.

12. Eritrea had achieved all the health-related Millennium Development Goals and remained committed to the Sustainable Development Goals. Outreach programmes and various campaigns, including on vaccination, had been effective, and infant mortality and maternal mortality rates had decreased.

13. Education was free from kindergarten to tertiary levels. The Ministry of Education had continued its focus on and substantial investment in improving access to and quality of education, with special emphasis on rural communities and girls.

14. Advancements had been made in the empowerment of women and girls, and in combating discriminatory cultural norms and harmful traditional practices. Grass-roots movements had become effective instruments in eradicating harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early marriage. However, the need for greater coordination and capacity-building to strengthen monitoring activities, as well as the collection and management of pertinent data, remained a challenge.

15. Reproductive health committees had been established as a pilot project in five junior and senior secondary schools in each region, and awareness-raising campaigns had been conducted for students on issues relating to gender, reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases.

16. Yearly action plans had been developed and focused on the protection of vulnerable children. Child well-being committees, established at subregional level, had empowered communities and families across the nation.

17. The Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare had implemented policies aimed at ensuring that no person under the age of 18 years was engaged in an occupation that jeopardized his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. The Government continued to strengthen monitoring and inspection of the prevalence of child labour in workplaces.

18. Efforts to combat and eradicate trafficking in persons had intensified, including at the regional level through the African Union-Horn of Africa initiative on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Many people had continued to fall victim to criminal networks of human traffickers. Eritrea had for years called for an independent international body to investigate and bring those responsible to justice.

19. A workshop held in in May 2015 to finalize a comprehensive national policy on persons with disabilities had culminated in an outcome document that charted the needed course of action. Community-based interventions to reintegrate persons with disabilities had been strengthened.

20. The Government had expanded access to justice, reviewed legal codes and consolidated the independence and integrity of the judiciary and the prosecution services. To promote the efficiency and synergy of the three-tier court system, as well as the military court and special court, digitization of the courts' activities was in progress through software development, electronic data storing and intranet networking. Personnel employed in the justice system had received on-the-job training.

21. In May 2015, the new Penal Code and Civil Code and their related Procedures had been published. They incorporated provisions from international human rights instruments. A nationwide public awareness campaign to introduce the new laws was ongoing.

22. Eritrea was a secular State. Freedom of thought, conscience and belief was guaranteed in law. People were not persecuted because of their beliefs, and the Government did not intervene in personal worship. Freedom of association was also protected by law and promoted in practice.

23. The Eritrea Correctional and Rehabilitation Service had worked to improve the conditions in all correctional facilities, guided by the Prisons Services Regulation. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) were in the process of being translated into all Eritrean languages.

24. The Eritrean Police Force had instituted standards and rules to guide the actions and behaviour of the police and a number of human rights training sessions had been conducted.

25. In May 2016, Eritrea had signed an agreement with the United Nations country team to support the implementation of its human rights obligations, including the outcome of the universal periodic review. Eritrea was engaging with United Nations agencies, particularly with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, on child rights and labour issues. OHCHR had conducted four technical missions to Eritrea. Eritrea had expanded its cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) on the prevention of transnational crimes. Two training workshops on transnational crime had been held in Asmara by experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2018.

26. In 2014, Eritrea had acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Government was conducting an assessment with regard to accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

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

27. During the interactive dialogue, 89 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

28. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the strengthening of measures to improve people's standard of living in the areas of education, health and public services.

29. Yemen applauded Eritrea for the steps taken to attain peace and for the signing of peace agreements with neighbouring countries to enhance security and stability.

30. Zambia was concerned about the lack of juvenile justice system, with children being tried as adults and placed in prisons with adults.

31. Ethiopia welcomed the lifting of the sanctions imposed by the Security Council, which would contribute to the efforts to promote human rights.

32. Afghanistan expressed appreciation for the continued efforts made by Eritrea to alleviate poverty, improve the children's welfare system, promote quality education and strengthen food security.

33. Algeria noted the efforts by Eritrea to improve the standard of living, particularly in the areas of housing, public services and access to drinking water.

34. Angola welcomed efforts to attain peace, notably through the normalization of bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, which had led to the lifting of sanctions by the Security Council.

35. Argentina took positive note of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia, signed in July 2018, which constituted a step towards peace, security and development.

36. Armenia encouraged Eritrea to grant the human rights mechanisms access to assess the human rights situation in the country in relation to torture and freedom of opinion.
37. Australia was concerned by reports of torture and arbitrary detention. It urged Eritrea to fulfil its obligations under international human rights instruments.
38. Austria was concerned about the continued prevalence of female genital mutilation and encouraged Eritrea to strengthen efforts to eliminate the practice.
39. Egypt noted that the political developments in Eritrea had contributed to its stability. It also noted the National Indicative Development Plan and efforts to ensure the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.
40. Bangladesh identified areas that required attention in the promotion of human rights, including the indefinite period of national service and the provision of adequate housing for all.
41. Belgium stated that the membership of Eritrea of the Human Rights Council should be an incentive to strengthen its engagement with international human rights mechanisms.
42. Benin noted that since the previous review cycle, Eritrea had implemented programmes for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
43. Zimbabwe highlighted initiatives that Eritrea had launched to transform agricultural practices to ensure food security and reduce poverty. It also noted the eight-year compulsory basic education policy.
44. Botswana noted legislative and policy developments since the last review. It welcomed political developments, particularly peace initiatives with Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti.
45. Bulgaria encouraged Eritrea to take steps for the effective implementation of the 1997 Constitution. It noted that the Government had worked to ensure food security, health care and social services.
46. Burundi welcomed the efforts made by Eritrea to ensure equal access to health care and to improve the quality of health-care services.
47. Canada was troubled by the restrictions imposed on the exercise of fundamental rights, including the rights to freedom of expression and of religion.
48. Chile commended Eritrea for having signed the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia in 2018 and for its sustained cooperation with OHCHR.
49. China expressed its appreciation to Eritrea for the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights. It appealed to the international community to provide constructive assistance to Eritrea.
50. Costa Rica was troubled by the increasingly high number of women, girls and unaccompanied children that had fled Eritrea to avoid national service.
51. Croatia expressed the hope that the new atmosphere of peace and stability would bring an end to indefinite military service. It commended Eritrea for efforts in the areas of education and gender equality, among others.
52. Cuba welcomed initiatives to improve the quality of and access to various services, as well as infrastructure in order to reduce poverty.
53. Czechia expressed regret that Eritrea had supported only one of the five recommendations made by Czechia during the previous review cycle. It appreciated the improvements achieved in areas such as education and health care.
54. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted a number of legislative measures, the National Gender Action Plan and the fight against human trafficking, despite many challenges.

55. Denmark stated that the Convention against Torture Initiative was ready to assist Eritrea in combating torture. The protection of women was crucial for socioeconomically sustainable societies.

56. Bahrain welcomed initiatives to combat poverty and child malnutrition for children under 5 years of age and other efforts in the health sector.

57. The delegation of Eritrea stated that Eritrea was committed to building trust and cooperation, with implications for regional peace, security and development. National development was premised on encompassing macroeconomic stability, the comprehensive reorganization of government institutions and the consolidation of the political process of nation-building.

58. The national charter was the political map that drove the strategies, policies and structure of nation-building and continued to set the principles and guidance for the State governance system. In 2015, the process of drafting a new constitution had commenced and was ongoing.

59. The death penalty was an applicable sentence for serious criminal offences. It was not applicable to convicted persons who were under the age of 18 years when the offences had been committed or to women nurturing children. The President had the power to commute the death penalty to rigorous imprisonment. For many years, there had been a de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

60. The allegation that political prisoners or prisoners of conscience were detained because they had called for reform, democratic elections and greater respect for human rights was factually unfounded. Those cases related to national security.

61. The right to express and disseminate opinions must be exercised within the law and in full respect for others. It could therefore be restricted out of respect for the rights and reputation of others, and for the protection of national security, public order, public health and morals.

62. Eritrea had a rich history of religious tolerance, coexistence and harmony in a turbulent region. The Government had an obligation to ensure that the centuries old religious tolerance and harmony was not disturbed by externally induced and new trends of Islamic or Christian fundamentalism. Jehovah's Witnesses had forfeited their legal status when they had refused to recognize the Government after liberation and opposed the referendum of April 1993 that had determined the independence of the nation after 30 years of struggle for national liberation. The public media had been strengthening to cultivate progressive thinking, transformational culture and reliable information, which were instrumental in a knowledgeable society. Radio programmes were available in all Eritrean languages and television programmes broadcast in several languages. Print media were also emerging as an important dimension of that development.

63. Estonia was concerned by the lack of independence of the judiciary, the lack of clarity of the status of the Constitution, the indefinite national service and restrictions on freedom of expression.

64. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed community-based interventions on structures, which were essential for the implementation of the recommendations that Eritrea had received during the second cycle.

65. France noted the efforts made in the areas of education and health, but was concerned by the lack of respect for civil and political rights.

66. Georgia encouraged Eritrea to take further steps in the implementation of recommendations. While noting efforts to ensure gender equality, it urged Eritrea to align relevant legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

67. Germany welcomed the opening of the border with Ethiopia. It remained concerned about the human rights situation, in particular of people in detention.

68. Greece noted the positive steps taken since the previous review cycle and expressed the hope that the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia would enhance human rights protection.
69. Haiti congratulated Eritrea for having been elected to the Human Rights Council. It hoped that the closer relationship with Ethiopia would enhance human rights in Eritrea.
70. Honduras congratulated Eritrea for efforts to reduce poverty and for the voluntary pledges made by Eritrea.
71. Iceland hoped that the peace agreement with Ethiopia would have a positive impact on the human rights situation.
72. Hungary expressed the hope that the establishment of peace would allow Eritrea to move forward on human rights. The implementation of human rights treaties could transform the country.
73. India expressed appreciation for the steps taken to enhance quality of life, and the decline in HIV/AIDS cases. It welcomed the policies in the area of education.
74. Indonesia welcomed the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia. It commended the accession of Eritrea to the Convention against Torture.
75. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed appreciation for the initiatives taken to reduce poverty, improve the standard of living, promote children's rights and prevent human trafficking.
76. Iraq expressed the hope that the peace declaration signed by Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia would allow regional peace and development.
77. Ireland noted the efforts to advance human rights since the previous review cycle. It also noted the peace agreement with Ethiopia and the renewed engagement with the international community.
78. Italy welcomed the measures to promote the right to education and to combat harmful practices.
79. Japan welcomed the accession of Eritrea to the Convention against Torture and expected compliance to lead to concrete improvements in protecting human rights.
80. Kenya noted the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship with Ethiopia and the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia.
81. Kuwait noted the steps taken by Eritrea in attaining peace with Ethiopia and their positive impact on peace and security in the region.
82. Latvia expressed regret that Eritrea had not provided access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea to conduct country visits and had denied requests for country visits by other special procedures mandate holders.
83. Libya noted the incorporation of human rights into the socioeconomic and political efforts of Eritrea, especially the signing in July 2018 of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia.
84. Liechtenstein welcomed the fact that the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia had revitalized peace, security and development in the region.
85. Luxembourg noted the progress made in promoting education and health and combating female genital mutilation, but remained concerned by the continuing detention of prisoners of conscience and journalists.
86. Madagascar acknowledged advancements made in promoting human rights, notably the efforts to combat female genital mutilation and early marriage and the adoption of the National Gender Action Plan (2015–2019).
87. Maldives commended efforts to improve the standard of living, notably ongoing steps to eliminate poverty, combat malnutrition among children under 5 years of age and promote education.

88. Mali welcomed the signing of the peace and cooperation declarations between Eritrea and Ethiopia and between Eritrea and Somalia, as well as the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

89. Mexico acknowledged the progress made since the previous review cycle, in particular the increased school attendance rates for girls.

90. Montenegro urged the Government to investigate cases of violence against women, particularly during their national service, and to eliminate all forms of violence against returning migrant children.

91. Mozambique expressed appreciation for the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia and the Eritrea and Somalia Peace and Cooperation Agreement.

92. Myanmar congratulated Eritrea on the presentation of its national report and on its implementation of the recommendations from the previous review cycle.

93. The delegation of Eritrea stated that national service must be put into context. Following a long liberation struggle, Eritrea had had to cope with threats to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Consequently, national service had been extended beyond 18 months. However, the assertion that there was indefinite national service was out of context and unacceptable, as was the claim that national service constituted forced labour. Forced labour was a criminal offence, while national service was part of the overall system of bringing up a new generation, alongside the national education system and the annual summer work programme for students, which was important as an introduction to community service.

94. Over the last 20 years, continuous demobilization had been taking place. A new remuneration system had been introduced, which had substantially increased the salary of the civil service, and the latest recruits for national service had already been integrated into the system and that process would continue.

95. Eritreans returning from abroad were not imprisoned and efforts were made to facilitate their voluntary return.

96. There were grass-roots movements in many subregions of Eritrea that had declared zero tolerance of female genital mutilation and cutting and early marriage.

97. A framework for the period 2019–2021 in relation to the membership of Eritrea of the Human Rights Council had been drafted and would be implemented seriously. It covered the mainstreaming of human rights into national development, as well as engagement and international cooperation on human rights issues. Eritrea would work in collaboration with other members to maintain the effectiveness and credibility of the Council.

98. The Netherlands remained concerned about issues including national service and the punitive measures that Eritreans faced upon their return after having left the country illegally.

99. Nigeria expressed appreciation for the commitment of Eritrea to upholding human rights and welcomed its initiatives to eliminate poverty and combat malnutrition, which would further enhance socioeconomic well-being.

100. Norway recognized some positive steps taken by Eritrea, in particular with regard to women's rights, but remained gravely concerned about the overall human rights situation.

101. Oman stated that the national report highlighted the country's interest in protecting human rights and noted the integrated strategy for the social sector and the efforts to bring about peace in the Horn of Africa.

102. Pakistan expressed appreciation for the efforts made with respect to education, health, political participation, improvement of the justice system and food security. It welcomed the peace process with Ethiopia.



103. The Philippines acknowledged the efforts made to raise awareness and advance the protection of women and girls from female genital mutilation and women and children from underage marriage and human trafficking.
104. Portugal expressed hope that the peace agreement with Ethiopia placed human rights at the centre, thereby guaranteeing peace and security.
105. The Republic of Korea remained concerned about reports of human rights violations related to indefinite conscription into the military and the recurring censorship of media.
106. The Russian Federation called on Eritrea to continue to actively work to improve the conditions in the penitentiary system and to revise the legislation on freedom of religion.
107. Rwanda welcomed the recent regional developments, which would positively contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in Eritrea.
108. Saudi Arabia commended Eritrea for the important steps taken in the field of care and support for persons with disabilities.
109. Senegal welcomed the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which had inaugurated a new dynamic of peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa.
110. Serbia commended Eritrea for the efforts made to improve standards of living in the areas of housing, utilities, transportation and communications.
111. Seychelles noted the finalization of the National Policy on Children, the commitment to providing universal primary education and the contribution to the peace process in the Horn of Africa.
112. Singapore acknowledged the efforts made by Eritrea to enhance access to and quality of education and improve the public health system.
113. Slovakia encouraged Eritrea to develop a strategy for the implementation of the National Policy on Children. It expressed concern about indefinite national service.
114. Slovenia was concerned by reports on the prevalence of torture, deplorable conditions in detention centres and restrictions placed on human rights defenders and civil society organizations.
115. South Africa welcomed the 2018 Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea and Ethiopia and was encouraged by efforts to promote the well-being of children.
116. Spain congratulated Eritrea on its accession to several human rights instruments, its efforts to abolish female genital mutilation and its engagement with the international community.
117. The Sudan commended Eritrea for the peace agreement with Ethiopia as well as the implementation of development plans, programmes and projects.
118. Sweden acknowledged the advancements made on women's rights and the rights of persons with disabilities. It called for urgent reforms regarding the rule of law and freedom of expression.
119. Switzerland acknowledged the efforts of Eritrea to promote access to education and health services.
120. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the efforts made in formulating national strategies and policies in the area of human rights.
121. Togo commended Eritrea for having adopted several programmes, including the comprehensive rural development programme, the coastal development programme and the comprehensive social strategy.
122. Tunisia welcomed legislation and strategies implemented by Eritrea in accordance with recommendations from the previous review cycle, particularly in relation to reducing poverty, promoting women's rights, protecting children and combating human trafficking.

123. Turkey congratulated Eritrea on its efforts in the areas of education, women's rights and, in particular, the eradication of female genital mutilation.
124. Ukraine welcomed the increased engagement of Eritrea with the international community and its policies on children and women, although regretted the lack of cooperation with special rapporteurs.
125. The United Kingdom urged Eritrea to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and reform national service given regional political progress.
126. The United States congratulated Eritrea on its pursuit of peace with its neighbours. It urged Eritrea to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.
127. Uruguay congratulated Eritrea on measures taken to implement the ban on female genital mutilation, as well as its accession to the Convention against Torture.
128. The delegation of Eritrea stated that there were children who supported or participated in the agricultural activities of their respective families, such as herding livestock, but that child labour did not exist in Eritrea. Inspections and monitoring were rigorously conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare.
129. Due to limited institutional and resource capacities, only the Central Region had a juvenile detention centre. In some facilities, juveniles were incarcerated with adults, but they were separated in their daily activities and dormitories.
130. The delegation stated that Eritrea was committed to implementing supported recommendations from the review.

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

131. **The following recommendations will be examined by Eritrea, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-first session of the Human Rights Council:**
- 131.1 **Accede to the international legal human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Mali);**
  - 131.2 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal);**
  - 131.3 **Sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);**
  - 131.4 **Sign and ratify the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**
  - 131.5 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**
  - 131.6 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
  - 131.7 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as previously recommended (Portugal);**
  - 131.8 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);**
  - 131.9 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Burundi);**

- 131.10 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**
- 131.11 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Hungary);**
- 131.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Hungary);**
- 131.13 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Hungary);**
- 131.14 **Implement measures to comply with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and consider acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as accepting the competence of its committee to receive and consider communications (Uruguay);**
- 131.15 **Put an end to enforced disappearance and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 131.16 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Togo);**
- 131.17 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the first and second Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**
- 131.18 **Implement measures to abolish the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**
- 131.19 **Formally abolish the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**
- 131.20 **Formally abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**
- 131.21 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 131.22 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**
- 131.23 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine);**
- 131.24 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**
- 131.25 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ukraine);**
- 131.26 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);**
- 131.27 **Consider acceding to the international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, including, among others, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Honduras);**

- 131.28 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**
- 131.29 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 131.30 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Rwanda);**
- 131.31 **Join the Code of Conduct regarding Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as elaborated by the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group (Liechtenstein);**
- 131.32 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);**
- 131.33 **Ratify and fully implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Australia);**
- 131.34 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all its obligations under the Rome Statute, including incorporating the Rome Statute definition of crimes and general principles, as well as adopting provisions enabling cooperation with the Court (Latvia);**
- 131.35 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in its 2010 version including the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments) (Liechtenstein);**
- 131.36 **Withdraw the reservations made to the Convention against Torture (Chile);**
- 131.37 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**
- 131.38 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**
- 131.39 **Undertake the necessary studies with a view to ratifying the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 131.40 **Undertake the necessary studies with a view to ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 131.41 **Ratify the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), of the International Labour Organization (ILO) (Kenya);**
- 131.42 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**
- 131.43 **Ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry adoption (Togo);**
- 131.44 **As a new member of the Human Rights Council, cooperate with all the mechanisms of the Council, including by inviting special procedures for country visits (Switzerland);**
- 131.45 **Deepen cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, in particular with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Chile);**
- 131.46 **Cooperate with all special procedures mandate holders of the United Nations, namely with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Spain);**
- 131.47 **Continue cooperating with mandate holders (Senegal);**

- 131.48 Cooperate with the international community, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Nations special procedures mandate holders, in efforts to verify, promote and protect human rights (Norway);
- 131.49 Continue and intensify its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Switzerland);
- 131.50 Cooperate fully with OHCHR and extend a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Croatia);
- 131.51 Continue reinforcing its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Turkey);
- 131.52 Expand its engagement with the international and regional human rights organizations, bodies and special procedures (Hungary);
- 131.53 Consider accepting visit requests from special procedures mandate holders (Honduras);
- 131.54 Accept requests for visits by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as well as by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, as previously recommended (Uruguay);
- 131.55 Extend a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and to all special procedures, and cooperate fully with OHCHR (Germany);
- 131.56 Fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur to conduct a country visit (Republic of Korea);
- 131.57 Allow full, free and unimpeded access of United Nations human rights mandate holders (Greece);
- 131.58 Invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment for the country visit, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish an independent national preventive mechanism (Czechia);
- 131.59 Implement the Convention against Torture, ratified in 2014, also by considering recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture (Italy);
- 131.60 Support recommendations on cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and with other special procedures mandate holders (Zambia);
- 131.61 Enhance its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Belgium);
- 131.62 Cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Hungary);
- 131.63 Cooperate with human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Botswana);
- 131.64 Enhance cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Kenya);
- 131.65 Fully cooperate with special procedures mandate holders, notably with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (France);

131.66 Fully cooperate with international human rights mechanisms, including by responding positively to requests for visits and information from United Nations special procedures mandate holders, in line with Human Rights Council membership responsibilities (Ireland);

131.67 Improve cooperation with special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to pending visit requests, and eventually consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);

131.68 Allow the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea access to the country and provide all the conditions for a country visit, as previously recommended (Portugal);

131.69 Grant access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Austria);

131.70 Grant access and cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea (Estonia);

131.71 Cooperate with the new Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and allow her access to the country (Italy);

131.72 Cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, including by granting access (Latvia);

131.73 Authorize the new Special Rapporteur to visit Eritrea (Canada);

131.74 Intensify its engagement with neighbouring countries so as to contribute to fostering peace and stability in the Horn of Africa (Mozambique);

131.75 Continue to support the prospects for peace and cooperation between Eritrea, Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa (Oman);

131.76 Continue efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights (Senegal);

131.77 Continue efforts to promote the institutional infrastructure related to human rights (Egypt);

131.78 Continue the reform of its national legal framework for ensuring its compliance with the provisions of the international and regional human rights instruments (Afghanistan);

131.79 Continue to strengthen legal and institutional tools to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights (Pakistan);

131.80 Adopt specific policies and measures to strengthen democracy and the rule of law allowing State institutions to function properly and the enjoyment by citizens of their rights, in accordance with articles 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Angola);

131.81 Restore parliamentary democracy and organize periodic and genuine multiparty elections, in accordance with international democratic standards, and invite the international organizations to observe the elections (Czechia);

131.82 Ensure the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary to strengthen the protection of and respect for human rights, justice and accountability (Botswana);

131.83 Ensure the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary (Iceland);

131.84 Exert efforts aimed at achieving the principle of separation of powers between the legislative, executive and judiciary (Iraq);

- 131.85 **Implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry's 2016 report, including implementing the 1997 Constitution to allow its citizens safe and full freedom of expression (Australia);**
- 131.86 **Continue implementing the 1997 Constitution (Kenya);**
- 131.87 **Implement the 1997 Constitution, or alternatively step up the drafting of a new constitution in an inclusive way, and hold free and fair elections with international monitoring without delay (Germany);**
- 131.88 **Begin an inclusive and transparent process with a view to adopting and implementing a new constitution (Switzerland);**
- 131.89 **Finalize the drafting of the new constitution (Georgia);**
- 131.90 **Continue to expedite the drafting of a new constitution that contains provisions to fully promote and protect human rights (South Africa);**
- 131.91 **Ensure the centrality of economic, social and cultural rights in the new constitution (South Africa);**
- 131.92 **Urgently establish and implement a constitution, guaranteeing universally recognized human rights for all Eritrean citizens (Sweden);**
- 131.93 **Take the necessary measures to harmonize national legislation with the main international legal instruments ratified by the State (Angola);**
- 131.94 **Harmonize the implementation of the national family law with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);**
- 131.95 **Reform the Penal Code to bring it into compliance with international human rights law (Estonia);**
- 131.96 **Further strengthen the governance structure, in particular at the grass-roots level (Pakistan);**
- 131.97 **Set up a national mechanism on implementation, reporting and follow-up, covering accepted universal periodic review recommendations (Haiti);**
- 131.98 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Chile);**
- 131.99 **Strengthen efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Iraq);**
- 131.100 **Set up a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles as part of a new constitutional dispensation (South Africa);**
- 131.101 **Intensify efforts to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**
- 131.102 **Establish a national human rights institution that is in line with the Paris Principles in a timely manner (Seychelles);**
- 131.103 **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in full compliance with the Paris principles and properly staffed and funded (Togo);**
- 131.104 **Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**
- 131.105 **Continue efforts to promote national mechanisms for monitoring the protection of children's rights (Kuwait);**
- 131.106 **Take stringent measures to combat human trafficking and protect women's rights (Kuwait);**

- 131.107 Promote national mechanisms for advancing the empowerment of women (Kuwait);
- 131.108 Introduce legislation that prohibits the use of forced labour, enforces reasonable time limits for national service and provides options for conscientious objection (Australia);
- 131.109 Set out and implement a clear, time-bound plan, as referenced in paragraph 14 of Eritrea's universal periodic review submission, on reform of national service, with updates every six months (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 131.110 Establish provisions for conscientious objection to military service and bring an end to indefinite, involuntary conscription for national service (Germany);
- 131.111 Allow civil service for conscientious objectors (Luxembourg);
- 131.112 End the practice of indefinite compulsory national service and ensure the compliance of the conditions of national service with the ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) (Austria);
- 131.113 End indefinite national service, a system that equates to forced labour (Canada);
- 131.114 Take the necessary steps to end indefinite national service and begin a phased demobilization for those who have served for more than the statutory 18 months (Netherlands);
- 131.115 End the practice of national service beyond the statutory 18 months and begin a phased demobilization (Norway);
- 131.116 Limit the duration of compulsory national service, prioritizing the protection of the rights and security of women and girls in this context (Republic of Korea);
- 131.117 Put an end to the indefinite national service, which is no longer justified since the normalization of relations with Ethiopia (France);
- 131.118 Limit the duration of mandatory national service to 18 months, suspending indefinite national service (Costa Rica);
- 131.119 Limit the duration of compulsory national service to 18 months, as stipulated in law (Slovakia);
- 131.120 Adhere to the proclamation that limits national service to 18 months, facilitate free enterprise and job creation to bring more employment opportunities outside of national service, and allow conscientious objection to military elements of national service (United States of America);
- 131.121 Limit the duration of compulsory national service to 18 months, as stipulated in national law, and respect the minimum age for compulsory military training, set at 18 years (Italy);
- 131.122 Recognize the right to conscientious objection to military service in law and practice, end the practice of indefinite national service and allow substitute service for conscientious objectors (Croatia);
- 131.123 Prevent the recruitment of children into the military, and release all underage children in military service (Montenegro);
- 131.124 Put an end to the participation of minors in and to the indefinite duration of compulsory military service (Spain);
- 131.125 Consider minimizing the categories of citizens bound to national civil service and strictly adhere to its terms (Ukraine);
- 131.126 Ensure that law enforcement is conducted with full respect for human rights (South Africa);



- 131.127 Take measures to ensure the protection of land and property rights, including those of foreign communities, as well as those of diplomatic and consular missions, pursuant to international standards (Greece);
- 131.128 Strengthen the initiatives to prevent and eradicate all forms of discrimination, particularly against girls, ethnic minorities and nomadic communities (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 131.129 Strengthen measures to eliminate stereotypes and harmful practices, including through the adoption of a comprehensive strategy to achieve substantive gender equality (Rwanda);
- 131.130 Continue its endeavour to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children, particularly girls, ethnic minorities and nomadic communities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 131.131 Continue its endeavours to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, girls and children (Myanmar);
- 131.132 Adopt specific measures to prevent and combat some forms of discrimination against girls, ethnic minorities and nomadic communities (Honduras);
- 131.133 Achieve gender parity in all sectors, including in decision-making positions (Pakistan);
- 131.134 Repeal provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Iceland);
- 131.135 Streamline existing macro policies and programmes to make them more inclusive and sustainable (Zimbabwe);
- 131.136 Continue to enhance efforts aimed at sustainable socioeconomic progress for its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 131.137 Create congenial atmosphere for more engagement of the diaspora in its socioeconomic development (Bangladesh);
- 131.138 Improve the country's tourist infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, in order to generate more income in the tourism sector for the benefit of the population (Haiti);
- 131.139 Continue programmes for rural development and the development of tourism (Sudan);
- 131.140 Develop a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Norway);
- 131.141 Strengthen social harmony and increase attention towards Eritrean heritage (Sudan);
- 131.142 Undertake steps aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia);
- 131.143 Abolish the death penalty and reduce the number of offences punishable with the death penalty (France);
- 131.144 Impose a moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty (Iceland);
- 131.145 Cease persistent and endemic attacks, as well as the use of torture as an integral part of systematic repression against the civilian population (Greece);
- 131.146 Bring an end without delay to the practice of arbitrary arrest, detention and imprisonment by establishing due process of law (Japan);
- 131.147 Put an end to the practice of arbitrary arrest and detention, release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge and comply with international standards in the treatment of detainees (Austria);

- 131.148 Put an end to arbitrary detentions and free those detained for their religious beliefs (Spain);
- 131.149 End its practices of arbitrary arrests, indefinite detention, torture and ill-treatment of detainees (Canada);
- 131.150 Put an end to arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without charge and without trial, notably on political grounds (France);
- 131.151 Put in place measures to ensure that the rights to liberty, security and a fair trial enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are fully respected with regard to detainees (Seychelles);
- 131.152 Adopt a comprehensive policy and legislation criminalizing violence against women and girls, especially violence against women in the armed forces (Bulgaria);
- 131.153 Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (Ukraine);
- 131.154 Continue the efforts in fighting against female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage (Italy);
- 131.155 Strengthen the enforcement of measures to combat female genital mutilation, early marriage and child labour (Zimbabwe);
- 131.156 Adopt a comprehensive strategy to end female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage (Spain);
- 131.157 Enhance measures to eradicate female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage, investigating and punishing perpetrators of such acts and providing victims with assistance and compensation (Argentina);
- 131.158 Open all places of detention to organizations with expertise in the field, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 131.159 Continue its efforts aimed at improving the penitentiary system and protection of detainee rights (Georgia);
- 131.160 Protect women in detention from violence, particularly sexual violence, and put them under the supervision of female guards in all places of detention (Zambia);
- 131.161 Put an end to the widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, in particular in detention facilities and in the context of national service and military training, and bring those accused of such crimes to justice (Belgium);
- 131.162 Establish an independent, impartial and transparent judiciary (Estonia);
- 131.163 Strengthen the administration of justice through the implementation of national laws and institutional capacity-building (Ethiopia);
- 131.164 Pursue its actions and initiatives aimed at reinforcing the administration of justice through the implementation of the new national codes, the strengthening of institutional capacities, as well as the bolstering of institutions and functions of governance (Benin);
- 131.165 Release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge and respect international standards in the treatment of detainees (Sweden);
- 131.166 Ensure due process for all detainees and release those arbitrarily detained for political and religious reasons (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 131.167 Release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge and respect international standards in the treatment of detainees and provide unlimited access to the ICRC to all detention facilities (Germany);
- 131.168 Release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge (Norway);
- 131.169 Release unconditionally detained persons who have not been brought before a court, and improve conditions of detention and the prison system in general (Luxembourg);
- 131.170 Strengthen efforts to promote and protect the rights of children, including through the introduction of an effective juvenile justice system (Bangladesh);
- 131.171 Establish a child-friendly juvenile justice system in full conformity with the relevant standards, promote alternative measures to the detention of children and, where detention is unavoidable, ensure that detention of children is a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time (Slovenia);
- 131.172 Establish a child-friendly justice system and ensure that children's detention conditions are in conformity with international standards (Zambia);
- 131.173 Establish a child-friendly juvenile justice system that is in full conformity with relevant international law (Liechtenstein);
- 131.174 Ensure that children aged between 16 and 18 years are not tried as adults and are not placed in detention together with adults (Hungary);
- 131.175 Adopt necessary measures to guarantee the fight against the impunity of those responsible for human rights violations and ensure reparations and assistance for the victims and their families (Argentina);
- 131.176 Ensure accountability for past and persistent human rights violations and crimes, release without delay all persons detained without trial and investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention facilities and by the law enforcement agencies (Slovakia);
- 131.177 Improve the administration of the justice system by carrying out judicial and penitentiary reforms in order to ensure compliance with international human rights law (Norway);
- 131.178 Promote religious freedom and harmony (Pakistan);
- 131.179 Continue efforts aimed at respecting freedom of religion and belief (Iraq);
- 131.180 Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief for all citizens in accordance with the Constitution and international obligations (Italy);
- 131.181 Implement constitutional provisions and international obligations that protect the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, association and religion or belief, and expand opportunities for citizens to participate in their government (United States of America);
- 131.182 Review domestic legal provisions concerning religious groups and strengthen national legislation concerning freedom of religion and belief and ensure its free exercise (Germany);
- 131.183 Repeal administrative measures that restrict the freedom of worship of minority religions (Angola);
- 131.184 Take the necessary measures to improve the protection of religious and faith-based communities and ensure their protection from persecution by ending interference in religious practices and releasing all prisoners detained for their convictions and their religious practices (Canada);

- 131.185 **Protect freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, as well as freedom of religion (Luxembourg);**
- 131.186 **Take concrete measures to ensure full respect for the rights to freedom of expression and opinion, as well as freedom of religion or belief, including as they pertain to the press and other media (Sweden);**
- 131.187 **Bring the legislation on freedom of expression into compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and enable independent, diverse and pluralistic media (Estonia);**
- 131.188 **Review and amend legal and procedural barriers that may hinder the enjoyment of the rights of freedom of expression and access to information (Seychelles);**
- 131.189 **Undertake comprehensive reforms, such as repeal of Press Proclamation No. 90/1996, to allow for an independent media and a safe and enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders, including by ensuring their protection against arbitrary arrest, harassment and intimidation (Ireland);**
- 131.190 **Remove severe restrictions placed on the freedom of press, in accordance with article 19 (2) of the Constitution (Republic of Korea);**
- 131.191 **Allow plurality of the media and genuine freedom of expression (Costa Rica);**
- 131.192 **Ensure that journalists and human rights defenders can exercise their rights to freedom of expression, opinion and association and that appropriate follow-up is given to cases of intimidation and harassment against them (Belgium);**
- 131.193 **Adopt all the necessary measures to ensure a safe environment for the exercise of freedom of expression for those who work to promote and protect human rights, including human rights defenders and journalists, and investigate and punish all acts of violence against them (Argentina);**
- 131.194 **Adopt measures guaranteeing the fundamental freedoms of journalists, civil society organizations and political parties (Spain);**
- 131.195 **Protect freedom of expression, lift the media censorship, release imprisoned journalists and protect journalists and media workers from unlawful arbitrary detention (Czechia);**
- 131.196 **Ensure that journalists, human rights defenders and independent civil society organizations operate in a free and safe environment (Greece);**
- 131.197 **Allow all human rights defenders and civil society organizations to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, opinion and association without threat or harassment (Slovenia);**
- 131.198 **Release without further delay all journalists detained arbitrarily, allow independent media to resume operation and let foreign media visit the country (Iceland);**
- 131.199 **Release political prisoners, including journalists and members of religious groups held on account of their beliefs or affiliations, and allow greater transparency in legal proceedings for those arrested (United States of America);**
- 131.200 **Ensure that women have equal representation in the Government, particularly at high levels of decision-making, in legislative assemblies, in the judiciary and in the civil service (Iceland);**
- 131.201 **Strive to achieve gender balance in the State administration by increasing the number of women in decision-making institutions (Serbia);**

- 131.202 **Intensify the fight against trafficking in human beings, especially children (Serbia);**
- 131.203 **Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly of women and children (Indonesia);**
- 131.204 **Adopt a law to combat people smuggling and trafficking in human beings (Madagascar);**
- 131.205 **Strengthen policies on trafficking in persons, by extending special support to women and children (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 131.206 **Further strengthen policies and programmes to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Philippines);**
- 131.207 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Sudan);**
- 131.208 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Egypt);**
- 131.209 **Continue to strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons, with a gender perspective and to provide free legal aid and support to women and child victims of trafficking, particularly unaccompanied children (Maldives);**
- 131.210 **Adopt comprehensive legislation on trafficking in persons, with a gender perspective (Ukraine);**
- 131.211 **Not relent in its efforts to combat child labour and human trafficking (Nigeria);**
- 131.212 **Continue to strengthen efforts to eliminate child labour, including addressing its root causes by raising public awareness (Maldives);**
- 131.213 **Continue the course of political and socioeconomic reforms with a view to expediting improvement of the standard of living and well-being of all citizens (Bulgaria);**
- 131.214 **Continue to promote economic and social development, implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and improve people's standard of life (China);**
- 131.215 **Continue its efforts to address food shortages and malnutrition in general, and access for women and children to adequate nutrition in particular (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 131.216 **Ensure that all women and children have access to adequate nutrition, including by increasing efforts to address food production shortages, and seek international assistance to that effect (Portugal);**
- 131.217 **Continue efforts to reduce disparities between regions in terms of access to food, water and health services (Saudi Arabia);**
- 131.218 **Continue to support efforts to combat poverty and improve the standard of living (Libya);**
- 131.219 **Continue its efforts to adopt a development policy to combat poverty and enhance human rights (Yemen);**
- 131.220 **Continue giving priority to actions for the eradication of poverty and child malnutrition, and for achieving food security (Cuba);**
- 131.221 **Continue to enact laws and regulations aimed at eliminating poverty and child malnutrition (Bahrain);**
- 131.222 **Proceed with the policy of the right of citizens to access agricultural land (Oman);**
- 131.223 **Continue to invest in the development of its public health system to increase medical coverage in rural areas (Singapore);**

- 131.224 Ensure access to education and basic health for all its citizens, particularly in rural areas (Pakistan);
- 131.225 Continue to provide quality health care (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 131.226 Continue to improve health-care facilities (India);
- 131.227 Continue making efforts to improve access to and quality of health-care services, particularly in rural areas, including the expansion of literacy programmes (Cuba);
- 131.228 Continue its efforts with relevant policy to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and engage in experience-sharing in this regard (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 131.229 Revise the Penal Code so that women can access legal, safe and voluntary termination of pregnancy, and guarantee the provision of the respective medical services (Iceland);
- 131.230 Continue to improve access to quality education for all, in particular for vulnerable groups and persons living in remote areas (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 131.231 Continue efforts to ensure free compulsory primary education and enhance access to schools and quality education (Indonesia);
- 131.232 Continue efforts to have inclusive and compulsory education (Tunisia);
- 131.233 Redouble efforts and commitment in ensuring access to education for all its citizens (Nigeria);
- 131.234 Increase and strengthen access to education at all levels in rural and underdeveloped areas, particularly for girls and young women (Afghanistan);
- 131.235 Develop a strategy to combat low school enrolment and academic success rates (Algeria);
- 131.236 Address the low rate of enrolment of girls in primary and secondary education (India);
- 131.237 Address the root causes of low rates of enrolment of children and young girls in schools and the problem of school completion (Saudi Arabia);
- 131.238 Consider adopting policies to address the causes of the low rates of enrolment in schools and completion of study, and make elementary education free and compulsory (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 131.239 Combat the root causes of low school enrolment rates, as well as guaranteeing free access to education (Costa Rica);
- 131.240 Further strengthen its efforts to provide full access to education for all children, particularly for girls in rural areas (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 131.241 Continue its inclusive education programmes and policies, and take further measures to create support programmes for girls to be able to pursue higher-level education (Myanmar);
- 131.242 Ensure that nomadic communities' access to educational institutions and quality education is guaranteed and respected (Madagascar);
- 131.243 Further enhance the protection of the rights of women, children and other vulnerable groups, and continue to promote medical and health services, and education (China);
- 131.244 Formalize legislative action to criminalize violence against women and children, especially in the domestic sphere, in educational institutions and

in the context of national service, and make prevention efforts at the national level (Mexico);

131.245 Intensify efforts to ensure full respect for the fundamental rights of women and girls (Switzerland);

131.246 Effectively criminalize all forms of violence against women, including marital rape (Austria);

131.247 Take further measures to prevent violence against women (Japan);

131.248 Intensify capacity-building programmes and awareness-raising campaigns at the community level on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and children (Philippines);

131.249 Continue efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence (Tunisia);

131.250 Strengthen the National Union of Eritrean Women by granting executive powers and allocating sufficient resources (Costa Rica);

131.251 Adopt and apply laws, policies or plans of action at national level to combat all forms of violence against children (Mexico);

131.252 Continue efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against all children both in law and in practice (Syrian Arab Republic);

131.253 Approve and apply laws, national policies or national action plans to address all forms of violence against children (Costa Rica);

131.254 Strengthen legislation aimed at protecting children from all forms of abuse and violence (Bahrain);

131.255 Support programmes aimed at ensuring the rights of children in the context of education and health care, especially orphans and children belonging to vulnerable groups (Libya);

131.256 Continue efforts to protect children's rights and set up appropriate strategies to combat child labour (Tunisia);

131.257 Continue efforts to combat marriage of minors (Tunisia);

131.258 Adopt an approach to disabilities based on human rights (Algeria);

131.259 Enhance access to education for children with disabilities by providing special needs education in more public schools, including those in the rural areas (Singapore);

131.260 Review its migration policy in order to guarantee that Eritreans living abroad have the right to return to their country in safety, with dignity and without being penalized (Mexico);

131.261 Guarantee that Eritreans are able to return to Eritrea in safety, with dignity and without fear of being penalized for having left Eritrea (Netherlands).

132. 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 Eritrea was headed by H. E.Mr. Tesfamichael Gerhatu, Ambassador, and composed of the following members:

- H. E. Ms. Hanna Simon Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to the Republic of France, Paris, Member of Delegation;
  - Mr. Amanuel Giorgio, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the UN, New York;
  - Mr. Adem Osman First Secretary Charge d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to the United Nations, Geneva, Member of Delegation;
  - Mr. Ghebremedhin Mehari Staff, Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations, Geneva, Member of Delegation.
-