



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
28 June 2023

Original: English

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**Human Rights Council**  
**Fifty-fourth session**  
11 September–6 October 2023  
Agenda item 6  
**Universal periodic review**

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

### **Montenegro**

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



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-third session from 1 to 12 May 2023. The review of Montenegro was held at the 11th meeting, on 8 May 2023. The delegation of Montenegro was headed by the Minister of Human and Minority Rights, Fatmir Gjeka. At its 16th meeting, held on 10 May 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Montenegro.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Montenegro: Cameroon, Georgia and Luxembourg.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Montenegro:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Montenegro through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Montenegro stated that the fact that it was presenting its human rights achievements was significant given the membership of Montenegro of the Human Rights Council for the period 2022 to 2024.
6. The report preparation process had entailed consultations involving representatives of State authorities, Parliament, the national institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms (Ombudsman), civil society and the United Nations.
7. The Government ensured monitoring of the implementation of national policies through councils for specific human rights protection areas and through operational teams. The role of the Ombudsman had been strengthened and its electronic complaints database improved, while capacities had been reinforced.
8. A report on implementation of the Judicial Reform Strategy 2019–2022 was being prepared, with a new strategy expected in 2023.
9. A new comprehensive anti-discrimination law was being finalized. The latest research indicated increased discrimination, which the delegation attributed, inter alia, to the ongoing political and economic crisis.
10. The Government allocated funds to institutions that promoted minority rights. Montenegro strove to ensure proportional representation of minority nations and communities in its political and public life. It had established a unit for interculturality.

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/43/MNE/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/43/MNE/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/43/MNE/3](#).

11. Montenegro sought to raise awareness on gender equality through education. owing to deeply rooted patriarchal patterns, gender policy faced implementation challenges. Montenegro would continue to strive for zero tolerance of violence against women.
12. Montenegro had a high-quality normative and strategic framework for the protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including the 2021 Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex. New laws currently under consideration would complete the legal framework.
13. The Law on Non-Governmental Organizations determined budgetary resources for projects by non-governmental organizations on human rights.
14. Regarding child protection, amendments to the Law on Social and Child Protection were being considered, and a strategy for social and child protection was being developed. Montenegro explicitly prohibited physical punishment of children. The number of police officers provided security in schools, including to prevent peer violence, had increased.
15. Montenegro was taking action to improve the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, with a focus on reducing poverty. The Europe Now programme had increased the minimum wage and improved the standard of living.
16. The Strategy on Migration and Reintegration of Returnees in Montenegro 2021–2025 provided for the resolution of the status of internally displaced persons.
17. Regarding ratification of the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Kampala amendments), consultations were ongoing.
18. Internationally, Montenegro cooperated with the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review mechanism, treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders. Visits had been undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children.

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

19. During the interactive dialogue, 87 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
20. Tunisia commended Montenegro for the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and for national strategies regarding the rights of women, older persons and minorities and the rights to education and health.
21. Türkiye praised action taken to combat discrimination, domestic violence, trafficking in persons and torture, and noted the victim-oriented approach to combating trafficking in persons and plans to expand the protection of victims.
22. The United Kingdom welcomed the progress made in tackling organized crime and legislation to protect journalists, and encouraged Montenegro to address accountability of the judiciary and implement anti-corruption legislation.
23. The United Republic of Tanzania commended Montenegro for the creation of a database connecting social welfare centres with the police, measures to combat corruption, and the adoption of the National Employment Strategy 2021–2025.
24. The United States commended Montenegro for its initiatives to prosecute those responsible for high-level corruption, but expressed concern about the slow and sometimes inadequate implementation of institutional anti-corruption safeguards.
25. Uruguay welcomed the implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025.
26. Uzbekistan noted efforts made to implement the recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review, including the adoption of legislative measures.

27. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the strengthened role of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, but noted reports of racist violence and hate speech against ethnic groups by politicians and public figures.
28. Viet Nam hailed the National Employment Strategy 2021–2025 to achieve sustainable employment growth based on equal access to the labour market, dignified work, knowledge development and greater social inclusion.
29. Albania welcomed the adoption of a national plan for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025 and the Minority Policy Strategy 2019–2023.
30. Algeria commended Montenegro for the adoption and implementation of several strategies and action plans to protect human rights, including the rights of vulnerable persons.
31. Argentina welcomed the adoption of the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex.
32. Armenia commended Montenegro for the progress achieved in the protection of human rights, particularly improvements made in the prison system and in the conditions of detention.
33. Australia acknowledged efforts to provide stronger legal protections to journalists and the introduction of the Law on Life Partnerships of Persons of the Same Sex, and encouraged Montenegro to implement existing human rights legislation in full.
34. Austria welcomed the commitment of Montenegro to the universal periodic review process and the progress made to address recommendations from previous review cycles, but expressed concern about the limited progress in some areas.
35. Azerbaijan noted positively the steps taken by Montenegro to protect human rights, including the enhancement of human rights education programmes and the adoption of its third national strategy to combat trafficking in persons.
36. Bahrain commended Montenegro for its work on combating violence, trafficking in persons and domestic violence.
37. Belarus expressed concern over the high levels of hate speech, discrimination and violence against certain ethnic and religious groups, weak social support for vulnerable populations, and problems in combating trafficking in persons.
38. Belgium welcomed the efforts and positive steps by Montenegro and noted important remaining challenges regarding women’s rights and gender-based violence, birth registration and the fight against torture and ill-treatment.
39. The Plurinational State of Bolivia applauded efforts made by Montenegro since the previous review cycle to strengthen its legislative framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.
40. Brazil welcomed the Law on Foreigners and the Strategy on Migration and Reintegration of Returnees in Montenegro 2021–2025, for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, and commended Montenegro for the visits conducted by special procedure mandate holders.
41. Bulgaria noted with appreciation the progress made in implementing the accepted recommendations made by Bulgaria during the third review cycle, on broadening inclusive education for children with disabilities and on combating trafficking in persons.
42. Burkina Faso praised the adoption of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025 and the Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities from Discrimination and Promotion of Equality 2022–2027.
43. Cameroon expressed satisfaction with the progress made by Montenegro in the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights and in the protection of human rights.

44. Canada applauded the restoration of the functionality of the Constitutional Court, the tenth pride march, in October 2022, and the adoption of the 2021 Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex.
45. Chile commended Montenegro for the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex and noted with satisfaction the progress made with regard to implementation of the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities.
46. China noted progress, but expressed concern about ongoing racism, hatred and violence against migrants and ethnic minorities, trafficking in persons, violence against women, and the rights of children with disabilities and persons with disabilities.
47. Colombia welcomed the delegation to the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review and wished it success.
48. Costa Rica recognized action taken to integrate ethnic minorities and to strengthen the legislative framework for the LGBTIQ+ community, and the generation of an indicator on gender equality.
49. Croatia noted efforts towards the realization of minority rights, and policies on gender equality, persons with disabilities, child rights and trafficking in persons, and encouraged efforts to resolve the remaining cases of missing persons.
50. Cuba acknowledged the commitment of Montenegro to implement accepted recommendations from previous review cycles.
51. Cyprus acknowledged the efforts of Montenegro to respect, promote, protect and fulfil human rights, particularly the adoption of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025 and the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex.
52. Czechia welcomed the active engagement of Montenegro in multilateral human rights forums, and amendments to the Criminal Code that enabled the imposition of stiff penalties in cases of violence against journalists.
53. Djibouti praised efforts to strengthen the role of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, and called on Montenegro to do more to promote its autonomy and independence.
54. The Dominican Republic congratulated Montenegro on strategies for judicial reform, gender equality and the protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination, and recognized efforts to achieve zero tolerance of violence against women.
55. Egypt expressed appreciation for positive developments in protecting human rights and preventing discrimination.
56. El Salvador welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments, the Inclusive Education Strategy 2019–2025 and other strategies on inclusion, gender equality, education and on combating violence and trafficking in persons.
57. Estonia applauded efforts to fight corruption, including by strengthening the independence of the judiciary, and to protect journalists, including through the Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalists.
58. Finland expressed appreciation for the active role of Montenegro in the Human Rights Council and for the steps taken since the last review.
59. Peru commended Montenegro for the progress made, in particular the approval of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025.
60. The delegation of Montenegro stated that the 2021 amendments to the Law on the Public Prosecution Service had contributed to eliminating political influence in the work of the Public Prosecution Service. A new composition of the Prosecutorial Council had been introduced, a new Chief Special Prosecutor appointed and a new national council against corruption created. Amendments were ongoing to relevant laws. In order to effectively combat corruption and organized crime, Montenegro would continue to strengthen its capacities.
61. Electoral reform was under consideration in Parliament. Parliament had adopted laws to finance women's groups in political parties. Women made up 28.4 per cent of the members

of Parliament, and the rules of procedure prescribed at least one vice-president from the less represented gender.

62. Regarding torture, it had been agreed to designate contact persons in the police for cases entailing suspected torture by police officers. Under the Law on Internal Affairs, police officers were temporarily suspended from work if criminal proceedings were initiated against them in connection with work. The proposed amendments to the Criminal Code provided for the non-expiration of the period for criminal prosecution and punishment for torture, and increased penalties, especially if committed by a public official. Prohibition from exercising their profession and imprisonment were also prescribed for public officials.

63. Criminal proceedings against one defendant for war crimes were under way, and the main trial was in progress. All victims and their families were guaranteed access to justice and had the right to compensation, and 62 judgments had been rendered between 2018 and 2022. Proposed amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code would expedite certain proceedings.

64. The authorities had intensified activities to resolve cases of attacks and threats against journalists. The Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalists had been established in 2021. The draft media strategy for the period 2023–2027 and accompanying action plan envisaged a strengthening of the capacities of the Commission. New media laws would provide greater freedom of expression and protection.

65. Montenegro was implementing the third national strategy to combat trafficking in persons, covering activities from victim identification to reintegration into society. Institutional capacity had been strengthened, and the operational team had achieved concrete results. Draft amendments to the Criminal Code would add another form of the crime of trafficking in persons, and the crime of sale of children was being introduced.

66. Efforts were being made to eradicate gender-based violence. An operational team had been formed, and a division established to monitor implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The 2018 Protocol on Action, Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence was in force, and a database had been launched to connect social welfare centres and the police. Draft amendments to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code would introduce new criminal offences.

67. Montenegro had four shelters for victims, and numerous non-governmental organizations were licensed to provide services, while social welfare centres worked with families. A national plan had been adopted for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

68. The Gambia welcomed the continued and constructive engagement of Montenegro with the universal periodic review.

69. Georgia welcomed the establishment of the Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, operational teams to combat trafficking in persons, the formal identification of trafficking victims, and measures on violence against women.

70. Germany praised the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex, the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025, and revisions to the Criminal Code to punish violence against journalists, but expressed concern about violence against women and children.

71. Greece welcomed efforts to achieve gender equality and to combat domestic violence and violence against women, and the improved institutional and law enforcement response to address violence against journalists.

72. Honduras expressed appreciation for legislative measures adopted to combat domestic violence and violence against women and children, and for the criminalization of sexual harassment and vindictive pornography.

73. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Montenegro and its national report.

74. India commended Montenegro for the progress made since the third review cycle.

75. Indonesia commended Montenegro for its efforts to strengthen the fight against domestic violence and violence against women and children, including establishing an operational team, adopting the 2018 protocol, and creating the single database system.
76. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed concern about the inadequate and insufficient access for women to medical services and the limited access for women victims of violence to justice.
77. Iraq welcomed the cooperation by Montenegro with international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies and OHCHR.
78. Ireland welcomed the Law on Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex, 2019–2023 strategy to improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and adoption of the corresponding national plan.
79. Israel praised the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025, the operational team to combat domestic violence and violence against women, and the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex.
80. Italy welcomed measures taken to strengthen freedom of expression and media freedom, including related legislation and a national strategy, and measures taken to foster the protection of journalists and media workers.
81. Jordan commended Montenegro for the establishment of thematic operational teams, notably to combat domestic violence, violence against women and trafficking in persons.
82. Kazakhstan commended Montenegro for the advances made in preventing discrimination and promoting human rights education and awareness-raising activities, and welcomed legislative efforts to eradicate gender-based and domestic violence.
83. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the delegation of Montenegro and thanked it for the presentation of its fourth national report under the universal periodic review.
84. Libya commended Montenegro for its cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism.
85. Liechtenstein welcomed the delegation of Montenegro and thanked it for the information provided in the introductory statement and the national report.
86. Lithuania hailed the adoption of strategies for gender equality, for the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians and for the protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination.
87. Luxembourg expressed appreciation for efforts to implement recommendations from the third review cycle and congratulated Montenegro on the adoption of the 2019–2023 strategy to improve the quality of life of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
88. Malawi welcomed the establishment of operational teams to combat domestic violence, violence against women and trafficking in persons, and for the formal identification of victims of trafficking in persons.
89. Malaysia commended Montenegro for its whole-of-nation approach to implementing recommendations and noted that Montenegro had taken steps to tackle domestic violence in accordance with its recommendations from the third review cycle.
90. Maldives congratulated Montenegro on its ratification of the Istanbul Convention, and welcomed the adoption of the accompanying national implementation plan.
91. Malta noted the Strategy for the Development of the Social Protection System for Older Persons 2018–2022 and the Women’s Entrepreneurship Strategy 2021–2024, on overcoming structural, economic and infrastructural barriers.
92. Mauritius applauded the initiative of the Government of Montenegro to promote the rights of women and increase awareness of issues relating to violence against women and girls.

93. Mexico commended Montenegro for the adoption of the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex, and, in a constructive spirit, offered its experience and technical assistance to Montenegro.
94. Morocco noted that the national report of Montenegro indicated the efforts made by the authorities, especially on combating discrimination in the broad sense of the term.
95. Namibia applauded Montenegro for prioritizing human rights education and training for employees in the public sector and for efforts to combat domestic violence and violence against women and children.
96. Nepal hailed efforts in combating violence against women and domestic violence and in eliminating discrimination against women, persons with disabilities and minorities, and noted the National Employment Strategy 2021–2025.
97. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Montenegro for action taken to address hate speech and homophobia, and encouraged follow-up to the recommendations of the new Commission for Monitoring Investigations of Attacks on Journalists.
98. The Niger welcomed the progress made in implementing its recommendations from the previous review cycle, including on trafficking in persons and on refugees, and noted the Strategy on Migration and Reintegration of Returnees in Montenegro 2021–2025.
99. North Macedonia welcomed the Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities from Discrimination and Promotion of Equality 2022–2027 and the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2021–2025.
100. Pakistan acknowledged the steps taken for the promotion and protection of human rights, including measures against trafficking in persons, judicial reforms and the social inclusion of migrants.
101. Paraguay applauded the strategies for gender equality, for the protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination, and for the social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians.
102. France welcomed the efforts of Montenegro to promote and protect human rights.
103. The Philippines positively noted the strengthening of the legislative and policy frameworks with the adoption of various strategies to protect the rights of specific groups, including women, children and stateless persons.
104. Portugal commended Montenegro for its efforts in the fight against corruption, and for having strengthened the judicial system with the recent nominations for the Constitutional Court.
105. The Republic of Moldova welcomed improvements in the legislative framework on discrimination, gender equality, persons with disabilities and children, and measures regarding the Strategy on Migration and Reintegration of Returnees in Montenegro 2021–2025.
106. The delegation of Montenegro noted that the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025 aimed to reduce stereotypes and prejudices, and included activities to achieve a better balance between work and private life. The Labour Law guaranteed equal pay for the same work or work of equal value.
107. Support services were provided to older persons with the aim of social inclusion and improvement of their quality of life, including day care and home help under the Strategy for the Development of the Social Protection System for Older Persons 2018–2022. Capacities had been improved by opening new homes and increasing the number of licences for service providers.
108. Montenegro had commenced the deinstitutionalization process, significantly reducing the number of children in institutions. A child supplement had been introduced for all children, while construction of a facility for children with behavioural problems and child victims of trafficking in persons was under way.
109. Training programmes were implemented to change attitudes that supported violence and stereotypical gender roles. Montenegro was strengthening the legislative and strategic



framework and conducting campaigns on forced child marriage in Roma and Egyptian communities. It was delivering training for professionals to protect children from violence, and was committed to full protection against sexual violence.

110. The Inclusive Education Strategy 2019–2025 aimed to ensure the participation of all children with special educational needs on an equal basis with others. Montenegro would aim to improve support for early development. Roma and Egyptian students were provided with free transportation, social inclusion mediators in education, and scholarships for high school and college.

111. Montenegro had adopted the Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2021–2025. Anti-discrimination programmes, budgeting measures for Roma social inclusion, and a commission to legalize buildings had been created. Funds had been allocated for Roma housing and for the employment of 21 social inclusion associates, while a national programme had been launched to transform informal employment of Roma and Egyptians.

112. The 2018 Law on Foreigners enabled internally displaced persons to acquire the status of foreigners with permanent residence in Montenegro.

113. The Law on Montenegrin Citizenship stipulated criteria for acquiring citizenship and provided for the right to do so for children born in the territory. A register was envisaged for children born outside the regular health system, abandoned children and children whose parents did not have all the requisite documents.

114. An instrument for assessing the degree of gender-sensitivity of strategy documents had been integrated into policy development. More than 300 employees had received training in gender equality, and the process of gender-responsive budgeting had begun.

115. The Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities from Discrimination and Promotion of Equality 2022–2027 addressed the equal participation in community life of women with disabilities, children with intellectual disabilities and children with psychosocial disabilities, and capacities for its implementation would be strengthened. In 2021, a decision had been made to establish the Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

116. A trust team between the police and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community ensured the safety of the latter.

117. The Russian Federation noted progress, and expressed concern about reports of torture in pretrial detention in police stations and in detention centres and about negative stereotyping of Roma and Egyptians.

118. Serbia welcomed the establishment of working groups to implement national policies in specific areas of human rights, and human rights education and efforts on anti-discrimination, gender equality and the protection of minority rights.

119. Slovakia expressed appreciation for the ratification of Protocol No. 16 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights), and encouraged Montenegro to take measures to secure the safety of journalists.

120. Slovenia called upon Montenegro to prioritize gender equality in government accountability mechanisms, and encouraged it to ensure the independence and accountability of the judiciary by addressing all outstanding review recommendations.

121. Spain commended Montenegro for the progress achieved in gender equality, in particular the changes to the Criminal Code with the introduction of new crimes such as sexual harassment.

122. Sri Lanka noted the measures taken since the last review cycle towards the eradication of gender-based violence and efforts to achieve zero tolerance of violence against women and domestic violence.

123. Switzerland made three recommendations.

124. The Syrian Arab Republic made recommendations.

125. Ukraine positively noted the work of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, which had been successful in shaping national policy to effectively protect and promote human rights and freedoms.

126. In its closing remarks, the delegation of Montenegro thanked all States that had contributed to the interactive dialogue, those that had provided questions in advance, and the troika.

127. On monitoring the implementation of review recommendations and establishing a national mechanism for monitoring and reporting, the delegation noted that a group of representatives of the Government, the judiciary, Parliament, civil society, the United Nations and the Ombudsman was developing an action plan, and that a pilot project had been initiated.

128. The Government was working on combating hate speech, on which the draft media strategy envisaged various measures, including legislation to define hate speech as a criminal offence, a coordination mechanism, campaigns and training.

129. On equal access to justice, the delegation noted that the 2011 Law on Free Legal Aid regulated a system that enabled access for persons with low incomes.

130. The delegation thanked all States, civil society organizations, international organizations and the Ombudsman for their participation. It emphasized the importance of the universal periodic review process for the promotion of human rights in Montenegro, and noted its focus on the future of human rights, under which issues of personal rights, identity and inclusiveness were vitally important. Montenegro was committed to improving human rights in the country and was ready to collaborate with all relevant international organizations.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

131. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Montenegro and enjoy the support of Montenegro:**

131.1 **Strengthen its Institution of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, or Ombudsman, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (India);**

131.2 **Establish a national human rights institution in alignment with the Paris Principles (Niger);**

131.3 **Strengthen the independence of its Ombudsman in a view to getting A status accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (Indonesia);**

131.4 **Foster greater independence and sufficient resources for the office of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms (Costa Rica);**

131.5 **Continue with initiatives under way to build the capacities of the human rights ombudsman and the national mechanism for protection against torture and take measures to strengthen the independence of these entities (Peru);**

131.6 **Ensure the effective implementation of laws prohibiting discrimination in all its forms (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

131.7 **Continue its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities (Viet Nam);**

131.8 **Intensify its efforts to investigate and punish cases of discrimination and incitement to hatred, in particular against minorities and vulnerable groups (Argentina);**

- 131.9 **Develop policies to combat racism and all forms of discrimination, with an emphasis on fighting hate speech (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 131.10 **Effectively combat racist hate speech, in particular when it is issued by politicians and public figures (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 131.11 **Take effective measures to combat all forms of discrimination, and more particularly racism and racial discrimination by more severely addressing racist hate speech in the public space as well as hate crimes, in particular against minorities (Djibouti);**
- 131.12 **Intensify its efforts to prevent and combat racist hate speech by enforcing legislation effectively, and penalizing all instances of racism and hate based on race expressed on public platforms (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 131.13 **Take effective measures to prevent, combat and punish racist hate speech and crimes (Namibia);**
- 131.14 **Spend more effort to combat racism, hate speech and violence (China);**
- 131.15 **Enact legal deterrents to counter incidents of hate, incitement to violence and Islamophobia (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 131.16 **Revise legislation to enhance protection against domestic violence, discrimination, and hate crimes and speech (Italy);**
- 131.17 **Step up efforts to confront manifestations of discrimination against minorities and achieve equality, especially in the field of work (Jordan);**
- 131.18 **Implement anti-discrimination provisions in labour legislation and ensure equal access to jobs for all people, protecting them against any type of discrimination (Spain);**
- 131.19 **Strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination against all ethnic minorities and marginalized groups (Nepal);**
- 131.20 **Strengthen the means to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination by raising awareness and adopting relevant laws and regulations (Algeria);**
- 131.21 **Promote tolerance, respect for diversity and a better understanding of human rights in society at large by advancing human rights education in both formal and informal settings (Türkiye);**
- 131.22 **Accelerate the reform of its Criminal Code in order to incorporate all the elements contained in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment into the legal definition of torture (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 131.23 **Align its legal definition of torture with the article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and adopt concrete measures to investigate and punish those responsible for cases of torture and ill-treatment of people under police custody (Brazil);**
- 131.24 **Bring the definition of torture into line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 131.25 **Continue efforts to eradicate torture and to bring the definition of torture in the Criminal Code into line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**
- 131.26 **Continue efforts in the fight against torture, by adopting a legal definition taking into account all the elements enshrined in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**

- 131.27 **Adopt a legal definition of torture that includes all elements contained in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus);**
- 131.28 **Intensify efforts to fully align the definition of torture in the Criminal Code with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (North Macedonia);**
- 131.29 **Bring the definition of torture in the Criminal Code into line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and investigate and punish all perpetrators of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by the police (Paraguay);**
- 131.30 **Investigate all allegations of ill-treatment and excessive use of force by police officers, especially in prisons, and punish those responsible (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 131.31 **Address ongoing reports of physical and psychological police torture of persons deprived of liberty, extortion of testimony and the lack of effective investigations into such reports to date (Canada);**
- 131.32 **Ensure that allegations of torture, ill-treatment or excessive use of force by the police are investigated by an independent body and that all perpetrators are brought to justice (Italy);**
- 131.33 **Take the necessary legal disciplinary and other measures to prevent torture in police detention and ensure investigations in cases of suspected torture, as well as criminal accountability (Germany);**
- 131.34 **Ensure that all complaints of torture and ill-treatment, and all excessive use of force by the police and in prisons, are promptly investigated by an independent body and that the alleged perpetrators are prosecuted (Switzerland);**
- 131.35 **Ensure prompt and impartial investigation of practices of torture and other forms of ill-treatment of persons held in police custody and in places of detention (Russian Federation);**
- 131.36 **Ensure sufficient funding of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and strengthen efforts to ensure that recommendations are implemented (Czechia);**
- 131.37 **Remove the statute of limitations on torture from the Criminal Code, effectively prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of persons deprived of their liberty, and investigate related allegations (Czechia);**
- 131.38 **Ensure that the provisions of the draft law amending the Criminal Code are in full compliance with its international law obligations, including – but not limited to – under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);**
- 131.39 **Consider enhancing complaints procedures whereby claims of torture and ill-treatment are made, to be promptly investigated by an independent body and, if perpetrators are found guilty, to ensure accountability and justice for victims (Malta);**
- 131.40 **Provide human rights training to police officers, judges and prosecutors on the prevention and identification of torture and other inhuman and degrading treatment and punishment (Portugal);**
- 131.41 **Carry out appropriate training courses for law enforcement agencies in order to prevent torture and ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners (Russian Federation);**
- 131.42 **Continue efforts to address overcrowding in detention facilities and improve health services for prisoners (Iraq);**

- 131.43 **Step up measures to investigate and punish perpetrators of war crimes, in particular those in positions of command at the time of the conflict, and ensure reparation for victims (Argentina);**
- 131.44 **Continue efforts to make the crime of torture imprescriptible, in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and prosecute those responsible for committing war crimes during the conflicts in the Western Balkans (Costa Rica);**
- 131.45 **Proactively investigate all war-crime allegations and ensure effective prosecution in line with international standards (Croatia);**
- 131.46 **Guarantee the right to reparation for the victims of war crimes that occurred during the Balkans war in the 1990s, and urge the Government to take measures to ensure that those guilty of crimes are prosecuted (Spain);**
- 131.47 **Continue efforts to reform the judiciary and combat corruption (Tunisia);**
- 131.48 **Ensure effective implementation of laws in the fight against corruption (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 131.49 **Continue to address recommendations of the Venice Commission and the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption to prevent and fight corruption (Czechia);**
- 131.50 **Ensure the implementation of the recommendations from the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption and the Venice Commission that have not yet been implemented (Germany);**
- 131.51 **Continue to tackle corruption in all institutions through coordinated investigations and prosecutions (Australia);**
- 131.52 **Ensure the independence, integrity, accountability and impartiality of the judiciary through implementation of anti-corruption policies such as merit-based appointments (United States of America);**
- 131.53 **Implement policies to end corruption and political influence on the judiciary and ensure the independence of this institution (Australia);**
- 131.54 **Fully implement the reforms in the judicial sector in order to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and eradicate corruption (Italy);**
- 131.55 **Strengthen mechanisms to improve access to justice, including for victims of gender-based violence, and ensure prompt independent investigation of all complaints of police ill-treatment, and amend the Criminal Code to align with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 131.56 **Further enhance access to justice by ensuring victims' rights, and improve support services in this vein available to victims, including to victims of human trafficking and torture, also by considering strengthening the legal aid system (Türkiye);**
- 131.57 **Adopt the necessary measures aimed at ensuring reparations to all victims of grave human rights violations or to their families as appropriate (Croatia);**
- 131.58 **Improve the system of victim support and protection (Slovenia);**
- 131.59 **Ensure the proper functioning of State authorities to respond swiftly to hate crimes and to investigate them so that perpetrators can be brought to justice and adequate penalties imposed on them (Azerbaijan);**
- 131.60 **Explore new channels of negotiation that allow a political consensus to be reached for the election of the members of the Judicial Council, the judges of**

the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Public Prosecutor and the president of the Supreme Court (Dominican Republic);

131.61 Accelerate judicial reform, in particular those reforms needed to ensure greater judicial independence (Ireland);

131.62 Continue the judicial reform process, including by filling all vacancies and by eliminating political influence on the judiciary (Austria);

131.63 Strengthen peaceful dialogue, negotiation and conciliation in order to guarantee the promotion and protection of human rights (El Salvador);

131.64 Step up efforts to strengthen the system of free legal assistance and to develop initiatives with a view to improving access to justice for persons who are in vulnerable situations, such as women and girls (Peru);

131.65 Improve application of the legal framework on the protection of journalists (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

131.66 Improve the protection of journalists against violence and hate speech, inter alia by condemning such attacks when they occur and taking further steps to end impunity for past attacks (Austria);

131.67 Address the lack of progress in investigating cases of attacks on journalists, to ensure their safety (Canada);

131.68 Take the necessary measures to strengthen media freedom and the protection of journalists (Cyprus);

131.69 Strengthen measures to promote a safer and more enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference (Lithuania);

131.70 Streamline the revision of media legislation with the media strategy for 2022–2027, through inclusive dialogue with media as well as civil society, and in line with European standards (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

131.71 Continue to strengthen measures to ensure a safe and open environment for independent journalism and combat impunity for crimes committed against journalists (France);

131.72 Strengthen the independence and impartiality of State-owned media as a means to guarantee press freedom and pluralism (Portugal);

131.73 Ensure effective implementation of the legislation on the protection of journalists and civil society, and thoroughly investigate cases of violence and attacks against media representatives (Republic of Moldova);

131.74 Ensure the protection of journalists and freedom of speech and reinforce all institutional mechanisms involved in processing all cases of attacks on journalists (Slovakia);

131.75 Ensure that all reported attacks and harassment against journalists investigating police officers and other government officials allegedly engaged in corrupt practices or abuse of office are thoroughly and impartially investigated, especially given the critical importance of such investigations to ensure the safety of media workers (United States of America);

131.76 Take measures to protect journalists and other media workers from acts of intimidation and aggression, to promptly investigate any reports of such violence and to prosecute the perpetrators (Chile);

131.77 Continue to effectively investigate reports of intimidation, harassment and attacks against journalists and media workers and bring perpetrators to justice (Estonia);

131.78 Take the necessary measures to ensure that journalists are protected against threats, and take steps to prevent intimidation and physical attacks

against journalists by ensuring that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice (Luxembourg);

131.79 Ensure that the various draft laws and the first national strategy for the media are in line with the right to freedom of expression, that they strengthen institutional mechanisms for the promotion of freedom of expression and that they enable rapid independent and impartial inquiries into threats and attacks against journalists and media workers, so that perpetrators can be brought to justice (Switzerland);

131.80 Protect the civil and secular character of the State, as well as the multicultural and multi-confessional aspects of civil society (Slovakia);

131.81 Enhance transparency and professionalism in the State Election Commission with the aim of strengthening the electoral system in the country (Islamic Republic of Iran);

131.82 Strengthen the promotion of civil and political rights (Cameroon);

131.83 Follow up on the approval of laws on the media, social protection and children (Dominican Republic);

131.84 Continue efforts to address all forms of trafficking in persons within the framework of the national plan to combat human trafficking for the period 2019–2024 and the operational team updated for this purpose (Tunisia);

131.85 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking, including by effectively implementing the strategy for combating human trafficking (Nepal);

131.86 Continue efforts against human trafficking through effective implementation of the third national anti-human trafficking strategy (2019–2024) (Georgia);

131.87 Continue endeavours to combat human trafficking by giving effect to its third national strategy (2019–2024) (Bahrain);

131.88 Enable the provision of information to trafficking victims regarding their rights and available services (Azerbaijan);

131.89 Take urgent measures to improve the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking and to provide the necessary protection to victims of human trafficking (Belarus);

131.90 Take further steps against human trafficking, including by lending protection to the victims of human trafficking (Pakistan);

131.91 Intensify measures to protect children from human trafficking and sexual exploitation through the adoption of a law on social protection and on children (Costa Rica);

131.92 Continue the national efforts aimed at combating human trafficking and child exploitation (Egypt);

131.93 Redouble efforts to combat child labour and trafficking (Libya);

131.94 Pursue efforts to establish effective mechanisms to identify and protect child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, strengthen the capacity of relevant actors and strengthen awareness-raising programmes (Ukraine);

131.95 Consider developing and implementing programmes to protect, rehabilitate and socially integrate child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation (Lithuania);

131.96 Continue to take concrete measures to combat human trafficking (Malawi);

131.97 Take effective action to ensure that perpetrators of human trafficking are brought to justice (Islamic Republic of Iran);

- 131.98 **Strengthen further accountability mechanisms for human trafficking cases, especially those involving women and children subjected to forced labour and sexual exploitation, by ensuring compliance with the non-punishment principle and providing adequate psychosocial assistance to victims, among others (Philippines);**
- 131.99 **Establish an independent national rapporteur to oversee anti-trafficking activities, step up the anti-trafficking strategy and allocate sufficient resources to provide specialized assistance and support services to victims (Spain);**
- 131.100 **Take steps to implement national action plans to fight trafficking and protect victims of human trafficking, including children (Kazakhstan);**
- 131.101 **Combat human trafficking and the sale of children by building the capacities of government agents to effectively identify and support victims and initiate criminal proceedings where appropriate (Liechtenstein);**
- 131.102 **Improve the prosecution of cases of trafficking for child, early and forced marriage (Azerbaijan);**
- 131.103 **Strengthen capacities for identifying, protecting and providing reparations to victims of trafficking, including children (Paraguay);**
- 131.104 **Strengthen measures to combat poverty and support vulnerable groups of the population, including women, children and national minorities (Uzbekistan);**
- 131.105 **Strengthen measures for reducing poverty and develop an evaluation mechanism to assess the impact of measures taken (Viet Nam);**
- 131.106 **Continue to take measures to improve conditions in the field of employment (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 131.107 **Strengthen the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);**
- 131.108 **Protect the rights of persons in vulnerable situations on housing, education, health care and employment (China);**
- 131.109 **Enhance measures to fight poverty, and reduce social exclusion of vulnerable groups of the population, including women, children and national minorities (Malaysia);**
- 131.110 **Remove barriers to girls' and women's access to sexual and reproductive health services and ensure access to health care for all women, including trans women (Iceland);**
- 131.111 **Ensure access to free, quality health care for all children, and remove barriers to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls (Luxembourg);**
- 131.112 **Take extra steps to enhance access to education (Armenia);**
- 131.113 **Ensure greater access to education and health care, while eradicating widespread corrupt practices in this area (Belarus);**
- 131.114 **Continue its efforts to promote inclusive education, and take steps to combat all forms of violence in schools at all levels of education (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 131.115 **Continue efforts to increase education and training in the field of human rights for officials (Jordan);**
- 131.116 **Ensure that national policies that have been designed to provide education and training to public authorities strengthen capacities for the implementation of legislation that protects against abuses of human rights, including discrimination (Malaysia);**



- 131.117 Dedicate sufficient resources to the education sector to ensure long-term quality education available to all children, including those from vulnerable backgrounds and minorities (Germany);
- 131.118 Consider developing an education sector strategy, investing in increasing the enrolment of children from the most vulnerable groups, and ensuring the inclusive use of digital technologies to improve education (Greece);
- 131.119 Enhance the standard of education by delivering professional development opportunities for educators, aligning curricula with upcoming demands and dedicating ample resources to expanding early childhood education (Kyrgyzstan);
- 131.120 Put in place definite measures to ensure inclusive access to education for all children, in particular those from the most vulnerable groups (Mauritius);
- 131.121 Take further measures to increase the representation of women in the political life of the country and in the private business sector (Bulgaria);
- 131.122 Continue to undertake further steps to promote women's empowerment and amend legislation to increase women's representation in Parliament (Albania);
- 131.123 Combat stereotypes against women through legislation that facilitates access to public life for women (Bahrain);
- 131.124 Take concrete steps to ensure the equal participation of women in public affairs (Israel);
- 131.125 Enhance efforts to increase the level of representation of women in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors (Lithuania);
- 131.126 Ensure equal participation of men and women in political, economic and social life (Russian Federation);
- 131.127 Address smear campaigns, hate speech and online gender-based violence, particularly against women in politics and public life (Canada);
- 131.128 Advance in the implementation of the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025 and the road map for the preparation of effective policies for women entrepreneurs (Colombia);
- 131.129 Continue strengthening the relevant resources, at both the central and the municipal levels, allocated to gender equality action plans (Croatia);
- 131.130 Ensure that the law on the prohibition of discrimination is fully in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cyprus);
- 131.131 Continue efforts to reduce discrimination rates in the workplace, as well as discrimination based on sexual orientation, against women and against the Roma and Egyptian population of the Balkans (Dominican Republic);
- 131.132 Continue significant efforts in the promotion of gender equality and towards ensuring appropriate resources for policies, measures and legislation aimed at combating violence against women (Greece);
- 131.133 Continue its effective efforts to improve women's access to sufficient medical services (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 131.134 Continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women and domestic violence (Libya);
- 131.135 Intensify efforts to reduce selective, gender-based abortion (Iraq);
- 131.136 Consider national education campaigns to combat gender-selective abortion practices that have resulted in a gender imbalance in the population (Malta);

- 131.137 Continue developing comprehensive strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including against women, ethnic minorities, the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and other marginalized groups (Serbia);
- 131.138 Provide evaluation of the institutional response in cases of femicide and trafficking in women and girls as well as of judicial practice (Slovenia);
- 131.139 Continue efforts to combat domestic violence and ensure protection measures for victims, especially women, girls and children (Tunisia);
- 131.140 Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children, including, inter alia, through enforceable entry bans and safe houses (Austria);
- 131.141 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and gender-based violence (Morocco);
- 131.142 Develop new national strategies to combat violence and gender discrimination (Paraguay);
- 131.143 Support the policy of zero tolerance of violence against women by strengthening preventive mechanisms and the investigation of cases of violence, hate speech and discrimination against women, and take measures to strengthen the participation of women in political life (Switzerland);
- 131.144 Continue to take steps against all forms of violence against women (Malawi);
- 131.145 Consider adopting new strategies to combat gender-based and domestic violence (Serbia);
- 131.146 Ensure equal access to legal aid and specialist support services for survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence (Iceland);
- 131.147 Increase legal support for women who are victims of violence and facilitate their access to justice (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 131.148 Provide free legal assistance to victims of gender-based violence by specialized lawyers and include non-governmental organizations in the system of free legal aid funded by the State (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 131.149 Increase efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination, including awareness-raising campaigns on domestic and sexual violence against women and girls (Uruguay);
- 131.150 Conduct awareness-raising campaigns about the nature of domestic violence and the power dynamics associated with gender (Estonia);
- 131.151 Implement effective strategies to address domestic and gender-based violence in order to ensure that such violence is prevented and victims have access to justice and assistance, as well as adequate punishment of perpetrators (Argentina);
- 131.152 Ensure that all cases of gender-based violence are investigated and alleged perpetrators are prosecuted (Armenia);
- 131.153 Prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and ensure that victims of violence receive appropriate help and assistance and perpetrators are brought to justice (Italy);
- 131.154 Ensure that all alleged cases of domestic violence are thoroughly investigated, perpetrators prosecuted and victims adequately protected and compensated (Estonia);
- 131.155 Continue efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and ensure that victims have access to justice (Kazakhstan);

- 131.156 Ensure that cases of gender-based violence are duly investigated and alleged perpetrators prosecuted and punished commensurately, and that victims receive the support that they need (Liechtenstein);
- 131.157 Take steps to ensure adequate access to justice and free legal aid for victims of domestic and gender-based violence, and provide appropriate training for justice and law enforcement officers dealing with such cases (Lithuania);
- 131.158 Take all the necessary measures to ensure that all cases of gender-based violence are investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately punished, and victims receive redress and access to legal counsel (Luxembourg);
- 131.159 Intensify efforts to combat domestic violence by fully investigating all reported cases of gender-based violence and providing accessible legal aid, shelter and specialized support to victims (Philippines);
- 131.160 Ensure that all cases of domestic violence, especially against women and girls, are duly investigated and prosecuted and victims are granted adequate legal and social assistance (Brazil);
- 131.161 Ensure that all complaints of violence against women and girls are investigated, and provide programmes for the social integration of victims (Burkina Faso);
- 131.162 Ensure the effective implementation of national gender programmes and strengthening of the legislative measures against domestic violence (Uzbekistan);
- 131.163 Combat sexual violence and protect women's rights more effectively by improving legislation and related policies (China);
- 131.164 Continue to take effective measures to address violence against women, strengthen legislation and ensure that all complaints of violence against women and girls are investigated (Ukraine);
- 131.165 Strengthen the mechanisms for preventing and combating violence against women in order to protect the victims and provide them with justice and rehabilitation, as well as all other forms of assistance (Djibouti);
- 131.166 Ensure that the establishment of the operational teams to combat domestic violence, violence against women and human trafficking are complementary to ongoing national efforts to combat these crimes (Malaysia);
- 131.167 Strengthen institutional measures to protect women from domestic violence, including through training of law enforcement and judicial officers (Pakistan);
- 131.168 Promote and strengthen the fight against intrafamily violence and violence against women and children (Cameroon);
- 131.169 Publish statistics, updated annually, on domestic violence cases, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and socioeconomic status (Malta);
- 131.170 Strengthen legislation referring to the prevention of and protection of children from sale and sexual exploitation, as well as effective investigation and prosecution of such cases (Republic of Moldova);
- 131.171 Strengthen efforts aimed at detecting, investigating and punishing the crimes of sale and sexual exploitation of children, including by adopting the necessary legislative amendments (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 131.172 Investigate cases of sexual exploitation of children in the tourism sector (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 131.173 Enforce effectively legislation on the prohibition of employment of children and implement effective strategies to stop and prevent child labour (Sri Lanka);

- 131.174 **Clearly define corporal punishment in legislation, and ensure that the prohibition of this punishment is enforced, in particular with regard to children (Liechtenstein);**
- 131.175 **Continue efforts to ensure access to affordable quality health care for children by providing appropriate funding (Maldives);**
- 131.176 **Develop a strategy to provide inclusive access to health to all children, in line with the recommendation by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Mauritius);**
- 131.177 **Strengthen measures to reduce child poverty and intensify efforts to provide assistance to parents (Serbia);**
- 131.178 **Improve children's rights and well-being, including by strengthening the Council for the Rights of the Child (Italy);**
- 131.179 **Provide assistance to older persons through social means while also taking action to prevent aggression towards them (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 131.180 **Take the necessary measures to address violence, negative stereotypes and discrimination against older persons, in a manner that ensures the provision of effective frameworks for protection and support (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 131.181 **Conduct an awareness-raising campaign to correct the public perception of older persons as passive consumers of services and support them to participate in decision-making processes that concern them (Algeria);**
- 131.182 **Intensify public education campaigns to address negative attitudes towards Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptian children, children with disabilities and refugee and asylum-seeking children, and ensure that they have access to legal assistance (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 131.183 **Improve the system of social support for young people, persons with disabilities, older persons and families in disadvantaged situations (Belarus);**
- 131.184 **Continue the process of harmonization of national legislation in the field of the protection of persons with disabilities, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bulgaria);**
- 131.185 **Strengthen measures to protect people in vulnerable situations and complete the harmonization of legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (France);**
- 131.186 **Intensify the protection of persons with disabilities, minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons (Cameroon);**
- 131.187 **Put an end to the involuntary deprivation of freedom of persons with psychosocial disabilities and ensure their right to live independently and be included in the community (Costa Rica);**
- 131.188 **Continue efforts to ensure employment in the labour force for persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);**
- 131.189 **Provide adequate resources to adopt a comprehensive accessibility strategy for persons with disabilities in order to promote further their full integration into society (Sri Lanka);**
- 131.190 **Continue with measures promoting the rights of persons with disabilities (Georgia);**
- 131.191 **Ensure the implementation of laws prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, and refugee and asylum-seeking children (Gambia);**
- 131.192 **Continue the efforts undertaken to protect persons in vulnerable situation, notably women, children and persons with disabilities (Greece);**

- 131.193 Intensify its efforts to cooperate more with the national minorities to increase their participation in judicial bodies, as well as in the health structures (Albania);
- 131.194 Take comprehensive measures to investigate discrimination and violence against members of ethnic minorities and bring perpetrators to justice, including by strengthening the capacity of the criminal justice system in the context of combating hate crimes (Belarus);
- 131.195 Advance the implementation of the strategy for the social inclusion of Roma and Balkan Egyptians 2021–2025 (Colombia);
- 131.196 Intensify efforts to implement the strategy for the social inclusion of Roma and Balkan Egyptians 2021–2025, in order to obtain positive results in improving their social, economic and legal conditions, building an inclusive and open society (Cuba);
- 131.197 Continue to promote policies and normative frameworks to protect the rights of minorities, encouraging the development of their culture and the specific characteristics of ethnic minorities and other national minority communities (Cuba);
- 131.198 Continue working on the elimination of all forms of poverty, discrimination and anti-Roma sentiments (Cuba);
- 131.199 Step up efforts to combat the use of hate speech against ethnic or ethno-religious groups, and to ensure efficient investigations and that effective sanctions are given in cases of incitement to hatred (Peru);
- 131.200 Advance in the implementation of measures to punish hate speech against ethnic or ethnic-religious groups, particularly that which occurs in the political sphere (Honduras);
- 131.201 Combat hate speech through specific measures and campaigns to tackle racist violence, especially against Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptian communities, as well as refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons (Costa Rica);
- 131.202 Combat and eradicate incitement to hatred and racial hate speech in all its forms, as well as violence against ethnic minorities (Paraguay);
- 131.203 Combat prejudice against persons belonging to national minorities, particularly through the education system and the media (Russian Federation);
- 131.204 Take further steps to further promote equal opportunities for the Roma community in education and employment (India);
- 131.205 Develop strategies and programmes to combat discrimination against and the exclusion of minority groups in education and employment access (Indonesia);
- 131.206 Continue to expand access to quality education and health services for all children, particularly those from minority groups, children with disabilities, and refugee and asylum-seeking children (Philippines);
- 131.207 Adopt measures to ensure greater inclusion of the Roma population in regard to access to services, especially the right to education, and consider a monitoring system to abolish child marriage (Spain);
- 131.208 Continue to develop comprehensive strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination against members of ethnic minorities, in particular women and children, inter alia through measures aimed at facilitating their economic, social and educational inclusion (Austria);
- 131.209 Combat Islamophobia and stereotypes against minorities, including in the media (Bahrain);

131.210 Strengthen policies and efforts that counter societal and institutional discrimination against members of marginalized ethnic groups, including the Roma, and LGBTIQ+ persons (United States of America);

131.211 Adopt affirmative measures for the recognition of the gender identity of all individuals, in accordance with their personal autonomy and human dignity (Argentina);

131.212 Continue strengthening specific measures to protect LGBTIQ+ persons from discrimination and violence (Chile);

131.213 Continue efforts to implement adopted legal measures against discrimination and effectively address all reported cases of violence against persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Czechia);

131.214 Continue the harmonization of secondary legislation related to the rights granted in the law on life partnership of same-sex partners (Germany);

131.215 Continue strengthening legal and institutional frameworks for the protection and promotion of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons (Israel);

131.216 Address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against transgender persons (Iceland);

131.217 Introduce a transparent administrative self-identification process for legal gender recognition (Iceland);

131.218 Take measures to eradicate violence against migrants, and provide them with unhindered access to the asylum procedure (Belarus);

131.219 Consolidate efforts to prevent discrimination against the most vulnerable groups, including migrants and refugees (Türkiye);

131.220 Strengthen institutional capacities aimed at providing access to health, education and safe housing for migrant children, asylum-seekers and unaccompanied refugees (Honduras);

131.221 Reinforce measures for the protection of the social, economic and cultural rights of refugees and migrants (Pakistan);

131.222 Ensure that children's nationality status is determined as soon as possible after birth in order to ensure that otherwise stateless children born in Montenegro acquire a nationality (Belgium);

131.223 Ensure that all children, without discrimination, are registered regardless of the documentary or residency status of their parents, and ensure that nationality is determined as soon as possible after birth (Mexico);

131.224 Continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions regarding birth registration and the handling of cases of statelessness, particularly at the local level (Uruguay);

131.225 Step up efforts to ensure a uniform, simplified and accessible procedure for the birth registration of stateless persons in its territory (Philippines).

132. The following recommendations will be examined by Montenegro, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council:

132.1 Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay); Conclude the consultation process with a view to ratifying the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute (El Salvador); Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute, on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein); Intensify procedures to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute, on the crime of aggression (North Macedonia);

- 132.2 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Burkina Faso) (Colombia) (Kyrgyzstan) (Mexico) (Sri Lanka);**
- 132.3 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (Chile) (Gambia);**
- 132.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (El Salvador) (Honduras);**
- 132.5 **Ratify the pending international human rights instruments, especially the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Paraguay);**
- 132.6 **Accept the inquiry procedure under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Finland);**
- 132.7 **Intensify action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with its international commitments (Maldives).**
133. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Montenegro and have been noted by Montenegro:**
- 133.1 **Consider ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Djibouti);**
- 133.2 **Ensure that suspected perpetrators of torture are suspended from official duties immediately and for the duration of the investigation (Belgium);**
- 133.3 **Provide protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**
- 133.4 **Redouble efforts to adopt a broader strategy to fight human trafficking (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 133.5 **Strengthen measures to combat all forms of slavery, including by adopting a more comprehensive strategy to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons (Namibia);**
- 133.6 **Strengthen existing legislative provisions aimed at protecting migrants from the risks of trafficking (Morocco);**
- 133.7 **Take the necessary measures to ensure non-compliance with imposed unilateral coercive measures against developing countries (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 133.8 **Implement all measures in the National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2025 and the 2021–2022 action plan (Australia);**
- 133.9 **Criminalize femicide and marital rape in the Criminal Code (Mexico);**
- 133.10 **Amend legislation to criminalize marital rape and establish adequate punishment for perpetrators and support for victims of gender-based violence (Belgium);**
- 133.11 **Amend the Criminal Code to include psychological, economic and sexual violence, introduce a separate criminal offence of femicide and criminalize marital rape (Iceland);**
- 133.12 **Introduce a minimum legal age for marriage in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Cyprus);**
- 133.13 **Amend the relevant legislation to raise the minimum marriage age to 18 years, without exemption, and criminalize all forms of marriage with a person under the age of 18 years (Ireland);**

133.14 **Guarantee that the minimum legal age for marriage is 18 years, without exception (Mexico);**

133.15 **Amend all by-laws of the Law on Life Partnership of Persons of the Same Sex to include social care and health-care standards, and take further measures to ensure full implementation of the newly adopted law (Kingdom of the Netherlands).**

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



## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Montenegro was headed by Mr. Fatmir Gjeka, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Slavica Milačić, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the UN and other international organizations;
- Mr. Astrit Hoxha, State Secretary at the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights;
- Mr. Darko Stojanović, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;
- Ms. Danka Ivanović Đerić, Public Prosecutor at the Higher State Prosecution in Podgorica;
- Mr. Momir Jauković, Director General of the Directorate for Judiciary at the Ministry of Justice;
- Ms. Sanja Zugić, Head of Minister's Office at the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights;
- Ms. Jovana Bogojević, Deputy Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the UN and other international organizations based in Geneva;
- Ms. Slava Burić, Secretary of the Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms at the Parliament of Montenegro;
- Ms. Biljana Pejović, Chief of the Unit for Gender Equality at the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights;
- Ms. Irena Varagić, Chief of Unit for European Affairs, Programming and Implementation of EU funds at the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights;
- Mr. Damir Šabanović, Director of Division for the United Nations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Jovana Radifković, Chief of Unit for gender-based violence and family violence at the Ministry of labor and Social Welfare;
- Ms. Budimirka Đukanovic, Chief of Division for protection of Vulnerable Groups at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare;
- Ms. Tijana Šuković, Chief of Unit for the Fight against Human Trafficking at the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ms. Danijela Šuster, Chief of Section for reintegration of recidivists upon readmission at the Directorate for Administrative Affairs, Citizenship and Aliens at the Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Mr. Radovan Nikolić, Chief of Division for Healthcare Protection at the Ministry of Healthcare;
- Ms. Semra Martinović, Independent Advisor I at the Directorate for Protection and Improvement of Human Rights and Freedoms at the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights;
- Ms. Milica Stojović, Independent Advisor III at the Directorate for improvement and protection of national minority rights and freedoms at the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights;
- Ms. Ana Terzić, Independent Advisor III at the Division for youth and child protection and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;
- Ms. Aida Bojadžić, Authorized Official at the Directorate for Penal Sanctions and Supervision at the Ministry of Justice;

- Ms. Sonja Jokić, Independent Advisor I at the Secretariat of the Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro;
- Ms. Bojana Bandović, Advisor at the Supreme Court of Montenegro;
- Ms. Anita Marić, Advisor for inclusive education at the Section for research and development at the Institute for education, Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Kristina Ljuljđuraj, Independent Advisor I at the Directorate for international cooperation, European integration and EU funds at the Ministry of Education;
- Mr. Đorđije Drinčić, Independent Advisor at the Directorate for Media of the Ministry of Culture and Media;
- Mr. Miloš Mirković, Second Secretary to the to the UN and other international organizations;
- Ms. Milica Kadić Aković, Interpreter from English to Montenegrin and vice-versa;
- Ms. Vanja Jančić, Interpreter from English to Montenegrin and vice-versa.

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