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Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters

Report of the Human Rights Council on its fortieth session

Vice-President and Rapporteur: Vesna Batistić Kos (Croatia)



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Part One
Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session

I. Resolutions

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
40/1	Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka	21 March 2019
40/2	Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua	21 March 2019
40/3	The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	21 March 2019
40/4	The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation	21 March 2019
40/5	Elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport	21 March 2019
40/6	Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity	21 March 2019
40/7	The right to food	21 March 2019
40/8	The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	21 March 2019
40/9	Human rights, democracy and the rule of law	21 March 2019
40/10	Freedom of religion or belief	21 March 2019
40/11	Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development	21 March 2019
40/12	Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights	21 March 2019
40/13	Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	22 March 2019
40/14	Rights of the child: empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education	22 March 2019
40/15	Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child	22 March 2019
40/16	Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	22 March 2019
40/17	The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic	22 March 2019

<i>Resolution</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
40/18	Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	22 March 2019
40/19	Situation of human rights in South Sudan	22 March 2019
40/20	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	22 March 2019
40/21	Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	22 March 2019
40/22	Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	22 March 2019
40/23	Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	22 March 2019
40/24	Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	22 March 2019
40/25	Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief	22 March 2019
40/26	Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights	22 March 2019
40/27	Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya	22 March 2019
40/28	Cooperation with Georgia	22 March 2019
40/29	Situation of human rights in Myanmar	22 March 2019

II. Decisions

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
40/101	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Saudi Arabia	14 March 2019
40/102	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Senegal	14 March 2019
40/103	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Congo	14 March 2019
40/104	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Nigeria	14 March 2019
40/105	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Mexico	14 March 2019
40/106	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Mauritius	14 March 2019
40/107	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Jordan	14 March 2019
40/108	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Malaysia	14 March 2019
40/109	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Central African Republic	14 March 2019
40/110	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Monaco	14 March 2019
40/111	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Belize	15 March 2019
40/112	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Chad	15 March 2019

<i>Decision</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date of adoption</i>
40/113	Outcome of the universal periodic review: China	15 March 2019
40/114	Outcome of the universal periodic review: Malta	15 March 2019

Part Two

Summary of proceedings

I. Organizational and procedural matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Human Rights Council held its fortieth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 25 February to 22 March 2019. The President of the Council opened the session.
2. At the 1st meeting, on 25 February 2019, the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Ignazio Cassis, addressed the Human Rights Council in plenary session.
3. At its 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the Human Rights Council observed International Women's Day. At the same meeting, the High Commissioner made a statement. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Iraq, Mexico (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the State of Palestine) and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom made statements.
4. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, as contained in part VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the organizational meeting of the fortieth session was held on 11 February 2019.
5. The fortieth session consisted of 55 meetings over 20 days (see para. 27 below).

B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council, observer States of the Council, observers for non-Member States of the United Nations and other observers, as well as observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (see annex I).

C. High-level segment

7. At its 1st to 8th meetings, from 25 to 27 February 2019, the Human Rights Council held a high-level segment at which 95 dignitaries made statements, including 1 head of State, 1 vice-president, 2 prime ministers, 5 deputy prime ministers, 50 ministers, 29 other dignitaries and 7 representatives of observer organizations.
8. The following dignitaries, listed in the order in which they spoke, addressed the Human Rights Council during the high-level segment:

- (a) At the 1st meeting, on 25 February 2019: the President of Tunisia, Béji Caïd Essebsi; the Chair of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat; the Prime Minister of Yemen, Maeen Abdul Malek Saeed; the Prime Minister of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama; the First Vice-President of Costa Rica, Epsy Campbell Barr; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, Marija Pejčinović Burić; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani; the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

of Ireland, Simon Coveney; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Marise Payne; the Minister of Women, Family and Human Rights of Brazil, Damares Regina Alves;

(b) At the 2nd meeting, on the same day: the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, Prak Sokhonn; the Minister of External Relations of Cameroon, Lejeune Mbella Mbella; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ine Eriksen Søreide; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Anders Samuelsen; the Third Deputy Prime Minister in Charge of Human Rights of Equatorial Guinea, Alfonso Nsue Mokuy; the Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czechia, Tomáš Petříček; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, David Zalkaliani; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Andorra, Maria Ubach; the Minister of State in Charge of Human Rights of Morocco, Mustapha Ramid; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Rodolfo Nin Novoa; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Kyung-wha Kang; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, Srdjan Darmanović;

(c) At the 3rd meeting, on the same day: the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Sergey Vershinin; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Ashikbayev; the Secretary of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism of Argentina, Claudio Avruj; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Péter Szijjártó; the Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Luwellyn Landers; the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon;

(d) At the 4th meeting, on 26 February 2019: the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Defence in charge of Beliris and the federal cultural institutions of Belgium, Didier Reynders; the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn; the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, Miroslav Lajčák; the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Nourredine Ayadi; the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Sigrid Kaag; the Minister of Human Rights of Pakistan, Shireen M. Mazari; the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation of Spain, Josep Borrell Fontelles;

(e) At the 5th meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Jacek Czaputowicz; the Minister of Social Services and Urban Development of the Bahamas, Frankie A. Campbell; the Minister of Human Rights and Civic Promotion of Burkina Faso, Maminata Ouattara; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Elmar Maharram oglu Mammadyarov; the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania, Palamagamba Kabudi; the Executive Secretary of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, Francisco Ribeiro Telles; the Minister for External Relations of Angola, Manuel Domingos Augusto; the Minister of Justice of Libya, Mohammed Mohammed; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Simona Leskovar; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Teresa Ribeiro; the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shokry Selim; the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management of the European Union, Christos Stylianides; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Emanuela Claudia Del Re; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, Andrej Žernovski;

(f) At the 6th meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine, Riad Al-Malki; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Dato' Saifuddin bin Abdullah; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Edgars Rinkēvičs; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Mohamed Ali Alhakim; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion of Malta, Carmelo Abela; the Union Minister for International Cooperation of Myanmar, Kyaw Tin; the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid of Germany, Bärbel Kofler; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Margot Wallström; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Paul Teesalu; the Vice Minister for

Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of Mexico, Martha Delgado Peralta; the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Luis Fernando Carranza Cifuentes; the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Kiyoto Tsuji; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Andrei Dapkiunas; the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Yousef A. Al Othaimeen;

(g) At the 7th meeting, on 27 February 2019: the Minister of Justice of Namibia, Sakeus Shanghala; the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Zimbabwe, Ziyambi Ziyambi; the Minister of Justice, Constitutional and Religious Affairs of Mozambique, Joaquim Verissimo; the Assistant Foreign Minister of Bahrain, Abdulla Faisal Al-Doseri; the Presidential Counsellor for Human Rights of Colombia, Francisco Barbosa Delgado; the Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, George Chacalli; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Sergiy Kyslytsya; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria, Yuri Sterk; the Assistant Minister for Human Rights and International Law at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, Ahmad Abdulrahman Al-Jarman; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir; the Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Asta Skaisgiryte; the Deputy Minister for Development Cooperation of Finland, Elina Kalkku; the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Josip Brkić; the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Marcelino Medina González; the Minister of Peoples Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Jorge Arreaza Montserrat; the Minister for European Affairs of Romania, George Ciamba; the Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, Artemis Dralo;

(h) At the 8th meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, Nhial Deng Nhial; the First Deputy Director of the Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan, Mirzatillo Tillabaev; the Minister of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender of Burundi, Martin Nivyabandi; the Human Rights Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Juan Pablo Crisostomo; the Under-Secretary of the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat of the Philippines, Severo S. Catura; the First Vice-President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Joel Hernandez; the Deputy Commissioner for Human Rights of Nicaragua, Adolfo Jarquín Ortel.

High-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming

9. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 February 2019, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to Council resolution 16/21, an annual high-level panel discussion to interact with the heads of governing bodies and secretariats of United Nations agencies within their respective mandates on specific human rights themes, with the objective of promoting the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations system, with a focus on “human rights in the light of multilateralism: opportunities, challenges and the way forward”.

10. The President of the General Assembly, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Vice-President for Legal Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Laya Joneydi, made opening statements for the panel. The Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), moderated the discussion.

11. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Deputy Director-General for Policy of the International Labour Organization, Deborah Greenfield; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Executive Director of the secretariat of the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. The Council divided the panel discussion into two speaking slots.

12. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first speaking slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria (also on behalf of Liechtenstein, Slovenia and Switzerland), Bahamas, Brazil, Costa

Rica¹ (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay), Latvia¹ (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Mexico, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)¹ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

- (b) Representatives of observer States: Fiji, Ireland, Namibia;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, International Service for Human Rights, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik.

13. During the discussion for the second speaking slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Qatar, Uruguay;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Botswana, Ecuador, France, Greece, Indonesia, Jamaica, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam;
- (c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Iuventum, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, United Nations Watch.

14. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

D. General segment

15. At the 8th meeting, on 27 February 2019, a general segment was held, during which the following addressed the Human Rights Council:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, China, India, Nigeria, Senegal;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam;
- (c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: International Development Law Organization, United Nations Development Programme;
- (d) Observer for national human rights institutions: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;
- (e) Invited members of civil society: Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, Nancy Okoth, Ruth Dearnley, Altinçelep Büket.

16. At the 9th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

17. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Japan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey made statements in exercise of a second right of reply.

E. Agenda and programme of work

18. At its 1st meeting, on 25 February 2019, the Human Rights Council adopted the agenda and programme of work of the fortieth session.

¹ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

19. At its 9th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the Human Rights Council adopted the revised programme of work of the fortieth session.

F. Organization of work

20. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February 2019, the President outlined the speaking time limits for panel discussions, which would be two minutes for States members of the Council, observer States and other observers.

21. At the 9th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the President referred to the introduction of a web-based online system for inscription to the lists of speakers for all general debates and individual and clustered interactive dialogues at the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council. He also referred to the modalities and schedule of the online inscription which was launched on 20 February 2019.

22. At the same meeting, the President outlined the time limits for interactive dialogues with special procedure mandate holders under agenda item 3, which would be two minutes for States members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and other observers.

23. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the President outlined the speaking time limits for the general debates, which would be 2 minutes and 30 seconds for States members of the Human Rights Council and 1 minute and 30 seconds for observer States and other observers.

24. At the 26th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the President outlined the time limits for individual interactive dialogues on item 4 with special procedure mandate holders, which would be two minutes for States members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and other observers.

25. At the 28th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the President outlined the time limits for enhanced interactive dialogues on item 4 with special procedure mandate holders, which would be two minutes for States members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and other observers.

26. At the 35th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the President outlined the time limits for consideration of the outcomes of the universal periodic review under agenda item 6, which would be 20 minutes for the State concerned to present its views; where appropriate, 2 minutes for the national human rights institution with A status of the State concerned; up to 20 minutes for States members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and United Nations agencies to express their views on the outcome of the review, with varying speaking times according to the number of speakers in accordance with the modalities set out in the appendix to resolution 16/21; and up to 20 minutes for stakeholders, with a speaking time of 2 minutes for all to make general comments on the outcome of the review.

G. Meetings and documentation

27. The Human Rights Council held 55 fully serviced meetings during its fortieth session.²

28. The list of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council is contained in part one of the present report.

H. Visits

29. At the 16th meeting, on 4 March 2019, the Prime Minister of Somalia, Hassan Ali Khayre, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

30. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Marshall Islands, John M. Silk, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

² The proceedings of the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council can be followed through the United Nations archived Webcasts of the Council sessions (<http://webtv.un.org>).

31. At the same meeting, the Deputy Secretary for International Affairs, High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Seyed Majid Tafreshi Khameneh, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

32. At the 34th meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Haiti, Bocchit Edmond, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

I. Dialogue with the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

33. At the 22nd meeting, on 7 March 2019, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

34. During the ensuing dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Deputy Secretary-General questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Cabo Verde³ (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries), Cuba, Denmark, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Costa Rica, Ireland, Sudan, Switzerland, Vanuatu;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: International Law Development Organization;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for national human rights institutions: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation; International Lesbian and Gay Association; Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

35. At the same meeting, on the same day, the Deputy Secretary-General answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

J. Selection and appointment of mandate holders

36. At its 55th meeting, the Human Rights Council appointed four special procedure mandate holders in accordance with its resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and its decision 6/102 (see annex IV).

K. Adoption of the report of the session

37. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the Vice-President and Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council made a statement in connection with the draft report of the Council on its fortieth session.

38. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft report (A/HRC/40/2) ad referendum and decided to entrust the Rapporteur with its finalization.

39. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Sweden (also on behalf of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Switzerland) and Switzerland made statements as observer States with regard to adopted resolutions.

40. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Marshall Islands and Mozambique and the observer for International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project,

³ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

International Commission of Jurists and International Lesbian and Gay Association) made statements in connection with the session.

41. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a closing statement.

II. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

A. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

42. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement in connection with her annual report (A/HRC/40/3).

43. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 7 March 2019, and at the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the following made statements and asked the High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina (also on behalf of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru), Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China (also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe), Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji (also on behalf of Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Italy, Togo and Uruguay), Hungary, Iceland (also on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco³ (also on behalf of Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Paraguay, Qatar, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates), Nepal, Netherlands³ (also on behalf of the European Union, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), Nigeria, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and the Republic of Korea), Peru (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico), Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Africa (also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cuba, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe), Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)³ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco,

Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Oman, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women);

(d) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of American States;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: American Association of Jurists (also on behalf of France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International-Lawyers.org, Liberation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Réseau unité pour le développement de Mauritanie, International Service for Human Rights and Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme), Amnesty International, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues.

44. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the High Commissioner answered questions, made comments and made her concluding remarks.

45. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bahrain, China, Gabon, India, Morocco, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

46. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of India and Pakistan made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

B. Interactive dialogue on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka

47. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the High Commissioner for Human Rights presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/1, the report of OHCHR on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka (A/HRC/40/23), followed by a discussion on the implementation of Council resolution 30/1.

48. At the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka made a statement as the State concerned.

49. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Austria, China, Croatia, Denmark, Iceland, India, Pakistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (by video message);

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Association Bharathi centre culturel franco-tamoul, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Movement

against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, World Evangelical Alliance (also on behalf of Christian Solidarity Worldwide).

50. At the same meeting, the High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

C. Reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

51. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division of OHCHR introduced thematic reports prepared by the High Commissioner, OHCHR and the Secretary-General under agenda items 2, 3, 5 and 6.

52. At its 24th and 25th meetings, on 8 March 2019, and at the 26th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Council held a general debate on thematic reports under agenda items 2 and 3, presented by the Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division of OHCHR (see chap. III, sect. F).

53. At the 42nd meeting, on 18 March 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights presented reports prepared by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General under agenda items 2 and 7 (see chap. VII, sect. D).

54. At the 44th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of OHCHR presented the report of the High Commissioner under agenda items 2 and 9 (see chap. IX, sect. B).

55. At the 45th meeting, on the same day, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights presented the report of the High Commissioner under items 2 and 10 (see chap. X, sect. E).

56. At the 49th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the High Commissioner presented her report under items 2 and 10 (see chap. X, sect. E).

57. At the 48th meeting, on the same day, the High Commissioner introduced country-specific reports submitted by the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner under agenda item 2 (A/HRC/40/3/Add.1-3, A/HRC/40/22, A/HRC/40/24 and A/HRC/40/37).

58. At the same meeting, the High Commissioner presented oral updates on the situation of human rights in Yemen and in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

59. At the 48th and 49th meetings, on the same day, the representatives of Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Myanmar, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen made statements as the States concerned.

60. During the ensuing general debate, at the 48th and 49th meetings, on the same day, and at the 50th meeting, on 21 March 2019, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Bahrain (also on behalf of Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen), Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Croatia, Cuba, Cuba (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Japan, Mexico, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Qatar, Romania³ (on behalf of the European Union), Spain, Sweden³ (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Office of the Advocate General (Guatemala) (by video message);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: African Agency for Integrated Development, Alsalam Foundation, American Association of Jurists, Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Association of World Citizens, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Baha'i International Community, Center for Inquiry, Centre Europe-tiers monde, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme, Defence for Children International, Franciscans International (also on behalf of International Commission of Jurists and Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund), Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social (also on behalf of American Association of Jurists), Global Welfare Association, Health and Environment Program, Human Rights Watch, Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, Institute for NGO Research, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Colombian Commission of Jurists), International-Lawyers.org, Iraqi Development Organization, Le pont, Lutheran World Federation, Ma'arif Foundation for Peace and Development, OIDHACO, Bureau international des droits humains – action Colombie, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, Peace Brigades International Switzerland, Refugee Council of Australia, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Réseau international des droits humains, Save the Children International, Tamil Uzhagam, Union of Arab Jurists, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Muslim Congress, World Organization against Torture, World Peace Council.

61. At the 49th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the representatives of Cyprus, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

D. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka

62. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of Canada, Germany, Montenegro and North Macedonia) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.1, sponsored by Canada, Germany, Montenegro, North Macedonia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Sri Lanka and Sweden. Subsequently, Argentina, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Maldives, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

63. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru made general comments on the draft resolution.

64. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka made a statement as the State concerned.

65. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

66. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/1).

Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua

67. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Argentina (also on behalf of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.8, sponsored by Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Czechia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland withdrew their original co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

68. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Human Rights Council), Cuba, Iceland and Ukraine made general comments on the draft resolution.

69. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Nicaragua made a statement as the State concerned.

70. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

71. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Czechia, Egypt, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

72. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

Against:

Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea

Abstaining:

Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia

73. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 23 votes to 3, with 21 abstentions (resolution 40/2).

Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

74. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.25, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Botswana, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Namibia, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

75. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Philippines and Tunisia made general comments on the draft resolution. In her statement, the representative of the Philippines disassociated the delegation from the consensus on paragraph 6 of the draft resolution.

76. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Israel and the State of Palestine made statements as the States concerned.

77. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

78. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Austria, Brazil, Czechia, Iceland, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

79. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Australia, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia

Against:

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechia, Fiji, Hungary, Ukraine

Abstaining:

Argentina, Bahamas, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Rwanda, Slovakia, Togo,⁴ United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

80. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 23 votes to 8, with 15 abstentions (resolution 40/13).⁵

81. At the same meeting, the representative of South Africa made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

⁴ The representative of Togo subsequently stated that there had been an error in the delegation's vote and that it had intended to vote against.

⁵ The delegation of Cameroon did not cast a vote.

III. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

A. Panels

High-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty

82. At its 4th meeting, on 26 February 2019, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to its resolution 36/17, a biennial high-level panel discussion to further exchange views on the question of the death penalty, with a focus on “human rights violations related to the use of the death penalty, in particular with respect to the rights to non-discrimination and equality”.

83. The High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs, and of Defence in charge of Beliris and of the Federal Cultural Institutions of Belgium, Didier Reynders, made opening statements for the panel. The Chair of the Human Rights Committee moderated the discussion.

84. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, the Director of the Justice Institute Guyana, Melinda Janki, lawyer and co-founder of the Mauritanian Human Rights Association, Fatimata M’Baye. The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

85. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first speaking slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Brazil (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries), Chile (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay), Iceland (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Italy, Mexico, New Zealand⁶ (also on behalf of Australia, Liechtenstein and Switzerland), Pakistan, Singapore⁶ (also on behalf of Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Luxembourg, Montenegro;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Global Nonkilling, Friends World Committee for Consultation, International Lesbian and Gay Association.

86. During the discussion for the second speaking slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Iraq, Saudi Arabia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Ecuador, France, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Slovenia;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (by video message);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Ensemble contre la peine de mort, International Federation of ACAT.

87. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

⁶ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child

88. At its 14th meeting, on 4 March 2019, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to its resolution 37/20, its annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child. The meeting focused on the theme “Empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education”. The meeting was divided into two panel discussions: the first panel discussion was held at the 14th meeting, on 4 March 2019; the second panel discussion was held at the 16th meeting, on the same day.

89. At the first panel discussion, the topic of discussion was “How children with disabilities can be empowered by realizing their rights, including the right to education”. The High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel. The Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Ricardo González Arenas, moderated the discussion for the panel.

90. At the same meeting the following panellists made statements: member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Jorge Cardona; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar, and the children’s rights advocate, Lumos, Dumitrița Cropivnitchi. The Human Rights Council then viewed a video with questions from children with disabilities, produced by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

91. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot of the first panel, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Austria, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Barbados⁶ (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Iceland (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Thailand⁶ (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Botswana, France, Lesotho, Romania, Seychelles;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: Australian Human Rights Commission;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Reproductive Rights, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education.

92. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Brazil (on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries), Bulgaria, Iraq, Japan, Pakistan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: El Salvador, Israel, Montenegro, Myanmar;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: National Commission on Human Rights of Indonesia;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, Plan International, (also on behalf of Center for Reproductive Rights, Defence for Children International, International Planned Parenthood Federation and Save the Children International).

93. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

94. The second panel discussion was held at the 16th meeting, on the same day. The topic of discussion was “Including children with disabilities in education settings: good practices and accountability”. The Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations

Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Walter Stevens, moderated the discussion for the panel.

95. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, María Soledad Cisternas Reyes; the Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia of UNICEF, Afshan Khan, and the Education Director of Save the Children Bangladesh, Bushra Zulfiqar. The Council then viewed a video on *10 Principles of Good Treatment of Children with Disabilities*, produced by UNICEF. The Council divided the second panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 16th meeting, on the same day.

96. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot of the second panel, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Italy, Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Ecuador, Luxembourg, Morocco, Oman, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observer for a national human rights institution: National Human Rights Council (Morocco);
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Child Rights Connect (also on behalf of International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Catholic Child Bureau and Save the Children International), International Catholic Child Bureau.

97. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second slot of the second panel, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Bahamas, China, Egypt, Fiji, South Africa;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Greece, Maldives, Monaco, Republic of Moldova, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates;
- (c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, Ma'arij Foundation for Peace and Development.

98. At the same meeting, the panellists of the second panel answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities

99. At its 21st meeting, on 6 March 2019, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to its resolution 37/22, its annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities in the form of a panel discussion. The focus of the discussion was on article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, regarding habilitation and rehabilitation. The debate was informed by the report of OHCHR (A/HRC/40/32).

100. The High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the panel.

101. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar; the representative of International Disability Alliance, Lauro Purcil, the Coordinator of the Disability and Rehabilitation Team of the World Health Organization, Alarcos Cieza, and the Global Advisor of CBM International, Jörg Weber. The Human Rights Council divided the panel discussion into two slots.

102. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahamas (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Brazil (on behalf of the Community of

Portuguese-speaking Countries), Croatia (also on behalf of Austria and Slovenia), Finland⁶ (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Malaysia⁶ (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Mexico (also on behalf of Australia, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Turkey), Mozambique⁶ (also on behalf of Belgium, Chile and Italy), Oman⁶ (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

- (b) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (c) Observer for a national human rights institution: National Commission on Human Rights (Indonesia);
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

103. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, Italy, Qatar, South Africa, Spain;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;
- (c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Iraqi Development Organization, Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights.

104. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

B. Interactive dialogue with special procedure mandate holders

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

105. At the 9th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Hilal Elver, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/56 and Add.1-3).

106. At the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Indonesia and Viet Nam made statements as the States concerned.

107. Also at the same meeting, the national human rights institution, National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia, made a statement (by video message).

108. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 9th and 10th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Egypt, India, Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lesotho, Morocco, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine;
- (c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme;
- (d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (by video message), FIAN International, Ingénieurs du monde, iuventum, Prahar, United Nations Watch, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Barua Organization.

109. At the 9th and 10th meetings, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

110. At the 9th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, presented his reports (A/HRC/40/57 and Add.1-2).

111. At the same meeting, the representatives of Sri Lanka and Ukraine made statements as the States concerned.

112. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, made a statement. A representative of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka also made a statement (by video message).

113. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 9th and 10th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, South Africa, Tunisia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Greece, Jamaica, Kuwait, Russian Federation, Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Holy See;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Iraqi Development Organization, Make Mothers Matter, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

114. At the 9th and 10th meetings, on the same day, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

115. At the 11th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the representative of Ukraine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

116. At the 10th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, presented his reports (A/HRC/40/60 and Add.2-3).

117. At the same meeting, the representatives of Honduras and the Republic of Moldova made statements as the States concerned.

118. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 10th and 11th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Burkina Faso (also on behalf of the French-speaking States members and observers), Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Iceland, India, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UN-Women;

- (d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (e) Observer for national human rights institutions: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;
- (f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, Center for Reproductive Rights, Centre Europe – tiers monde, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, Human Rights House Foundation, Human Rights Law Centre, International Lesbian and Gay Association, International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development and Association for Women's Rights in Development), Peace Brigades International Switzerland, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Terra de Direitos, World Organization against Torture.

119. At the 11th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

120. At the same meeting, the representative of Ukraine made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

121. At the 10th meeting, on 28 February 2019, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Nils Melzer, presented his reports (A/HRC/40/59 and Add.1-3).

122. At the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Serbia and Ukraine made statements as the States concerned.

123. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, made a statement.

124. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 10th and 11th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Austria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay), China, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

- (b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Estonia, France, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jordan, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

- (c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Council of Europe, European Union;

- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Ma'arij Foundation for Peace and Development, World Organization against Torture.

125. At the 11th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

126. At the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Ukraine.

Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy

127. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, Joseph Cannataci, presented his report (A/HRC/40/63).

128. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany⁶ (also on behalf of Austria, Brazil, Liechtenstein and Mexico), Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Gabon, Malta, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Association for Progressive Communications (also on behalf of Association for Women's Rights in Development), Human Rights Advocates, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Iuventus, Prahar.

129. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

130. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/53 and Add.1).

131. At the same meeting, the representative of Malaysia made a statement as the State concerned.

132. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, made a statement (by video message).

133. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, China, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Fiji, Iraq, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Ukraine;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Timor-Leste, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;
- (d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development (also on behalf of Association for Women's Rights in Development), Al-Khoei Foundation, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Association for Women's Rights in Development (also on behalf of Association for Progressive Communications), British Humanist Association, Franciscans International; Freemuse – the World Forum on Music and Censorship, International Lesbian and Gay Association, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, International PEN, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Prahar.

134. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

135. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the State of Palestine made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

136. At the same meeting, the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan made statements in exercise of a second right of reply.

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

137. At the 13th meeting, on 1 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/52 and Add.1-5).

138. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium, France, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Tunisia made statements as the States concerned.

139. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France, made a statement. A representative of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka also made a statement (by video message).

140. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iceland, India, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Chad, Ecuador, Estonia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: China Society for Human Rights Studies, Franciscans International (also on behalf of Amnesty International), Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries, Human Rights Advocates, International Commission of Jurists (also on behalf of Amnesty International, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship and International Federation for Human Rights Leagues), Iraqi Development Organization, Open Society Institute, Right Livelihood Award Foundation.

141. At the same meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

142. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Qatar and Saudi Arabia made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

143. At the same meeting, the representatives of Qatar and Saudi Arabia made statements in exercise of a second right of reply.

Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

144. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, David R. Boyd, presented his report (A/HRC/40/55).

145. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 15th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Fiji, Iceland, India, Iraq, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay), South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Morocco, Russian Federation,

Singapore, Slovenia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Holy See, State of Palestine;

(c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Environment Programme;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Conselho Indigenista Missionário, Earthjustice, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Human Rights Advocates, Human Rights Now, International-Lawyers.org, Iuventum, Make Mothers Matter, Terre des hommes fédération internationale.

146. At the 15th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

147. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

148. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Leilani Farha, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/61 and Add.1-2).

149. At the same meeting, the representatives of Egypt and the Republic of Korea, made statements as the States concerned.

150. Also at the same meeting, representatives of the national human rights institutions, National Council for Human Rights (Egypt) and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (Republic of Korea), made statements.

151. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 15th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cuba, India, Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Tunisia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Maldives, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (also on behalf of International Service for Human Rights), Franciscans International, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Human Rights Advocates, International Lesbian and Gay Association, Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Minority Rights Group.

152. At the 15th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

153. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, presented his reports (A/HRC/40/58 and Add.1).

154. At the same meeting, the representative of Tunisia made a statement as the State concerned.

155. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th and 18th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Nepal, Pakistan, Slovakia, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Holy See, State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and Malta;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Alliance Defending Freedom, Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Association for Progressive Communications, British Humanist Association, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Humanist and Ethical Union, Ma'arif Foundation for Peace and Development, Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Evangelical Alliance.

156. At the 17th and 18th meetings, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

157. At the 19th meeting, the representatives of Azerbaijan, China and Israel made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

158. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/51 and Add.1-3).

159. At the same meeting, the representatives of Ireland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Malaysia made statements as the States concerned.

160. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, made a statement.

161. At the 18th meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, made a statement.

162. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 17th and 18th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Ecuador, France, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Libya, Liechtenstein, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik.

Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

163. At the 19th meeting, on 5 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas-Aguilar, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/54 and Add.1).

164. At the same meeting, the representative of France made a statement as the State concerned.

165. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France, made a statement.

166. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 20th and 21st meetings, on 6 March 2019, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mexico (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru and Uruguay), Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Costa Rica, Djibouti, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Portugal, Sudan, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for a national human rights institution: Office for the Protection of Citizens (Haiti);

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, Alsalam Foundation, Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, China Society for Human Rights Studies, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, Iraqi Development Organization, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, Prahar, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, World Barua Organization.

167. At the 20th and 21st meetings, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism

168. At the 19th meeting, on 5 March 2019, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, Ikponwosa Ero, presented her reports (A/HRC/40/62 and Add.1 and 3).

169. At the same meeting, the representatives of Fiji and Kenya made statements as the States concerned.

170. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 20th and 21st meetings, on 6 March 2019, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Africa, Togo;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Djibouti, Israel, Malawi, Malaysia, Portugal, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, International Bar Association, Lutheran World Federation, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, World Jewish Congress.

171. At the 20th and 21st meetings, on the same day, the Independent Expert answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on minority issues

172. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, presented his reports (A/HRC/40/64 and Add.1-2).

173. At the same meeting, the representatives of Botswana and Slovenia made statements as the States concerned.

174. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Croatia, Hungary, India, Iraq, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Tunisia, Ukraine;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Colombia, Cyprus, Ecuador, Georgia, Jordan, Latvia, Myanmar, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF;

(d) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Adalah Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Advocates for Human Rights, China Society for Human Rights Studies, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Jubilee Campaign, Liberation, Minority Rights Group, Refugee Council of Australia.

175. At the same meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

176. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China and Latvia made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

C. Interactive dialogue with special representatives of the Secretary-General

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children

177. At the 18th meeting, on 5 March 2019, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, Marta Santos Pais, presented her report (A/HRC/40/50).

178. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 18th and 19th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Austria, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Canada⁶ (on behalf of the French-speaking

States members and observers), China, Egypt, Fiji, Italy, Latvia⁶ (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Foundation ECPAT International (also on behalf of Stichting War Child), International Catholic Child Bureau, Terre des hommes fédération internationale (also on behalf of Defence for Children International, Foundation ECPAT International) and Plan International), Women's Human Rights International Association.

179. At the 18th and 19th meetings, on the same day, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict

180. At the 18th meeting, on 5 March 2019, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, Virginia Gamba, presented her report (A/HRC/40/49).

181. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 18th and 19th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina, Austria, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada⁶ (on behalf of the French-speaking States members and observers), China, Croatia, Egypt, Fiji (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Cyprus, Czechia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Somalia, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Yemen and the State of Palestine), Iraq, Italy, Latvia⁶ (also on behalf of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uruguay (also on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Morocco, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), State of Palestine;

- (c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;
- (d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta;
- (f) Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- (g) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Reproductive Rights, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Defence for Children International, European Centre for Law and Justice, Foundation ECPAT International (also on behalf of Stichting War Child), International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale, Plan International, Save the Children International, Society for Threatened Peoples.

182. At the 18th and 19th meetings, on the same day, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

D. Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

183. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 26/9, the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Emilio Izquierdo, as the Chair-Rapporteur of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, with the mandate of elaborating an international legally binding instrument, presented the report on the working group's fourth session, held from 15 to 19 October 2018 (A/HRC/40/48).

E. Promotion and protection of human rights and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

184. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 37/24, the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Morten Jespersen, as the Chair of the intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, presented the report of the intersessional meeting, held on 16 January 2019 (A/HRC/40/34).

F. General debate on agenda item 3

185. At its 24th to 25th meetings, on 8 March 2019, and at the 26th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Council held a general debate on thematic reports under agenda items 2 and 3, during which the following made statements:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Brazil, Canada⁶ (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), China, Cuba, Denmark (also on behalf of Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco), Estonia⁶ (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden), India, Iraq,

Maldives⁶ (also on behalf of the Bahamas, Cuba, Fiji, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Samoa, Singapore and Timor-Leste), Marshall Islands⁶ (also on behalf of Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the Cook Islands and Niue), Nepal, Nigeria, Oman⁶ (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea⁶ (also on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Romania⁶ (on behalf of the European Union), Russian Federation⁶ (also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Serbia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe), South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)⁶ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Canada, Costa Rica, Georgia, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, State of Palestine, Sudan, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: FAO, UN-Women;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, African Agency for Integrated Development, African Development Association, African Regional Agricultural Credit Association, Afro-European Medical and Research Network, Alsalam Foundation, American Association of Jurists, Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, Asociación HazteOir.org, Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, Association for Progressive Communications, Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights, Association internationale pour l'égalité des femmes, Association of World Citizens, Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Association Points-Coeur, Caritas Internationalis, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Dominicans for Justice and Peace: Order of Preachers, International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, International-Lawyers.org, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, Mouvement international d'apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants, New Humanity, Passionists International and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations), Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, British Humanist Association, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Centre Europe-tiers monde, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, China Society for Human Rights Studies, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Conectas Direitos Humanos, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (also on behalf of Dominicans for Justice and Peace: Order of Preachers and Edmund Rice International), Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme,

Corporate Accountability International, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization, Edmund Rice International, Egyptian Organization for Human Rights, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute (also on behalf of Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims), European Centre for Law and Justice, European Union of Public Relations, FIAN International, France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Franciscans International, Godwin Osung International Foundation (The African Project), Human Rights Advocates, Human Rights Law Centre, Il Cenacolo, Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, Ingénieurs du Monde, Institute for Policy Studies, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Career Support Association, International Commission of Jurists, International Educational Development, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (also on behalf of Right Livelihood Award Foundation), International Muslim Women’s Union, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Amnesty International), International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, (also on behalf of European Youth Forum and Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco), International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, International-Lawyers.org, Iraqi Development Organization, Iuventum, Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Liberation, Observatoire mauritanien des droits de l’homme et de la démocratie, Ma’arij Foundation for Peace and Development, Make Mothers Matter (also on behalf of Graduate Women International), Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l’amitié entre les peuples, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Peace Brigades International Switzerland, Presse emblème campagne, Prevention Association of Social Harms, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l’homme, Servas International, Shivi Development Society, Sikh Human Rights Group, Society for Threatened Peoples, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment (also on behalf of Organization for Defending Victims of Violence), Soka Gakkai International (also on behalf of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Foundation for Gaia, Globethics.net Foundation, Graduate Women International, Instituto de Desenvolvimento e Direitos Humanos, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Council of Jewish Women, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, ONG Hope International, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Refugee Council of Australia, Teresian Association, and UPR Info), Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, Villages unis, VIVAT International, World Environment and Resources Council, World Evangelical Alliance, World Jewish Congress, World Muslim Congress, World Russian People’s Council.

186. At the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the Chair-Rapporteur of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights, with the mandate of elaborating an international legally binding instrument, Emilio Izquierdo, made his concluding remarks.

187. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the representatives of Brazil, Cuba, India and Pakistan made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

188. At the same meeting, the representatives of India and Pakistan made statements in exercise of the second right of reply.

189. At the 26th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the representative of China made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

G. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

The negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights

190. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.5, sponsored by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru). Subsequently, Chile, Honduras and Panama withdrew their original co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) and Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) joined the sponsors.

191. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made general comments on the draft resolution.

192. Also at same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil and Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

193. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay

Against:

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, Senegal

194. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 27 votes to 15, with 5 abstentions (resolution 40/3).

195. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Chile made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote. In his statement, the representative of Chile disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the draft resolution.

The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation

196. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.9, sponsored by Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States). Subsequently, Bangladesh, Ecuador, El Salvador, Indonesia and Maldives joined the sponsors.

197. At the same meeting, the representative of Tunisia (also on behalf of Egypt and Libya) made general comments on the draft resolution.

198. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

199. At the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and Japan made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

200. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Japan, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay

Against:

Japan, Ukraine

Abstaining:

Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Mexico, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

201. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 31 votes to 2, with 14 abstentions (resolution 40/4).

Elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport

202. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of South Africa introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.10/Rev.1, sponsored by South Africa and co-sponsored by Eswatini, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Algeria, Burundi, Canada, Ecuador, Iceland, India and Namibia joined the sponsors.

203. At the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.10/Rev.1 had been orally revised.

204. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and India made general comments on the draft resolution as orally revised.

205. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution as orally revised.

206. At the same meeting, the representative of Bahrain (also on behalf of Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen) made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote. In her statement, the representative of Bahrain (also on behalf of Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Togo, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen) disassociated the respective delegations from the consensus on the draft resolution.

207. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution as orally revised without a vote (resolution 40/5).

208. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Tunisia made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity

209. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.11, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Haiti, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Azerbaijan, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Norway,

Pakistan, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

210. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/6).

The right to food

211. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.12, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Egypt, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

212. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

213. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

214. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/7).

The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

215. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.13, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Egypt, Haiti, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Bahrain (on behalf of Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Greece, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, the Syrian Arab Republic and Viet Nam joined the sponsors.

216. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Iceland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

217. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay

Against:

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Bahamas, Iceland, Mexico, Peru

218. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 27 votes to 14, with 6 abstentions (resolution 40/8).

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law

219. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Romania (also on behalf of Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.14, sponsored by Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Romania and Tunisia and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Botswana, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Israel, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand and Timor-Leste joined the sponsors.

220. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Chile, Iceland and Tunisia made general comments on the draft resolution.

221. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/9).

Freedom of religion or belief

222. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Romania (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.17, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Honduras, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay. Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Israel, Japan, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Thailand joined the sponsors.

223. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

224. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/10).

225. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Tunisia made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development

226. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Norway introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1, sponsored by Norway and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Peru withdrew its original co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, the Bahamas, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Iceland, Indonesia, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and Timor-Leste joined the sponsors.

227. At the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1 had been orally revised.

228. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Council announced that amendment A/HRC/40/L.30 to draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1 as orally revised had been withdrawn by its sponsor.

229. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Egypt, Fiji, Iceland, Iraq, Tunisia and Uruguay made general comments on the draft resolution as orally revised.

230. At the same meeting, the representatives of China and Pakistan made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

231. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution as orally revised without a vote (resolution 40/11).

232. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representatives of Chile and Tunisia made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

233. At the 52nd meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of Portugal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.23, sponsored by Portugal and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Fiji, France, Greece, Haiti, Iraq, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Peru, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uruguay. Subsequently, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Mongolia, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Panama, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

234. At the same meeting, the representatives of Hungary, Italy and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote. In their statements, the representatives of Hungary and Italy disassociated the delegations from the consensus on the sixth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

235. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/12).

236. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representatives of Australia, Chile and Tunisia made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

Rights of the child: empowering children with disabilities for the enjoyment of their human rights, including through inclusive education

237. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representatives of Uruguay (on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and Romania (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.20/Rev.1, sponsored by Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and co-sponsored by Albania, Armenia, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Israel, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and the State of Palestine. Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Australia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Canada, Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland and Uganda joined the sponsors.

238. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/14).

Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

239. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representatives of Uruguay (on behalf of the group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and Romania (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.21, sponsored by Argentina, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and co-sponsored by Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Cabo Verde, Canada, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. Subsequently, Andorra, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Cuba, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Trinidad and Tobago joined the sponsors.

240. At the same meeting, the representative of Tunisia made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

241. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/15).

Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

242. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.29, sponsored by Mexico and co-sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Ecuador, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Maldives, Montenegro, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Tunisia and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

243. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Egypt (also on behalf of Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made general comments on the draft resolution.

244. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

245. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/16).

246. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Tunisia made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

IV. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

A. Enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Eritrea

247. At its 28th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to its resolution 38/15, an enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in Eritrea.

248. At the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the enhanced interactive dialogue, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

249. Also at the same meeting, the following made statements: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, Daniela Kravetz; Head of Delegation of Eritrea to the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council, Tesfamicael Gerahtu; the founder of the organization One Day Seyoum, Vanessa Berhe; the Head of Cooperation and International Relations of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students, Daniel Eyasu.

250. During the ensuing discussion, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, China, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Iceland, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Belgium, Djibouti, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Europe External Programme for Africa, Human Rights Watch, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Jubilee Campaign, Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights.

251. At the same meeting, on the same day, the presenters answered questions and made concluding remarks.

B. Interactive dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan

252. At the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2019, the Chair of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, Yasmin Sooka, presented the report of the Commission (A/HRC/40/69).

253. At the same meeting, members of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, Barney Afako and Andrew Clapham, made statements.

254. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Sudan made a statement as the State concerned.

255. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Chair and the members of the Commission questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Bulgaria, China, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Belgium, Botswana, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Human Rights Watch, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Lutheran World Federation, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

256. At the same meeting, the Chair and the members of the Commission answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

C. Interactive dialogue with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

257. At the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2019, the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 37/29, the report of the Commission (A/HRC/40/70).

258. At the 30th meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

259. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 29th and 30th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Chair and the members of the Commission of Inquiry questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Egypt, Finland⁶ (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Belgium, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UN-Women;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme, Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Palestinian Return Centre, Physicians for Human Rights, Union of Arab Jurists, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

260. At the 30th meeting, on the same day, the Chair and members of the Commission, Karen Koning Abuzayd and Hanny Megally, answered questions and made concluding remarks.

261. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2019, the representative of Lebanon made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

D. Interactive dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi

262. At the 30th meeting, on 12 March 2019, the Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, Doudou Diène, and the members of the Commission, Françoise Hampson and Lucy Asuagbor, gave an oral briefing, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 39/14.

263. At the same meeting, the representative of Burundi made a statement as the State concerned.

264. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the members of the Commission of Inquiry questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belgium, Chad, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Advocates for Human Rights, Article 19: International Centre Against Censorship, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Federation of ACAT (also on behalf of Centre pour les droits civils et politiques, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project and TRIAL International), International Service for Human Rights, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

265. At the same meeting, the members of the Commission of Inquiry answered questions and made concluding remarks.

E. Interactive dialogue with special procedure mandate holders

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

266. At the 26th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Yanghee Lee, presented her report (A/HRC/40/68).

267. At the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

268. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 26th and 27th meetings, on 11 March 2019, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Iceland, India, Iraq, Japan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Thailand⁶ (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, European Centre for Law and Justice, Human Rights Now, International Educational Development, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (also on behalf of International Service for Human Rights), Refugee Council of Australia.

269. At the 26th and 27th meetings, on 11 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

270. At the 27th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Tomás Ojea Quintana, presented his report (A/HRC/40/66) (by video message).

271. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechia, Iceland, Japan, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Human Rights Watch, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Bar Association, People for Successful Corean Reunification, World Jewish Congress.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

272. At the 27th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Javaid Rehman, presented his report (A/HRC/40/67).

273. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

274. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 27th and 28th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: China, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Iceland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Belgium, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Baha'i International Community, British Humanist Association, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims (also on behalf of Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Prevention Association of Social Harms, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment), Family Health Association of Iran, International Educational Development, International Federation of Journalists, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik.

275. At the 28th meeting, on 11 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

276. At the same meeting, the representative of Lebanon made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

277. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2019, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

F. General debate on agenda item 4

278. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2019, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 37/28, a report on the implementation of the recommendations made by the group of independent experts on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/HRC/40/36).

279. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2019, and at the 32nd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 4, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Austria, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru, Romania⁶ (on behalf of the European Union), Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)⁶ (also on behalf of Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)⁶ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Luxembourg, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sudan, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Advocates for Human Rights, Africa culture internationale, African Agency for Integrated Development, African Development Association, African Regional Agricultural Credit Association, Agence pour les droits de l'homme, Alsalam Foundation, American Association of Jurists (also on behalf of International Association of Democratic Lawyers), Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Amnesty International, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, Association Bharathi centre culturel franco-tamoul, Association Dunenyo, Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights, Association internationale pour l'égalité des femmes, Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi, Baha'i International Community, British Humanist Association, Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Africa Development and Progress, Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Child Foundation, China Society for Human Rights Studies, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Conectas Direitos Humanos (also on behalf of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Réseau international des droits humains and World Organization against Torture), Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme, Conselho Indigenista Missionário, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Coordination des associations et particuliers pour la liberté de conscience, "Coup de pousse" Chaîne de l'espoir Nord-Sud, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, Edmund Rice International, Ensemble contre la peine de mort, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, European Centre for Law and Justice, European Humanist Federation, European Union of Public Relations, Family Health Association of Iran (also on behalf of Child Foundation), France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Franciscans International (also on behalf of VIVAT International), GAHT-US Corporation, Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale, Godwin Osung International Foundation (The African Project), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Il Cenacolo, Imam Ali's Popular

Students Relief Society, Indian Council of Education, Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, Ingénieurs du monde, Institut international pour les droits et le développement, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Career Support Association, International Commission of Jurists, International Educational Development, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, International Muslim Women’s Union, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Service for Human Rights, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, International-Lawyers.org, Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, Iraqi Development Organization, Iuventum, Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada, Le pont, Liberation, Observatoire mauritanien des droits de l’homme et de la démocratie, Ma’arif Foundation for Peace and Development, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, Minority Rights Group, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l’amitié entre les peuples, National Association of Cuban Economists, National Union of Jurists of Cuba, Network of Women’s Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Peace Brigades International Switzerland, People for Successful Corean Reunification; Physicians for Human Rights, Prahar, Presse emblème campagne Prevention Association of Social Harms, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l’homme, Reporters sans frontières international, Réseau international des droits humains, Right Livelihood Award Foundation, Society for Threatened Peoples, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, Palestinian Return Centre, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, Villages unis, VIVAT International, Women’s Human Rights International Association, World Barua Organization, World Environment and Resources Council, World Evangelical Alliance, World Jewish Congress, World Muslim Congress.

280. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2019, the representatives of Bahrain, China, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Georgia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lebanon, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

281. At the same meeting, the representatives of India, Japan and Pakistan made statements in exercise of the second right of reply.

282. At the 32nd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the representatives of Brazil, China, Indonesia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Spain made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

G. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

283. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Qatar and Turkey) and Qatar introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.7, sponsored by France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, Qatar, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Montenegro, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine. Subsequently, Andorra, Botswana, Costa Rica, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

284. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Cuba, Iraq and Peru (also on behalf of Brazil, Mexico and Panama) made general comments on the draft resolution.

285. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

286. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

287. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Egypt and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

288. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

Against:

China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq

Abstaining:

Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia

289. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 28 votes to 5, with 14 abstentions (resolution 40/17).

290. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representatives of Chile and Eritrea made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

291. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Sweden (also on behalf of North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.15, sponsored by North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. Subsequently, Andorra, Costa Rica, Greece, New Zealand, San Marino and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

292. At the same meeting, the representative of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) made general comments on the draft resolution.

293. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

294. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

295. At the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, Cuba, Iraq, Pakistan and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

296. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Pakistan, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain,⁷ Bulgaria, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Against:

Afghanistan, China, Cuba, Eritrea, India, Iraq, Pakistan

Abstaining:

Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay

297. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 22 votes to 7, with 18 abstentions (resolution 40/18).

298. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Eritrea made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Situation of human rights in South Sudan

299. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.16/Rev.1, sponsored by Albania, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Subsequently, Andorra, Costa Rica, Czechia, El Salvador, France, Hungary, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

300. At the same meeting, the representative of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) made general comments on the draft resolution.

301. Also at the same meeting, the representative of South Sudan made a statement as the State concerned.

302. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

303. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote. In his statement, the representative of Egypt disassociated the delegation from the consensus on paragraphs 15 and 16 (b) of the draft resolution.

304. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/19).

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

305. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Romania (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.18, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Iceland, the Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine. Subsequently, Andorra, Botswana, Costa Rica, Honduras, Maldives, Monaco, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

⁷ The representative of Bahrain subsequently stated that there had been an error in the delegation's vote and that it had intended to abstain from voting.

306. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made general comments on the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of Cuba disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the draft resolution.

307. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

308. At the same meeting, the representative of China made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote. In his statement, the representative of China disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the draft resolution.

309. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/20).

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

310. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Romania (on behalf of the European Union) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.19, sponsored by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Costa Rica, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, San Marino, Turkey and Ukraine. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Andorra, Argentina, Jordan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Tunisia and the State of Palestine joined the sponsors.

311. At the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina and Bangladesh made general comments on the draft resolution.

312. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

313. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

314. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Egypt, Iraq, Japan and the Philippines made statements in explanation of vote before the vote. In his statement, the representative of Egypt disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the third, fourth, eighth and eleventh preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 5 and 6 of the draft resolution. In his statement, the representative of Iraq disassociated the delegation from the consensus on the eighth and eleventh preambular paragraphs and paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

315. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of China, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay

Against:

China, Cuba, Philippines

Abstaining:

Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Japan, Nepal, Senegal

316. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 37 votes to 3, with 7 abstentions (resolution 40/29).

317. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bahrain, Eritrea, India and Pakistan made statements in explanation of vote after the vote. In their statements, the representatives of Eritrea and Pakistan disassociated their delegations from the consensus on the eighth and eleventh preambular paragraphs and paragraph 5 of the draft resolution.

V. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

A. Forum on Minority Issues

318. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, presented the recommendations adopted by the Forum on Minority Issues at its eleventh session held on 29 and 30 November 2018 on the theme “Statelessness: a minority issue” (A/HRC/40/71).

B. Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law

319. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Martin Chungong, presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/41, the report of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law on its second session, held on 22 and 23 November 2018, which focused on the theme “Parliaments as promoters of human rights, democracy and the rule of law” (A/HRC/40/65).

C. Social Forum

320. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and Chair-Rapporteur of the 2018 Social Forum, Aliyar Lebbe Abdul Azeez, presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/28, the report containing conclusions and recommendations of the 2018 Social Forum held from 1 to 3 October 2018, which focused on the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them (A/HRC/40/72).

D. Special procedures

321. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, Dainius Pūras, presented the report on the twenty-fifth annual meeting of special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and chairs of working groups of the special procedures of the Council, held from 4 to 8 June 2018 (A/HRC/40/38 and Add.1) and the communications report of the special procedures (A/HRC/40/79).

E. General debate on agenda item 5

322. At its 34th meeting, on 13 March 2019, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 5, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), Austria, Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru), Cameroon, China, Cuba, India, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Portugal⁸ (also on behalf of Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Haiti, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Uruguay), Romania⁸ (also on behalf of Morocco, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea and Tunisia), Romania (on behalf of the European Union), Togo, Tunisia, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Luxembourg (also

⁸ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

on behalf of Belgium and the Netherlands), Maldives, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: International Development Law Organization;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli, Advocates for Human Rights, Africa culture internationale, African Green Foundation International, African Regional Agricultural Credit Association, Alliance Creative Community Project, Alsalam Foundation, American Association of Jurists, Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Amnesty International, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Association des jeunes pour l'agriculture du Mali, Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights, Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Africa Development and Progress, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, China Society for Human Rights Studies, Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Edmund Rice International, European Union of Public Relations, Human Rights Watch (also on behalf of International Service for Human Rights), Indian Council of South America, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", Ingénieurs du monde, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Career Support Association, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Muslim Women's Union, International Service for Human Rights, Iraqi Development Organization, Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Le pont, Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, Minority Rights Group, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, National Association of Cuban Economists, National Union of Jurists of Cuba, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Prahar, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Réseau international des droits humains, Sikh Human Rights Group, Solidarité agissante pour le développement familial, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, Villages unis, World Environment and Resources Council, World Jewish Congress, World Muslim Congress.

VI. Universal periodic review

323. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, Council decision 17/119 and President's statements PRST/8/1 and PRST/9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the thirty-first session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held from 5 to 16 November 2018.

324. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the President stated that all recommendations must be part of the final outcome of the universal periodic review and that, accordingly, the State under review should clearly communicate its position on all of the recommendations by indicating that it either "supports" or "notes" them.

A. Consideration of the universal periodic review outcomes

325. In accordance with paragraph 14 of President's statement PRST/8/1, the following section contains a summary of the views expressed on the outcome of the review by the State under review and by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council, as well as general comments made by other stakeholders before the adoption of the outcome by the Council in plenary session. The statements of the delegations or other stakeholders that were unable to deliver them owing to time constraints are posted, if available, on the extranet of the Council.⁹

Saudi Arabia

326. The review of Saudi Arabia was held on 5 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Saudi Arabia in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/SAU/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/SAU/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/SAU/3).

327. At its 35th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Saudi Arabia (see sect. C below).

328. The outcome of the review of Saudi Arabia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/4), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/4/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

329. The delegation stressed the cooperation of Saudi Arabia with the universal periodic review mechanism and noted that it had received 258 recommendations at the thirty-first session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Such recommendations

⁹ See <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/hrc/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/40thSession/Pages/default.aspx>.

were examined by a government committee composed of representatives of relevant government bodies and in consultation with a number of civil society organizations.

330. The delegation stated that Saudi Arabia had received a number of recommendations calling for its accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other human rights conventions, an issue which was of interest. The delegation also stated that the reservations made by Saudi Arabia to a number of conventions were not in conflict with the object and purpose of those conventions and that they were subject to periodic review by the authorities.

331. The delegation further stated that the Law on Combating Terrorist Crimes and its Financing, amending the previous law, had been promulgated on 1 November 2017 to promote criminal justice. The delegation demonstrated that the definitions set out in the Law were clear and specific to the extent that they should not adversely affect the rights and freedoms of individuals guaranteed by the laws of the country and its obligations under international human rights law.

332. The delegation made it clear that there were no secret prisons or detention centres in Saudi Arabia, that secret detention was prohibited under the country's laws and that the Public Prosecutor, the Human Rights Commission, the National Society for Human Rights and other relevant government bodies monitored prisons and detention centres.

333. The delegation highlighted the ongoing efforts of Saudi Arabia to disseminate a culture of human rights and education, and raising national capacities, based on the country's conviction that raising awareness of human rights at both the official and social levels was one of the fundamental pillars of the promotion and protection of human rights.

334. With regard to the recommendations made on the rights of women and children, the delegation pointed out that the domination exercised by some males over females, named in the recommendations as the "male guardianship system", was prohibited under the laws of the country, which protected women from such domination and from any powers that strengthened it. A woman who claimed to have been abused, he added, could have recourse to remedies, for which the judiciary was responsible at the highest level.

335. With regard to the recommendations made in relation to the rights of persons with disabilities, the delegation explained that Saudi Arabia fully believed in the right of this highly appreciated group to obtain further care and attention.

336. Commenting on recommendations related to the operations of the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen, the delegation stated that the Coalition was committed to the rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as explained in the national report. Saudi Arabia continued to provide all forms of support and assistance to the Yemeni people. The total amount of aid provided by Saudi Arabia to Yemen up to January 2019 amounted to more than US\$13 billion. The country had also contributed \$500 million at the donor conference held on 26 February 2019.

337. With regard to the death penalty and corporal punishment, the delegation stated that article 15 of the Juveniles Law stipulated that juveniles who had committed a crime punishable by death would be confined to a social institution for a period not exceeding 10 years.

338. The delegation made it clear that the laws of Saudi Arabia did not criminalize freedom of opinion and expression, the formation of societies or the carrying out of legal peaceful practices.

339. With regard to the recommendations made to Saudi Arabia on the subject of cooperation with the United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, including those of the Human Rights Council, the delegation affirmed that Saudi Arabia continued to cooperate with those bodies and mechanisms in order to contribute to achieving the objectives for which they had been established. The delegation noted that working with the special procedures should be in line with the cooperative nature of that mechanism.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

340. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Saudi Arabia, 13 delegations made statements.

341. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the acceptance of its recommendation on the investigation into the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and stated that it would continue to watch the process closely. It expressed disappointment over the refusal by Saudi Arabia to accept the recommendation on the use of the Specialized Criminal Court and was concerned that diplomats remained unable to observe trials, including the hearings of women's rights defenders. It welcomed the acceptance of its recommendation to strengthen protection for migrant workers and ensure options for legal redress for victims of trafficking. It remained concerned by the limits on fundamental freedoms, including the mass arrests of activists, journalists and academics, the increased use of terrorist courts for political dissidents and the continued use of the death penalty.

342. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the commitment of Saudi Arabia to upholding human rights and the progress made since the previous universal periodic review. It commended the Government for improving an environment where human rights could be guaranteed by enacting or amending legislation and for adopting measures for empowering Saudi women, including by granting them the right to vote and to stand as candidates for municipal councils. It further welcomed the fact that Saudi women were no longer required to obtain the approval of another person to access government services or carry out their business and that a number of them had been appointed to senior positions.

343. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the fact that the largest part of the budget had been allocated to teaching and training, providing free education and equal opportunities for all. It acknowledged the progress made in the empowerment of women, who were part of the Consultative Council and the Council of the Human Rights Commission and exercised their right to vote and to be candidates for municipal councils.

344. Yemen highlighted the efforts exerted by Saudi Arabia to improve the human rights situation, as was reflected by the numerous developments in the country over the recent past. It particularly commended the expansion of women's freedom and participation in public life and welcomed the acceptance by Saudi Arabia of a great number of recommendations in the context of the universal periodic review, which affirmed its commitment to protecting and promoting human rights. It further commended the multi-faceted support and assistance provided to Yemen.

345. Afghanistan noted with appreciation that Saudi Arabia had accepted all the recommendations it had made during the previous universal periodic review. It commended Saudi Arabia for its willingness to consider accession to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It commended Saudi Arabia for considering further amendments to the legal framework in compliance with international human rights standards.

346. Algeria welcomed the adoption of measures to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights. It took note of a large number of supported recommendations, including two it had made concerning human rights education and training: the sensitization of judges to the principles and values of human rights and the promotion of gender equality, the role of women in society and the fight against gender discrimination.

347. Bahrain commended the efforts, good work and valuable responses to the recommendations it had made during the universal periodic review, which confirmed the attention paid by Saudi Arabia to that important, positive and transparent mechanism. Bahrain commended the recent measures taken to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the establishment of the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology in cooperation with States and international organizations and the establishment of the Justice Training Centre, aimed at building the capacity and efficiency of judges and their assistants.

348. Bangladesh commended the constructive engagement of Saudi Arabia in the third cycle of the universal periodic review, its commitment to cooperating with the process and its willingness to continue advancing human rights causes within its national context. Bangladesh welcomed the adoption of Saudi Vision 2030, which had linked the country's policies and programmes to the promotion and protection of the rights of the vulnerable sections of its population, including women, children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Bangladesh appreciated the acceptance by Saudi Arabia of the majority of recommendations, including its own recommendations.

349. Belgium appreciated the acceptance of its two recommendations on the equality of women and men before the law and the release of all persons detained solely for the exercise of their rights of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and encouraged their implementation. It noted that the recommendation relating to the imposition of the death penalty on persons under the age of 18 at the time of the offence had been partially accepted, but questioned what that meant in terms of commitment. Belgium hoped that a national debate could be initiated to lay the foundations for a legal moratorium on and then complete abolition of the practice. It invited Saudi Arabia to reconsider its position on the recommendation to bring the Law on Associations and Foundations into compliance with international law and standards.

350. The Plurinational State of Bolivia highlighted the information provided on the institutional framework, including legislative amendments related to human rights, and appreciated the measures taken to deal with any criminal activity that could hamper the enjoyment of human rights, such as extremism, terrorism and corruption. It acknowledged many challenges, but stated that there was no doubt that the efforts made would lead to a positive synergy between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

351. Botswana commended Saudi Arabia on its promotion and protection of human rights, especially the advancement of women's rights, including the many decrees aimed at addressing inequalities between men and women. Notwithstanding that progress, Botswana recommended that Saudi Arabia step up its efforts to criminalize violence against women and address the issue of forced labour. It was satisfied with the update provided by Saudi Arabia and appreciated the acceptance of the two recommendations it had made.

352. Burkina Faso welcomed the efforts made by Saudi Arabia in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights. In that regard, it also welcomed the legislative reforms in the justice sector, the actions taken to combat violent extremism, terrorism and corruption and the strengthening of women's rights. It took note with interest that Saudi Arabia had accepted most of the recommendations it had received and urged that the necessary actions be taken for their effective implementation.

353. Burundi welcomed the measures taken by the Government of Saudi Arabia to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and encouraged it to continue its efforts in that regard. Burundi welcomed the policies adopted to adapt as much as possible to climate change, including the adoption of the national environment strategy. It also welcomed the reforms in the justice sector and the initiatives to better protect and promote the right to work.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

354. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Saudi Arabia, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

355. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues regretted that recommendations on the release of human rights defenders had not been accepted and called for the immediate and unconditional release of women human rights defenders. It condemned the rejection by the Government of key recommendations, including those aimed at protecting the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, urging it to repeal or reform excessively broad legislation that restricted fundamental rights. It noted the crackdown on peaceful dissidents, including journalists, activists and human rights defenders, often carried out in the name of preserving national unity and under counter-terrorism legislation. It also noted the non-cooperation with the investigation led by the United Nations into the killing of Jamal Khashoggi or with investigations into reports of

torture. It urged the Council to establish a monitoring mechanism over the human rights situation, in order to ensure accountability and genuine reforms.

356. The Right Livelihood Award Foundation called for the immediate release of detained human rights defenders and that they be allowed to exercise their fundamental rights. It stated that, despite the endorsement by Saudi Arabia of recommendations to eliminate barriers to freedom of expression, address the crackdown on human rights defenders and provide an enabling environment for the work of civil society, civic space remained virtually non-existent. It stated that the Specialized Criminal Court, originally established to investigate detainees held in connection with terrorism offences, was designed to prosecute individuals who called for progressive political reforms. It noted that Saudi Arabia had previously stated that it respected freedom of expression and association in a distortion of reality, as the imprisonment of activists was an indisputable practice, and called for the implementation of those recommendations that had been accepted.

357. The International Service for Human Rights, in a joint statement with CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, called upon the Saudi authorities to immediately and unconditionally release individuals detained for exercising their fundamental freedoms and drop all charges against them. The organizations regretted that recommendations calling for their release had been rejected, despite the fact that women human rights defenders had only been detained because they had demanded their right to exist equally with men and human rights defenders had been sentenced to hefty prison sentences solely for their legitimate defence of human rights. They urged revising the counter-terrorism and anti-cybercrime laws, but regretted that the Government of Saudi Arabia had rejected the recommendations made to amend the law on associations. They called upon Saudi Arabia to honour its obligations as a member of the Council, including by accepting the requests by special procedures for visits.

358. The British Humanist Association welcomed the recommendations from several States that Saudi Arabia should amend its legislation to guarantee freedom of religion, conscience and belief, and accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It stated that there was no freedom of religion or belief in Saudi Arabia and that the public practice of any religion or belief other than Islam was prohibited. Blasphemy and apostasy remained crimes, with the latter carrying the death penalty, including under the new anti-terrorism legislation, which defined atheism as terrorism. There had been minimal improvements in freedom of religion or belief and individuals who had expressed humanist beliefs or defended human rights faced imprisonment, lashes and capital punishment.

359. Human Rights Watch joined in urging the immediate release of all human rights defenders and stated that, while the ban on women driving had been abolished, other government-enforced guardian restrictions remained in place, including on travel. It urged Saudi Arabia to establish a moratorium on the death penalty. It regretted that Saudi Arabia had rejected a recommendation to fully cooperate with United Nations human rights mechanisms to investigate allegations of violations of international humanitarian law in Yemen. Since March 2015, the organization had documented about 90 apparently unlawful attacks by the Saudi-led coalition, some of which might amount to war crimes. Human Rights Watch urged Saudi Arabia to comply with human rights law, as it was a member of the Council, and to cooperate with the Council mechanisms. It urged the 36 States that had presented a joint statement to the Council on 7 March 2019 to ensure that stronger measures were put in place through a resolution.

360. The International Humanist and Ethical Union stated that women faced severe restrictions and discrimination in their daily lives, through the guardianship system, forced dress code and inequality under personal status law. It regretted the rejection by Saudi Arabia of the recommendation to withdraw its reservation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women giving precedence to sharia law. It welcomed the replacement of the 2014 anti-terrorism legislation with the 2017 version; however it was concerned about the broad definition of terrorism that encompassed peaceful dissent and protest. It was heartened to see that the new law no longer explicitly equated atheists with terrorists; however it stated that atheists might still persecuted for subversive speech, urging respect for freedom of religion and belief.

361. The Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims stated that international organizations had repeatedly accused Saudi Arabia of major human rights violations. It noted that the Saudi authorities continued to repress peaceful activists and harass writers, online commentators and others who exercised their right to freedom of expression. In addition, many human rights defenders had been detained or sentenced to death after unfair trials. The Institute called upon Saudi Arabia to fulfil its human rights obligations and respect freedom of expression, assembly and religion, carry out an accurate investigation of the war crimes committed by its forces in Yemen and hold those responsible to account.

362. Amnesty International called for immediate and unconditional release of human rights defenders who had been detained and were facing trial for their peaceful human rights work. It welcomed the acceptance of a number of recommendations, including the ratification of the two Covenants, but it was concerned by the authorities' persistent refusal to address the longstanding systemic discrimination against minorities, women and migrant workers. It regretted that the authorities had rejected recommendations to collaborate with and support the team of independent experts investigating the death of Jamal Khashoggi. It stated that the courts continued to impose death sentences and carry out executions following grossly unfair trials, including against individuals who were under 18 at the time of their offence, urging that Saudi Arabia immediately establish an official moratorium as a step towards abolishing the death penalty. It rejected the claim that freedom of expression and association were guaranteed under Saudi law and noted that no independent human rights organizations had been able to register under the Law on Associations. It noted the continued use of the new counter-terrorism law that negatively impacted individual freedoms and was used to prosecute human rights defenders. It called upon Saudi Arabia to end its systematic discrimination against women and abolish the male guardianship system.

363. The Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute stated that local non-governmental organizations had expressed concerns about the catastrophic situation of all civilians, especially children, in Yemen. It urged Saudi Arabia to ensure that humanitarian assistance reached all Yemenis, especially children, and that the basic human rights to food, clean water and medicine were guaranteed for all children without discrimination; that full protection of civil neighbourhoods against air strikes be guaranteed, so that the right to life and the right to health and education of the people, especially children, were protected; that all patients, including children, had access to medical care; and that loss of life owing to shortages of medicine or medical care was prevented.

364. The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence urged Saudi Arabia to guarantee a safe environment for the freedom of expression exercised by journalists and prevent their harassment, arbitrary arrest or murder; clarify how the country was going to guarantee an independent and accurate investigation into the murder of Jamal Khashoggi; and describe the steps taken for the establishment of a national human rights institution, in line with the accepted universal periodic review recommendations. It urged Saudi Arabia to amend the definition of terrorism in the counter-terrorism and cybercrime laws, so that they did not lead to the prosecution of women's rights defenders, non-violent human rights activists, political dissidents, religious and Shia minorities, and other persons merely for exercising their human rights. It urged Saudi Arabia to respect international humanitarian law and cooperate with the Human Rights Council mechanisms on Yemen.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

365. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 258 recommendations received, 182 had enjoyed the support of Saudi Arabia and 76 had been noted.

366. The head of the delegation of Saudi Arabia stated that legitimate peaceful practices were not criminalized but guaranteed by the law, as long as they were exercised in an objective context that did not prejudice national security, public order, public morals, public health, the rights and freedoms of others and other necessary restrictions stipulated in international human rights law. Thus, the claim that some persons had been arrested or detained for exercising their freedom of speech or defence of human rights was totally untrue. Further, such persons had been either arrested or detained owing to their being accused or

convicted of committing acts that were criminalized by the laws of the country and some of those acts were also prohibited under international human rights law.

367. In response to the allegations of torture and degrading treatment of some detainees and prisoners, the delegation stated that the laws of Saudi Arabia criminalized torture and degrading treatment in all forms and shapes. Thus, any person claiming to have been subjected to torture, degrading treatment or abuse of any of his rights guaranteed by the laws of the country, could, pursuant to such laws, have recourse to remedies, including to the Public Prosecutor, the Human Rights Commission, the National Society for Human Rights and other bodies. In addition, a person who claimed to have been subjected to torture or degrading treatment would have recourse to the judiciary.

368. Finally, the head of the delegation stressed that Saudi Arabia would work to implement the recommendations that it supported. He looked forward to the Human Rights Council achieving its goals in an atmosphere of cooperation, understanding and dialogue based on the principles of respecting the sovereignty of States and national and regional characteristics.

Senegal

369. The review of Senegal was held on 5 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Senegal in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/SEN/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/SEN/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/SEN/3).

370. At its 35th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Senegal (see sect. C below).

371. The outcome of the review of Senegal comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/5), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session.

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

372. The delegation of Senegal reiterated the importance it gave to the mandate of the universal periodic review as a unique peer review. It thanked the secretariat and the troika for their support and the organization of its universal periodic review.

373. The delegation highlighted the steps taken by Senegal to implement the recommendations it had accepted. It stated that after the Working Group session and upon its return to Dakar, the delegation had met with members of the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and members of civil society, partners in the development sector, the national human rights institutions and other stakeholders in the field of human rights and media.

374. The main objectives of the meeting were to inform all State and non-State actors about the purpose and challenges of the universal periodic review, the interactive dialogue held by the Working Group and the importance of the implementation of the recommendations that had been accepted, in view of the international commitments undertaken by Senegal. All actors were also informed of the new prospects as the fourth universal periodic review of

Senegal was approaching and the necessity of adopting an inclusive process involving all stakeholders for better promotion and protection of human rights.

375. That meeting had been very fruitful and subsequently the National Advisory Council on Human Rights and International Law (national mechanism for reporting and follow-up) had begun clustering all the universal periodic review recommendations thematically, as well as those stemming from the treaty bodies. That process had allowed Senegal to identify priority areas for better planning and implementation of recommendations in advance of the fourth universal periodic review cycle.

376. The Government of Senegal was aware of the challenges ahead and hoped to overcome them in order to respect human rights values as the best guarantors for the rule of law and strong and lasting peace and democracy. In that context and based on its experience of the previous cycles, Senegal had already undertaken a drastic reorganization of its national mechanism for reporting of and follow-up to the recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms, with a view to better cooperation and more efficient follow-up. That reform process had allowed Senegal to resolve delays in reporting to treaty bodies in 2018.

377. The delegation stressed that Senegal would spare no effort to continue the momentum for better respect of human rights throughout the world. The respect for its commitments to the main legal human rights instruments had enabled Senegal to have a clear consciousness of its obligation to implement recommendations and report the progress achieved at the next universal periodic review cycle.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

378. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Senegal, 13 delegations made statements.

379. Iraq expressed its acknowledgement of the situation of human rights in the country. It wished to express its appreciation for the acceptance of the recommendations it had proposed to Senegal and hoped for the implementation of all the recommendations according to the provisions of the report. Finally, it commended the Human Rights Council mechanism and recommended the adoption of the report.

380. Lesotho applauded Senegal for accepting most of the constructive recommendations it had received. It noted with appreciation the measures taken by Senegal to cooperate with international human rights mechanisms through, *inter alia*, reports and extending invitations to and receiving special procedure mandate holders. Lesotho further welcomed the measures taken to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities through policies and programmes aimed at rehabilitating persons with disabilities. Finally, it encouraged Senegal to consider ratifying all outstanding human rights instruments.

381. Madagascar noted with satisfaction the measures taken by Senegal to combat torture and ill-treatment, the reduction of prison overcrowding and the universal access to health services and drinking water. Madagascar strongly encouraged Senegal to pursue its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights.

382. Mali commended Senegal for its good cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism. It appreciated the measures taken to combat torture and ill-treatment, the reduction in prison overcrowding and the improvement in standards for persons deprived of their liberty. Mali welcomed the reform of the constitutional law on the inviolability of the provisions relating to the electoral method and the duration and number of mandates of the President of the Republic.

383. Mauritania commended Senegal for its full adherence to the universal periodic review mechanism. It welcomed the progress made by Senegal, particularly regarding the rights of children, the rights of detainees and the rights of persons with disabilities. Mauritania acknowledged the acceptance by Senegal of the recommendation aimed at capacity-building of the national human rights institutions. It urged the Human Rights Council to adopt the outcome report.

384. Namibia congratulated Senegal on its peaceful and successful national elections, and for undergoing a fruitful third cycle of the universal periodic review and its outcome report. It further commended Senegal for its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and encouraged the country to continue making further progress in that regard. Namibia supported the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the outcome report.

385. Nigeria commended Senegal for its strong commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and its cooperation with the universal periodic review process, as well as other human rights mechanisms. It noted with great satisfaction the measures adopted by Senegal to combat torture and ill-treatment and the reduction in prison overcrowding. Finally, Nigeria recommended the adoption of the report for Senegal.

386. Oman congratulated Senegal on its achievements in the field of human rights, as well as the measures adopted during the third cycle of the universal periodic review. It commended the delegation of Senegal for its positive interaction during the review and acceptance of the recommendations it had proposed. Oman recommended the adoption of the final report by the Human Rights Council.

387. Pakistan commended Senegal for accepting most of the recommendations, including those presented by Pakistan. It welcomed the recent positive developments in Senegal with an emphasis on the empowerment of women, gender equality and the elimination of gender-based violence. Pakistan also acknowledged particular efforts to enhance the capacity of the Senegalese Human Rights Committee, the National Observatory of Places of Deprivation of Liberty, the National Unit to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the National Observatory on Gender Parity.

388. The Philippines acknowledged the positive approach of Senegal with respect to the universal periodic review process. It also acknowledged the commitment of Senegal in its efforts to further advance human rights promotion and protection. The emphasis had been put on the fight against trafficking in persons and the determination of the Government to address violence against women and children, as well as gender-based violence in schools. The Philippines endorsed the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the outcome for Senegal.

389. The Russian Federation welcomed the review of Senegal under the third universal periodic review cycle. It further noted the success achieved by the Government in promoting and protecting human rights and its willingness to cooperate with the universal mechanisms of international monitoring of human rights. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction the support of Senegal for the majority of the recommendations made and looked forward to their effective implementation.

390. Sierra Leone congratulated Senegal for the peaceful and successful completion of its recent national elections. It noted with great appreciation that all the recommendations it had presented to Senegal had enjoyed support. In that respect, Sierra Leone applauded the ongoing efforts to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights within national legal frameworks and noted the continuing commitment of Senegal to the human rights education and training being provided to schools, police and prison services.

391. The Sudan commended the efforts made by Senegal in the framework of the promotion and protection of human rights within the period covered by the report. It further commended Senegal for its acceptance of the recommendations submitted during the universal periodic review, especially those regarding the improvement of human rights mechanisms, the adaptation of national laws to international instruments and the strengthening of government authorities in the field of human rights and human rights institutions.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

392. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Senegal, seven other stakeholders made statements.

393. The International Service for Human Rights noted with regret that no concrete action had been taken on the 2013 recommendations on the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and the rights of human rights defenders and journalists. It

expressed concerns regarding bans on demonstrations and impediments to the work of non-governmental organizations. In the wake of those observations, it was deeply concerned about the strategy of the Government that limited the civic space, including arbitrary arrest and detention for a short period of time of political opponents, citizens and human rights defenders, which created a climate of fear and self-censorship. In the 2017 Press Code, sentences had been increased, despite several public statements made by the President of the Republic. The organization expressed its concerns about the repression of press offences.

394. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation welcomed the acceptance by Senegal of several recommendations on civic space. It noted with concern the limitations on freedom of expression in several and diverse cases by restrictive provisions contained in the 2017 Press Code and the Criminal Code. Offences under the Press Code were still criminalized and could lead to long prison sentences and heavy fines; the neutrality of the Internet was being endangered, which could have grave implications for freedom of expression; several cases of arbitrary bans on demonstrations by civil society organizations and opposition parties had been noted; and in some cases excessive use of force had been used against protesters. In May 2018, one student had been killed in demonstrations in Saint-Louis and recently acts of intimidation had been used against some non-governmental organizations. The organization encouraged Senegal to take proactive measures to resolve those concerns.

395. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme welcomed the efforts made by Senegal to implement the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It expressed concerns regarding the increasing restriction on civic space. It also observed with great concern the situation of children begging in the streets, with around 30,000 Talibes children accounted for in Dakar alone. It also referred to the overcrowding in prisons. It mentioned the untimely arrest of opponents and the violence exerted by the police against demonstrators and therefore urged Senegal to engage in an inclusive dialogue with the opposition while respecting the public freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. The organization also called upon Senegal to comply with its international commitments as regards the protection of children and to apply its own laws.

396. Amnesty International welcomed the commitment expressed by Senegal to take measures to protect the right to freedom of expression, including by decriminalizing press offences, however that commitment was being undermined by the rejection by the Government of one of the recommendations made. Amnesty International emphasized that Senegal had shown little tolerance for dissent during the elections, with several opposition supporters being arrested in the aftermath. It expressed further concerns about the authorities hindering pro-democracy organizations ahead of the elections. It deeply regretted the rejection by Senegal of all recommendations relating to sexual orientation and gender identity, abortion, marital rape and the discriminatory provisions of the Family Code. It noted with concern that Senegal had failed to implement many of the recommendations it had accepted during the previous universal periodic review cycle and urged the country to take action to promptly implement the recommendations it had accepted.

397. Action Canada for Population and Development commended Senegal for accepting recommendations to improve access for adolescents and young people to sexual and reproductive health services. On the issue of discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, it urged Senegal to take steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence and ensure respect for the fundamental freedoms of all citizens. Maternal mortality remained high in Senegal, resulting from unsafe abortions. In that respect, it noted with encouragement the acceptance by Senegal to align its national legislation with the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and called upon the Government to align the regulatory framework with article 14 of the Protocol to increase the conditions for access to abortion.

398. The Association of World Citizens commended Senegal for taking steps towards abolishing the death penalty. It also welcomed the acceptance of recommendations regarding the elimination of child marriage and female genital mutilation. In that regard, it expressed its wish for the minimum age of marriage to be raised to 18 for females and for that part of the current law that allows for judicial discretion in permitting underage marriages to be removed. It stated that polygamy, which is part of the marriage law, must be eliminated.

Finally, it noted with regret that Senegal had not supported the recommendations regarding the combat against discrimination and violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as those for the legal and safe access of women to voluntary termination of pregnancy.

399. Solidarité Suisse-Guinée highlighted the progress made by Senegal in the field of human rights and commended the adoption of the 2017 Constitution, which contained several positive reforms, *inter alia* for the length and number of presidential mandates, for the better sharing of natural resources and land and for parliamentary reform on monitoring government policies. It commended Senegal for having taken measures towards gender parity pursuant to the second national strategy. It also welcomed several measures that had a major social significance, including the setting up of universal medical care and the measures intended to support the most vulnerable groups. It encouraged Senegal to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the protection of human rights.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

400. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 257 recommendations received, 229 had enjoyed the support of Senegal and 28 had been noted.

401. Senegal thanked all the intervening States and those who had congratulated it on its efforts in the human rights field and their encouragement to continue along that path. Inclined to defend values such as peace, social harmony, tolerance and mutual respect, after the recent elections in February 2019, the highest authorities in Senegal had expressed their wish to begin a constructive dialogue with all political actors to deepen the democratic process to build a strong and unified country committed to peace.

402. Senegal highlighted important initiatives, notably in economic and social rights with the adoption of the national strategy for economic and social development, universal medical care for all and the national programme of scholarships.

403. Other key measures related to persons with disabilities and the upcoming report to be presented to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the improvements in prison conditions, access to health-care services, the right to education, freedom of the press and the promotion and protection of women's rights, including reform of the nationality code and the law on gender parity in institutions. The same applied to the protection of children's rights, in particular the situation of street children, the fight against human trafficking and the right to peaceful assembly guaranteed under the Constitution.

404. Senegal concluded by thanking members of the Human Rights Council, the troika, the secretariat of the universal periodic review, non-governmental organizations, the national human rights institutions, the interpreters and the security services.

405. It reiterated its commitment to the universal periodic review. It was convinced that human rights were the pillars of cohesion, stability and social peace and counted on the support from its partners and fraternal countries to develop a true culture of human rights.

Congo

406. The review of the Congo was held on 14 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Congo in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/COG/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/COG/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/COG/3).

407. At its 35th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Congo (see sect. C below).

408. The outcome of the review of the Congo comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/16), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/16/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

409. The delegation of the Congo reaffirmed its commitment and willingness to collaborate constructively with the universal periodic review as well as with other international and regional mechanisms, with a view to achieving a steady and sustained improvement in the situation of human rights in its territory.

410. The Congo had carefully examined the 194 recommendations that had been made during the third cycle of the universal periodic review. It had ultimately supported 188 recommendations and noted 6.

411. The Interministerial Committee for the Follow-up of Cooperation with International and Regional Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights had coordinated the process of preparing the responses to the recommendations (A/HRC/40/16/Add.1). The contributions of civil society, as well as those of the National Commission for Human Rights, had been studied carefully and been taken into consideration.

412. The Congo had supported three categories of recommendations: those it had approved in general, but also in terms of their specific content; those it had already implemented; and those that were being implemented in accordance with the country's international obligations and commitments in the field of human rights. The acceptance of the recommendations demonstrated, on the one hand, the firm commitment of the Congo to new measures and, on the other hand, the unequivocal maintenance of the measures already in place, as well as the resolute pursuit of the measures in progress.

413. With regard to the recommendations noted, specifically the recommendation in paragraph 130.27 of the report of the Working Group, the Congo considered that its collaboration with the mechanisms established under the special procedures system was fruitful. The visit of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples in November 2010 and the visit of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in September/October 2011 constituted evidence of the willingness of the Government to uphold its international obligations in the field of human rights. Moreover, in support of government efforts to clarify allegations of human rights violations, an OHCHR delegation undertook two fact-finding missions to assess the general situation of human rights in the country in June/July 2016 and in September 2017. As a result, in view of its policy of open collaboration with special procedure mechanisms, the Congo considered that the recommendation in paragraph 130.27 could not be supported.

414. Similarly, the Congo could not support the recommendation in paragraph 130.94 of the report on the repeal of the adultery laws. The penal repression of social behaviour took into account, to a large extent, the collective social disapproval that such behaviour aroused and this was precisely the case of adultery. During the debates on the revision of the Family Code and the Penal Code, the idea of repealing adultery laws had been unanimously rejected.

415. With regard to the recommendation in paragraph 130.97 on crimes related to the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, the Congo stated that all forms of censorship had been abolished. The Constitution guaranteed to all citizens free expression and free dissemination of their ideas and opinions. Congolese electoral laws and freedom of communication laws did not contain any provisions prohibiting freedom of opinion and violations of freedom of communication laws were rarely the subject of criminal proceedings against media and media workers.

416. The Congo considered the recommendations in paragraphs 130.61 and 130.62 relating to acts of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity as totally inappropriate and had therefore noted them. Congolese society as a whole actually showed tolerance towards people claiming to be members of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender communities. There was no legal or regulatory provision that discriminated against those communities, whose members participated without discrimination in sex education activities organized by the public authorities or civil society, and were actively involved in the development of projects and programmes relating to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

417. The recommendation in paragraph 130.92 inviting the Congo to set up an independent commission of justice, truth and reconciliation to shed light on the events in the Pool Department was also noted. Following the above-mentioned OHCHR missions to assess the general human rights situation, the Congo had benefited from technical support provided by OHCHR for the establishment of an independent national commission of inquiry. That body would clarify all allegations of human rights violations in times of crisis, during the referendum period for the new Constitution in 2015 and after the 2016 presidential elections. The draft decree establishing the commission was being signed. Its establishment and functioning would be guided by the United Nations principles of independence and impartiality. In the circumstances, the establishment of a competing commission could not be justified.

418. Making reference to the recommendations it had supported, the Congo stated that the day after its review for the third cycle of the universal periodic review, it had initiated draft laws and decrees ratifying the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

419. At the seventh World Congress on the Abolition of the Death Penalty, held in Brussels from 27 February to 1 March 2019, the Congo had committed itself to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. By this act, the Congo had resolutely embarked on the path of non-return to capital punishment, already abolished under the Constitution of October 2015.

420. Furthermore, with a view to strengthening the national institutional framework, the members of the National Human Rights Commission had elected their officers in January 2019.

421. On 16 January 2019, the Network of Women Leaders, Congo branch, was launched with the support of UN-Women and the participation of women from several socioeconomic and cultural categories from urban and rural areas. Progress had also been made in the area of women's economic empowerment. Two draft laws were being adopted: the first establishing a national fund for support for employability and learning and the second creating a fund for promoting, guaranteeing and supporting very small, small and medium-sized businesses.

422. Reaffirming its loyalty to the fight for the promotion of universal values related to human rights, a condition sine qua non for the advent of a more just, more generous and more fraternal society, the Congo committed itself to submitting a mid-term report by 2021. It also undertook to share good practices with other States, to actively promote the mechanism of the universal periodic review and to seek technical support from its partners, as needed.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council and by United Nations entities on the outcome of the review

423. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Congo, 13 delegations made statements.

424. The Sudan noted that the Congo had supported the large majority of the recommendations it had received, and particularly those made by the Sudan. It urged the Human Rights Council to adopt the outcome report.

425. Togo commended the Congo for abolishing the death penalty under the 2015 Constitution and for accepting a huge number of recommendations made at its review in November 2018, especially those made by Togo on health and education and on the

ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

426. Tunisia welcomed the efforts of the Congo to strengthen human rights, especially women's rights, and to combat violence against women. Tunisia called upon the Human Rights Council to adopt the final report.

427. The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) commended the Government of the Congo for its commitment to equal rights for all and the prohibition of all forms of discrimination, as contained in its 2015 Constitution. It noted the adoption, in May 2018, of a national action plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and the implementation since 2017 of a project for the prevention of gender-based violence by the National Police, in partnership with the Fund.

428. The United Republic of Tanzania acknowledged the efforts of the Congo for the improvement of its normative framework by, *inter alia*, amending a number of codes in order to harmonize its national legislation with its international human rights obligations. It congratulated the Congo for ensuring the right to education and equal access to instruction and training for all Congolese children.

429. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued the creation of a body for the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. It urged the Congo to continue strengthening social programmes in favour of the poorest sectors of the society, in compliance with its 2015 Constitution, based on equality, fraternity and solidarity.

430. Afghanistan appreciated the efforts of the Congo to ensure access to inclusive education for all children, including those belonging to vulnerable groups, and to reform its national legal framework in compliance with international human rights standards. It recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the final report.

431. Algeria welcomed the action by the Congo for the harmonization of its national legislation with the international human rights instruments it had ratified. It also noted that the Congo had supported the large majority of the recommendations it had received and particularly two recommendations made by Algeria on violence against women and children. It recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the final report.

432. Angola encouraged the Congo to pursue its gender-based awareness campaigns and workshops aimed at the empowerment of women. It hoped that the "Path to Development" would be a cornerstone to strengthen economic, social and cultural rights in the Congo, as foreseen in the national development plan for the period 2018–2022.

433. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized the significant project for the revision of various codes to harmonize the national legislation of the Congo with the international human rights instruments rights it had ratified. It congratulated the Congo for having carefully examined, with the active participation of various ministries, and accepted 188 of the 194 recommendations that had been made to it, including those of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

434. Botswana urged the Congo to reinforce its institutional capacities to detect, investigate and prosecute corruption effectively, and to protect vulnerable children from discrimination, especially children with albinism. Botswana supported the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the final report.

435. Burkina Faso appreciated the commitment of the Congo to implementing the recommendations accepted under the second cycle of the universal periodic review, in particular the legislative reforms undertaken to bring its national legislation into line with international conventions. It also appreciated the commitment of the Congo to combating gender-based violence and the protection of children against economic and social exploitation.

436. Burundi welcomed the measures taken by the Congo to improve the rights of persons with disabilities, to reduce poverty and increase the quality of life of people through its national development plan for the period 2018–2022. It also praised the initiatives aimed at the progress of the rights of women and children, particularly those related to the decrease in

maternal and child mortality. It requested the Human Rights Council to adopt, by consensus, the final report.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

437. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Congo, six other stakeholders made statements.

438. Association pour les droits de l'homme et l'univers carcéral noted that the Congo had made significant progress in the promotion and protection of human rights since its previous universal periodic review in 2013, including the ratification of several international human rights instruments. It had also established a framework for dialogue and consultation between the Justice Ministry, the Government and human rights organizations, had adopted Law No. 5-2011 protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and had resolved the hostage situation in the Pool region. It welcomed the acceptance by the Congo of 188 recommendations, but regretted the absence of recommendations on corporate social responsibility. Finally, it found that there remained issues related to domesticating international instruments, publicizing the new legal codes, detention conditions and access to justice.

439. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, in a joint statement with the International Lesbian and Gay Association acknowledged the recommendations to the Government of the Congo regarding the protection of individuals against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, which had been noted by the Government. The organizations welcomed the inclusion of a development policy against HIV, which included lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, but expressed the need for more to be done with regard to HIV and also to combat violence and discrimination against Congolese lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. Finally, they called upon the Government to change its position on article 331 of the Penal Code.

440. Fondation d'Auteuil thanked the Congo for accepting all the recommendations on the rights of the child. It welcomed the determination shown to work with civil society, particularly the Social Affairs Ministry, the Justice and Communications Ministry and the juvenile court. It also noted with satisfaction the fact that the rights of people with disabilities had been taken into account, especially children. It encouraged the Congo to take specific measures for minors in prison and drew attention to a number of decrees to protect children, which had not yet been signed.

441. Amnesty International welcomed the acceptance by the Congo of recommendations to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and urged it to immediately take steps to implement the recommendations. It expressed concern over the use of torture and other ill-treatment in detention facilities and restrictions to freedom of expression. It regretted that the Congo had rejected the recommendation to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners arrested for peaceful assembly and asked the Congo to reconsider its decision.

442. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme noted that the Congo had accepted most recommendations under the two previous universal periodic review cycles, but it was concerned that the recommendations had unfortunately not produced significant results regarding the improvement of human rights in the country. It expressed alarm at the humanitarian crisis in the Pool region and invited the Congo to cooperate with the Human Rights Council mechanisms to set up a commission of inquiry in order to prosecute the main perpetrators of alleged human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law. Finally, it encouraged the Congo to counter ethnocentrism, the culture of impunity, prison overpopulation, torture and the ill-treatment of women.

443. The Association of World Citizens congratulated the Congo on its acceptance of 188 of the 194 recommendations made, including, in particular, the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. It expressed regret over the practices of polygamy and payment of a bride price, which were not prohibited under Congolese law. It called attention to the importance of special national programmes, budgets and broad education on gender-based violence, and noted the importance of bringing the perpetrators of sexual violence to justice.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

444. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, of 194 recommendations received, 188 had enjoyed the support of the Congo and 6 had been noted.

445. The delegation of the Congo thanked all the members and observers of the Human Rights Council and stakeholders that had participated in its universal periodic review.

Nigeria

446. The review of Nigeria was held on 6 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Nigeria in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/NGA/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/NGA/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/NGA/3).

447. At its 35th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Nigeria (see sect. C below).

448. The outcome of the review of Nigeria comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/7), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/7/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

449. The delegation, headed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Mustapha Lawal Sulaiman, reaffirmed the commitment of Nigeria to the universal periodic review mechanism and the international human rights treaties to which Nigeria was a party. The Government of Nigeria would continue to partner and collaborate with the Human Rights Council and the United Nations human rights mechanisms to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights of the citizens of Nigeria.

450. The delegation stated that, during the universal periodic review, 290 recommendations had been made to Nigeria and, as reflected in its response (A/HRC/40/7/Add.1), it had supported 230 recommendations and had noted 60. Since the submission of its response and following further consultations, an additional 10 recommendations identified in paragraphs 148.33, 148.34, 148.61, 148.69, 148.181, 148.182, 148.183, 148.274, 148.276 and 148.287 of the report of the Working Group had been supported. The acceptance of 240 recommendations was borne out of the strong desire of Nigeria to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and to give effect to its obligations under the international human rights treaties to which it was a party. The relevant government ministries, departments and agencies were processing the supported recommendations with the objective of commencing the necessary steps to implement them.

451. Recommendations relating to the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had been noted. However, efforts were continuing between the Federal Government and the state governments to formalize the prevailing voluntary moratorium on the death penalty.

452. Recommendations relating to same-sex marriage and sexual orientation had been noted. The Marriage Act defined marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman. Christianity and Islam, which were the major religions in Nigeria, also recognized marriage as a relationship between a man and a woman. The Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act did not detract from the fundamental human rights of any person and there was no basis for alleging any discrimination.

453. The case of Ibrahim El Zakzaky was guided strictly by the legal process and there had been no interference by the Government. He was standing trial for multiple allegations of murder. The Government was bound to accept the outcome of the trial.

454. In relation to the recommendation in paragraph 148.9 of the report of the Working Group, Nigeria was not obliged to adhere to international human rights instruments to which it was not a party. Nigeria supported those aspects of the recommendation that related to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). Nigeria had ratified the Kampala Convention and a bill to domesticate it was currently before the National Assembly.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council and by United Nations entities on the outcome of the review

455. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Nigeria, 13 delegations made statements.

456. Libya commended Nigeria for the efforts made to implement the supported recommendations from the previous review and for its commitment to implementing the international human rights conventions. It welcomed the revision of relevant legislation relating to the rights of the child.

457. Madagascar welcomed the determination of the Nigerian authorities to overcome the remaining difficulties in improving the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. It also welcomed the adoption of the law prohibiting law enforcement officials from using torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and for punishing the perpetrators. Madagascar encouraged Nigeria to continue to strengthen its efforts to ensure respect for human rights and to consolidate the rule of law in the country.

458. Mauritania congratulated Nigeria for the policies implemented within the framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. It commended Nigeria for its efforts in adopting a plan for economic recovery and growth revival and the implementation of capacity-building programmes.

459. Namibia commended the significant achievements made by Nigeria, including its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms. It noted that the federal and state elections had been held peacefully and encouraged Nigeria to continue to address the challenges experienced during the elections through peaceful means within the national legislative framework and without external interference.

460. UNHCR welcomed the support of Nigeria for recommendations calling for action to ensure the protection of internally displaced women and children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. It acknowledged the efforts made by Nigeria to domesticate the Kampala Convention. It commended Nigeria for undertaking to facilitate the equal political participation of internally displaced persons and for ensuring that internally displaced children had access to education. UNHCR appreciated the commitment made by Nigeria to reduce the risk of statelessness and reaffirmed its readiness to assist Nigeria in implementing recommendations from the universal periodic review.

461. Oman commended Nigeria for the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights and for the methodology employed for the implementation of recommendations from the universal periodic review mechanism. It congratulated Nigeria for supporting the recommendations made by Oman.

462. Pakistan commended Nigeria for supporting the majority of the recommendations, including those made by Pakistan. It welcomed the recent positive developments to improve the justice system and appreciated the establishment of the National Working Group on human rights treaty reporting which would report to the treaty bodies and monitor the implementation of supported recommendations.

463. The Philippines thanked Nigeria for supporting the recommendation it had made on the protection of women and children in crisis-affected areas and for the implementation of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act. It noted that Nigeria had given priority to security, counter-terrorism and insurgency, combating trafficking in persons, enhancing engagement with the human rights mechanisms and further upholding the rights of children, women, girls and persons with disabilities. The Philippines recognized the continued efforts made by Nigeria to further promote and protect human rights.

464. Saudi Arabia stated that the statement made by Nigeria reflected a spirit of cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms. It appreciated the many efforts to promote and protect human rights. It particularly appreciated the continued cooperation of Nigeria, which was evident from the efforts that had been made to implement policies and laws on human rights.

465. Senegal welcomed the measures taken by Nigeria to implement the 172 recommendations from the previous review. The concrete initiatives taken by Nigeria to improve the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms had led to the signing of international commitments, as well as institutional and normative measures. The efforts of the Nigerian authorities in the field of human rights were visible in a number of areas, including social and economic empowerment, the promotion of health, poverty eradication and access to education.

466. Serbia noted with appreciation the efforts made by Nigeria to promote fundamental human rights. It stated that Nigeria had supported the majority of the recommendations, including those made by Serbia. Serbia wished Nigeria success in implementing the recommendations it had supported.

467. Sierra Leone congratulated Nigeria on the recent presidential elections. It noted that a national policy framework and action plan on preventing and countering violent extremism and a national action plan on business and human rights were in the process of being developed. It also noted that women's participation in parliament at the national level had been set at 35 per cent. It encouraged Nigeria to continue to strengthen efforts aimed at realizing its human rights obligations and commitments and wished Nigeria success in implementing the recommendations it had supported.

468. The Sudan valued the efforts of Nigeria to promote and protect human rights. Nigeria had supported a large number of recommendations, including those made by the Sudan. It expressed the hope that Nigeria would be successful in its efforts to implement those recommendations.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

469. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Nigeria, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

470. Edmund Rice International noted that since 2017, many people had either been killed or displaced because of clashes between herdsmen and tribal groupings, affecting women and children. It called upon Nigeria to adopt a comprehensive approach to the security situation by ensuring that perpetrators were brought to justice and that the rules of engagement for the security forces took full account of human rights. It also called for the domestication and enforcement of the Child Rights Act in all 36 states, along with anti-trafficking laws.

471. The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom welcomed the fact that Nigeria had supported the recommendations to address gender-based violence. It stated that women had continued to experience persistent discrimination in the public and political spheres, with the electoral system impeding the political participation of women. It called upon Nigeria to ensure the adoption of legislation on temporary measures aimed at increasing

women's participation in political and public life and especially in areas where women were underrepresented and disadvantaged; conduct awareness-raising campaigns; and support networks of women in governmental and non-governmental groups.

472. Christian Solidarity Worldwide stated that Boko Haram continued to be responsible for attacks, displacement and abductions and urged Nigeria to do everything in its power to expedite the release of Leah Sharibu, Alice Ngaddah and all other abductees. It called upon Nigeria to combat impunity by implementing the recommendations it had supported and urged the international community to ensure that those commitments were honoured, offering assistance when necessary. It noted that in sharia states the education of underage non-Muslim girls was often cut short by abduction, forcible conversion and forced marriage and called upon Nigeria to address that problem.

473. The International Humanist and Ethical Union stated that it had been saddened by the comments of the Nigerian delegation on same-sex relationships. The rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were trampled by the same-sex prohibition act. It stated that those who did not subscribe to the majority religions of Christianity and Islam suffered discrimination. It urged Nigeria to reconsider its rejection of the recommendation to protect the rights to freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly for all Nigerians, regardless of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

474. Human Rights Watch documented systematic human rights abuses by Boko Haram and government security forces, including arbitrary arrests, torture, enforced disappearances, unlawful killings and extrajudicial executions. It welcomed the acceptance by Nigeria of recommendations to conduct investigations into allegations of rights violations by some government security forces, but remained concerned by the lack of accountability for such crimes and called upon the Government to ensure that perpetrators were brought to justice. It also called upon the Government to ensure that journalists and other media professionals were able to operate without fear of arrest or other reprisals for exercising their right to free speech.

475. The International Service for Human Rights stated that the security agencies, other State actors and militia groups had continued to carry out extrajudicial killings with impunity. No army personnel had been held accountable for killings during the recent general elections and public protests. The Government continued to crack down on freedom of expression, with numerous journalists having been attacked and detained. The Service stated that gender-based violence, especially rape and sexual violence, was at epidemic levels and urged Nigeria to ensure the nationwide application of the gender and equal opportunities bill, the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act and the Child Rights Act.

476. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation urged Nigeria to put effective measures in place to curb police brutality through a comprehensive reform of the police force. Despite the continued harassment of the press and of civil society organizations, the national report barely addressed the issue of restriction on civic space. Noting the establishment of the Federal Charities Commission and the new bill that was before the Senate, it urged Nigeria not to adopt laws that would further undermine civic space.

477. Asociación HazteOir.org stated that Nigeria should reinforce legal and political measures to guarantee religious freedom, establish legal protections that defended and promoted religious freedom, defend and protect the lives of Leah Sharibu and all other girls kidnapped by Boko Haram, guarantee respect for the religious, cultural and moral beliefs of the population with regard to marriage and the family, and combat the trafficking and abduction of human beings.

478. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme welcomed the efforts made by Nigeria, especially, in the administration of justice and health care, the adoption of the law on the protection of the child and for its reports to the treaty bodies. It was concerned about the large number of victims of human trafficking and called for a strengthening of the Code of Criminal Procedure to put an end to this practice. It invited Nigeria to address corruption, poor detention conditions, prison overcrowding, domestic violence and the domestic exploitation of children.

479. The Federation for Women and Family Planning commended Nigeria for supporting recommendations relating to sexual and reproductive rights and health, including on violence and discrimination against women and girls, early and forced marriages, harmful cultural practices, HIV and AIDS. However, recommendations that sought to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, had been noted. It called upon the National Human Rights Commission to include within its priorities human rights violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex civil society in addressing those violations.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

480. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, of 290 recommendations received, 240 had enjoyed the support of Nigeria and 50 had been noted.

481. The delegation expressed the gratitude of Nigeria to all member and observer States of the Human Rights Council as well as to the secretariat of the Council and the universal periodic review mechanism for their close and stringent engagement in the defence of human rights. The delegation also expressed the deep appreciation of Nigeria to the members of the troika.

482. The delegation expressed the deep appreciation of Nigeria for the constructive manner in which many of those who took the floor had spoken. It reiterated the resoluteness and strong commitment of Nigeria to defending the principles of human rights and upholding the efforts of all mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council. Nigeria remained dedicated to continually but constructively engaging the world.

483. The supported recommendations would be diligently implemented with a view to improving the lot of citizens and the human rights situation in the country. Nigeria would continue to review those recommendations that had been noted, within the limits of its legal and constitutional realities.

484. The delegation stated that it had demonstrated its readiness to listen, show understanding and appreciate the largely constructive comments and well-meaning recommendations addressed to Nigeria, and against that background would not be distracted by the antics of some spoilers. Statements made by some organizations had been grossly misleading and factually incorrect and therefore compelled a response. The biased statements of those organizations were nothing short of discredited stereotypes and unfounded allegations.

485. The issue of the empowerment of women, including the rights of the girl child, continued to be one of the top priority areas of focus for continuous inclusion in development planning and programme processes. In that context, Nigeria had outlawed all cultural practices that infringed the rights of widows, following the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). To scale up gender mainstreaming, the Government had revived the gender unit in all ministries, departments and agencies. The enforcement of the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015, had contributed greatly to a reduction in violence against persons, of which women and vulnerable people had formed the larger percentage. The Government had continued to address all challenges related to the ill-treatment of and violence against women through public enlightenment and advocacy, including for all women and girls living in the few remaining camps for internally displaced persons.

486. Authorities at the highest level had been engaging with relevant stakeholders to ensure the safe return of Leah Sharibu to her family. In relation to the counter-insurgency strategy, the security forces had demonstrated due diligence through strict adherence to international human rights and humanitarian obligations. In response to the alleged instances of human rights violations by the security forces, a judicial commission had been set up to bring the perpetrators to justice. Any allegation of a lack of accountability by the military was therefore totally unfounded and mischievous. Similarly, suggestions of arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial killings, torture and enforced disappearances were curious and misleading. Nonetheless, the Government had always reiterated its willingness to investigate such allegations and had

remained committed to bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice through the administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

487. The Government had condemned all forms of extrajudicial executions and had on numerous occasions demonstrated its readiness to address such issues if and when they occurred. To that end, the Government had strengthened the powers of the independent National Human Rights Commission to provide oversight responsibilities of law enforcement agencies in the prevention and prosecution of cases of extrajudicial executions. In addition, enlightenment and awareness-creation campaigns had been scaled up in the military.

488. Nigeria had been acclaimed for decades as one of the countries with the most vibrant and unfettered press. Beyond constitutional guarantees it was well founded in the country's democratic culture, that freedom of expression included the right to hold and propagate ideas. It was therefore perplexing that any entity would raise infringement of freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Nigeria remained one of the friendliest destinations for the press and all organizations were committed to the truth and to impartiality. No one had ever been precluded from publishing, dissuaded or threatened when conveying the truth.

489. The hallowed platform dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights ought not to be misused by those with an ulterior agenda and to put member States in the dock. That remonstration had assumed added importance in an era when multilateralism, symbolized by international cooperation, constructive engagement and the quest for common action in addressing global challenges, including in the field of human rights, was increasingly facing an undeserved onslaught.

Mexico

490. The review of Mexico was held on 7 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Mexico in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MEX/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/ MEX/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/ MEX/3).

491. At its 36th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Mexico (see sect. C below).

492. The outcome of the review of Mexico comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/8), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/8/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

493. The delegation, headed by the Director General for Human Rights and Democracy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cristopher Ballinas Valdes, emphasized that Mexico valued the universal periodic review highly and was convinced of the suitability of the mechanism to contribute to the prevention of human rights violations and to the promotion and appropriation of the highest international human rights standards.

494. The Government of Mexico was committed to the protection, defence and promotion of human rights in order to achieve a fair, equitable, open and socially inclusive society in which the needs of the most vulnerable people were addressed.

495. Mexico assumed the responsibility of adopting measures at the national, regional and universal levels to guarantee respect for and observance of human rights. In that sense, Mexico had identified four specific themes on which the country would be working.

496. First, regarding the reduction of inequalities and the defence of vulnerable groups, Mexico stated that a prosperous society was possible only if all women and girls could fully exercise their fundamental rights, have equal opportunities and live a life free of violence. Mexico had as one of its most important guiding policies the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, particularly of those in vulnerable situations. For instance, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and the European Union, Mexico had launched the Spotlight Initiative aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls.

497. Regarding the rights of migrants and refugees, Mexico would continue to work on the implementation of the highest international standards, based on the objectives included in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the global compact on refugees. On 19 December 2018, Mexico had presented the migration policy programme for the period 2018–2024, based on respect for the human rights of migrants and on developments in Central America and the south-east of Mexico.

498. Regarding the rights of children, the national system for the integral protection of children and adolescents promoted the harmonization of legislation in accordance with the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents.

499. In December 2018, the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples was created with the purpose of guaranteeing the integral and sustainable development of indigenous peoples and Mexicans of African descent and strengthening their cultural identities.

500. Mexico recognized the importance of continuing to strengthen the legislative, institutional and cultural framework on the rights of persons with disabilities, aimed at promoting their social inclusion.

501. Regarding the elimination of discrimination against specific groups and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, the federal Law for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination had established homophobia, misogyny, racial segregation and other related forms of intolerance as prohibited grounds of discrimination.

502. Second, in the area of freedom of expression, Mexico was determined to take all necessary measures to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders and journalists and it condemned acts of violence against those who exercised activism and the defence of human rights, journalism and religious ministry in the country.

503. The new Government was committed to strengthening institutional mechanisms, such as that for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists, as well as designing strategies to guarantee freedom of expression, press and worship.

504. Third, in the area of rule of law and enforced disappearances, Mexico was aware of the challenges in terms of the enforced disappearance of persons and disappearance by individuals, joining the pain of the families of the victims and making clear its commitment to combating that social scourge. In that regard, the Decree establishing effective material, legal and human conditions to strengthen the human rights of the families of the victims of the Ayotzinapa case to the truth and access to justice had been published in December 2018. The National Citizen Council and the national search system for missing persons had also been created.

505. Mexico had reactivated internal consultations to review the pertinence of recognizing the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. In that regard, Mexico would first seek to strengthen its institutional capacities to effectively address the scourge of enforced disappearances.

506. The fight against torture was stressed as a matter of national priority. Mexico had the General Act on the Prevention, Investigation and Punishment of Torture and a Special Prosecutor's office for investigation of the crime of torture.

507. In the area of peace and security, Mexico recognized the pressing need to take strong measures against insecurity and crime. In that regard, the national security strategy, published in February 2019, had as one of its main objectives the prevention of violence and crime by dissuading the perpetrators of criminal behaviour from recidivism through restorative interventions, in order to reinsert them into society and make reparation to the victims.

508. Mexico presented the national peace and security plan based on human rights-based policies on drug consumption, the fight against corruption and impunity, the elimination of constitutional privileges for officials, including the President, the promotion of a culture of full respect for human rights and the creation of a National Guard.

509. Aware of the concerns of civil society and international mechanisms, Mexico was working on the definition of a collaboration agreement with OHCHR in order to assure human rights standards were included at the centre of the formation and operation of the National Guard.

510. Since 2001, Mexico had received more than 60 visits of human rights mandate holders. Now the country was designing a work programme in order to respond with order and relevance to pending visit requests of the special procedures. The international recommendations on human rights had constituted a relevant reference to guide the construction of institutional capacities, as well as strengthening the normative framework. Mexico was committed to providing timely follow-up to these recommendations through the following actions.

511. First, promoting an effective inter-institutional mechanism for the implementation of the recommendations by federal and local government authorities. Mexico had a platform for attention to and follow-up on international recommendations, which systematized the more than 2,800 recommendations received since 1994. The objective was to take this platform to a further stage of action.

512. Second, encouraging a sustained dialogue with civil society organizations that considers their fundamental role in the construction and strengthening of democratic societies.

513. Third, developing cooperation partnerships with other States with the capacity and will to provide technical assistance, with the aim of translating their recommendations into specific actions.

514. The delegation noted that Mexico was fully aware that its membership in the Human Rights Council entailed commitments that it must honour and that demanded engagement in a proactive and constructive manner. It stated that Mexico would seek to carry out its foreign policy on human rights in an exemplary manner.

2. General comments made by the national human rights institution of the State under review

515. The National Human Rights Commission (Mexico) urged the Government to implement all the recommendations it had accepted, including those from various international instances, and to develop a new national human rights action plan. Regarding recommendations on justice, security and the rule of law, it urged the Government to prevent the influence of the armed forces from going beyond its natural scope and to ensure that the conduct of the armed forces was in line with human rights and that security was comprehensively approached and not limited to the use of force. It urged the Government to guarantee the full independence of all prosecutorial offices in the country. It referred to high levels of impunity with an impact on continuing cases of enforced disappearances and violence against women, human rights defenders and journalists. Worried about recent decisions that might curtail the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, it urged the Government to implement public policies with a human rights approach. It called for the Government to consolidate democratic institutions and cooperate with civil society.

3. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council and by United Nations entities on the outcome of the review

516. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Mexico, 13 delegations made statements.

517. Tunisia thanked Mexico for the update on the advances that it had made in the human rights situation and in its normative and institutional human rights framework on subjects such as combating trafficking, the protection of victims and the prevention of torture. It commended Mexico for having accepted 262 recommendations out of the 264 it had received, including the 4 made by Tunisia.

518. UN-Women welcomed the efforts made by Mexico in the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and reiterated its commitment to continue working with the Government. It raised three key issues for consideration by Mexico: putting women at the centre of efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts; ensuring that the social protection system responded to women's needs; and investment in effective prevention against all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

519. UNFPA acknowledged the commitment of Mexico to international human rights mechanisms, particularly to the universal periodic review. It offered technical assistance for the implementation of the recommendations related to access to sexual and reproductive health services and the essential services for women and girl victims of violence. It encouraged Mexico to strengthen its efforts to protect children and adolescents from all forms of violence and to prioritize recommendations on reducing maternal mortality.

520. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recognized the efforts made by Mexico to implement the recommendations it had accepted. It also recognized the constitutional hierarchy granted to the international human rights treaties in Mexico. It valued the new criminal justice system and the reform of the General Act of Victims aimed at ensuring comprehensive reparation for all victims.

521. Armenia commended Mexico for having accepted 262 out of 264 recommendations, including those it had made. It welcomed the willingness of Mexico to continue strengthening the national system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and to take steps towards the eradication of stereotypes through, *inter alia*, awareness-raising campaigns.

522. Barbados stressed that the ability of Mexico to translate the recommendations it had accepted from the previous cycle of the universal periodic review into its national human rights programme might serve as a guide to action after the current review. It welcomed the commitment of Mexico to continue working on behalf of its vulnerable communities, including Mexicans of African descent, women, children and migrants.

523. The Plurinational State of Bolivia stressed that the high-level delegation of Mexico had shown the clear commitment of the country to the universal periodic review. It also commended Mexico for having accepted 262 out of the 264 recommendations it had received. It valued the continuing efforts made by Mexico to implement the recommendations, including those it had submitted, such as the one to strengthen food and nutrition policies and programmes in rural areas.

524. Botswana noted that Mexico had been an outstanding member of the Human Rights Council through its active engagement with resolutions and its continued cooperation with human rights mechanisms, as demonstrated by the large number of visits by the special procedures since its previous review. Botswana congratulated Mexico for having accepted all but 2 of the 264 recommendations it had received, including 2 it had made.

525. Brazil commended Mexico for its important advances in the normative framework, such as the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, the General Act on the Prevention, Investigation and Punishment of Torture, the General Act on the Enforced Disappearance of Persons and Disappearance Perpetrated by Individuals and the national search system for missing persons. Brazil reaffirmed its concern regarding the necessity to promote further protection for human rights defenders and journalists.

526. Cameroon encouraged Mexico to continue to implement the good practices initiated following its universal periodic review of 2014, with a view to improving the human

condition throughout the country. It welcomed the country's strengthened cooperation with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

527. Chile commended Mexico for having accepted 262 out of the 264 recommendations it had received, including the 4 made by Chile regarding the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the national action plan on business and human rights, the national search system for missing persons and the treatment of migrant minors. Chile congratulated the Government of Mexico, civil society organizations and academia, which had committed to promoting structural changes aimed at ensuring human rights for all.

528. China commended Mexico for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review. It thanked Mexico for having accepted its recommendations and hoped that Mexico would implement the recommendations regarding national programmes to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable economic and social development to create a solid base for the enjoyment of all human rights, and for the protection of children, women, persons with disabilities and indigenous people.

529. Cuba congratulated Mexico for having accepted a large number of recommendations, including those it had made regarding combating acts of violence and discrimination against women and the promotion of a constructive dialogue in multilateral human rights mechanisms. Cuba encouraged Mexico to consider all the accepted recommendations as a guide in its future human rights policies.

4. General comments made by other stakeholders

530. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Mexico, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

531. International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, in a joint statement with Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, encouraged Mexico to review its legal framework to comply with its international human rights obligations. Concerned by vulnerable groups of children, the organizations hoped that more efforts would be taken to prevent the trafficking, exploitation, prostitution and involvement in organized crime of children. They urged Mexico to promote quality education for all and to strengthen efforts to investigate all gender-based cases of violence.

532. Save the Children International urged Mexico to allocate sufficient resources for child welfare and the protection of children's rights. It made a call to combat all forms of violence against children, women and girls; prohibit the corporal punishment of children; align federal and local legislation with the General Act on the Rights of Children and Adolescents; and protect the safety and human rights of migrants, especially women and children, including those in transit. It urged Mexico to develop an action plan with specific measures under each recommendation of the review, ensuring the participation of civil society in the follow-up.

533. Christian Solidarity Worldwide was concerned by killings of religious leaders and pervading impunity. In line with some accepted recommendations, it urged Mexico to afford religious leaders the same protection as human rights defenders. It regretted the lack of recommendations on the right to freedom of religion or belief for religious minorities and referred to measures taken by local authorities to impede that right, urging the Government to investigate those violations. It stated that children had been denied education because of their religious beliefs and urged Mexico to grant education to all children, including children from religious minorities.

534. The International Planned Parenthood Federation, in a joint statement with the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, welcomed a number of the accepted recommendations on sexual and reproductive rights of women, including on ensuring access to legal abortion. Nevertheless, abortion continued to be criminalized and access to legal abortion was very limited. The organizations hoped that the commitment of the Government to sexual and reproductive rights would lead to the necessary legal reforms to ensure access to safe, free and legal abortion.

535. Peace Brigades International Switzerland referred to the impunity surrounding the enforced disappearance of Rosendo Radilla Pacheco after being arbitrarily detained at a

military checkpoint in 1974. It called upon the international community to follow up on the recommendations regarding the fight against impunity and to ensure that victims and human rights defenders were involved in the design and implementation of any measure aimed at combating impunity.

536. The World Organization against Torture invited Mexico to establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up with the participation of civil society, in order to ensure implementation of the recommendations it had accepted. It considered the establishment of a mechanism to combat entrenched impunity and ensure the independence of the Prosecutor's Office to be of the utmost urgency. It referred to the rooted practice of torture and urged Mexico to adopt the national programme against torture promptly. It also urged Mexico to put an end to hate speech against human rights defenders and to adopt a comprehensive policy to protect them. It called upon Mexico to implement the outcome of the universal periodic review with the involvement of civil society.

537. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation expressed concern at the effectiveness of the protection mechanism for human rights defenders owing to an insufficient emphasis on prevention and the neglect of investigations, resulting in persistent violations against human rights defenders and the impunity of perpetrators. It stated that journalists were routinely threatened, attacked and forced to censor themselves. There would be no progress in media pluralism while criminal provisions on defamation, slander and insult were used against journalists and the media. It referred to restrictions on the right to assembly under the Interior Security Law. It called upon the Government to address these concerns.

538. Amnesty International referred to unpunished attacks on and harassment of human rights defenders and journalists, urging Mexico to prevent such attacks and end impunity. It noted the high risk of gender-based violence against women and girls, including an alarming number of gender-based killings. It called upon Mexico to amend the rules and procedures of the gender-alert mechanism in consultation with civil society. It suggested the development of a nationwide registry of detentions in line with international human rights standards and called upon Mexico to accept the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to consider individual communications. Finally, it encouraged Mexico to establish a mechanism to engage with victims and civil society in the implementation of recommendations.

539. The Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos referred to high levels of impunity of the perpetrators of crimes mostly committed by the armed forces, killings of human rights defenders and journalists and attempts to discredit the work of civil society organizations. It mentioned setbacks to the rights of women. It stated that the prevention of torture and extrajudicial killings had been set aside. While welcoming efforts to ensure truth and justice in the case of the Ayotzinapa abductions, 40,000 cases of enforced disappearances remained unresolved. It urged Mexico to establish a mechanism to follow up the implementation of recommendations in cooperation with civil society.

540. Asociación HazteOír.org raised concerns about growing violence from organized crime groups in Mexico. It called upon the Government to implement the recommendation in paragraph 132.62 of the report of the Working Group to respect and defend life from conception to natural death.

5. Concluding remarks of the State under review

541. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 264 recommendations received, 262 had enjoyed the support of Mexico and 2 had been noted.

Mauritius

542. The review of Mauritius was held on 7 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Mauritius in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MUS/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MUS/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MUS/3 and Corr.1).

543. At its 36th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Mauritius (see sect. C below).

544. The outcome of the review of Mauritius comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/9), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/9/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

545. The delegation of Mauritius expressed its appreciation to member States for their participation, constructive recommendations and recognition of the progress achieved so far. The delegation reported that it had taken home all 176 recommendations received during its universal periodic review. After consultation with stakeholders through the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, it had accepted 133 of them.

546. The delegation noted that Mauritius proposed to accede to and ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide shortly and was considering acceding to the two Protocols to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa.

547. The delegation stressed that the national human rights institutions would continue to be provided with adequate means and would continue to operate in full independence and play a prominent role in raising awareness of human rights. An Independent Police Complaints Commission had been set up in 2018 and the police and a criminal justice bill, aimed at reviewing the powers of the police and the protection of citizens, would be introduced in the National Assembly soon.

548. Concerning climate change, the delegation stressed that, in view of its vulnerability, Mauritius would continue to implement preventive measures, provide more protection and mitigate the impact of climate change through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre.

549. Stressing the importance of the fight against trafficking in human beings, the delegation noted that a national action plan to combat trafficking in persons was being finalized. A "Know your rights" pamphlet in various languages for migrant workers would be launched shortly. Mauritius would intensify sensitization campaigns to protect children from all forms of exploitation and to provide adequate care, protection and facilities to the victims of trafficking in persons.

550. With regard to its efforts to fight poverty, the delegation noted that Mauritius had introduced a minimum wage, which would be revised periodically. State services would continue to improve and be accessible to the population at large, with due consideration given to the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

551. Mauritius had accepted all 32 recommendations concerning children. According to the delegation, the children's bill would address issues such as the age of marriage, while the legal mechanism to protect the rights of children would be strengthened further. Facilities

adaptable to the needs of children with disabilities and their integration would also be provided. Children and youth would be further empowered to enable them to succeed in life.

552. Concerning the empowerment of women, the delegation stated that Mauritius was committed to further removing barriers, intensifying efforts for the empowerment of women and their active participation in political life, and addressing violence against women from all perspectives.

553. The delegation noted that education was compulsory up to the age of 16. Primary, secondary and, since January 2019, tertiary levels of education were free. Human rights education was part of the school curriculum.

554. Concerning the 43 recommendations that had been noted, the delegation reported that 25 of them related to the ratification of or accession to international human rights instruments and frameworks. Mauritius was not party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as it had abolished the death penalty by enacting the Abolition of the Death Penalty Act in 1995. It was not a signatory to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, but it applied the essence of the Convention in cases of disputes between migrant workers and their employers. Migrant workers coming to Mauritius were allowed to come with their families, except for low-skilled workers. The delegation explained that the main reason for this was the small size of the country and that it was among the most densely populated island States. It noted that its limited resources would not allow it to provide the required core basic services to all comers.

555. The delegation stated that, although Mauritius was not proposing to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, it fully adhered to the principle of non-refoulement and treated asylum requests on a humanitarian and case-by-case basis by facilitating resettlement in a country willing to grant refugee status. Similarly, Mauritius did not envisage acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as its existing legislation contained adequate provisions to protect from and reduce statelessness.

556. The delegation stated that Mauritius did not envisage acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as there were no cases of enforced disappearance that were perpetrated or tolerated in the country. Accession to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was also not on the agenda as adequate avenues of redress were already in place in its legal system. The ratification of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), was noted as being not relevant to its local context.

557. As regards the recommendation for the standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the delegation noted that Mauritius would rather consider issuing invitations on a case-by-case basis at mutually agreed dates.

558. Concerning the adoption of an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections, Mauritius would look into the advisability of widening the profile of future candidates.

559. Concerning the reservations under the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the delegation stated that Mauritius was not in a position to withdraw them. Signature of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Gender and Development could be envisaged after the children's bill had been passed by the National Assembly.

560. With regard to the recommendations pertaining to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, the combating and prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and the repeal of section 250 of the Criminal Code, the delegation gave assurances that Mauritius would take initiatives for the recognition of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Legislative reforms would be introduced once there was a general consensus, taking into consideration the social fabric of the country. Technical assistance from the Human Dignity Trust had been secured for this purpose.

561. The delegation noted that Mauritius did not propose to amend the Criminal Code to allow the voluntary termination of pregnancy, as section 235 of the Criminal Code, which authorized the termination of pregnancy, was adequate in its local context.

562. The delegation referred to the advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965, delivered by the International Court of Justice on 25 February 2019. The Court was of the opinion that the process of decolonization of Mauritius was not lawfully completed when Mauritius acceded to independence in 1968, following the separation of the Chagos Archipelago, and that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible. The Court was also of the opinion that all Member States were under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonization of Mauritius.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council and by United Nations entities on the outcome of the review

563. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Mauritius, 13 delegations made statements.

564. Ethiopia commended Mauritius for accepting many recommendations, including its own, which aimed to enhance efforts to fight corruption and strengthen efforts to set up an integrated support service against domestic violence. It encouraged Mauritius to take all necessary measures in advance for the full implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

565. Gabon noted with satisfaction the considerable efforts made by the Government of Mauritius to guarantee the promotion and protection of human rights and to improve its institutional and normative framework. It particularly welcomed all the reforms undertaken to combat domestic violence, notably the revision of the law on protection against domestic violence, in order to strengthen the protection services for victims, as well as the implementation of that law through training sessions for law enforcement officers. It encouraged Mauritius to continue its efforts in implementing the recommendations it had accepted.

566. The Islamic Republic of Iran stated that many delegations had presented recommendations to the Government of Mauritius and that all the recommendations it had made had been accepted. It acknowledged the efforts of Mauritius for the empowerment of women in the implementation of its national action plan on human rights, a positive step towards promoting human rights in the country.

567. Iraq commended Mauritius for accepting the three recommendations it had put forward and for accepting the majority of all the recommendations it had received. Iraq hoped that Mauritius would implement the recommendations it had accepted, in conformity with its international commitments.

568. Lesotho commended the strides taken by Mauritius since the last review. It noted with appreciation the establishment of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, which was responsible for investigating complaints made against police officers in the discharge of their functions. It stated that this step would go a long way to upholding the rule of law and respect for democracy in Mauritius. Lesotho also noted the progress made in submitting overdue reports to various treaty bodies. It encouraged Mauritius to consider expeditiously ratifying the human rights instruments to which it was not yet a party.

569. Madagascar thanked Mauritius for accepting three of its recommendations and wished the country every success in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted. It noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms in 2017 and the implementation of almost all the measures announced in the action plan for the period 2012–2020. It encouraged Mauritius to continue its actions with regard to respect for and the promotion and protection of human rights.

570. Mauritania applauded the commitment of the Government of Mauritius to strengthening democratic mechanisms and to promoting and protecting human rights. It also congratulated the Government on the establishment of a protocol for assisting child victims

of violence and for the implementation of legislative measures on equal opportunities in employment, social integration and demarginalization, and the social assistance allocated to vulnerable persons.

571. Namibia commended the creation of additional institutions, including the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms as well as the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, among others. It encouraged Mauritius to continue its efforts aimed at improving the standard of living and quality of life for its citizens. It commended Mauritius for accepting 133 of the 176 recommendations, including 2 made by Namibia and encouraged it to continue with the consideration of other recommendations.

572. The Philippines noted the acceptance by Mauritius of the majority of the recommendations made and thanked the State for accepting three of the four recommendations made by the Philippines relating to women and children, human rights education and drug prevention programmes. It noted the position taken by Mauritius on its recommendation on the ratification of major human rights instruments and their optional protocols. The Philippines recognized the commitment of Mauritius to advancing human rights, in particular the rights of women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, as well as equal employment rights and protection from domestic violence.

573. Seychelles noted positively that Mauritius had accepted 133 out of 176 recommendations, including 2 recommendations it had made. It commended Mauritius for the strides made during the most recent universal periodic review cycle towards the promotion and protection of human rights, including its commitment to putting in place crucial legislative frameworks such as the children's bill and the gender equality bill. It wished Mauritius success in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

574. Togo noted positively the acceptance by Mauritius of 133 out of 176 recommendations, including 2 of its own. It welcomed the measures taken by Mauritius to improve the level and quality of life of its population. It was pleased with the creation in 2017 of the ministry dedicated to human rights and the establishment of the national mechanism on reporting and follow-up. Togo urged Mauritius to redouble its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights with special attention paid to women and youth. It invited the international community to provide assistance to Mauritius for implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

575. Tunisia appreciated the cooperation of Mauritius with the Human Rights Council mechanisms and the universal periodic review mechanism. It welcomed the adoption of national programmes and laws aimed at strengthening the human rights framework. It also welcomed the acceptance of a significant number of recommendations, including those put forward by Tunisia, in particular concerning the protection of children from exploitation, combating poverty and domestic violence.

576. UNFPA noted that the population of Mauritius was becoming an ageing population. It was supporting Mauritius in developing a national policy on population taking into account reproductive rights and the rights of older persons. Teenage pregnancy was becoming a major concern in Mauritius, especially on Rodrigues Island. It pleaded for young people to have access to information and services for their sexual and reproductive health rights. It also noted that the unmet needs for family planning were high and encouraged Mauritius to strengthen efforts to provide family planning services in vulnerable zones. In view of the upsurge in gender-based violence, it pleaded for the establishment of an information system on such types of violence, in order to provide data for decision-making and intervention aimed at putting an end to gender-based violence.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

577. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Mauritius, three other stakeholders made statements.

578. The Center for Global Nonkilling congratulated Mauritius for integrating several peace and disarmament treaties into its report and presentations. It noted with satisfaction the abolition of the death penalty and the commuting of all such sentences, but noted an ambiguity between the approval by the Government of a recommendation to progress

towards the abolition of the death penalty and its refusal of the recommendations made for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. It recalled that the Government should lead public opinion and not be subject to it. It also regretted the noting of the three recommendations made for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and stated that the Convention had universal effects and contained provisions regarding cases beyond the national territory. It saluted the fact that there were no cases of disappearance in Mauritius and encouraged it to show more solidarity on the issue. Finally, it asked for more precise information on the time frame for the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

579. The International Lesbian and Gay Association noted that Mauritius had received 14 recommendations, 3 questions in advance and 4 remarks on sexual orientation and gender identity and had been encouraged to fully decriminalize homosexuality and advance sexual orientation and gender identity in its legislation. It welcomed the position of Mauritius on prioritizing the human rights issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, the setting up of the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and further commended the position of Mauritius concerning national awareness programmes on such issues. Despite the positive advances, the Government had noted all the recommendations related to such issues, including those on hate crimes and hate speech targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. A lack of legal protection from hate crimes and hate speech violated the rights of such people, prevented law enforcement institutions from acting in cases of homophobia and transphobia, and encouraged perpetrators of hate crimes to go unpunished. The Association called upon Mauritius to effectively protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

580. The Association of World Citizens congratulated Mauritius for its acceptance of 133 out of 176 recommendations, but regretted that the recommendation in paragraph 115.96 of the report of the Working Group to revise the Criminal Code so that women could access legal, safe and voluntary termination of pregnancy and guarantee the provision of the respective medical services had not been accepted. It recalled that decriminalization meant that abortions could be carried out in safer and more hygienic conditions. It also noted with regret that Mauritius had not accepted the recommendation in paragraph 115.176 of the report to introduce legal safeguards to protect children born in the country of stateless mothers, which had short-term and long-term consequences for stateless children, including marginalization, illiteracy and child labour. It further regretted that recommendations from paragraphs 115.40 to 115.54 of the report to adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and combat discrimination against all marginalized groups on any grounds, including gender and sexual orientation, had not been accepted by Mauritius.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

581. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 176 recommendations received, 133 had enjoyed the support of Mauritius and 43 had been noted.

582. In conclusion, the delegation of Mauritius thanked all those involved in its universal periodic review and expressed its commitment to human rights and the universal periodic review process.

Jordan

583. The review of Jordan was held on 8 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Jordan in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/JOR/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/JOR/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/JOR/3).

584. At its 36th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Jordan (see sect. C below).

585. The outcome of the review of Jordan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/10), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/10/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

586. The delegation of Jordan thanked all the delegations that had participated during the interactive dialogue and expressed its appreciation to the friendly countries and to the international organizations that had supported the process of promoting the human rights system in Jordan.

587. The delegation affirmed the Government's commitment to continue promoting and protecting human rights and to work towards their consolidation and enforcement in line with the human rights conventions it had ratified, its heritage, political will and in accordance with the Constitution, which guaranteed the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals in all walks of life. The rule of law, comprehensive reforms aimed at improving the human rights and fundamental freedoms had been prioritized under the enlightened leadership of the King.

588. The Government had also prioritized the empowerment of women and the promotion of gender equality in various economic, political, social and administrative spheres. In that context, the Government had launched a programme entitled "Empowering women in the public sector" and the Cabinet had established a ministerial committee to empower women.

589. The Government had reiterated its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals through the establishment of a committee to promote gender equality and a national strategy, in line with Goal 5. Jordan had also established a national plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, and a number of laws had been amended to promote gender equality.

590. The Government had also reiterated its commitment to prioritizing youth empowerment by improving the quality of education and training opportunities and increasing the participation of youth in the economic, social, political, environmental and cultural fields, and making available specialized programmes to integrate youth into the labour market. Jordan had been developing a national strategy to identify priorities for supporting youth, including training on civic education, and had launched a number of initiatives that empowered young people and promoted their participation, including the King Abdullah II award for youth innovation and achievement and the national democratic empowerment programme.

591. Jordan considered the promotion and development of its human rights system as being a participatory process. During its recent examination of the 21 recommendations, the Government had therefore consulted and engaged with all stakeholders, including representatives of civil society organizations whose views had contributed to the crystallization of its final position on the recommendations.

592. During the review process, Jordan had illustrated the progress made since the submission of its second report. The Government had highlighted several achievements,

including the adoption of a number of laws and regulations. They included, among others, the Electoral Act No. 6 of 2016, the Support for Political Parties Act No. 53 of 2015 and the Municipalities Act No. 49 of 2015, and in relation to the promotion of the rights of specific categories, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act No. 15 of 2017, the Juveniles Act and the Act on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

593. Reference was made to a number of national and executive plans, including the national plan for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; the executive plan for strengthening the institutional response to domestic violence cases for the period 2016–2018; the national plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); the national plan to confront extremism (2014); and the executive programme of the Government to encourage women’s entry into and participation in the labour market.

594. Jordan further noted that a number of different committees had been formed for specific purposes, including the Royal Commission for the Development of the Judiciary and the Strengthening of the Rule of law, the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women to support women’s economic, social and political participation in public life and the comprehensive national human rights plan for the period 2016–2025.

595. The Government had affirmed its commitment to promoting and supporting national human rights monitoring institutions and mechanisms and had increased the financial allocations for the National Committee for Women and the National Centre for Human Rights.

596. Jordan had received 226 recommendations. During the review, it had announced that 131 recommendations would be immediately accepted, while 21 recommendations would be taken up for further examination. Upon consideration of the latter, the Government had decided to accept 16 out of the 21 and to accept another 2 recommendations from those which it had initially noted, as reflected in its response to the report of the Working Group (A/HRC/40/10/Add.1). In all, therefore, Jordan had accepted 149 out of a total of 226 recommendations, which amounted to approximately two thirds of the recommendations.

597. With regard to the recommendations that had been noted, Jordan stated that there were a number of reasons for its position: (a) the understanding of the Government that its legislation, its governing laws and current practices already reflected the content of those recommendations either entirely or fully and therefore the Government did not consider it necessary to take additional measures; (b) the recommendations addressed a number of different issues, which Jordan might support only in part; (c) in light of the current regional situation, it considered the recommendations difficult to accept owing to potential challenges in implementation; (d) the need to maintain the credibility of the Government, which would not be able to comply fully with the proposed recommendations at the present time; and (e) those recommendations, such as the accession to additional international instruments, not considered to be priorities.

598. For several years, Jordan had been facing extraordinary challenges arising from its presence in a volatile region that had been afflicted by conflicts, civil wars and the emergence of terrorist and extremist groups, which had increased the burden on Jordan through the influx of massive numbers of refugees into its territory and augmented the security challenges on its borders, as well as the pressure on its economy. Those challenges had delayed many of the country’s ambitious development plans, slowed its economic growth and increased unemployment rates. Some commitments in the field of human rights faced financial and economic challenges because of the burdens faced by Jordan in recent years.

599. Despite those challenges, the Government stated that it had been able to achieve remarkable progress in its political and administrative reform programmes and claimed to have maintained its contractual obligations regarding human rights and its determination to continue the promotion and safeguarding of human rights as a higher national interest.

600. The delegation concluded by stating that, under the leadership of the King, Jordan would continue its efforts in implementing its constitutional, international obligations with a view to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while building a State grounded on institutions and law.

2. General comments made by the national human rights institution of the State under review

601. The National Centre for Human Rights (Jordan) (by video message) stated that the Government had been generally mindful of its human rights obligations and that violations emanating from police practices or governmental policies had usually been dealt with in a satisfactory fashion. The Centre acknowledged that the Government had acted on a number of recommendations put forward by both the universal periodic review process and the National Centre for Human Rights.

602. The National Centre for Human Rights credited the Government with respecting its independence and providing it with adequate financial resources.

603. Nonetheless, the Centre stressed that human rights violations continued to occur and complaints sometimes went unheeded. It stated that the main concerns had been the treatment of detainees and inmates at police stations and prisons, including the alleged use of torture; insufficient efforts by the Government in addressing poverty and unemployment; and the infringement of civil and political rights. It also noted that the right to peaceful assembly and protest had been observed in principle, but not without undue restrictions in certain cases. The Centre stated that dozens of persons had been apprehended, detained or received jail sentences from State security courts at the behest of the State security prosecutor and that regional governors had more than once prevented peaceful activities from taking place, usually on weak grounds.

604. The Centre shed light on the fact that certain provisions of the press and publications law, the anti-terrorism law, the penal code and the crime prevention law provided the authorities with enough latitude to detain persons for acts normally considered to fall under the right to freedom of expression.

3. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

605. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Jordan, 13 delegations made statements.

606. Bahrain appreciated the positive engagement with the recommendations received, including those it had submitted, as well as the adoption of legislation and a number of policies and national action plans in compliance with human rights principles and national, regional and international norms, such as the national human rights plan of action for the period 2016–2025 and the national plan of action on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

607. Belgium appreciated the efforts made by Jordan in implementing previous recommendations. It noted that its recommendation on the harmonization of the anti-terrorist law with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights had not been accepted and that Jordan considered it as already being implemented. It had also noted that two other recommendations, one on early marriage and the other on the equal responsibilities of men and women in the education of children had not been accepted. Belgium considered that those recommendations should be further examined.

608. Botswana welcomed the submission by Jordan of additional information and recognized the constitutional amendments that had improved the independence of the judiciary and the adoption and implementation of the judicial strategy. It also noted the legislative measures taken by Jordan for the safeguarding of human rights, including the enactment of the comprehensive national human rights plan for the period 2016–2025. It expressed its appreciation for the acceptance by Jordan of two recommendations submitted by its delegation.

609. China commended Jordan for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review and expressed the hope that Jordan would step up its training and capacity-building for law enforcement personnel in relation to the initial stages of investigation and fair trial. It called upon Jordan to seek relevant technical assistance in the field of capacity-building and to implement the 2017 law relating to persons with disabilities. China wished Jordan continuous progress in the field of human rights.

610. Cuba congratulated Jordan for its active participation in the universal periodic review and expressed appreciation for it having accepted the recommendations of Cuba regarding the implementation of the comprehensive national human rights plan and the development of its educational system. Cuba invited Jordan to effectively implement all the recommendations it had accepted and wished Jordan success in that endeavour.

611. Egypt commended the continued cooperation of Jordan with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, its adoption of the national human rights action plan for the period 2016–2025 and the establishment of a Royal Commission for developing the legal system and supporting the rule of law. It welcomed the adoption of the law to counter domestic violence and the provisions protecting women and children, as well as the acceptance of the two recommendations presented by the Government of Egypt.

612. Iraq expressed gratitude for the acceptance by Jordan of its three recommendations and commended its acceptance of a majority of the recommendations received. It noted that this proved the commitment of Jordan to international human rights mechanisms. Iraq expressed the hope that Jordan would implement all the recommendations it had accepted.

613. Kuwait commended Jordan for accepting a large number of recommendations, including those it had presented, in which it invited Jordan to take the necessary measures to put in place procedures linked to alternative sentencing measures and to adopt laws promoting the rights of women in the workplace. Kuwait commended the creation of the office of the high-level government coordinator for human rights and the adoption of a national plan on human rights to reduce the gap between law and practice.

614. Lebanon expressed appreciation for the progress made by Jordan in the field of human rights. It commended the fruitful cooperation of Jordan with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and its acceptance of a majority of the recommendations. The delegation of Lebanon had presented two recommendations to Jordan and expressed the hope that Jordan would implement all the recommendations it had accepted.

615. Libya expressed gratitude for the acceptance by Jordan of many recommendations and the progress made in the field of human rights through the establishment of a national committee to follow up on the recommendations issued by the National Centre for Human Rights and on the promotion of women's rights. The positive interaction with the universal periodic review process reflected a clear commitment to continuing to improve the situation of human rights.

616. Malaysia expressed gratitude for the decision of Jordan to take a position on many recommendations during its review and its spirit of constructive engagement on human rights issues. Malaysia believed that the recommendations put forth by the delegation would further complement the efforts made by Jordan to promote gender equality and the rights of children in all spheres.

617. Mauritania commended the transparency and positivity shown by Jordan throughout the review and its continuous efforts to promote and protect human rights. It valued the progress made by Jordan in the field of human rights highly and expressed gratitude to Jordan for its successful interaction with the universal periodic review mechanism.

618. Nigeria applauded the efforts made by Jordan to promote and protect the human rights of its people, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Nigeria expressed its appreciation for the adoption of laws by Jordan and its fight against corruption and embezzlement, which would help in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

4. General comments made by other stakeholders

619. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Jordan, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

620. The Iraqi Development Organization expressed concern about human rights violations in Jordan. It stated that, in spite of recommendations being accepted, any speech critical of the King and government officials and institutions was still criminalized by law. It was concerned about legal obstacles restricting the registration of civil society organizations and

asked for assurances that they would be lifted. It expressed concern about the policy to move military and security personnel to countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and raised some questions regarding the practice, such as the kind of training provided, the sources of funds allocated and accountability for human rights violations.

621. *Villages unis* welcomed the acceptance by Jordan of most of the recommendations received and enumerated various praiseworthy policies adopted for the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

622. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation applauded the commitment of the Government to ensuring that all domestic legislation complied with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It called upon Jordan to review legislation that imposed unnecessary and disproportionate restrictions on freedom of expression and urged it to remove provisions under the Law on Associations that unduly restricted the activities and funding of civil society organizations. It stated that the Government had yet to reform the Labour Code so that all workers could have the right to form trade unions. CIVICUS asked that all demands for social and economic reforms be integrated into the government plan linked to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

623. *Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme* stated that recommendations and measures on human rights were issues that required attention. It referred to the situation of the media.

624. Amnesty International said that the legislation still discriminated against women and girls and therefore welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to protect women against gender-based and domestic violence and ensure their equal access to justice and jobs. It noted, however, the rejection of other recommendations related to honour crimes, child marriage and the ability of women to pass their nationality on to their children and spouses. It urged Jordan to reconsider that position. It referred to the imprisonment of activists and journalists, the criminalization of free speech and legal restrictions on online activities. It welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to recognize the work of human rights defenders and ensure that the Press and Publication Act complied with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It referred to cases of prolonged pretrial detention, solitary confinement, torture and ill-treatment. It welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to prohibit torture and to limit the use of administrative detention but regretted the rejection of recommendations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to repeal the Crime Prevention Law.

625. *Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale* encouraged the adoption of the bill promoting the participation of women in the public sector. It referred to the measures adopted to protect the rights of women in areas such as flexible work arrangements, inheritance rights, access to decision-making posts and protection of children's rights. It welcomed the adoption of the national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security.

626. The Association of World Citizens congratulated Jordan for accepting one recommendation on the protection of women against domestic violence and for accepting wounded Yemenis in its hospitals. It looked forward to the finalization of the draft national strategy for Jordanian women for the period 2020–2030 and of the draft national strategy for the prevention of human trafficking in compliance with the 2030 Agenda. It regretted the rejection to lift reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to accede to its Optional Protocol, as well as the rejection of recommendations regarding changing laws to prevent child marriage, the guardianship of adult women and children, and non-discrimination and gender equality for girls and women.

627. The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination appreciated the progress made to advance the human rights situation. It referred, however, to challenges regarding the rights of women, fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life. It encouraged Jordan to effectively implement the comprehensive national human rights plan; strengthen programmes aimed at building the capacity of law enforcement officers, including judges, in complying with

international standards on women's rights; and protect vulnerable women threatened with honour crimes.

628. The Amman Center for Human Rights Studies welcomed amendments to temporary Labour Law No. 26, such as the new definition of flexible work and of discrimination in wages, and the banning of gender-based discrimination. It was concerned that the labour force had been deprived of the right to collective negotiation and that workers had faced restrictions on establishing trade unions, including university professors. It was further concerned that the Government had resumed the implementation of capital punishment, although it had been suspended for 10 years, and urged Jordan to stop executions and remove capital punishment from the Penal Code. It urged Jordan to implement the recommendations it had accepted.

629. The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue welcomed the progress in improving human rights, in particular regarding women's rights, the right to work, the right to education and human rights reforms mainstreamed through the comprehensive national human rights plan for the period 2016–2025. It encouraged Jordan to implement the recommendations on the independence of the judiciary, capacity-building for law enforcement agencies and trafficking in persons. It appealed to the country to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

5. Concluding remarks of the State under review

630. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 226 recommendations received, 149 had enjoyed the support of Jordan and 77 had been noted.

631. Jordan reaffirmed that the recommendations it had accepted would receive the full attention of the competent authorities through a comprehensive participatory review and that it would seek to implement all recommendations at the national level. As such, the Government had established a high-level ministerial committee to implement all recommendations and align them with its national legislation.

Malaysia

632. The review of Malaysia was held on 8 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Malaysia in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MYS/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MYS/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MYS/3).

633. At its 37th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Malaysia (see sect. C below).

634. The outcome of the review of Malaysia comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/11), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/11/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

635. The delegation, headed by the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Dato' Amran Mohamed Zin, stated that Malaysia was firmly committed to the universal periodic review process and appreciated the participation of 113 States during the review of Malaysia in November of the previous year.

636. The rate of acceptance by Malaysia of the universal periodic review recommendations had steadily increased since the first review. Each of the recommendations received had been thoroughly considered through a series of consultations involving the relevant ministries and agencies. In line with the pledge of Malaysia during the review, a multi-stakeholder consultation was held in January 2019 involving different ministries and agencies, as well as the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, civil society and non-governmental organizations.

637. The fundamental basis of the position of Malaysia on every recommendation was to build a strong, inclusive, united and forward-looking Malaysia, befitting the national reform agenda of the new Government towards advancing further the well-being, dignity and human rights of every Malaysian. Its position on the recommendations had therefore taken into account the prevailing national circumstances, as well as the aspirations of the people of Malaysia. Recommendations that Malaysia had accepted in part or noted would not simply be put aside and ignored, but regularly assessed, with a view to possible acceptance at a subsequent stage, taking into account domestic developments and the country's international obligations.

638. In its efforts for effective implementation of the recommendations, the Government was working closely with various stakeholders in developing a matrix or database to track the progress in implementation and would also conduct biannual reviews in order to monitor and scrutinize the status of implementation. Those reviews would involve line ministries and agencies, as well as other stakeholders. An annual report would be prepared and made accessible to the public online.

639. The head of the delegation highlighted a number of recent developments, in addition to those highlighted during the review and mentioned in the response of Malaysia to the report of the Working Group. Those developments were the result of the swift efforts of the Government. Firstly, Malaysia had announced that it welcomed all special rapporteurs, which expanded the list of recommendations it supported with the recommendation contained in paragraph 151.48 of the report of the Working Group relating to a standing invitation to special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The head of the delegation highlighted the country visits to Malaysia undertaken by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in 2017 and 2018. Malaysia would also host the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in August 2019. Secondly, on 4 March 2019, Malaysia had ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Thirdly, an electoral reform committee had been established and a specific law would be adopted for a more advanced election management system, as well as a fair and transparent electoral process that conformed to democratic principles. Malaysia was taking concrete steps towards appointing a children's commissioner. Furthermore, an Independent Committee on Migrant Workers had been set up with a mandate to coordinate policies on and the management of migrant workers. Regarding the abolition of the death penalty, a moratorium had already been in place since October 2018 and, on 13 March 2019, the Government had decided that Malaysia would abolish the mandatory death penalty for 11 criminal offences. The decision of the Government was part of a step-by-step and balanced approach on the issue.

2. General comments made by the national human rights institution of the State under review

640. The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia acknowledged that the Government had improved greatly since its first universal periodic review. It called upon the Government to act on the noted recommendations as it had promised. It commended the increased efforts to institutionalize engagement with the Human Rights Commission and civil society, and called for the establishment of a permanent interministerial tracking system.

641. The Commission commended the decision of the Government to accept recommendations to abolish the death penalty or place a moratorium on it. However, it expressed concern over the announcement of the Cabinet's decision to withdraw the moratorium on laws such as the Prevention of Crime Act 2017 and the Sedition Act 1948, as well as keeping the death penalty.

642. The Commission stated that Malaysia must give priority to the accession of all remaining core human rights treaties and was disappointed at its decision not to accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

643. The Commission stated that recommendations to review repressive legislation, to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to increase the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 were positions previously publicly endorsed by the Government, but that these had not been accepted.

644. The Commission also stated that the new Government must reaffirm its commitment to human rights for all, according to their election promises. It stood ready to work with the Government to improve the state of human rights in Malaysia.

3. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council and by United Nations entities on the outcome of the review

645. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Malaysia, 13 delegations made statements.

646. The Russian Federation noted the success of Malaysia in the promotion and protection of human rights and its willingness to cooperate with universal mechanisms for the international monitoring of human rights, particularly the universal periodic review. It noted with satisfaction that Malaysia had accepted the majority of the recommendations it had received and stated that it counted on their effective implementation.

647. Saudi Arabia lauded the efforts made to eradicate poverty, especially given that the Government had amended its programme to fight poverty to be more inclusive of low-income families.

648. Singapore acknowledged the fulfilment of the commitment by Malaysia to discuss recommendations received during the third cycle with its national Human Rights Commission and civil society organizations, and welcomed the stated intent of the new Government to advance human rights, promote democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance.

649. South Africa commended Malaysia for its commitment to ratifying all remaining core international human rights instruments as well as its continued commitment to promoting and protecting the exercise of civil and political rights in the renewal of the country's democracy. It applauded the achievements of Malaysia in reducing the poverty gap by, *inter alia*, providing infrastructure and utilities and promoting economic development and sociocultural rights, and its commitment to eliminating discrimination against women.

650. Sri Lanka noted the significant steps taken by Malaysia to promote and protect human rights, including the launch of the national human rights action plan and the human rights-based best practices programme involving schools to enhance respect for human rights through education. It encouraged Malaysia to consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

651. The Sudan commended the commitments and positive engagement of Malaysia with the universal periodic review and appreciated its acceptance of most of the recommendations made, including those made by the Sudan.

652. Thailand commended Malaysia for accepting more than two thirds of all the recommendations made, including those it had made on combating child labour and trafficking in persons, and taking measures to realize universal health coverage. It encouraged Malaysia to consider submitting a voluntary mid-term report.

653. Tunisia welcomed the adoption of the new law to improve the human rights situation in Malaysia, particularly strengthening the quality of teaching and improving the quality of life for Malaysians, and a number of programmes to reduce poverty. It commended the acceptance of the recommendations, especially those it had made.

654. Turkmenistan commended the acceptance by Malaysia of many of the recommendations as a full demonstration of its will to make further efforts in the field of human rights.

655. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the continued efforts by Malaysia to ensure good governance and the rule of law, as well as measures that had been adopted in order to guarantee the freedom of all citizens and social justice for all.

656. UNFPA pledged its ongoing support for the enactment of the gender equality bill and the sexual harassment bill, as well as other legal instruments with a focus on preventing and addressing all forms of violence and harmful practices and enhancing the access of women and girls to the highest attainable standard of health care and other services. It noted that there was insufficient data on universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. It commended Malaysia for the establishment of the parliamentary Special Select Committee on Rights and Gender Equality. It would support the empowerment of young people through education in life skills and advocate for their protection from harmful practices, including female genital cutting.

657. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the programmes launched to strengthen interactions between the races and religions in the country and respect between the various religious and ethnic groups through interfaith dialogues at the local, regional, and international levels. It welcomed the plan, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 3, that prioritized improvements in the health system to achieve universal coverage.

658. Viet Nam stated that the high ratio and large spectrum of accepted recommendations showed strong commitment by Malaysia and it strongly believed that Malaysia would spare no efforts in implementing them.

4. General comments made by other stakeholders

659. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Malaysia, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

660. Franciscans International, in a joint statement with VIVAT International, appreciated the acceptance by the Government of several recommendations on the human rights of migrant workers, trafficking in persons and freedom of religion, but deeply regretted the rejection of four important recommendations on guaranteeing the right to freedom of religion and belief, including the right to freely choose and practise one's faith. The organizations reported that they had received complaints from indigenous people that there had been attempts to influence them into embracing the national religion by offering more development projects if they did so. They also raised concerns regarding the high number of victims of trafficking, many working as domestic workers.

661. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, in a joint statement with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, called upon the Government to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other core international human rights treaties, abolish the death penalty and repeal or amend restrictive legislation in line with international human rights standards. They were concerned by the backtracking of the Government on the commitment to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. They

regretted that Malaysia had not fully accepted several key recommendations on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and the protection of human rights defenders, and called upon it to repeal restrictive legislation, including the Sedition Act, section 233 of the Communication and Multimedia Act, and the Peaceful Assembly Act. They further called upon Malaysia to fully implement recommendations to repeal or amend legislation that continued to be misused to arbitrarily detain individuals without trial, including the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the Prevention of Crime Act. They called upon Malaysia to end all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

662. The Alliance Defending Freedom, in a joint statement with the World Evangelical Alliance, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Youth with a Mission, and Asociación HazteOir.org, regretted the rejection by the Government of Malaysia of 9 out of 10 recommendations addressing the deteriorating situation of freedom of religion or belief in the country. The organizations were concerned that the Government was willing to take measures to guarantee freedom of religion or belief only insofar as they were within the framework of the Constitution and that provision of the Constitution had been used to prohibit the free expression of individuals and the manifestation of the practices of minority religious groups. They expressed disappointment over the rejection by Malaysia of a recommendation to amend the national registration act to remove all references to religion on identity cards.

663. VIVAT International, in a joint statement with Franciscans International, was concerned about the human rights situation of migrant workers and victims of trafficking in persons. They reported that, based on the available data for the period from 2013 to 2018, 34 per cent of migrant workers who had worked in the domestic sector in Malaysia were Indonesian and, of those, 99 per cent were women vulnerable to physical, psychological and sexual violence and exploitation owing to excessive working hours. They urged Malaysia to adopt and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. They also urged Malaysia to ensure security, health care and work safety for migrant workers and to investigate cases of violence against all migrant workers and bring the perpetrators to justice.

664. The International Planned Parenthood Federation, in a joint statement with the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, expressed appreciation for Malaysia in ensuring universal access to stigma-free and friendly services for all people, especially unmarried women, adolescents and vulnerable groups. They encouraged the new Government to maintain and scale up efforts to reduce rising maternal mortality and guarantee full access to safe abortions. They commended the intention of Malaysia to enable young people in Malaysia to be fully informed of their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

665. The International Lesbian and Gay Association welcomed the 11 recommendations made to Malaysia by various member States on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics issues, and the acceptance by Malaysia of the recommendation to implement anti-bullying campaigns in schools, but was deeply concerned that Malaysia had noted the remaining 10 recommendations on those issues. It stated that the recent women's march had created an environment of impunity for harassment, intimidation and hate towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons. It called for dialogue with the Government on such issues and that it end all forms of State-sponsored violence against people based on their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, that it stop politicizing the issue and protect such persons from violence and discrimination.

666. The International Humanist and Ethical Union noted that the Malaysian Penal Code provided penalties for those who committed offences against religion and that the penalties included up to three years in prison or a large fine. It urged Malaysia to reconsider its rejection of recommendations calling for the right to freedom of religion or belief to be protected in the country and called upon Malaysia to repeal laws criminalizing blasphemy.

667. The International Service for Human Rights stated that human rights defenders, and in particular women human rights defenders, still faced significant challenges. It stated that the Government should take additional steps to acknowledge, promote and protect human rights defenders and fully implement the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. It also stated that awareness-raising of the universality of human rights was of the utmost importance in Malaysia.

668. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation regretted the decision of the Government in November 2018 not to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and was concerned by the lack of a clear timetable to ratify the other core treaties. It regretted that since the universal periodic review, a moratorium on the use of the Sedition Act and other laws that restricted fundamental freedoms had been lifted and that there had been arrests of individuals under the Sedition Act for exercising their right to expression. The Government had also failed to denounce racism and bigotry by opposition political leaders. It was concerned that activists continued to face arrests for their involvement in demonstrations. It called upon Malaysia to implement the recommendations it had accepted on protecting fundamental freedoms and immediately review or repeal all restrictive laws that undermined civic space, immediately halt their use against government critics and create an enabling environment for civil society organizations and human rights defenders.

669. Amnesty International welcomed the accession by Malaysia to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and called upon the Government to strengthen human rights protections by ratifying the remaining core international treaties and removing reservations to treaties it had already ratified. It called for the prompt abolition of the practices of caning children in schools and of whipping under sharia and common law. It called upon the Government to abolish laws that restricted freedom of expression, such as the Sedition Act, and to repeal or amend legislation that allowed for preventive detention, such as the Prevention of Crime Act, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, Security Offences (Special Measures) Act and the Dangerous Drugs (Special Measures) Act. It acknowledged that the Government had pledged to amend the death penalty legislation, but was deeply disappointed that it had rejected recommendations to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, contrary to its promises. It further called upon Malaysia to adopt legislation to recognise the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and indigenous peoples and to end discriminatory practices towards minorities.

5. Concluding remarks of the State under review

670. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of the 268 recommendations received, 148 had enjoyed the support of Malaysia and 120 had been noted.

671. The delegation thanked States, the Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and representatives of non-governmental organizations for their statements and gave further clarifications regarding the points raised.

672. Regarding accession to human rights conventions, Malaysia was committed to ratifying the remaining core international human rights instruments and had established interministerial committees to advance government efforts in that regard. The Government would work on “low-hanging fruits” such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

673. It was emphasized that freedom of religion or belief was constitutionally guaranteed and the necessary checks and balances were in place in Malaysia through national policies and programmes against acts of discrimination, stigmatization, stereotyping and hate crimes based on religion or belief. Furthermore, Malaysia had enacted laws that were in conformity with article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

674. Regarding discrimination, the delegation stressed that discrimination, hatred and racism had no place in the new Malaysia. The Government was looking into formulating a national harmony bill in order to solidify efforts to enhance race relations by promoting mutual respect, unity, reconciliation, integration and non-discrimination.

675. Malaysia acknowledged that gender equality and women's empowerment were vital and in March 2019, the Government had established a special project team, comprising representatives from the Government and civil society, to draft a gender equality bill.

676. The delegation reiterated the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia at the Human Rights Council that the country was fully committed to the cause of human rights both at home and globally. Malaysia had made real progress and would do more and expedite its efforts in that regard. Malaysia was determined to implement the recommendations of the universal periodic review.

Central African Republic

677. The review of the Central African Republic was held on 9 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by the Central African Republic in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CAF/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CAF/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CAF/3).

678. At its 37th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Central African Republic (see sect. C below).

679. The outcome of the review of the Central African Republic comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/12 and Corr.1), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/12/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

680. The delegation indicated that two years of dialogue between the Government and 14 armed groups had led to the conclusion of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, signed in Bangui on 6 February 2019.

681. The process, led by the African Union within the framework of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, would not have succeeded without the support of its partners, such as the United Nations, the European Union, the Economic Community of Central African States and the countries of the subregion. As part of the African initiative, it was agreed to capitalize on the achievements of the 2015 Bangui National Forum and to ensure strict observation of the basic principles of democratic governance. A new inclusive government team had been put in place to implement the agreement, which should allow the country to return to peace.

682. The delegation further stated that in order to reach a lasting settlement of the conflict, which had undermined the Central African nation for years, the Government must implement effective mechanisms leading to reconstruction of the social net affected by discrimination, exclusion and the culture of impunity.

683. The Government was committed through strong actions to meeting the challenges posed by armed groups and addressing persistent discrimination in all forms, which were at the basis of the conflict. To that end, the Government would ensure that the law was the only reference in the regulation of social, political and economic life, in order to avoid arbitrariness. Also, ensuring justice was vital to redressing the multiple consequences of the

continuing crisis. While efforts were being made to rebuild the ordinary courts and tribunals, the parties to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation had also agreed to include alternative mechanisms of transitional justice through a process of truth, justice, reparation and reconciliation.

684. Regarding the 207 recommendations received during its third universal periodic review, the Central African Republic had taken note of 28 recommendations and supported 179 recommendations related to the reinstatement of the authority of the State; the efficient functioning of institutions through reforms; the provision of adequate financial and human resources; and measures to ensure peaceful solutions to the conflict that was undermining the country in order to restore peace, security and national reconciliation.

685. Regarding the fight against impunity, the delegation stressed that the Department of Justice and Human Rights had been working for several months with the help of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to redeploy all magistrates and other judicial actors throughout the national territory. Similarly, the Territorial Administration was gradually recovering after the installation of the 16 prefects in their area of jurisdiction and, with French cooperation, training had been provided for public servants and public officials.

686. Pursuant to the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, the parties agreed to waive all recourse to armed force for the settlement of disputes. The State was committed to continuing the reform of the security sector and ensuring that the army and security forces behaved in line with the principles of the Republic. Moreover, the Government and the armed groups recognized the importance of the national programme for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation and of an implementation strategy in the country's stabilization process. They also agreed to ensure rigorous and transparent management through the involvement of armed groups in the Strategic Committee, the Technical Committee and in coordination.

687. Similarly, the strategy for reform of the security sector would continue. A process of analysis, review and enforcement, as well as monitoring and evaluation, aimed to establish an effective and accountable security system for the State and citizens, without discrimination and in full respect for human rights and rule of law. It was conceived as an inclusive political process grounded in national ownership and a holistic approach to security.

688. The delegation emphasized that the Central African Republic had already ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict. In addition, measures were being taken to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in the very near future. Thus, the Government had transmitted to the National Assembly the bill on the code of child protection.

689. Regarding recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, according to the delegation, the Central African Republic had resolutely embarked on the process of abolishing the death penalty. As a first step, the Code of Military Justice had been adopted in 2017 and it did not provide for the death penalty. Furthermore, the moratorium observed for several years had continued and no death sentence had been pronounced since by the criminal sessions. In addition, a bill proposing the abolition of the death penalty and amending certain provisions of the Penal Code was currently being examined by the Government before being transmitted to the National Assembly for debate and vote. Once adopted, the Government would initiate the ratification procedure for the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights without delay.

690. Regarding the situation of minority rights and the question of the decriminalization of homosexuality, the delegation indicated that, in accordance with the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, the Government was committed to promoting inclusion, affirmative action and temporary special measures to redress the inequalities affecting communities harmed in the past and to ensuring their full participation in the political, economic and social life of the nation. As such, it recognized cultural and religious diversity and was committed to enhancing the contribution of all the constituents of the Central African

people, promoting inclusiveness, particularly of minorities, women and young people, in the State's management and in national reconstruction. The delegation particularly indicated that none of the articles in the Penal Code criminalized sexual orientation, and that article 115 (2) only referred to the case of attacks on morals committed in a public place.

691. To conclude, the delegation reaffirmed the importance that the Central African Republic gave to the universal periodic review and its disposition to implement the recommendations received.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

692. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Central African Republic, 13 delegations made statements.

693. China hoped that the Government of the Central African Republic would continue to adopt effective measures to advance peace, reconciliation and the disarmament process; promote economic and social development to reduce poverty; and better safeguard the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It congratulated the country for reaffirming its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and hoped it would make further progress in the field of human rights.

694. Côte d'Ivoire remained convinced that the effective implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations would in all likelihood contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation in the country. It noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Government of the Central African Republic in the areas of security, the restoration of the authority of the State, national reconciliation and peace. In order to consolidate the achievements and better meet the challenges that remained in the country, Côte d'Ivoire encouraged the country to continue its full cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and in particular cooperation with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic.

695. Cuba was grateful for the fact that the Central African Republic had accepted its recommendations on improving the health and education services and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular, boys and girls. It invited the Central African Republic to consider all the recommendations it had accepted as a guide to help in future policies in the area of human rights.

696. The Democratic Republic of the Congo thanked the Central African Republic for having accepted the majority of the recommendations made to it, in particular ratification in 2018 of the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and for the efforts made by the Government to give effect to those recommendations. It urged the technical and financial partners to support the Central African Republic in implementing the recommendations to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

697. Djibouti commended the Central African Republic for accepting the majority of recommendations received under the third cycle of the universal periodic review and was delighted by the acceptance of two out of the three recommendations it had presented regarding violence against women, impunity and measures to end the recruitment of child soldiers.

698. Egypt valued the acceptance by the Government of most of the recommendations submitted to it, which reflected its readiness to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. It also appreciated the efforts made to improve the implementation of recommendations regarding respect for human rights.

699. Ethiopia commended the Central African Republic for accepting many recommendations including its own, which aimed at strengthening commitment in the implementation of human rights policies and national legislation, and for continuing its concerted efforts to improve and strengthen the mechanisms put in place to combat harmful social and cultural practices against women and children. It encouraged the Central African Republic to take measures for the full implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

700. Gabon welcomed the efforts of the Central African Republic to ensure peace and security in its territory. It commended the country for its cooperation with the special procedures and mechanisms of the Council, demonstrated by the ratification of several international instruments such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and all the measures aimed at combating the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

701. Iraq was delighted by the fact that the Central African Republic had accepted its three recommendations and commended the country for having accepted the majority of the recommendations made. It hoped that they would be implemented in accordance with international human rights obligations.

702. Madagascar noted with satisfaction the actions that had been taken by the authorities of the Central African Republic since the return to constitutional legality, particularly the undertaking of legislative and regulatory measures aiming at prohibiting and punishing the recruitment and use of children in conflict. It welcomed the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme and the security sector strategy. It encouraged the Government to continue in that direction, in order to consolidate the rule of law and respect for human rights in the country.

703. The Philippines noted the acceptance of most of the recommendations made and thanked the Central African Republic for accepting its recommendations on addressing gender-based violence and on the protection of children in armed conflict. It stated that the Central African Republic had noted its recommendation on continuing efforts to engage partners in capacity-building activities. The Philippines was encouraged by the commitment of the Government to continuing to advance the promotion and protection of human rights.

704. The Russian Federation noted the progress achieved by the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights, despite the difficult political and economic situation, and stated that the authorities of the Central African Republic deserved to be commended for their willingness to cooperate with the universal human rights mechanisms. It noted with satisfaction that the Central African Republic had accepted the majority of the recommendations received and that it was counting on their effective implementation.

705. Senegal welcomed the efforts that had been made by the authorities of the Central African Republic aimed at restoring the rule of law, combating impunity and promoting national reconciliation. Senegal also commended the signing of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in 2019 and stressed the importance of implementing the agreement to end years of crisis, with the support of neighbouring countries and African and international organizations. In that regard, it hoped that the appointment of the new head of MINUSCA would help to consolidate the achievements that had already been reached, in order to assure lasting peace for the country.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

706. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of the Central African Republic, five other stakeholders made statements.

707. Christian Solidarity Worldwide was concerned at violations perpetrated against civilians based on their religious or ethnic identity. It urged the Government to ensure adequate protection for communities that were vulnerable to attack by armed groups. It noted with concern attacks on camps for internally displaced persons and on nearby church properties in Aliando town and Ippy, where more than 40 persons had been killed and over 20,000 displaced as a result of the attacks. While recognizing the efforts of the Government to restore State authority throughout the country, the presence of armed groups had led to restrictions on freedom of movement and freedom of religion or belief, illegal taxation and arbitrary detention. It welcomed the efforts to establish the Special Criminal Court and recommended that the Government ensure that the court had the necessary resources to execute its mandate, restore justice mechanisms at all levels and combat impunity.

708. Amnesty International was concerned at the continued and serious human rights abuses committed by armed groups and welcomed the acceptance by the Government of recommendations to continue its efforts to achieve the disarmament and demobilization of

armed groups operating in the territory, in order to restore security in the country. It also welcomed the inauguration of the Special Criminal Court in 2018 and the transfer of the warlord Rambo to the International Criminal Court in November 2018. However, it remained concerned that progress in bringing perpetrators to justice was slow and at the persistence of impunity. It therefore welcomed the acceptance of the recommendations to ensure accountability for human rights violations, including within the armed forces and all parties to the peace process. It regretted that, despite accepting recommendations in 2013 to abolish the death penalty, the Government had yet to do so. It urged the Central African Republic to implement that recommendation that it had also accepted during the third cycle.

709. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme indicated that the human rights situation had improved in the Central African Republic. However, efforts should still be made to combat the proliferation of small and light weapons, in order to ensure security in the whole country. It invited all actors to ensure implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. It was also concerned at the widespread food insecurity in the country, which needed better coordination among the United Nations agencies in order to assist internally displaced persons. It called upon the authorities to develop a strategy to fight corruption and sexual and gender-based violence. It also invited the international community to assist the country to consolidate peace and democracy.

710. The Association of World Citizens expressed concern at the violations perpetrated against women and girls and noted that implementation of the recommendations contained in the following paragraphs in the report of the Working Group would help to improve the human rights situation of women and girls: paragraph 121.139 setting an equal minimum age for marriage for boys and girls; 121.145 on creating an early warning mechanism to combat forced and early marriage; and 121.147 on continuing efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices. It also indicated that it was crucial to bring the perpetrators of sexual violence against women to justice.

711. The International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination acknowledged the establishment of the Special Criminal Court and the criminal sessions held by the Court of Appeal of Bangui. However, it remained concerned that perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence continued to enjoy impunity and therefore civilians, including women and children, continued to be threatened. It urged the Government to continue strengthening the justice system and to speed up progress in opening further investigations of such crimes with the cooperation of the commission of inquiry and the International Criminal Court. It stated that peace, stability and security could only be achieved by ending impunity. In addressing justice for victims, it noted the acceptance by the country of recommendations to establish a truth commission. It recommended enhancing the partnership with the international community and the special procedures.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

712. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 207 recommendations received, 179 had enjoyed the support of the Central African Republic and 28 had been noted.

713. The delegation thanked member States and non-governmental organizations for their statements that would help the Government in the implementation of the recommendations made. The delegation also thanked the troika and reaffirmed the full adhesion of the country to the universal periodic review process and its willingness to implement its recommendations. It stated that the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation gave hope and should be implemented by all the parties.

Monaco

714. The review of Monaco was held on 12 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Monaco in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MCO/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MCO/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MCO/3).

715. At its 37th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Monaco (see sect. C below).

716. The outcome of the review of Monaco comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/13 and Corr.1), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/13/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

717. The delegation, headed by the Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Carole Lanteri, introduced the position of Monaco on the recommendations received during its third universal periodic review.

718. The delegation noted that Monaco was deeply attached to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as to the universal periodic review, which allowed it to strengthen those rights. It had therefore sought to provide detailed replies to a number of the recommendations it had received in its response to the report of the Working Group. Monaco had also aimed to carry out that exercise in a collegial manner with the participation, during the review in November 2018, of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the President of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the National Council and the Director of Judicial Services. Civil society had also been consulted.

719. At the adoption of the report of the Working Group in November 2018, Monaco had supported 72 of the 113 recommendations it had received, noted 35 and deferred its position on the remaining 6.

720. The 72 recommendations fully supported by Monaco addressed measures already implemented or that were being finalized.

721. With regard to the rights of women, the delegation highlighted the establishment of the Committee for the Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights in October 2018 under the Minister of State and chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. The Committee included representatives of the relevant departments and administrative services and the Director of Judicial Services and involved, among others, the Office of the High Commissioner for the Protection of Rights, Liberties and for Mediation and representatives of associations working on the issue.

722. Concerning children's rights, the delegation recalled that equal access to education was guaranteed under Act No. 1.334 of 12 July 2007. Equal access to health care was also ensured for all children residing in Monaco or who had one parent working in the country, whatever their nationality and without any distinction of gender or age.

723. Policies intended for older persons included, in addition to already existing measures for their accommodation and support, a plan for a new residential facility and the establishment of a structure for older persons with psychosocial disabilities.

724. The delegation recalled that 35 recommendations had been noted during the Working Group and that the 6 recommendations on which Monaco had deferred its position had also been noted. A number of those recommendations were incompatible with the country's specificities while others required mechanisms that were different from those already in place to achieve similar objectives.

725. Regarding the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the delegation indicated that becoming a party to that instrument would require a profound reform of several legal texts, including the Constitution, the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure. Monaco was nonetheless committed to collaborating with the International Criminal Court and had already implemented a request for cooperation from the Court's Prosecutor.

726. With regard to the repression of offences against the person of the Prince, the delegation noted that this was not unique to Monaco, and not dissimilar from the majority of legislation in force in other European monarchies. Such legislation sought to ensure the jurisdictional immunity of the sovereign Prince and not to impede free debate on matters of public interest.

727. Similarly, the issue of becoming a member of the International Labour Organization and the ratification of certain of its conventions raised questions regarding trade union rights and the country's system of preferential treatment for its nationals in employment.

728. The Constitution and the laws and regulations currently in force in Monaco did not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, gender, language or religion. The system of preferential treatment in employment was intended only to protect Monegasque nationals, who were a minority in their own country. Monaco had a territory of 2.03 km² with a population of 38,300 of which only 9,259 were of Monegasque nationality. In all, 98 per cent of employees of the companies and enterprises in Monaco were non-Monegasque, which demonstrated that the system of priorities did not have any negative impact on access to employment in the country for foreign nationals.

729. Similarly, regarding the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the delegation noted that the priority given to nationals in housing and employment, as they were a minority in their own country, did not allow for the ratification of the Convention for the time being. The small territory of Monaco, combined with monitoring by labour inspectors and surveillance by the police, made it unlikely that there would be persons in an irregular situation. In addition, non-Monegasque workers fully enjoyed the rights to health and education. Targeted support measures to help the most vulnerable were provided and rigorous inspections of labour conditions were carried out to prevent any form of exploitation.

730. Regarding the recommendation on official development assistance, the delegation indicated that Monaco had increased its development aid each year doubling its assistance in the previous 10 years. Official development assistance (ODA) had increased by at least 10 per cent each year and should reach 20 million euros in 2020. That effort – unique in Europe – was accompanied by greater rationalization, with Monaco concentrating its resources on a limited number of partner countries, mainly least developed countries. Monegasque ODA was exclusively concessional and was provided through subsidies and/or technical assistance. More than 70 per cent of the resources provided by Monaco benefited seven African least developed countries, enabling it to achieve the Addis Ababa target of devoting at least 0.15 per cent of its national wealth to such countries.

731. Monaco was also committed to providing more support to the main actors in partner countries and, in the spirit of the Istanbul Humanitarian Summit, it had pledged to devote at least 30 per cent of its funding to local actors, authorities and civil society, in order to promote the effectiveness and sustainability of its operations.

732. Furthermore, to contribute to gender equality and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 worldwide, its actions were based on an integrated approach. Such actions included improving maternal and infant health, food and nutritional security for families, education for girls from preschool to higher education and supporting the employment and entrepreneurship of women, especially in rural areas through vocational training or access to finance. Finally, special attention was given to women and girls who were particularly vulnerable, such as those who were disabled, refugees, those without family support and victims of violence or trafficking.

733. In conclusion, the delegation indicated that it hoped that the third review had allowed for a better understanding of the specificities of Monaco and also reaffirmed the country's

commitment to maintaining a constructive dialogue with the Human Rights Council and developing effective international cooperation in the service of the most vulnerable.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

734. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Monaco, 10 delegations made statements.

735. Madagascar was pleased by the creation of new institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights and by the establishment of the Committee for the Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights. It encouraged the Government to pursue and intensify its efforts to effectively protect and promote human rights in the country. It invited the Human Rights Council to adopt the report of the Working Group and wished Monaco success in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

736. Pakistan commended Monaco for accepting the majority of the recommendations it had received during its review in November 2018, including those it had made. It also welcomed the steps taken by Monaco to empower women and to ensure access to health-care services for all children. It wished Monaco every success in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

737. The Philippines noted the acceptance by Monaco of most of the recommendations it had received. It observed that recommendations on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and on membership of the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization had been noted. The Philippines welcomed the efforts made by Monaco to implement measures aimed at further enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights. It endorsed the adoption of the report of the Working Group by the Human Rights Council.

738. The Republic of Moldova was pleased that Monaco had accepted most of the recommendations it had received, including those to further ensure inclusive education for all, which it had submitted. It commended the Government for establishing the Committee for the Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights and for holding its first meeting during which four new measures for ensuring women's rights had been put forward. It wished every success to Monaco in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

739. Tunisia commended Monaco for the creation of new institutions in the field of human rights, notably on the rights of women, children and migrants. It congratulated Monaco for its acceptance of the majority of the recommendations it had received and wished it every success in their implementation. Lastly, Tunisia recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the report of the Working Group.

740. Turkmenistan expressed its appreciation of the highly constructive dialogue carried out with Monaco during the third cycle of the universal periodic review and recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the outcome report on Monaco. Lastly, Turkmenistan wished Monaco success in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

741. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the efforts made by Monaco to ensure the rights of the most vulnerable, including women, children and persons with disabilities. It also commended Monaco for making free education available and compulsory up to the age of 16, and noted that primary and secondary education was free in public schools. It recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the report of the Working Group.

742. Burkina Faso welcomed the significant efforts made by Monaco in the implementation of the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It noted with satisfaction the acceptance by Monaco of most of the recommendations it had received during the third cycle and encouraged it to implement those recommendations. It recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the report of the Working Group.

743. China commended Monaco for its constructive participation in the universal periodic review and expressed the hope that Monaco would continue to adopt effective measures to

promote gender equality and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities. It also hoped that Monaco would continue to promote economic social development and provide development assistance to developing countries. China supported the adoption of the report of the Working Group by the Human Rights Council.

744. Iraq expressed its satisfaction with the acceptance by Monaco of two recommendations presented by its delegation. It recommended that the Human Rights Council adopt the report on Monaco and congratulated the country for accepting most of the recommendations that it had received during the review process. Iraq hoped that Monaco would implement the recommendations it had accepted, in accordance with the international obligations it had undertaken.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

745. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Monaco, three other stakeholders made statements.

746. Villages unis was pleased that Monaco had taken positive steps to protect and promote human rights, including by reviewing its domestic laws, noting in particular the establishment of the High Commissioner for the Protection of Rights, Liberties and for Mediation. It took note that Monaco had ratified numerous international human rights instruments, including the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2014 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2016.

747. The Association of World Citizens regretted that Monaco had not accepted recommendations to open discussions with civil society groups and stakeholders on the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls; repeal discriminatory legislation and decriminalize elective abortion; withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and ratify certain optional protocols to international human rights treaties. It stated that Monaco should ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as soon as possible.

748. Campagne internationale pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires asked Monaco to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of urgency, as outlined in the recommendation contained in paragraph 78.16 of the report of the Working Group. It noted that the Principality's commitment to the respect for international humanitarian law had been demonstrated through the ratification of the treaties on chemical and biological weapons and on cluster munitions and landmines. It stated that Monaco would complete its commitment to disarmament by becoming a State party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

749. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 113 recommendations received, 72 had enjoyed the support of Monaco and 41 had been noted.

750. The delegation thanked all States and representatives of non-governmental organizations who had participated in the review with their comments and recommendations and expressed the hope that, at next universal periodic review, further progress would have been achieved by Monaco.

Belize

751. The review of Belize was held on 12 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Belize in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/BLZ/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/BLZ/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/BLZ/3).

752. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Belize (see sect. C below).

753. The outcome of the review of Belize comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/14), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/14/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

754. The delegation reiterated the continued commitment of Belize to promoting and protecting human rights for all and stated that there was an inextricable link between national development and human rights. The Government of Belize had long adopted a rights-based approach to development, deeply embedding human rights in the fabric of Belizean society. The experience of Belize showed how improving the national human rights situation contributed to advancing national development, as well as the realization of the international sustainable development agenda. In that spirit, Belize continued to value its participation in the universal periodic review mechanism and regarded it as an important tool to promote and protect human rights around the world.

755. During the thirty-first session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in November 2018, Belize had received 124 recommendations on several important issues. It had immediately accepted 98 recommendations, close to 80 per cent of the total. Belize was able to readily accept those recommendations as it considered the majority of them were aligned with policies and processes that the Government had undertaken or was in the process of implementing. Other recommendations were accepted as they clearly built on supported recommendations from previous cycles of the universal periodic review, demonstrating the country's progress and its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights.

756. While acknowledging that all the recommendations received were given in a constructive spirit, Belize had noted 20 recommendations after thoughtful consideration. It had also reserved its position on 6 recommendations in order to carefully consider them through consultations at the national level. The delegation was now pleased to indicate that the Government of Belize had decided to accept a further 2 recommendations, bringing the total number of recommendations accepted to 100. The Government had noted an additional 4 recommendations, 1 of which was based on inaccurate information, as explained in the response to the report of the Working Group.

757. With regard to the recommendations it had accepted, Belize acknowledged the need for an independent human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). While Belize did not have a single overarching national human rights institution, it had several specialized human rights institutions that focused on the implementation of specific conventions, including those relating to the rights of children, women, the elderly, and those living with HIV. Additionally, the Office of the Ombudsman received and investigated complaints in relation to any public authority. The Government was working on undertaking a feasibility study for the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance

with the Paris Principles and was continuing the dialogue with its partners, including OHCHR, on the matter.

758. Belize also accepted the majority of the recommendations concerning equality and non-discrimination. The Constitution of Belize guaranteed the protection of every person in the country from any type of discrimination and the Supreme Court had recently upheld the constitutional guarantee of non-discrimination by striking down section 53 of the Criminal Code, which criminalized consensual sexual intercourse between two adults of the same sex. Belize also stated that the Government was in the process of developing an anti-discrimination bill intended to address non-discrimination in a comprehensive manner.

759. Belize accepted all recommendations concerning trafficking in persons. In 2013, it had revised the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act, increasing the penalties and establishing the Anti-trafficking in Persons Council. Belize had continued its efforts on public education and the training of front-line stakeholders in victim identification and referral. Furthermore, in 2017 the executive had directed a number of measures aimed at improving the prosecution of human trafficking cases.

760. Belize noted that a large number of the recommendations it had received related to discrimination against women and that it had accepted the majority of them. Belize had long been advancing its work on the implementation of the national policy on gender equality adopted in March 2013. Furthermore, the National Women's Commission had established the National Gender and Gender-based Violence Committee and the district gender-based violence committees as an integrated, multifaceted, multisectoral response to addressing all forms of gender issues with respect to the five priority areas of health, education, wealth and employment, power and decision-making, and gender-based violence. Belize was committed to continuing its efforts to combat violence against women, including, *inter alia*, through the drafting of updated national implementation plans on gender-based violence, the cross-sectional training of front-line officers, national surveillance systems and strengthened psychosocial support to women and survivors.

761. The delegation noted that a number of States had called upon Belize to continue its work in the fields of education, health and development. Belize had accepted all those recommendations, as it recognized that there was always more that could be done in such sectors. The Government continued to invest to expand access to education and health care and strengthen the social protection system.

762. With regard to the 24 recommendations it had noted, Belize indicated that, while not supporting the recommendations relating to extending standing invitations to special procedure mandate holders, it was open to considering such invitations on a case-by-case basis. Regarding the recommendations relating to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the abolition of the death penalty, Belize reiterated that it had reported no use of the death penalty for close to 35 years, even though it remained on its law books. Many of the other recommendations it had noted continued to be the subject of further necessary national consultation, as in some instances they would require constitutional and legislative amendments, while others had financial implications.

763. Belize underscored its continued commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and to the universal periodic review mechanism, notwithstanding the financial, technical, and human resource constraints it faced. Belize remained fully committed to fulfilling its reporting obligations and stated that it had prioritized reporting on a number of human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

764. The delegation reiterated that Belize would continue to work steadily in the implementation of the new commitments made through the universal periodic review process. It noted that the role of Governments to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights for all was greatly assisted by the international community through processes such as the universal periodic review. For small States like Belize, the assistance of the international community and the United Nations agencies continued to be an important

source of capacity-building and support. The delegation also thanked the staff of OHCHR in Geneva for their guidance and assistance.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council and by United Nations entities on the outcome of the review

765. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Belize, 10 delegations made statements.

766. Chile acknowledged the efforts of Belize to strengthen its juridical framework for the promotion and protection of human rights. In that regard, it welcomed the ratification of several international instruments and the implementation of inclusive education policies for children with disabilities. Chile also congratulated Belize for accepting 100 of the 124 recommendations received, including those formulated by Chile on furthering efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and adopting legislation to prevent and sanction all forms of discrimination, violence or abuse on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

767. Cuba welcomed the active participation of Belize in the third cycle of the universal periodic review and was pleased that Belize had accepted the recommendations it had formulated on the implementation of the national strategic health plan and on access to inclusive education for children with disabilities. Cuba encouraged Belize to effectively implement all the recommendations it had accepted and wished it success in that endeavour.

768. Iraq congratulated Belize for its participation in the universal periodic review and expressed its appreciation for the acceptance of the three recommendations submitted by its delegation. It also expressed appreciation for the acceptance by Belize of most of the recommendations it had received during the review process. Finally, Iraq hoped for the implementation of the accepted recommendations in accordance with the international obligations undertaken by Belize.

769. UNHCR welcomed the support of Belize for the recommendations calling for greater protection of vulnerable persons and noted that ensuring full protection for those persons without discrimination would require guaranteeing access to international protection to any non-citizen who might be a refugee. It appealed to Belize to reconsider and accept the recommendation contained in paragraph 79.20 of the report of the Working Group, in which a comprehensive update of its migration and asylum legislation was called for, in order to align it with international standards and notably to ensure that all persons had access to asylum procedures, regardless of when they had submitted asylum claims. It also welcomed the acceptance of several recommendations regarding statelessness and reaffirmed its readiness to assist Belize in implementing the recommendations received during its third review.

770. Tunisia thanked Belize for its detailed presentation and welcomed all its efforts to improve its legislation in order to comply with international human rights standards. It commended Belize for the acceptance of an important number of the recommendations it had received, in particular those related to violence against women and the protection of children. Finally, it wished Belize every success in the implementation of the recommendations.

771. UNFPA reaffirmed its commitment to working with Belize towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. In that regard, it stated that it would continue supporting, *inter alia*, the national gender policy, the gender-based violence action plan, the strengthening of the gender-based violence surveillance system and the development of a national comprehensive adolescent health strategy and a national road map to end child marriage. Finally, UNFPA would continue supporting the Ministry of Health in its revision of the sexual and reproductive health policy in line with the rights-based approach of the Government to achieving universal health coverage.

772. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the efforts of Belize to implement the recommendations accepted in the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It valued the growth and sustainable development strategy and commended Belize on the implementation of the programme “Building opportunities for our social transformation”, which provided economic and social support to families without a regular source of income.

It encouraged Belize to continue strengthening its social policies in favour of the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

773. The Bahamas congratulated Belize for its efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights and for its acceptance of a significant majority of the recommendations it had received. It welcomed the acceptance of the recommendation it had made on the establishment or strengthening of a national process to assist in the coordination of the reporting process under different human rights instruments, such as a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. It also encouraged Belize to consider the recommendation it had made to extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. Finally, it encouraged Belize to continue strengthening its commendable climate change strategies and called upon the international community to provide support to the country in that regard.

774. Barbados welcomed the engagement of Belize in the universal periodic review process and its commitment to strengthening the implementation of its existing legislation, in particular with regard to the protection of children under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also appreciated the transition from an Office of the Ombudsman to the establishment of an institution in compliance with the Paris Principles. Taking into consideration the difficulties related to those important steps, it encouraged Belize to seek and obtain the necessary technical assistance and to achieve compliance in the course of the next review cycle.

775. Brazil commended Belize for its efforts to engage constructively in an open and fruitful dialogue with the international community. It also commended Belize for accepting the majority of the recommendations received and was confident that the country would continue the dialogue on the recommendations that it was not able to accept. Brazil reiterated its appreciation of the positive achievements of Belize in the field of human rights, such as the efforts to ensure access to and quality of food and nutrition for children as well as the de facto moratorium on the death penalty. Brazil reaffirmed its specific concerns regarding the need to enhance women's participation in political life and wished Belize every success in the implementation of the recommendations it had accepted.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

776. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Belize, three other stakeholders made statements.

777. The International Planned Parenthood Federation, in a joint statement with the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, celebrated the commitment of Belize to increasing access to quality sexual and reproductive health education and to ensuring continued education for pregnant teenage girls. They also commended the willingness of Belize to reform its health-care system to ensure the removal of barriers preventing the access of women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons to non-discriminatory, rights-based, integrated and high-quality sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV/AIDS prevention services. Finally, they were pleased with the commitment of Belize to securing the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and expressed their readiness to support the Government to ensure the implementation of those recommendations.

778. The Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, in a joint statement with the International Lesbian and Gay Association, thanked the members of the Human Rights Council for the recommendations formulated on sexual orientation and gender identity, 15 of which had been accepted by the Government of Belize. They welcomed the announcements made by Belize, during both the universal periodic review and the Human Rights Committee sessions, regarding its work with the National AIDS Commission to advance anti-discrimination legislation. However, they remained concerned that no deadline had been set for presenting the anti-discrimination bill to parliament and that, after nine years of accepting recommendations to develop a national human rights institution, no deadline had been set for conducting and finalizing a feasibility study. Furthermore, they noted that the gender equality framework that had been developed

on paper had not been fully implemented and that a strong accountability mechanism to address the abuse of power by police officers was still lacking.

779. The Association of World Citizens appreciated the acceptance by Belize of the recommendations regarding the establishment of a national institution for human rights. It recommended that, although the death penalty had not been implemented for almost 35 years, Belize change the law in that regard. It also welcomed the fact that Belize had agreed to revise the age of marriage from 16 to 18 for girls without any exceptions. It hoped that before the next review cycle, Belize would accept the recommendation it had noted on guaranteeing independent access to sexual and reproductive health services in accordance with the age of consent and without parental permission. It was also greatly concerned about the increase in violence against women and femicide. Finally, it was disappointed that Belize had rejected the recommendation to approve the draft amendment to the Representation of the People Act that would establish a 33 per cent quota of women in the National Assembly.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

780. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 124 recommendations received, 100 had enjoyed the support of Belize and 24 had been noted.

781. In its concluding remarks, the delegation of Belize thanked the delegations present and stated that it had taken note with great respect of their constructive comments and would consider them as it took further action on the recommendations. Belize thanked the Human Rights Council for the opportunity provided through the universal periodic review and indicated that it looked forward to its next constructive engagement at the Human Rights Council.

Chad

782. The review of Chad was held on 13 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Chad in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/TCD/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/TCD/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/TCD/3 and Corr.1).

783. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Chad (see sect. C below).

784. The outcome of the review of Chad comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/15), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session.

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

785. The delegation of Chad, headed by the Minister of Justice in charge of Human Rights, Djimet Arabi, was pleased to note the growing interest and support shown by member States of the Human Rights Council during the review of Chad by the Working Group. That demonstration of interest had also been shown through the 204 recommendations issued to

Chad, which had accepted 195 of them and continued to study the feasibility of the 9 recommendations it had noted.

786. With respect to the death penalty, the Government of Chad had solemnly engaged itself to observe a moratorium on the death penalty. It was quite true that the death penalty had been abolished for ordinary crimes since the 2017 Criminal Code had been adopted. However, it remained in Law No. 34 on the fight against terrorism and was a subject of debate among the people. In November 2018, the Ministry of Justice had convened an expert workshop, which had put forward a draft bill to the Government that would reform the provisions of Law No. 34 pertaining to the death penalty.

787. It was imperative that the implementation of recommendations with a security focus take into account security issues in the Sahel region and the complexity of the struggle with an enemy who used asymmetric means.

788. Indeed, the country faced countless challenges, the most significant of which were the terrorist threat, climate change, which was drying up Lake Chad, and poverty. Tremendous efforts were being made by the Government to combat those scourges.

789. The Government and its partners were setting up a number of programmes and projects to support the national development plan, which was a true leverage in order to combat poverty. A strong appeal was launched to all friendly States who took a position during the round table in Paris to step up the implementation of their promises and pledges.

790. Following the establishment of the National Framework of Political Dialogue, which was the platform for exchanges and discussion between political parties of the opposition and the majority, the Head of State, Idriss Déby Itno, signed a decree setting up an independent national commission tasked with organizing the elections.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

791. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Chad, 13 delegations made statements.

792. Togo welcomed the commitment to following up on the recommendations supported and to further consolidating human rights in the country. It noted with satisfaction that the Government was paying particular attention to the promotion and empowerment of women, to the situation of children and to measures to combat all forms of violence and discrimination.

793. Tunisia welcomed the steps taken to build the institutional and legislative human rights framework and thanked Chad for accepting the majority of the recommendations, including the recommendations it had made.

794. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued the efforts made by Chad in implementing the recommendations it had accepted. It highlighted the ratification of various international human rights instruments as well as the development policy that focused on the rights of women, which included the fight against domestic violence and against all forms of discrimination against women.

795. Afghanistan appreciated the Government of Chad for accepting a large number of recommendations received during the third cycle and supported the country's willingness to consider additional amendments to the legal framework in accordance with international human rights standards.

796. Algeria welcomed the adoption of national policies and programmes to promote human rights, in particular the national development plan for the period 2017–2021, the poverty reduction strategies and the measures taken to put an end to the enlisting of children in the armed forces.

797. Angola commended the progress achieved by Chad since the previous universal periodic review cycle in terms of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, translated into the ratification of major international human rights treaties on equality for and non-discrimination against women, environmental challenges and the fight against terrorism.

798. The Plurinational State of Bolivia acknowledged the commitment and efforts deployed by Chad in the areas of the legal and institutional framework and cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. It congratulated Chad on the acceptance of 195 recommendations, including those it had made.

799. Botswana stated that during the review it had commended Chad for the reform of the National Human Rights Commission and the amendment of laws, policies and regulations to promote human rights, including the national gender policy of 2016 and the national development plan for the period 2017–2021. Botswana was pleased that Chad had accepted its recommendations and looked forward to their implementation.

800. Burkina Faso commended Chad on the progress made in the human rights field, in spite of a national context marked by terrorist attacks and by attempts at destabilization. It was pleased with the legislative and institutional reforms undertaken by Chad with a view to consolidating the effectiveness of human rights in the country.

801. Cameroon welcomed the interest of Chad in the recommendations made during the review and remained convinced that the effective implementation of the recommendations would significantly improve the human rights situation in the country. It noted with satisfaction that all the indicators confirmed favourable trends towards strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights in Chad.

802. China commended Chad for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review. It expressed the hope that the Government would continue with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in accordance with its national plan, continue promoting economic and social development, reduce poverty and continue combating terrorism to provide a peaceful and stable environment for the enjoyment of human rights by its people.

803. Cuba appreciated the acceptance of its recommendations related to the reduction of poverty, the effective implementation of the national development plan and the expansion of access to quality education and of literacy programmes. It invited Chad to implement effectively the recommendations it had accepted.

804. Egypt highly appreciated the acceptance by Chad of most of the recommendations made by States, including Egypt, which reflected the spirit of positive cooperation with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, and the desire of Chad to continue its efforts to promote respect for human rights and strengthen cooperation with the human rights mechanisms.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

805. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Chad, four other stakeholders made statements.

806. The International Service for Human Rights appreciated the acceptance by Chad of recommendations aimed at combating attacks on human rights defenders and guaranteeing freedom of expression, association and assembly. It commended the commitment of Chad to adopting a law for the protection of human rights defenders. It encouraged the country to implement those recommendations effectively through legislative and administrative measures and to lift restrictions on civil society space. It welcomed the reform of the law establishing the National Human Rights Commission but noted the need to ensure its independence in compliance with the Paris Principles. It remained concerned by the large-scale use of ministerial decrees banning peaceful protests and public events. It encouraged the Government to protect freedom of expression and opinion and refrain from arresting journalists, and provide the necessary resources for the effective functioning of the National Human Rights Commission.

807. Amnesty International welcomed the acceptance by Chad of recommendations to abolish the death penalty and called upon Chad to establish an official moratorium on executions. Concerned by the fact that since 2013, the situation of human rights defenders and journalists had deteriorated, it welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to adopt a law to protect human rights defenders. It mentioned the large number of decrees banning protests and the use of excessive force to disperse demonstrations. It therefore welcomed the

acceptance of the recommendations to amend Ordinance No. 45/62 and Decree No. 193/62. It referred to the austerity measures that had had an impact on the provision of health-care services. It commended the acceptance of recommendations to improve the education and health systems.

808. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme welcomed the opening by OHCHR of an office in Chad. Since the previous review, it had noted a regression in the human rights situation, distinguished by restrictions on civil society and opposition groups and the prohibition of assemblies and protests. It further mentioned restrictions on the Internet. It referred to bombings in the region of Tibesti against citizens opposing the illegal exploitation of gold and to the political instrumentation of the existing conflict between farmers and livestock farmers in the region of Ouaddaï. It enumerated several cases of alleged arbitrary arrests and detention, torture and inhumane and degrading treatment, including of Oumar Hissein, Hawariya Mohamat and Mathias Tsarsi.

809. The Association of World Citizens referred to the large number of refugees in Chad, who had fled the Sudan and was concerned about the security situation in the refugee camps where two heads of the camps had been killed. It asked whether measures could be taken to prevent further attacks. It also raised concerns about the situation of preventive health for women and the elderly and suggested the employment of medical students to improve the situation.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

810. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 204 recommendations received, 195 had enjoyed the support of Chad and 9 had been noted.

811. The Minister of Justice in charge of Human Rights provided additional clarification on the issues raised by various stakeholders.

812. With regard to the prohibition of demonstrations, he stated that the freedom to demonstrate was recognized as a fundamental right by the Constitution. It was rather the circumstances, which obliged the Government to try to limit the risks given the terrorist threat, as the security of the demonstrators could never be fully assured.

813. Regarding the cases noted by Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, the Minister stressed that in the case of Oumar Hissein, the perpetrators of torture had been arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison by the courts. In the case of Hawariya Mohamat, her husband had been brought to justice and sentenced by the courts. The case of Mathias Tsarsi was being investigated for a common law offence and not for a political issue. He stated that no journalists and no human rights defenders were in prison in Chad.

814. The Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Ahmad Makaila, stated that respect for and protection and promotion of human rights was the sovereign responsibility of the State and a constitutional obligation. Insofar as possible, politicizing the universal periodic review should be avoided. He emphasized the indivisible nature and non-selectivity of human rights, all of which deserved to be protected and celebrated.

815. In his closing statement, the head of the delegation of Chad stressed that the issue of human rights was a permanent quest for all countries of the world and a constant battle that every country needed to fight at different levels. Chad was available to continue its cooperation with the Human Rights Council and the whole United Nations system in the sense of strengthening the stability of its institutions, guaranteeing peace and working to improve the well-being of its people.

China

816. The review of China was held on 6 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by China in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CHN/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CHN/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/CHN/3 and Corr.1).

817. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of China (see sect. C below).

818. The outcome of the review of China comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/6), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (see also A/HRC/40/6/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

819. China stated that the previous November, it had attended the third cycle of the universal periodic review in an open, inclusive, candid and cooperative manner. Most countries approved of and recognized China's guiding principles and practice, progress and achievements on human rights.

820. China stressed that over the previous seven decades it had grown into the second largest economy in the world with its gross domestic product (GDP) surpassing 90 trillion RMB in 2018 and it had the world's largest middle-income population. Over the past 40 years, China had lifted 740 million people out of poverty and met the basic needs of nearly 1.4 billion people. By 2020, it would achieve comprehensive poverty eradication with no one left behind. It had put in place the world's largest education, social security, medical care and community-level democratic systems. It faithfully upheld the principles of legality and had established the world's largest online platform on written judgments. It followed market norms and universally recognized rules, worked to advance the Belt and Road Initiative and shared the dividends of its development with the world. Such achievements would not have been possible without its strong commitment to the path of human rights development with Chinese characteristics, one that took national conditions as the foundation, the people as the centre, development as the priority, the rule of law as the criterion and openness as the driving force.

821. China highlighted that of the 346 recommendations raised by member States, it had decided to accept 284, or 82 per cent of the total, covering both economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights. There were 62 recommendations that would be difficult for China to accept. Some of them were inconsistent with its realities or the conditions were not ripe and some were baseless or politically motivated.

822. China stated that recently, some countries and non-governmental organizations had made ill-intentioned and groundless accusations against the vocational education and training centres in Xinjiang. In recent months, China had invited hundreds of foreign representatives to visit Xinjiang and the vocational education and training centres there. The head of the delegation, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Le Yucheng, had himself visited Xinjiang last month. He would like to share what he saw and heard using facts and a few key words with the acronym of FACT.

823. First, F for fundamental interests: Xinjiang's stability and unity were indispensable for the prosperity and stability of the whole country. Issues related to Xinjiang concerned the country's sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and core interests. China was firmly

opposed to ethnic separatism, violent terrorist acts in all manifestations and interference by any external forces.

824. Second, A for anti-terrorism: since the 1990s, the “three forces” of terrorism, separatism and extremism inside and outside China had orchestrated and executed thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang. At the same time, the spread of religious extremist thoughts had stoked the terrorist rampage. The Government of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region had taken measures according to the law to crack down on violent terrorist crimes on the one hand and had actively explored preventive anti-terrorism and deradicalization measures on the other, including setting up vocational education and training centres.

825. Third, C for campus: the training centres he had visited in Xinjiang were boarding schools or campuses. The vocational education and training programme was preventive counter-terrorism in nature; it aimed to educate and rehabilitate, to the greatest extent possible, those individuals who had been influenced by extremist ideologies and had committed minor offences. Courses on the national common language, legal knowledge and professional skills helped the deradicalization of the trainees. The trainees signed training agreements with the centres, which provided free accommodation and safeguarded all their basic rights. The vocational education and training programme was a special measure adopted by Xinjiang at a special time. China would continue to improve the work of the training centres. As the counter-terrorism situation improved, the training programme would be gradually downsized, leading to its completion.

826. Fourth, T for truth: Xinjiang had taken a host of measures to protect citizens’ freedom of religious belief and safeguard their cultural rights. There were 24,000 mosques in Xinjiang, one for every 400 or so local Muslims, more than in many Muslim countries. The stability dividend had continued to benefit Xinjiang. No case of violent terrorism had occurred for 27 months in a row by March 2019. A total of 150 million tourists had visited Xinjiang last year.

827. China also stated that on 2 March 2019, the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation had adopted a resolution in which it commended China for its care of Muslims. That fully demonstrated that the relevant measures had also earned understanding and support from the Muslim world.

828. China went on to state that “One country, two systems” “Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong” and a high degree of autonomy had been successfully implemented in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Human rights and freedom in Hong Kong were fully protected by the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and other laws. Freedom and the rule of law were core values of Hong Kong and underpinned its prosperity and stability. Hong Kong was determined to safeguard them. It ranked first in Asia in terms of judicial independence. Vibrant Hong Kong had been the world’s freest economy and one of the world’s safest cities. It would firmly uphold “one country” while leveraging its unique advantages under “two systems”.

829. China further stated that regarding the application of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families proposed by Indonesia, the Macao Special Administrative Region was at present not able to comply with the requirements of the Convention and therefore could not apply it. However, it should be stressed that all Macao residents were equal before the law, were free from discrimination and their rights and freedoms were protected by the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the applicable human rights treaties and the ordinary laws of the Macao Special Administrative Region. Residents could directly invoke legal provisions to safeguard their rights and if they lacked sufficient financial means, they could apply for legal aid.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

830. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of China, 13 delegations made statements.

831. Mali commended China for the important progress it had achieved in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights through implementing the third five-year economic and social development plan. It also welcomed the progress made in implementing the third national human rights action plan and the law against domestic violence, as well as in repealing legal provisions regarding labour re-education.

832. Mauritania welcomed the fact that China attached great importance to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also welcomed the efforts made by China to promote and protect human rights through improving legal, administrative and political regulations. It welcomed the adoption of the third national human rights action plan. It further commended China for its support to developing countries. It also appreciated the call made by China for respecting and promoting human rights and international cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

833. Mauritius commended China for its efforts and initiatives towards inclusive and equitable growth. It stated that the steps taken would contribute to building a just, fair and prosperous Chinese society in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also noted various measures aimed at protecting human rights, which covered legislative measures, poverty reduction, health and environmental protection and international cooperation.

834. Mozambique appreciated the great achievements made in human rights development. It emphasized that China had lifted over 700 million people in rural areas out of poverty. It also appreciated the promotion by China of the universality of human rights focusing on people's well-being and peace and development in a holistic way.

835. Myanmar commended China for supporting its recommendations related to poverty reduction and social development. It appreciated the formulation of the national human rights action plan. It further stated that the success of China in human rights development ensured the full range of human rights for its citizens and that sharing the experience of China would contribute to other countries in the region and beyond. It welcomed the initiative of "promoting human rights through peace, development, cooperation and equality" and other proposals that would complement the efforts towards improving global human rights governance.

836. Namibia appreciated the support of China for its recommendations related to sharing experiences and best practices in implementing the right to development. It also noted with appreciation that China had supported its recommendation to identify more crimes for which the death penalty should be abolished. It also noted that China had gradually reduced the number of capital offences, encouraging further progress in that regard.

837. Nepal stated that China had been fostering a peaceful and stable environment for broad-based social and economic development, creating a robust base for the wider realization and promotion of human rights. It also stated that China had made remarkable progress in ending poverty and raising the standard of living for its people, including in Tibet and other rural areas and in ethnic minority regions.

838. The Netherlands noted the enormous progress made by China in advancing economic rights and lifting many people out of poverty. It was also pleased with the support by China of its recommendation on anti-discrimination legislation regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. In that regard, the Netherlands highlighted its readiness to collaborate with China in the implementation of that recommendation. It also looked forward to cooperating in rolling out the positive duties of the Government through public education on sexual orientation, gender identity and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights. It regretted, however, that China did not support the recommendations regarding access for United Nations mechanisms while emphasizing the importance of members of the Human Rights Council engaging in dialogue with its mechanisms and providing them with transparent and unhindered access.

839. Nigeria was encouraged to note that China through its economic policies had succeeded in lifting a large number of its people out of poverty, thereby guaranteeing their full enjoyment of human rights.

840. Norway welcomed the acceptance by China of its recommendations related to human rights defenders and freedom of expression. It looked forward to learning more about the concrete measures to be put in place by China to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders and ensure the freedom of expression of all citizens. It expressed disappointment that China did not support the recommendation to take steps to abolish the death penalty and to provide transparency on the situation of religious minorities in Xinjiang, including allowing observers mandated by the United Nations unrestricted access to all places of internment. While noting that China had extended an invitation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit the region, Norway expressed hope that an unrestricted visit would soon take place.

841. Oman commended China on the achievements it had made in the field of human rights. It thanked China for accepting 284 recommendations, particularly the one it had made. It welcomed the Chinese international cooperation model, which was based on respect and cultural plurality, reflected values in society and enrichment in peace and security.

842. Pakistan welcomed the recent positive developments in China, particularly with the establishment of an inter-agency working group to implement the recommendations it had accepted. It noted the announcement of 30 new measures for the protection of human rights, which covered legislation and the judiciary, poverty reduction and elimination, health, environmental protection and international cooperation. It welcomed the outcome of the visit of the delegation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to China, and acknowledged the efforts made by China in providing care for its Muslim citizens.

843. The Philippines thanked China for accepting three recommendations presented by the Philippines on the rights of persons with disabilities, the fight against illegal drugs and the strengthening of protection for migrant workers. It also welcomed the priority given by China to promoting socioeconomic development, addressing poverty reduction, tackling terrorism and strengthening international cooperation. It was strongly encouraged by the commitment of China to continuing its efforts in advancing human rights in the country.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

844. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of China, 10 other stakeholders made statements.

845. The United Nations Association of China, in a joint statement with the Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, the National Association of Cuban Economists and the National Union of Jurists of Cuba, commended the efforts made by China in putting forward reform of the educational system to make it more transparent. The organizations urged governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote constructive and impartial exchanges through the universal periodic review. They stated that they were engaging in human rights education and that no person had the monopoly on the explanation of human rights values.

846. The China Family Planning Association appreciated the importance the Government attached to the role of non-governmental organizations and the actions taken to support their development. It stated that the total number of non-governmental organizations in China had reached 816,000 by the end of January 2019, an increase of 49 per cent in five years. Those non-governmental organizations were actively engaged in poverty alleviation, health care, education, environmental protection and human rights. It noted that in 2016 China had adopted a law regulating the activities of overseas non-governmental organizations, as a result of which more such organizations overseas had been registered in China.

847. The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries stated that the best way to develop China was to learn from other countries by taking into consideration the realities of China. It stated that safeguarding social justice and fairness was the starting point and that the best human rights concept was to put people first. It stated that Chinese people were living a happy life, and that the country had one of the highest ratings from its own people.

848. The International Service for Human Rights delivered a joint statement with CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation in honour of Cao Shunli and of all

defenders unjustly detained for promoting human rights in China. The organizations stated that China had refused many recommendations related to the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. They encouraged China to follow through on the positive commitments made during the universal periodic review and in its own legislation to improve respect for human rights by business. They stated that women human rights defenders faced great challenges and that “homosexual content” was banned in the media. They also urged China to engage meaningfully with the United Nations human rights system.

849. The China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation stated that alleviating poverty was a dream of human beings. For years, China had developed its national condition, putting the rights of people to survival and development first, with world-renowned achievements. Since 2005, it had provided international humanitarian assistance, emphasizing that in future it would continue to work with countries to share with them its experience in poverty alleviation so that they could achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

850. The Chinese Association for International Understanding stated that in China all ethnic groups enjoyed equal rights. The livelihoods of people in Xinjiang had improved remarkably thanks to the poverty reduction policy, which had lifted over 500,000 people out of poverty in 2018. It stated that anti-terrorism measures had been taken to ensure that all ethnic groups in Xinjiang had the right to safety and development.

851. The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights delivered a statement in honour of Cao Shunli and all defenders unjustly detained for promoting human rights in China. It stated that Tibetans in China did not have the chance to contribute freely to the universal periodic review, many Tibetans had self-immolated in protest against government policies and had called for religious freedom and the protection of their language, their culture and their rights. It stated that the response of China to the universal periodic review process challenged the core principles and functions of the Human Rights Council because it questioned the universality and indivisibility of human rights principles.

852. The China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture stated that the Constitution stipulated that freedom of religion and belief was a basic right for all citizens. It stated that after the peaceful liberation of Tibet, Tibetan traditions at all levels had implemented freedom of religion and belief and that Tibetan people enjoyed full freedom and could carry out normal activities. It stated that Tibetan GDP was among the first in the regions. It also stated that the education of Tibetan students was paid for by the Government from elementary school to university graduation and they could engage in a variety of jobs.

853. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues congratulated China on its third universal periodic review. It stated that the universal periodic review was a process based on participation, cooperation and non-confrontation. It stated that, as long as the Government of China continued to oppress civil society, ethnic minorities and the most fundamental rights, as well as make a mockery of the universal periodic review, the United Nations special procedures and treaty bodies, it would not take seriously the responses of China to numerous important recommendations related to human rights defenders, journalists and lawyers, fair trials, respect for the rights of Tibetans, Uighurs and other minorities, and freedom of religion or belief.

854. Human Rights Watch acknowledged the active participation of China in the universal periodic review. It stated that the participation of many governmental organizations illustrated that freedom of expression was enjoyed in China by the Government’s cheerleaders, while dissenting voices were routinely suppressed. It also stated that the fact that China had provided no accountability in the death of human rights defender Cao Shunli in 2013 was a powerful indication of a deteriorating human rights environment. It stated that, faced with mounting concerns, China had initially denied the existence of detention centres, then claimed that they were needed to combat terrorism and now asserted that they were vocational training centres. It stressed that an independent international assessment was urgently needed and that China should allow international monitors full, unfettered access.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

855. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 346 recommendations received, 284 had enjoyed the support of China and 62 had been noted.

856. China concluded by emphasizing that it was open and receptive to any constructive recommendations, but firmly opposed to those that blatantly undermined judicial independence and interfered with its internal affairs. No country should dictate the definition of democracy or human rights and even less force its own criteria upon others. Without its decisive measures, violent and terrorist activities would have escalated in Xinjiang and spread to other places in China, even to Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe and other parts of the world. China reaffirmed its sustained commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and implementing the recommendations it had accepted. It would further advance the development of human rights in the new era and make more contributions to the cause of international human rights.

Malta

857. The review of Malta was held on 14 November 2018 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Malta in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MLT/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MLT/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (A/HRC/WG.6/31/MLT/3).

858. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2019, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Malta (see sect. C below).

859. The outcome of the review of Malta comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/40/17), the views of the State under review concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions contained therein and the State's voluntary commitments and replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group and that were presented before the adoption of the outcome by the Human Rights Council in plenary session (A/HRC/40/17/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

860. The delegation of Malta stated that the Government had conducted consultations on the recommendations received during its third universal periodic review, with the aim of supporting as many recommendations as possible, keeping in mind the extent to which they could be implemented. As a result, Malta had accepted 122 recommendations out of a total of 157 it had received. It had partially accepted 8 recommendations and had taken note of the remaining 27 recommendations.

861. Malta had started working on setting up a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles after its review in 2013, supporting numerous recommendations in that regard. To that end, in 2014 the Government had initiated a wide consultation process with various stakeholders and society at large. The proposed bill establishing the Human Rights and Equality Commission incorporated the current equality body, strengthened its powers and affirmed its independence by making it accountable solely to the House of Representatives. The Commission would be able to ensure equality and non-discrimination

on several grounds in all spheres of life, and would be mandated to perform human rights work in line with the Paris Principles.

862. In parallel, the Government had also put forward a bill on equality, incorporating all the equality legislation emanating from European Union directives and national law. The bill extended the list of grounds of anti-discrimination, in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and its jurisprudence, aimed at addressing multiple discrimination and structural discrimination, and also introduced an obligation on public and private entities to promote equality for everyone in all spheres of life.

863. Additionally, the bill stipulated the adoption of a strategy and action plan on equality and non-discrimination in order to prevent discrimination and promote equality. The Human Rights and Integration Directorate, which had been established in 2015 to develop the human rights and equality policy framework of the Government, had been assigned to draft those policy documents.

864. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to eliminating xenophobia. National legislation combating incitement to racial hatred and other forms of hate speech had been further improved to include the protection of foreigners or any other group from such crimes. The Government had been taking measures to strengthen a culture of inclusion, diversity and non-discrimination.

865. The Government had taken measures to improve the conditions of reception of asylum seekers and in open centres for them. The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers had continued to conduct maintenance work in those centres and the Government had plans to build a new open centre in order to further improve conditions and capacity. Malta had enacted legislation barring the detention of children, while providing the necessary assistance to unaccompanied minors, and had provided for legal assistance to asylum seekers, regardless of age.

866. The delegation stated that the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in 2017 had shocked Malta to its core. The Government remained committed to identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators of the killing and following the murder had immediately launched an investigation in collaboration with key international institutions. As a result, criminal charges had been brought against three persons. Investigations still continued in order to identify those who had commissioned the killing.

867. Malta had supported recommendations to increase the protection and safety of journalists. It had already increased its efforts to strengthen the independence of the media and end any interference made in the work of the media by enacting the Media and Defamation Act in 2018. The Act repealed laws on the media, introduced various safeguards for journalists and strengthened the right to freedom of expression, including through the abolition of criminal libel and the introduction of the new civil tort of slander.

868. Remaining committed to the principle of rule of law and combating corruption, the Government had introduced various reforms, including the enhancement and further improvement of the quality, independence and efficiency of the justice system. National legislation provided safeguards for whistle-blowers, as well as regulations and scrutiny for public appointments, including judicial appointments.

869. The advancement of gender equality and the increase in women's participation in decision-making and the workforce remained central to the Government's plans on equality. As a result of various initiatives, the female employment rate had increased by 14.5 per cent in five years and more women were employed in full-time jobs. The adoption of a draft gender equality mainstreaming strategy and its corresponding action plan would strengthen those measures.

870. Malta supported the recommendations to reduce the gender pay gap, which currently stood at 11 per cent. Despite being below the average gender pay gap in European Union countries, its growth was of concern. The gender pay gap would be tackled by directly addressing horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market. The Government had been formulating measures to increase the number of women in elected positions. Targets for a minimum of 40 per cent of women in the governing bodies of public entities and government boards would also be enacted as part of the forthcoming equality bill.

871. In its increased efforts to tackle violence against women, Malta had ratified the Istanbul Convention in 2014 and had subsequently amended its legislation and policy in line with the Convention, particularly through the adoption of the Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence Act and its corresponding strategy and action plan. In line with those measures, Malta remained fully committed to the implementation of the recommendations for intensifying efforts to eliminate violence against women and children and to strengthening access to justice for all women, as well as ensuring that such cases were duly investigated and that training aimed at relevant officers and legal staff was improved.

872. Malta had just signed and finalized the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Furthermore, it was continuing to explore a possible withdrawal of its reservations to the Convention.

873. In strengthening the protection of children's rights and well-being, Malta had reviewed the Child Protection Act, formally reforming practices in the childcare system, such as streamlining time frames for issuing protection orders and providing for five different types of orders as opposed to the single one that had been in place previously. It also intended to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure once the Convention had been incorporated into national law.

874. Malta welcomed several recommendations to intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings and strengthen the implementation of its national action plan to combat it. The budget for initiatives to combat human trafficking and assist victims of exploitation had already been significantly increased. The measures also covered the launch of a national public awareness campaign, provision of support to the victims, including the prevention of retrafficking, and an exit programme for victims of prostitution.

875. The Government had strengthened cooperation with civil society in the framework of the implementation of its national anti-trafficking strategy. It had been considering including education on trafficking in human beings in the national curriculum. Training had already started for all relevant stakeholders and government officials in that field.

876. Malta had carried out major legislative and policy changes to improve the living conditions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer persons. The Embryo Protection Act was amended in 2018 to allow access to in vitro fertilization for single women and same-sex couples. Changes in the relevant legislation ensured 100 hours of leave for couples undergoing medically assisted procreation regardless of sexual orientation. Furthermore, a gender well-being clinic had been established and had started operating in November 2018, offering multidisciplinary services to transgender, intersex and genderqueer individuals.

877. In the area of rights for persons with disabilities, Malta had adopted a two-pronged approach, namely empowerment combined with protection. The Government had adopted a series of legal acts to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in national law. Those acts, among others, gave the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities more competences and established its mandate as an independent investigative body, as well as ensuring that persons with disabilities were represented in the governing bodies of various public entities. A braille system had also been adopted for blind persons who were braille-literate, while as of 2016, Maltese sign language had been legally recognized as a national language.

2. Views expressed by member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the outcome of the review

878. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Malta, nine delegations made statements.

879. Egypt welcomed the efforts of Malta to promote and protect human rights and the active cooperation of the Government with international human rights mechanisms, including regular reporting to treaty bodies. It noted with appreciation the efforts made by Malta to protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and to combat hate crimes and trafficking in human beings.

880. Iraq commended Malta for having supported a large number of the recommendations addressed to it, including two recommendations put forward by Iraq. It expressed the hope that those recommendations would be implemented.

881. Jordan commended Malta for supporting 122 out of a total of 157 recommendations put forward during the review. It noted that Malta had supported a recommendation it put forward to pursue efforts to strengthen the protection of persons with disabilities and provide the necessary support to the relevant national mechanisms.

882. The Philippines noted that Malta had supported a recommendation it had put forward to combat human trafficking. It was encouraged by the assurances of the Government that it would continue making the necessary efforts to protect the rights of migrants in order to strengthen a culture of tolerance, diversity and non-discrimination.

883. The Republic of Moldova commended Malta for supporting a majority of the recommendations it had received during the universal periodic review and for the measures already taken to implement those recommendations. It welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to implement policies directed at improving access to health services and health education and to ensure the full realization of human rights and freedoms for young persons.

884. Tunisia welcomed the acceptance of 122 recommendations, including those it had put forward. In particular, it noted the support of Malta for implementing recommendations to combat violence against women, promote gender equality in employment, combat xenophobia and protect the rights of children and persons with disabilities.

885. Afghanistan noted with appreciation that Malta had supported the recommendations it had put forward in the previous review to strengthen its efforts to eradicate stereotypes and discrimination against migrants. It noted with appreciation the commitment of Malta to continuing the implementation of the education strategy for the period 2014–2024.

886. Botswana commended Malta for its continuous efforts to advance the rights of women, including through ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It noted with appreciation that Malta had supported two recommendations it had put forward.

887. China noted with appreciation that Malta had supported the recommendations it had put forward during the review. It expressed the hope that Malta would continue to ensure sustainable development and improve the living standards of its population as well as protecting the rights of vulnerable groups, including migrants, women and persons with disabilities.

3. General comments made by other stakeholders

888. During the adoption of the outcome of the review of Malta, six stakeholders made statements.

889. The Alliance Defending Freedom commended the continued commitment of Malta to upholding the right to life from conception until natural death. It welcomed the fact that Malta had not supported several recommendations to liberalize its abortion laws, which would threaten the lives of the most vulnerable members of society. It expressed the hope that Malta would continue to uphold the inherent dignity of all members of the human family and regard such a stance as non-negotiable within its diplomatic action, including in international forums.

890. The Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale noted with appreciation the establishment by Malta in 2017 of a Council for Women's Rights with the aim of strengthening the dialogue between the Government and civil society on issues of gender equality and the promotion of equality in all aspects of government processes. It also welcomed the legislative measures taken by Malta to protect the rights of children, women and persons with disabilities, as well as to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention. It encouraged Malta to focus further on the physical and mental well-being of children, especially those in vulnerable situations.

891. Amnesty International noted that Malta had displayed little inclination to expand rescue efforts or to ensure prompt disembarkation in a place of safety for people attempting to reach safety in Europe by crossing the central Mediterranean. It expressed concern about the role of Malta in transferring the coordination of rescue operations to Libya and in obstructing rescue activities by non-governmental organizations. It regretted that Malta did not support the only recommendation it had received on that matter. It welcomed the acceptance by Malta of a recommendation to investigate fully the killing of Daphne Caruana Galizia and urged it to carry out an independent and effective public inquiry without delay.

892. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme remained concerned by the inhumane treatment of African asylum seekers and migrants in Malta, particularly the policy of detention of migrants who were seeking protection under international norms. It urged the authorities to ensure that the rights of asylum seekers and migrants were fully protected, to minimize the duration of detention of asylum seekers and to improve the conditions of those who were being detained. It fully supported the recommendation made by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to provide unaccompanied children with free, competent and effective guardianship to ensure proper decision-making in all proceedings and ensure free legal representation to assist in all immigration and asylum proceedings. It invited the Government to ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and to intensify its efforts to curtail the development of racism and xenophobia.

893. The Association of World Citizens welcomed the acceptance of recommendations by Malta to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and noted its efforts to withdraw its reservations to the Convention. It highlighted the need for Malta to have specialized clinics providing women with information and advice about reproductive health and family planning methods. The organization noted with satisfaction the rescue efforts made by Malta for refugees and migrants in danger on the boats and hoped that those persons could seek asylum without being placed in detention.

894. Article 19: International Centre against Censorship stated that the universal periodic review process had not allayed increasing concerns over the situation of freedom of expression in the lead-up to and aftermath of the assassination of the investigative journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia in October 2017. It was deeply worrying that the Government had not accepted recommendations to ensure an independent and effective public inquiry into her killing and reform the relevant laws to enhance the independence of the media and strengthen the protection of journalists. It reported on the ongoing impunity for the murder of the journalist and reprisals against her family and human rights defenders calling for justice for her assassination. It asserted that the Government should establish without delay a public inquiry into whether Ms. Caruana Galizia's life could have been saved.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

895. The President of the Human Rights Council stated that, based on the information provided, out of 157 recommendations received, 122 had enjoyed the support of Malta, additional clarification had been provided on 8 other recommendations and 27 had been noted.

896. The delegation of Malta thanked members of the United Nations and civil society representatives for their participation and interventions and reiterated the commitment of the Government to the universal periodic review mechanism. Malta had taken all the concerns raised during the review very seriously and committed itself to addressing those issues further, with the aim of providing greater protection of human rights for all.

897. Malta had introduced reforms to target corruption, such as the enhancement and further improvement of the quality, independence and efficiency of the national justice system.

898. With reference to recommendations calling for a public inquiry into the killing of the journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, the delegation informed the Human Rights Council that the magistrate leading the inquiry "had unfettered discretion and freedom" to investigate any matter, as noted by the Attorney General. The judiciary enjoyed full constitutional

independence and impartiality. The Attorney General had identified a number of legal issues that would ensue should a public inquiry be held in parallel with a criminal inquiry. Nevertheless, the Government had not been opposed to a public inquiry in principle, but it was its view that such an inquiry could only be of assistance if it was held once the ongoing criminal inquiry had been finalized.

899. Concerns that had been raised by some civil society members were also noted, some of which had been raised earlier during the address to the Human Rights Council.

900. In conclusion, the delegation expressed its appreciation to States and civil society representatives for their participation and adding their voices. The Government remained committed to further engagement with States and civil society on the human rights situation in Malta. It looked forward to the coming five years with optimistic commitment and had set objectives for its human rights protection agenda.

B. General debate on agenda item 6

901. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2019, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 6, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Argentina, Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), China, Cuba, Cuba (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Czechia, India, Iraq, Marshall Islands¹⁰ (also on behalf of Bangladesh, Lesotho, Myanmar, Samoa, Timor-Leste and Trinidad and Tobago), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Romania¹⁰ (on behalf of the European Union), Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Colombia, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Lesotho, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Africa culture internationale, African Green Foundation International, All China Women's Federation, Alliance Creative Community Project, Alsalam Foundation, Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain, Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Article 19: International Centre Against Censorship, Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, Asociación HazteOir.org, Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers' Legal Aid and Research Center, China Disabled Persons Federation, China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Society for Human Rights Studies, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (also on behalf of Alliance Defending Freedom, Center for Inquiry, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience; Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, International Council of Jewish Women, Jubilee Campaign, VIVAT International and World Evangelical Alliance), Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme, Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience, Edmund Rice International, European Centre for Law and Justice, Health and Environment Program, Ingénieurs du monde, Iraqi Development Organization, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Le pont, National Association of Cuban Economists, National Union of Jurists of Cuba, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Society for Threatened Peoples, United Nations Watch, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, Villages unis, Women's Association of Macau, World Muslim Congress.

902. At the same meeting, on the same day, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

¹⁰ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Saudi Arabia

903. At its 35th meeting, on 14 March 2019, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/101 on the outcome of the review of Saudi Arabia.

Senegal

904. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/102 on the outcome of the review of Senegal.

Congo

905. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/103 on the outcome of the review of the Congo.

Nigeria

906. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/104 on the outcome of the review of Nigeria.

Mexico

907. At the 36th meeting, on the same day, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/105 on the outcome of the review of Mexico.

Mauritius

908. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/106 on the outcome of the review of Mauritius.

Jordan

909. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/107 on the outcome of the review of Jordan.

Malaysia

910. At the 37th meeting, on the same day, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/108 on the outcome of the review of Malaysia.

Central African Republic

911. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/109 on the outcome of the review of the Central African Republic.

Monaco

912. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/110 on the outcome of the review of Monaco.

Belize

913. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2019, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/111 on the outcome of the review of Belize.

Chad

914. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/112 on the outcome of the review of Chad.

China

915. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/113 on the outcome of the review of China.

Malta

916. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted, without a vote, decision 40/114 on the outcome of the review of Malta.

VII. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

A. Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

917. At the 41st meeting, on 18 March 2019, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, presented his report (A/HRC/40/73).

918. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

919. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine, made a statement.

920. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Afghanistan, Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)¹⁰ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Oman, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-Haq, Ingénieurs du monde, Institute for NGO Research, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestinian Return Centre, Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, United Nations Watch.

921. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

B. Interactive dialogue with the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

922. At the 41st meeting, on 18 March 2019, the Chair of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Santiago Canton, presented, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-28/1, the final report of the independent, international commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged violations and abuses of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in the context of the military assaults on the large-scale civilian protests that began on 30 March 2018, whether before, during or after (A/HRC/40/74).

923. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

924. Also at the same meeting, a representative of the national human rights institution, the Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine, made a statement.

925. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 41st and 42nd meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Chair and the members of the Commission questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States),

Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Namibia, Oman, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Al-Haq, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Defence for Children International, Institute for NGO Research, Palestinian Return Centre, United Nations Watch, World Jewish Congress.

926. At the 42nd meeting, on the same day, the Chair and the members of the Commission, Sara Hossain and Kaari Betty Murungi, answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

C. Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

927. At the 42nd meeting, on 18 March 2019, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights presented the eleventh periodic report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1 (A/HRC/40/39).

928. At the same meeting, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 37/36, the Assistant Secretary-General also presented the report of the High Commissioner on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/40/42).

929. Also at the same meeting, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 37/37, the Assistant Secretary-General presented the report of the High Commissioner on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (A/HRC/40/43).

930. At the same meeting, pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 37/33, the Assistant Secretary-General presented the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/HRC/40/41).

931. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine made statements as the States concerned.

D. General debate on agenda item 7

932. At its 42nd and 43rd meetings, on 18 March 2019, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 7, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Oman (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)¹⁰ (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Nicaragua), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)¹⁰ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman,

Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen;

(c) Observers for national human rights institutions: Independent Commission for Human Rights (State of Palestine), National Council for Human Rights (Egypt) (by video message);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Adalah: Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Al-Haq, Association d'entraide médicale Guinée, BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, B'nai B'rith, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme, Defence for Children International, Human Rights Watch, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", Institute for NGO Research, Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (also on behalf of American Association of Jurists), International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Federation of Journalists, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, International-Lawyers.org, Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Medical Aid for Palestinians, Meezaan Center for Human Rights, Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Norwegian Refugee Council, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms "MADA", Palestinian Return Centre, Servas International, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, United Nations Watch, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Jewish Congress, World Muslim Congress.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

933. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.4, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation). Subsequently, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

934. At the same meeting, the representatives of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements as the States concerned.

935. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Denmark, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

936. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Iraq, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay

Against:

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Rwanda, Somalia¹¹

937. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 26 votes to 16, with 5 abstentions (resolution 40/21).

938. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

939. At the 54th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.26, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Belarus, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, Nicaragua, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

940. At the same meeting, the representative of the State of Palestine made a statement as the State concerned.

941. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

942. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Australia, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay

Against:

Australia, Denmark, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo

943. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 41 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions (resolution 40/22).¹²

944. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

945. At the 54th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.27, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Botswana, Chile, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, Nicaragua, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa and Sweden joined the sponsors.

¹¹ The representative of Somalia subsequently stated that there had been an error in the delegation's vote and that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

¹² The delegation of Saudi Arabia subsequently stated that it had not cast a vote and had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

946. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Australia, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Iceland, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay

Against:

Australia, Denmark, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hungary, Rwanda, Togo

947. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 39 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions (resolution 40/23).

948. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

949. At the 54th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.28, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-sponsored by Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Botswana, Chile, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, Nicaragua, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

950. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Brazil made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

951. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Iceland, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, Uruguay

Against:

Australia, Denmark, Hungary, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Slovakia, Ukraine

952. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 32 votes to 5, with 10 abstentions (resolution 40/24).

953. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

VIII. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

General debate on agenda item 8

954. At its 43rd meeting, on 18 March 2019, and 44th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 8, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia (also on behalf of Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine and Uruguay), Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of)¹³ (also on behalf of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), China, Cuba, India, Iraq, Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Romania¹³ (on behalf of the European Union), Togo, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and Uruguay), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Ukraine);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Libya, Russian Federation, Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (by video message);

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli, Action Canada for Population and Development, Action of Human Movement, African Agency for Integrated Development, African Development Association, African Regional Agricultural Credit Association, Alliance Creative Community Project, American Association of Jurists, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asociación HazteOir.org, Association Bharathi centre culturel franco-tamoul, Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Association des jeunes pour l'agriculture du Mali, Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights, Association of World Citizens, Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi, Association solidarité internationale pour l'Afrique, Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Environmental and Management Studies; Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, "Coup de pousse" Chaîne de l'espoir Nord-Sud, European Union of Public Relations, France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Friends World Committee for Consultation; Fundación

¹³ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of member and observer States.

Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, Institute for NGO Research, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Iuventum, Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights, Le pont, Liberation, Ma'arij Foundation for Peace and Development, Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Prahar, Sikh Human Rights Group, Solidarité agissante pour le développement familial, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik, Women's Association of Macau, World Barua Organization, World Environment and Resources Council, World Muslim Congress.

IX. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

A. Debate on the mitigation and countering of rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies

955. At the 40th meeting, on 15 March 2019, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/262, the Human Rights Council held a debate on the mitigation and countering of rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies.

956. At the same meeting, the representative of New Zealand made a statement.

957. Also at the same meeting, the High Commissioner for Human Rights made an opening statement for the debate.

958. At the same meeting, the following panellists made statements: lecturer at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, Sithembile Nombali Mbete; Diversity Director of the Governance Study Centre in Argentina, Pedro Marcelo Mouratian; representative of the “Never Again” Association and the Collegium Civitas, Poland, Rafal Pankowski; specialist on peace and security and peace adviser to the Mayor of Davao city in the Philippines, Irene Santiago. The Council divided the debate into two slots.

959. During the ensuing discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Costa Rica¹³ (also on behalf of Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru), Iraq, New Zealand¹³ (also on behalf of Australia), Oman¹³ (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Spain;

(b) Representative of an observer State: Libya;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, World Evangelical Alliance, World Jewish Congress.

960. During the discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Brazil, India, South Africa, Tunisia;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Ecuador, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Russian Federation, State of Palestine;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, Article 19: International Centre against Censorship, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation.

961. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

B. General debate on agenda item 9

962. At the 44th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division of OHCHR, presented, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the report of the High Commissioner on the

implementation of the action plan outlined in Human Rights Council resolution 37/38 on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief (A/HRC/40/44).

963. At the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of Lesotho to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and Chair-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, Refiloe Litjobo, presented the report of the Working Group on its sixteenth session, held from 27 August to 7 September 2018 and from 11 to 12 December 2018 (A/HRC/40/75).

964. At its 44th and 45th meetings, on 19 March 2019, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 9, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bangladesh, Brazil, Brazil (also on behalf of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), China, Cuba, Egypt, Haiti¹³ (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), India, Iraq, Nicaragua¹³ (also on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Nigeria, Oman¹³ (on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf), Pakistan (also on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Romania¹³ (on behalf of the European Union), Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Indonesia, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and the State of Palestine), South Africa, Tunisia, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)¹³ (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries except Colombia, Ecuador and Peru);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Russian Federation, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: 28. Jun, ABC Tamil Oli, Action of Human Movement, African Agency for Integrated Development, African Green Foundation International, African Regional Agricultural Credit Association, Association Bharathi centre culturel Franco-Tamoul, Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Association d'entraide médicale Guinée, Association for the Protection of Women and Children's Rights, Association of World Citizens, Association pour les victimes du monde, Association solidarité internationale pour l'Afrique, Association Thendral, Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Elizka Relief Foundation, European Union of Public Relations, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, Genève pour les droits de l'homme : formation internationale, Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Global Welfare Association, Godwin Osung International Foundation (The African Project), Hamraah Foundation, Health and Environment Program, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee, Ingénieurs du monde, Institute for NGO Research, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Council of Russian Compatriots, International Educational Development, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, International-Lawyers.org, Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights, Jeunesse etudiante tamoule, Le pont, Liberation, Ma'arif Foundation for Peace and Development, Mbororo Social and

Cultural Development Association, Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés, Pan African Union for Science and Technology, Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation, Prahar, Refugee Council of Australia, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Russian Peace Foundation, Servas International, Sikh Human Rights Group, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Solidarité agissante pour le développement familial, Solidarité Suisse-Guinée, Palestinian Return Centre, Tamil Uzhagam, Tourner la page, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, World Barua Organization, World Environment and Resources Council, World Jewish Congress, World Muslim Congress.

965. At the 45th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the representatives of Bangladesh, China, Ecuador, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia and Myanmar made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief

966. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.3, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation). Subsequently, Australia, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Canada, Ecuador, Fiji, the Philippines, Thailand, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

967. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council), Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made general comments on the draft resolution.

968. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

969. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/25).

X. Technical assistance and capacity-building

A. Enhanced interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

970. At the 45th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights provided, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 38/20, an oral update on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and presented the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo before, during and after the elections of 23 December 2018, pursuant to Council resolution 39/20 (A/HRC/40/47).

971. At the same meeting, the following made statements: the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Leila Zerrougui, member of the international team of experts on the situation in the Kasai region, Bacre Waly Ndiaye, Minister for Human rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Marie-Ange Mushobekwa, and the coordinator of the Synergy of Citizen Election Observation Missions (SYMOCEL), Abraham Ndjamba Djamba.

972. During the ensuing discussion, at the 45th and 46th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the presenters questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (also on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Austria, Cameroon, China, Czechia, Egypt, Norway¹³ (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden), Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Belgium, Botswana, Congo, France, Germany, Ireland, Mozambique, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs (also on behalf of Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples), CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Dominicans for Justice and Peace: Order of Preachers (also on behalf of Franciscans International), International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, International Service for Human Rights, Lutheran World Federation, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, World Organisation against Torture.

973. At the 46th meeting, on the same day, the presenters and member of the international team of experts on the situation in the Kasai region, Sheila B. Keetharuth, answered questions and made concluding remarks.

974. At the same meeting, on the same day, the representative of Rwanda made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

B. Interactive dialogue on cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights

975. At the 46th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights provided, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 35/31, an oral update on the findings of the periodic report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Ukraine.

976. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the representative of Ukraine made a statement as the State concerned.

977. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 46th meeting, on 19 March 2019, and the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the following made statements and asked the Deputy High Commissioner questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Human Rights House Foundation, International Council of Russian Compatriots, Minority Rights Group, Russian Peace Foundation, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations.

978. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the Deputy High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

C. High-level interactive dialogue on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic

979. At its 48th meeting, on 20 March 2019, the Human Rights Council held, pursuant to its resolution 39/19, a high-level interactive dialogue to assess the evolution of the human rights situation on the ground, placing special emphasis on the participation of civil society, especially women's organizations and representatives of victims, in the peace and reconciliation process in the Central African Republic.

980. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made an opening statement for the interactive dialogue, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

981. Also at the same meeting, the following made their statements: the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, Marie-Thérèse Keïta Bocoum, the Chief of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and Representative of OHCHR in the Central African Republic, Musa Yerro Gassama, and the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Leopold Ismael Samba.

982. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the presenters questions:

- (a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Cameroon, China, Egypt, Senegal, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Belgium, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Gabon, Ireland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan;
- (c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF, UN-Women;
- (d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Association of World Citizens, Catholic International Education Office, International Federation of ACAT, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, World Evangelical Alliance (also on behalf of Caritas Internationalis).

983. At the same meeting, the presenters answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

D. Interactive dialogue with a special procedure mandate holder

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali

984. At the 46th meeting, on 19 March 2019, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, Alioune Tine, presented his report (A/HRC/40/77).

985. At the same meeting, the representative of Mali made a statement as the State concerned.

986. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Australia, Cameroon, China, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Iceland, Senegal, Spain, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Belgium, Chad, France, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sudan;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Catholic Child Bureau, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme.

987. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

E. General debate on agenda item 10

988. At the 50th meeting, on 21 March 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights introduced country-specific reports of the High Commissioner submitted under agenda item 10 (A/HRC/40/45 and A/HRC/40/46).

989. At the same meeting, the Director of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of OHCHR made a statement.

990. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights presented the report of the Board of Trustees (A/HRC/40/78).

991. At the same meeting, the representatives of Afghanistan and Libya made statements as the States concerned.

992. During the ensuing general debate, at the 50th and 51st meetings, on the same day, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States members of the Human Rights Council: Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States), Australia, Bahrain (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Bolivia (Plurinational State of)¹³ (also on behalf of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cameroon (also on behalf of Angola, Burundi, Chad, China, Saudi Arabia and the Sudan), China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Haiti¹³ (also on behalf of the Bahamas, Cuba, Fiji, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Samoa, Singapore and Timor-Leste), India, Iraq, Italy, Maldives¹³ (also on behalf of Australia, the Bahamas, Denmark, Fiji, Iceland, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Seychelles, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), Pakistan (also on behalf of Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Romania¹³ (on behalf of the European Union), Rwanda (also on behalf of Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Luxembourg, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Thailand and

Uruguay), Samoa¹³ (also on behalf of Bangladesh, Lesotho, the Marshall Islands, Myanmar and Timor-Leste), Spain, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (also on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine), Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)¹³ (also of behalf of Cuba, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Nicaragua);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Chad, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Maldives, Malta, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF, UN-Women;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: ABC Tamil Oli, Action of Human Movement, African Green Foundation International, Amnesty International, Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Association des jeunes pour l'agriculture du Mali, Association of World Citizens, Association solidarité internationale pour l'Afrique, Association Thendral; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders, Ecumenical Alliance for Human Rights and Development, Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Global Welfare Association, Godwin Osung International Foundation (The African Project), Hamraah Foundation, Health and Environment Program, Human Rights Watch, Ingénieurs du monde; Institut international pour les droits et le développement, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, Jeunesse étudiante tamoule, Observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Refugee Council of Australia, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Réseau international des droits humains, Sikh Human Rights Group, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Tamil Uzhagam, United Nations Watch, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

993. At the 51st meeting, on 21 March 2019, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

F. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights

994. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.2, sponsored by Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Czechia, El Salvador, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Japan, Latvia, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Switzerland and Thailand joined the sponsors.

995. At the same meeting, the representative of Bulgaria (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are members of the Council) made general comments on the draft resolution.

996. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Mali made a statement as the State concerned.

997. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

998. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/26).

Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya

999. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.6/Rev.1, sponsored by Angola (on behalf of the Group of African States) and co-sponsored by Australia, Bahrain (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Brazil, Georgia, Italy, Japan, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Thailand. Subsequently, Malta and the Republic of Korea joined the sponsors.

1000. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made general comments on the draft resolution.

1001. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Libya made a statement as the State concerned.

1002. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1003. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution without a vote (resolution 40/27).

Cooperation with Georgia

1004. At the 55th meeting, on 22 March 2019, the representative of Georgia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.24, sponsored by Georgia and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine. Subsequently, Czechia withdrew its original co-sponsorship of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, the Gambia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

1005. At the same meeting, the representatives of Australia and Denmark made general comments on the draft resolution.

1006. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

1007. At the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, Cameroon, China, Czechia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

1008. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cameroon, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Against:

Cameroon, China, Cuba

Abstaining:

Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Iraq, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia, Uruguay

1009. The Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution by 19 votes to 3, with 25 abstentions (resolution 40/28).

Annex I

Attendance

Members

Afghanistan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Philippines
Angola	Denmark	Qatar
Argentina	Egypt	Rwanda
Australia	Eritrea	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Fiji	Senegal
Bahamas	Hungary	Slovakia
Bahrain	Iceland	Somalia
Bangladesh	India	South Africa
Brazil	Iraq	Spain
Bulgaria	Italy	Togo
Burkina Faso	Japan	Tunisia
Cameroon	Mexico	Ukraine
Croatia	Nepal	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Cuba	Nigeria	Uruguay
Czechia	Pakistan	
Chile	Peru	
China		

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Albania	Estonia	Maldives
Algeria	Ethiopia	Mali
Armenia	Finland	Malta
Azerbaijan	France	Marshall Islands
Barbados	Gabon	Mauritania
Belarus	Georgia	Mauritius
Belgium	Germany	Monaco
Belize	Greece	Mongolia
Benin	Guatemala	Montenegro
Bhutan	Haiti	Morocco
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Honduras	Mozambique
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Indonesia	Myanmar
Botswana	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Namibia
Burundi	Ireland	Netherlands
Cambodia	Israel	New Zealand
Canada	Jamaica	Nicaragua
Central African Republic	Jordan	North Macedonia
Colombia	Kazakhstan	Norway
Congo	Kuwait	Oman
Costa Rica	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Paraguay
Côte d'Ivoire	Latvia	Poland
Cyprus	Lebanon	Portugal
Chad	Lesotho	Republic of Korea
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Libya	Republic of Moldova
Djibouti	Liechtenstein	Romania
Ecuador	Lithuania	Russian Federation
El Salvador	Luxembourg	Samoa
Equatorial Guinea	Madagascar	Seychelles
	Malawi	Sierra Leone
	Malaysia	Singapore
		Slovenia

South Sudan	Timor-Leste	United Republic of Tanzania
Sri Lanka	Tonga	Uzbekistan
Sudan	Trinidad and Tobago	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Sweden	Turkey	Viet Nam
Switzerland	Turkmenistan	Yemen
Syrian Arab Republic	Uganda	Zambia
Thailand	United Arab Emirates	Zimbabwe

Non-Member States represented by observers

Holy See
State of Palestine

United Nations

Department of Peacekeeping Operations	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Economic Commission for Europe	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	United Nations Environment Programme
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	United Nations Population Fund
United Nations Children's Fund	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
United Nations Development Programme	

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	International Organization for Migration World Food Programme
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Intergovernmental organizations

African Union	Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf
Commonwealth	International Development Law Organization
Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries	Organization of American States
Council of Europe	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
European Parliament	
European Union	

Other entities

International Committee of the Red Cross
International Olympic Committee
Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta

National human rights institutions, international coordinating committees and regional groups of national institutions

Australian Human Rights Commission	Human Rights Commission of Malaysia
Commission on Human Rights (Philippines)	Independent Commission for Human Rights (State of Palestine)
Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation	National Centre for Human Rights (Jordan)
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka	

National Commission on Human Rights
(Indonesia)
National Council for Human Rights
(Egypt)
National Human Rights Commission
(Mexico)

National Human Rights Commission of Korea
(Republic of Korea)
Office for the Protection of Citizens (Haiti)
Office of the Advocate General (Guatemala)
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for
Human Rights

Non-governmental organizations

28. Jun
ABC Tamil Oli
Action Canada for Population and
Development
Action pour la protection des droits de
l'homme en Mauritanie
Action internationale pour la paix et le
développement dans la région des
Grands Lacs
Action of Human Movement
Adalah – Legal Center for Arab
Minority Rights in Israel
Advocates for Human Rights
Africa culture internationale
Africa Speaks
African Agency for Integrated
Development
African Development Association
African Green Foundation International
African Regional Agricultural Credit
Association
African-American Society for
Humanitarian Aid and
Development
Afro-European Medical and Research
Network
Agence pour les droits de l'homme
Al Baraem Association for Charitable
Work
Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
Al Zubair Charitable Foundation
Al-Haq
Aliran Kesedaran Negara National
Consciousness
Movement
Al-Khoei Foundation
All China Women's Federation
All-China Environment Federation
Alliance Creative Community Project
Alliance Defending Freedom
Alsalam Foundation
Alulbayt Foundation
American Association of Jurists
American Bar Association
Americans for Democracy and Human
Rights in Bahrain
Amman Center for Human Rights
Studies
Amnesty International

Anglican Consultative Council
Arab Organization for Human Rights
Arigatou International
Article 19: International Centre against Censorship
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development
Asian Legal Resource Centre
Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum
Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos
Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas
Asociación Española para el Derecho
Internacional de los Derechos Humanos
Asociación HazteOir.org
Asociation pour les droits de l'homme
et l'univers carcéral
Association "Paix" pour la lutte contre la
contrainte et l'injustice
Association apprentissages sans frontières
Association Bharathi centre culturel
franco-tamoul
Association burkinabé pour la survie de
l'enfance
Association culturelle des Tamouls en France
Association d'entraide médicale Guinée
Association des étudiants tamouls de France
Association des jeunes pour
l'agriculture du Mali
Association du développement et de la
promotion de droits de l'homme
Association Dunenyo
Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism
Association for Progressive Communications
Association for the Prevention of Torture
Association for the Protection of Women
and Children's Rights
Association for Women's Rights in Development
Association Internationale des médecins
pour la promotion de l'éducation et de la
santé en Afrique
Association internationale pour l'égalité des
femmes
Association mauritanienne pour la promotion des
droits de l'homme
Association mauritanienne pour la promotion du
droit
Association M'zab prévention routière et
développement
Association nationale de promotion et de
protection des droits de l'homme

Association nationale des échanges entre jeunes	Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims
Association of World Citizens	Child Development Foundation
Association PANAFRICA	Child Foundation
Association pour l'éducation et la santé de la femme et de l'enfant	Child Rights Connect
Association pour les victimes du monde	Child Soldiers International
Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi	China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture
Association solidarité internationale pour l'Afrique	China Disabled Persons Federation
Association Thendral	China Family Planning Association
Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII	China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation
Assyrian Aid Society (Iraq)	China NGO Network for International Exchanges
Atheist Alliance International	China Society for Human Rights Studies
Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights	Chinese Association for International Understanding
Baha'i International Community	Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries
Barzani Charity Foundation	Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament
Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center	Christian Solidarity Worldwide
Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges	CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers' Legal Aid and Research Center	Colombian Commission of Jurists
B'nai B'rith	Comisión Jurídica para el Autodesarrollo de los Pueblos Originarios Andinos "Capaj"
British Humanist Association	Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Buddies Association of Volunteers for Orphans, Disabled and Abandoned Children	Comité des observateurs des droits de l'homme
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples
Campagne internationale pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires	Commission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme
Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict	Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches
Canners International Permanent Committee	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace
Caritas Internationalis	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
Catholic International Education Office	Conectas Direitos Humanos
Center for Africa Development and Progress	Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Center for Environmental and Management Studies	Conseil de jeunesse pluriculturelle
Center for Global Nonkilling	Conseil international pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux droits de l'homme
Center for Inquiry	Conselho Indigenista Missionário
Center for Reproductive Rights	Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations
Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'information des peuples autochtones	Coordination des associations et des particuliers pour la liberté de conscience
Centre Europe - tiers monde	Corporación para la Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos - Reiniciar
Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment	Corporate Accountability International
Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy	"Coup de pousse" Chaîne de l'espoir Nord-Sud
Centre pour les droits civils et politiques	Damanhur Education
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales	David M Kennedy Center for International Studies
	Defence for Children International
	Dignity – Danish Institute against Torture
	Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers
	DRCNet Foundation

Earthjustice	Global Action on Aging
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project	Global Alliance of International Human Rights Institutions
Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization	Global Eco-Village Network
Ecumenical Alliance for Human Rights and Development	Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Edmund Rice International	Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health
Egyptian Organization for Human Rights	Global Network for Rights and Development
Elizka Relief Foundation	Global Welfare Association
Ensemble contre la peine de mort	Godwin Osung International Foundation
Ertegha Keyfiyat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute	(The African Project)
Espace Afrique international	Graduate Women International
Ethics and Religious Liberty	Guinée humanitaire
Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention	Hamraah Foundation
Eurasian Harm Reduction Network	Health and Environment Program
Europe External Programme for Africa	Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
European Centre for Law and Justice	Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation
European Humanist Federation	Hong Kong Federation of Women
European Union of Public Relations	Human Rights Advocates
Family Health Association of Iran	Human Rights House Foundation
Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland	Human Rights Law Centre
FIAN International	Human Rights Now
First Modern Agro. Tools – Common Initiative Group	Human Rights Watch
Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte (Campagne internationale de l'Ordre de Malte contre la lèpre)	Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries
Fondation Cordoue de Genève	Il Cenacolo
Fondation d'Auteuil	Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society
Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement	Indian Council of Education
Foundation ECPAT International	Indian Council of South America
Foundation for Gaia	Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru"
Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief	Indigenous People of Africa Coordinating Committee
France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand	Ingénieurs du monde
Franciscans International	Initiative d'opposition contre les discours extrémistes
Freemuse: the World Forum on Music and Censorship	Institut international pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'Homme
Friends World Committee for Consultation	Institut international pour les droits et le développement
Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social	Institute for NGO Research
Fundación Vida – Grupo Ecológico Verde	Institute for Policy Studies
GAHT-US Corporation	Institute of Sustainable Development
Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue	Instituto Igarapé
Geneva Institute for Human Rights	International Association for Democracy in Africa
Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale	International Association of Democratic Lawyers
Giving Life Nature Volunteer	International Bar Association
	International Bridges to Justice
	International Buddhist Relief Organisation
	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
	International Career Support Association
	International Catholic Child Bureau
	International Commission of Jurists
	International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Switzerland)
	International Council of Jewish Women
	International Council of Russian Compatriots
	International Disability Alliance
	International Educational Development

International Federation for Human Rights Leagues	Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
International Federation for the Protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic and Other Minorities	Conseil des jeunes congolais de l'étranger
International Federation of ACAT	Le pont
International Federation of Journalists	Liberation
International Fellowship of Reconciliation	Observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie
International Human Rights Association of American Minorities	Lutheran World Federation
International Human Rights Internship Program	Ma'arij Foundation for Peace and Development
International Humanist and Ethical Union	Maat Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights
International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies	Make Mothers Matter
International Lesbian and Gay Association	Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association
International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism	Meéecins du monde (international)
International Movement ATD Fourth World	Medical Aid for Palestinians
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse	Meezaan Center for Human Rights
International Organization for the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination	Minority Rights Group
International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education	Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples
International Pen	National Association of Cuban Economists
International Planned Parenthood Federation	National Union of Jurists of Cuba
International Relief Services	Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran
International Service for Human Rights	Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty
International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development	Norwegian Refugee Council
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific	OIDHACO, Bureau international des droits humains – action Colombie
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations	ONG Hope International
International-Lawyers.org	Open Society Institute
Iran Human Rights Documentation Center	Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés
Iranian Elite Research Center	Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale
Iraqi Development Organization	Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
Iuventum	Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms "MADA"
Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian	Pan African Union for Science and Technology
Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation
Jeunesse etudiante tamoule	Peace Brigades International Switzerland
Jossour forum des femmes marocaines	People for Successful Corean Reunification
Jssor Youth Organization	Physicians for Human Rights
Jubilee Campaign	Plan International
Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture	Prahar
	Prajachaitanya Yuvalana Sangam
	Presse emblème campagne
	Prevention Association of Social Harms
	Promotion du développement économique et social
	Refugee Council of Australia
	Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme
	Reporters sans frontières international
	Reprise
	Réseau international des droits humains
	Réseau unité pour le développement de Mauritanie

Reyada for Capacity Building Studies & Consultations	Women's Federation for World Peace International
Right Livelihood Award Foundation	Women's Human Rights International
Russian Peace Foundation	Association
Save the Children International	Women's Association of Macau
Servas International	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Shivi Development Society	Women's International Zionist Organization
Sikh Human Rights Group	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
Society for Development and Community Empowerment	World Barua Organization
Society for International Development	World Environment and Resources Council
Society for Threatened Peoples	World Evangelical Alliance
Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of the Environment	World Jewish Congress
Society Studies Centre	World Muslim Congress
Soka Gakkai International	World Organization against Torture
Solidarité agissante pour le développement familial	World Peace Council
Solidarité Suisse-Guinée	World Russian People's Council
SOS Kinderdorf International	World Vision International
Standing Voice	World Young Women's Christian Association
Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus	
Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund	
Tamil Uzhagam	
Tchad Agir pour l'environnement	
Terra de Direitos	
Terre des hommes fédération internationale	
Association of the Egyptian Female Lawyers	
Palestinian Return Centre	
Tourner la page	
Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust	
TRIAL International	
UNESCO Centre of Catalonia	
Union of Arab Jurists	
United Nations Association of China	
United Nations Watch	
United Schools International	
United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation	
Universal Peace Federation	
Universal Rights Group	
US Human Rights Network	
Vaagdhara	
Verein Südwind Entwicklungspolitik	
Victorious Youths Movement	
Vie et santé du centre	
Viet Nam Family Planning Association	
Village Suisse ONG	
Villages unis	
VIVAT International	
Women and Development Association in Alexandria	
Women Organization for Development and Capacity-Building	

Annex II

Agenda

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- Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.
- Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.
- Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention.
- Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms.
- Item 6. Universal periodic review.
- Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.
- Item 8. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
- Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building.

Annex III

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A/HRC/40/21	2 United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/40/22	2 Question of human rights in Cyprus: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/23	2 Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/24	2 Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/40/25	2, 3 Report of the Secretary-General on missing persons: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/40/26	2, 3 Summary of the panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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A/HRC/40/51/Add.5	3 Visit to Malaysia: comments by the State
A/HRC/40/52	3 Impact of measures to address terrorism and violent extremism on civic space and the rights of civil society actors and human rights defenders: report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
A/HRC/40/52/Add.1	3 Visit to Tunisia
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A/HRC/40/56/Add.4	3 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food's visit to Indonesia: comments by the State
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A/HRC/40/L.22 and Rev.1	3 Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development
A/HRC/40/L.23	3 Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights
A/HRC/40/L.24	10 Cooperation with Georgia
A/HRC/40/L.25	2 Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem
A/HRC/40/L.26	7 Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
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A/HRC/40/L.28	7 Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

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A/HRC/40/L.29	3 Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
A/HRC/40/L.30	3 WITHDRAWN – Recognizing the contribution of environmental human rights defenders to the enjoyment of human rights, environmental protection and sustainable development

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A/HRC/40/G/1	4 Note verbale dated 8 January 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/G/2	4 Note verbale dated 8 January 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/G/3	3 Note verbale dated 14 February 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/G/4	4 Note verbale dated 5 March 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/40/G/5	4 Note verbale dated 7 March 2019 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/40/G/6	2 Note verbale dated 19 March 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/G/7	5 Note verbale dated 21 March 2019 from the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/40/G/8	3 Note verbale dated 28 March 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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A/HRC/40/G/9	2 Note verbale dated 28 March 2019 from the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/G/10	3 Note verbale dated 26 April 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/40/G/11	4 Letter dated 11 March 2019 from the Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council

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A/HRC/37/NI/4	3 Written submission by the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of Tanzania
A/HRC/37/NI/5	2 Written submission by the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines
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A/HRC/40/NGO/1	3 Written statement submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/2	4 Written statement submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/4	3 Written statement submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/6	3 Written statement submitted by Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/7	10 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/8	3 Written statement submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/10	6 Written statement submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/12	9 Written statement submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/14	4 Written statement submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/15	7 Written statement submitted by Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/16	3 Written statement submitted by Society for Protection of Street and Working Children, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/17	4 Written statement submitted by Romanian Independent Society of Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/18	3 Exposé écrit présenté par L'Association "Paix" pour la lutte contre la Contrainte et l'injustice dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/19	3 Written statement submitted by Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/20	3 Exposé écrit présenté par l'Association du développement et de la promotion de droits de l'homme, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/21	4 Written statement submitted by World Muslim Congress, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/22	6 Written statement submitted by Beijing Zhicheng Migrant Workers' Legal Aid and Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/23	6 Written statement submitted by Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/24	6 Written statement submitted by The Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/25	3 Exposé écrit présenté par l'Action pour la protection des droits de l'homme en Mauritanie (APDHM) dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/26	3 Exposé écrit présenté par l'Initiative d'opposition contre le discours Extrémiste et l'esclavage dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/27	3 Written statement submitted by ODHIKAR – Coalition for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/28	4 Written statement submitted by ODHIKAR Coalition for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/32	9 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/33	3 Exposé écrit présenté par L'Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion des droits de l'homme dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/34	3 Exposé écrit présenté par le Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/35	3 Exposé écrit présenté par L'Association pour l'Education de la santé de la Femme et de l'Enfant dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/36	5 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/37	3 Written statement submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/38	2 Written statement submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/41	2 Written statement submitted by World Muslim Congress, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/44	8 Written statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/45	3 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/46	4 Written statement submitted by Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/47	4 Written statement submitted by Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/48	3 Written statement submitted by Family Health Association of Iran, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/49	4 Written statement submitted by GAHT-US Corporation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/50	2 Written statement submitted by International Commission of Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/51	3 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/52	7 Written statement submitted by The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/53	4 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/57	7 Written statement submitted by The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/59	7 Written statement submitted by The Palestinian Return Centre Ltd, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/60	2 Written statement submitted by the Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/64	10 Written statement submitted by the Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés (OIPMA), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/70	4 Written statement submitted by Public Organization “Public Advocacy”, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/76	3 Written statement submitted by International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/78	3 Exposición escrita presentada por el Auspice Stella, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
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A/HRC/40/NGO/84	3 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/90	7 Written statement submitted by Norwegian Refugee Council, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/91	7 Written statement submitted by Norwegian Refugee Council, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/92	4 Written statement submitted by Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/93	4 Joint written statement submitted by American Association of Jurists, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, Association mauritanienne pour la transparence et le développement, Association Nationale des Echanges Entre Jeunes, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Paz y Cooperación, Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie, World Barua

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A/HRC/40/NGO/94	4 Written statement submitted by Child Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/40/NGO/96	3 Written statement submitted by Child Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/97	9 Written statement submitted by Meezaan Center for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/98	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, International-Lawyers.Org, Union of Arab Jurists, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/99	4 Written statement submitted by Nazra for Feminist Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/100	4 Written statement submitted by the Auspice Stella, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/101	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, International-Lawyers.Org, Union of Arab Jurists, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/102	3 Exposé écrit présenté par la Coordination nationale des associations des consommateurs, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial

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A/HRC/40/NGO/104	3 Written statement submitted by the Cercle de Recherche sur les Droits et les Devoirs de la Personne Humaine, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/105	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/106	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/107	3 Written statement submitted by the Cercle de Recherche sur les Droits et les Devoirs de la Personne Humaine, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/108	10 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/109	2 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/110	2 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/111	2 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/112	2 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/115	3 Joint written statement submitted by Graduate Women International (GWI), Canadian Federation of University Women, Women Graduates – USA, Inc., non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/116	3 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/117	3 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/118	3 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/119	5 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/120	2 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/121	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/122	1 Written statement submitted by Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/123	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/124	2 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/125	3 Written statement submitted by Child Rights Connect, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/127	3 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/128	4 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/129	3 Written statement submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/130	2 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/131	3 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/132	3 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/133	3 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/134	3 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/135	3 Written statement submitted by Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/136	3 Written statement submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/138	2 Written statement submitted by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/139	4 Written statement submitted by Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/140	3 Written statement submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/141	3 Written statement submitted by Women and Development Association in Alexandria, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/142	3 Written statement submitted by ADALAH – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/143	4 Written statement submitted by Women and Development Association in Alexandria, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/144	7 Joint written statement submitted by Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, ADALAH – Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/145	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/146	4 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/147	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/148	3 Written statement submitted by Europe – Third World Centre (CETIM), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/149	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/152	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/153	4 Written statement submitted by Physicians for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/154	6 Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/155	4 Written statement submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/156	4 Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/157	6 Written statement submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/158	4 Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/159	4 Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/160	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/161	4 Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Europeen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/162	4 Written statement submitted by Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/163	7 Written statement submitted by Association for Progressive Communications, non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/164	3 Written statement submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Européen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/165	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/166	3 Written statement submitted by Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/167	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/168	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/169	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/170	3 Written statement submitted by International Catholic Child Bureau, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/171	4 Written statement submitted by International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/172	9 Written statement submitted by Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/173	3 Written statement submitted by Al-khoei Foundation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/174	4 Exposé écrit présenté conjointement par Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, organisation non gouvernementale dotées du statut consultatif général, World Evangelical

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	Alliance, organisation non gouvernementales dotées du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/175	4 Written statement submitted by World Evangelical Alliance, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/176	3 Exposé écrit présenté par Association Internationale pour l'égalité des femmes, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/177	4 Written statement submitted by Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/178	6 Exposición escrita presentada por la Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
A/HRC/40/NGO/179	3 Written statement submitted by the Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/180	4 Written statement submitted by the Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/181	3 Written statement submitted by Standing Voice, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/182	5 Written statement submitted by International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/183	7 Written statement submitted by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/184	3 Written statement submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/185	3 Written statement submitted by Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/186	4 Written statement submitted by Americans for Democracy and Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/187	3 Joint written statement submitted by Greenpeace International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/188	3 Written statement submitted by International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/189	5 Written statement submitted by International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/190	4 Written statement submitted by Association for Defending Victims of Terrorism, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/191	4 Written statement submitted by International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/192	6 Exposición escrita presentada por la Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association), organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
A/HRC/40/NGO/193	3 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development Inc, World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/194	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development Inc, World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/195	4 Joint written statement submitted by Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, Women's Human Rights International Association, France Libertes: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/196	7 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/197	3 Written statement submitted by First Modern Agro. Tools - Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/198	4 Written statement submitted by First Modern Agro. Tools – Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/199	3 Written statement submitted by First Modern Agro. Tools - Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/200	4 Written statement submitted by First Modern Agro. Tools – Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/201	4 Written statement submitted by First Modern Agro. Tools – Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/202	4 Written statement submitted by Iraqi Development Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/203	4 Written statement submitted by Fundación Luz María, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/204	7 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/205	4 Written statement submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/206	7 Written statement submitted by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/207	3 Written statement submitted by Friends World Committee for Consultation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/208	7 Joint written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, and Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/209	4 Written statement submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/210	3 Exposé écrit présenté par L'observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/40/NGO/211	6 Written statement submitted by Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/212	5 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/213	3 Written statement submitted by Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/214	7 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/215	3 Written statement submitted by Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/216	3 Written statement submitted by Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/217	3 Written statement submitted by Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., The, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/218	2 Joint written statement submitted by Association Bharathi Centre Culture Franco-Tamoul, "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization – Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, ABC Tamil Oli, Abibimman Foundation, Action of Human Movement (AHM), Action pour la protection des droits de l'homme en Mauritanie, Africa Unite, African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID), African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development, African Citizens Development Foundation, African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, Agence pour les droits de l'homme, AIMPO, Alliance Creative Community Project, Alliance for Development and Population Services (ADEPS), Alliance internationale pour la défense des droits et des libertés, Aman against Discrimination, Amis d'Afrique Francophone-Bénin (AMAF-Benin), Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Arab Society for Academic Freedoms, Asabe Shehu Yar Adua Foundation, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, Asociation pour les Droits de l'Homme et l'Univers Carcéral, Association Aide aux femmes et enfants,

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	<p>Association Burkinabé pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole, ASSOCIATION CULTURELLE DES TAMOULS EN FRANCE, Association des étudiants tamouls de France, Association des Jeunes Engagés pour l'Action Humanitaire (A.J.E.A.H.), Association des jeunes pour le développement humain et la protection de l'environnement, Association des jeunes volontaires au service du monde environnemental, Association Elmostakbell pour le Développement, Association femmes solidaires au Togo, Association Malienne de Savoir Construire (A.M.S.C.), Association mauritanienne pour la promotion des droits de l'homme, Association nationale des partenaires migrants, Association pour la Défense des Droits de Développement Durable et du Bien-être Familial (ADBEF), Association pour les Victimes Du Monde, Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA), Association Thendral, Autre Vie, Blessed Aid, Center for Africa Development and Progress, Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Genero, Change Human's Life, CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue), City2000 Youth Action International, Comité des observateurs des droits de l'homme, Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Community Restoration Initiative Project, Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres Comunales, Comunitarias, Indígenas y Campesinas de la República de Colombia, Coup de Pouce, Dayemi Complex Bangladesh, Edfu Foundation, EG Justice, Elizka Relief Foundation, Excellent World Foundation LTD/GTE, Families of the Missing, First Modern Agro. Tools – Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), Foreningen for Human Narkotikapolitikk, Freann Financial Services Limited, Fundação de Apoio a Pesquisa Científica, Educacional e Tecnológica de Rondônia, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible, Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Global Vision India Foundation, Goodness and Mercy Missions Common Initiative Group, Haitelmx Foundation A.C., Hamraah Foundation, Hape Development and Welfare Association, Idheas, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil, Inter-Action Globale (I.A.G.), International Career Support</p>

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	Association, International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development, Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Lazarus Union, Le Pont, Lebanese American Renaissance Partnership, L'observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, L'Organisation Non Gouvernementale des Cercles Nationaux de Réflexion sur la Jeunesse – ONG CNRJ, Mandala Transformation Foundation Inc., Mijoro Mandroso (Mi.Ma.), Murna Foundation, Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust, Northern CCB, Ocean Lifeline, Otro Tiempo México, Asociación Civil, Paz y Cooperación, Pirate Parties International Headquarters, Planetary Association for Clean Energy Inc., The, PLURIELS, Centre de Consultations et d'Etudes Ethnopsychologiques pour Migrants, Project 1948 Foundation, Rassemblement des frères unis pour le développement socio-culturel (RAFUDESC – BENIN), Reachout and Smile Initiative for Social Empowerment, Safe Campaign LLC, Shirley Ann Sullivan Educational Foundation, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial (SADF), Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Stichting Spanda, Tamil Uzhagam, Tourner La Page, Trilok Youth Club and Charitable Trust, Vadodara, United Zo Organization (USA), Vision GRAM-International, Vision Welfare Group, Women Watch Afrika, Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/219	4 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/220	3 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/221	4 Written statement submitted by United Nations Watch, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/222	4 Written statement submitted by International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/223	9 Written statement submitted by International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/224	9 Written statement submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/225	7 Written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/226	3 Written statement submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/227	2 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/228	2 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/229	3 Written statement submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/230	3 Written statement submitted by African Green Foundation International, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/231	3 Written statement submitted by Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/232	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/233	4 Written statement submitted by International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/234	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/235	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/236	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/237	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/238	3 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational

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	Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/239	10 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/240	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, International-Lawyers.Org, Union of Arab Jurists, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/241	7 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Indian Movement “Tupaj Amaru”, International-Lawyers.Org, Union of Arab Jurists, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/242	6 Exposición escrita presentada por la Asociación Nacional de Economistas y Contadores de Cuba, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
A/HRC/40/NGO/243	3 Written statement submitted by ABC Tamil Oli, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/244	2 Written statement submitted by ABC Tamil Oli, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/245	3 Written statement submitted by Tourner La Page, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/246	4 Written statement submitted by Tourner La Page, non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/247	4 Written statement submitted by Tourner La Page, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/248	2 Joint written statement submitted by Association Bharathi Centre Culturel Franco-Tamoul, "ECO-FAWN" (Environment Conservation Organization – Foundation for Afforestation Wild Animals and Nature), "Women and Modern World" Social Charitable Centre, ABC Tamil Oli, Abibimman Foundation, Action of Human Movement (AHM), Action pour la protection des droits de l'homme en Mauritanie, Africa Unite, African Agency for Integrated Development (AAID), African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development, African Citizens Development Foundation, African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ageing Nepal, AIMPO, Alliance Creative Community Project, Alliance for Development and Population Services (ADEPS), Alliance internationale pour la défense des droits et des libertés, Aman against Discrimination, Amis d'Afrique Francophone-Bénin (AMAF-Benin), Amman Center for Human Rights Studies, Arab Society for Academic Freedoms, Asabe Shehu Yar Adua Foundation, Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos AEDIDH, Asociation pour les Droits de l'Homme et l'Univers Carcéral, Association Aide aux femmes et enfants, Association Burkinabé pour la Survie de l'Enfance, Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole, Association culturelle des Tamouls en France, Association des étudiants tamouls de France, Association des Jeunes Engagés pour l'Action Humanitaire (A.J.E.A.H.), Association des jeunes pour le développement humain et la protection de l'environnement, Association des jeunes volontaires au service du monde environnemental, Association Elmostakbell pour le Développement, Association femmes solidaires au Togo, Association Malienne de Savoir Construire (A.M.S.C.), Association mauritanienne pour la promotion des droits de l'homme, Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, Association nationale des partenaires migrants, Association pour la Défense des Droits de Développement Durable et du Bien-être Familial (ADBEF), Association pour les Victimes Du Monde, Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique (SIA), Association Thendral, Autre Vie, Blessed Aid, Center for Africa Development and Progress, Centre for Gender Justice and Women Empowerment, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Genero, Change Human's Life, CIRID (Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Iniatives pour le Dialogue), City2000 Youth Action International, Comité

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	des observateurs des droits de l'homme, Comité Permanente por la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, Community Restoration Initiative Project, Conseil International pour le soutien à des procès équitables et aux Droits de l'Homme, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience, Corporación Red Nacional de Mujeres Comunales, Comunitarias, Indígenas y Campesinas de la República de Colombia, Coup de Pouce, Dayemi Complex Bangladesh, Edfu Foundation, EG Justice, Elizka Relief Foundation, Excellent World Foundation LTD/GTE, Families of the Missing, First Modern Agro. Tools – Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), Foreningen for Human Narkotikapolitikk, Freann Financial Services Limited, Fundação de Apoio a Pesquisa Científica, Educacional e Tecnológica de Rondônia, Fundación Latinoamericana por los Derechos Humanos y el Desarrollo Social, Fundación Lonxanet para la Pesca Sostenible, Giving Life Nature Volunteer, Goodness and Mercy Missions Common Initiative Group, Haitelmex Foundation A.C., Hamraah Foundation, Hape Development and Welfare Association, Idheas, Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos, Asociación Civil, Inter-Action Globale (I.A.G.), International Career Support Association, International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development, Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule, Lazarus Union, Le Pont, Lebanese American Renaissance Partnership, L'observatoire mauritanien des droits de l'homme et de la démocratie, Mandala Transformation Foundation, Mijoro Mandroso (Mi.Ma.), Murna Foundation, Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust, Northern CCB, Ocean Lifeline Inc., Otro Tiempo México, Asociación Civil, Paz y Cooperación, Pirate Parties International Headquarters, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, The, PLURIELS, Centre de Consultations et d'Etudes Ethnopsychologiques pour Migrants, Project 1948 Foundation, Rassemblement des frères unis pour le développement socio-culturel (RAFUDESC – BENIN), Reachout and Smile Initiative for Social Empowerment, Réseau Unité pour le Développement de Mauritanie, Safe Campaign LLC, Shirley Ann Sullivan Educational Foundation, Society for Development and Community Empowerment, Solidarité Agissante pour le Développement Familial (SADF), Stichting Global Human Rights Defence, Stichting Spanda, Tourner La Page, Trilok Youth Club and Charitable Trust, Vadodara, United Zo Organization (USA),

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A/HRC/40/NGO/250	2 Written statement submitted by Tamil Uzhagam, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/251	3 Written statement submitted by Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/252	4 Written statement submitted by World Evangelical Alliance, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/253	3 Written statement submitted by Tamil Uzhagam, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/254	4 Written statement submitted by International Educational Development, non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/255	3 Written statement submitted by Réseau Européen pour l'Égalité des Langues, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/256	4 Joint written statement submitted by the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), International-Lawyers.Org, Union of Arab Jurists, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/40/NGO/257	4 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/258	4 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/259	7 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/260	3 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/40/NGO/261	7 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/262	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/263	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/264	3 Written statement submitted by Barzani Charity Foundation / BCF, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/265	3 Written statement submitted by Barzani Charity Foundation / BCF, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/266	3 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/271	3 Written statement submitted by Afro-European Medical and Research Network, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/272	7 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/273	3 Written statement submitted by Afro-European Medical and Research Network, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/274	10 Written statement submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/275	4 Written statement submitted by Iranian Elite Research Center, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/276	5 Written statement submitted by American Civil Liberties Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/277	4 Written statement submitted by Freedom Now, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/278	3 Written statement submitted by Institute for NGO Research, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/40/NGO/279	4 Written statement submitted by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/40/NGO/280	8 Written statement submitted by Beijing NGO Association for International Exchanges, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Annex IV

Special procedure mandate holders appointed by the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (member from African States)

Belkacem Lounes (Algeria)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (member from Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia)

Rodion Sulyandziga (the Russian Federation)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (member from Central and South America, and the Caribbean)

Erika Yamada (Brazil)

Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (member from the Pacific States)

Megan Davis (Australia)
