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

### **Botswana**

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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 Botswana was held at the 5th meeting, on 3 May 2023. The delegation of Botswana was headed by the Minister of Justice, Machana Ronald Shamukuni. At its 10th meeting, held on 5 May 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Botswana.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Botswana: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Qatar and South Africa.
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 Botswana:
  - (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, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, 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 and the United States of America was transmitted to Botswana through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

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

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Botswana was committed to the universal periodic review mechanism. In 2021, the Ombudsman Act had been amended to extend the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman to include investigations of human rights violations.
6. The priority areas for the Ministry of Justice included providing quality, efficient and affordable legal services and enforcing court decisions in a timely manner. Legal Aid Botswana provided legal assistance to persons in need, including juveniles accused of committing offences. Section 164 of the Penal Code was being amended in compliance with a Court of Appeal decision that had held that the criminalization of same-sex sexual conduct was unconstitutional.
7. Also undergoing amendment were the Births and Deaths Registration Act, to enable the alteration of the sex description of intersex persons and persons whose sexual characteristics had been altered by surgical or medical treatment, the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, to strengthen the protection of victims of trafficking in persons, and the Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act, to strengthen the protection of the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees.
8. The disability bill and the community-based natural resource management bill were being drafted. The media practitioners association bill was awaiting assent by the President of Botswana, following its adoption by Parliament.

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

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

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

9. The right to freedom of expression, as guaranteed by section 12 of the Constitution of Botswana, was not absolute and could be limited in law. Defamation was criminalized pursuant to section 192 of the Penal Code.
10. On the issue of marital rape, following the enactment of the Abolition of Marital Power Act, all non-consensual sexual intercourse, including in marriage, was considered to have been criminalized, pursuant to section 141 of the Penal Code.
11. The Interministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols served as the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up in relation to recommendations from human rights mechanisms. The operationalization of the recommendations-tracking database was ongoing.
12. In 2021, Botswana had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and revised the National Disability Policy to encompass a human rights-based approach. In 2022, Botswana had acceded to the Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, the Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and Other Forms of Family Maintenance and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.
13. Regarding the reservations to article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, sections 4 (2) and 7 (2) of the Constitution of Botswana allowed for derogation from the protection of the right to life and protection from inhumane treatment, respectively.
14. Most of the submissions received by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution of Botswana had supported the retention of the death penalty. In relation to corporal punishment, most of the submissions received had not supported its abolition and the administration of corporal punishment to women convicts had been suggested.
15. Civil society organizations were not only accorded civic space, but were also involved in development planning and implementation, including in relation to governance and human rights. To this end, the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee was co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and Ditshwanelo – The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, the nominated representative of civil society organizations. The Committee had drafted the comprehensive human rights strategy and national action plan, which was expected to be adopted during the financial year 2023/24. The Committee had also developed a human rights and Sustainable Development Goals e-learning course.
16. In reference to a recommendation from the previous review on cooperation with the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, it was stated that Botswana was committed to cooperating with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, following an inquiry received in July 2021. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention had been granted full access to all places of deprivation of liberty during its visit in 2022.
17. The official languages in Botswana were Setswana and English, which were the medium of instruction in institutions of learning. In January 2023, the Language Policy of 2022 had become operational. The policy introduced the use of 13 local languages, including sign language, as a medium of instruction in early childhood learning.
18. Regarding universal health coverage, 85 per cent of the population were within a 15-km radius of health facilities. Health services were provided to communities in remote areas through 1,500 mobile clinics. Botswana had been effective in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS and was the first African country to be certified at the silver tier level on the Path to Elimination of HIV by the World Health Organization.
19. In accordance with the principle of leaving no one behind, various social development programmes were being implemented, targeting vulnerable groups. A national social protection framework guided interventions geared towards improving social protection. The Destitute Policy provided for relevant persons to receive social benefits.

20. The Affirmative Action Framework for Remote Area Communities had been introduced to provide strategic direction and accelerate development for rural communities. The Government had continued to provide social services to the residents of settlements in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

21. As water, land and other natural resources were drivers of citizens' participation in economic growth, the Government had commenced the implementation of land-allocation strategies.

22. The Creative Industry Strategy enhanced opportunities for the flourishing of diverse cultures, cultural preservation and participation by all people of Botswana. In 2020, the National Arts Council of Botswana Act had been enacted.

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

23. During the interactive dialogue, 105 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

24. Argentina noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2021.

25. Armenia noted that, in the previous review, Botswana had supported its recommendation to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

26. Australia underscored the importance of freedom of expression and the maintenance of a robust constitutional democracy, particularly in the lead-up to the next general election.

27. Azerbaijan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the legislative steps taken to implement the Convention.

28. Bahrain noted the efforts made to raise the standards of democracy, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

29. Bangladesh noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and various other measures.

30. Belgium welcomed efforts in the protection of human rights but stated that various challenges remained.

31. Benin commended Botswana for the progress made in implementing recommendations from the previous review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

32. The Plurinational State of Bolivia thanked Botswana for its constructive engagement with the universal periodic review mechanism.

33. Brazil noted the regular dialogue that Botswana had with civil society organizations, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

34. Burkina Faso encouraged Botswana to increase efforts to reduce the rate of maternal mortality and infant mortality.

35. Burundi noted the progress made in the education and health-care sectors, among others.

36. Cameroon noted an improvement in the promotion and protection of human rights.

37. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken by Botswana, particularly the upholding of the court ruling decriminalizing same-sex relationships, to protect human rights.

38. Chad noted the institutional and legislative efforts made by Botswana to implement recommendations from the previous review.

39. Chile noted the establishment of advisory forums for children and the decriminalization of same-sex relationships.

40. China noted the efforts made to protect human rights, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to eradicate poverty, among others.
41. Colombia wished Botswana success in its review.
42. Costa Rica noted the efforts made to combat trafficking in persons, including developing the capacity of the judicial sector.
43. Côte d'Ivoire noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the development of a draft comprehensive human rights strategy.
44. Croatia called upon Botswana to address the high incidence of violence against women and children, and noted that the death penalty was legal.
45. Cuba expressed appreciation for the achievements in implementing recommendations from the previous reviews.
46. Cyprus noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the adoption of the Sexual Offenders Registry Act and the decriminalization of same-sex relations.
47. Czechia welcomed the efforts made to implement recommendations from the previous review, particularly the decriminalization of same-sex consensual relations.
48. Djibouti congratulated Botswana for its human rights-based approach to development and governance.
49. The Dominican Republic noted measures taken to protect human rights, including the implementation of the national development plan.
50. Egypt expressed appreciation for efforts made to improve human rights, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Programme.
51. Estonia noted efforts to improve the framework for the protection of human rights, the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Programme and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
52. Ethiopia welcomed the measures taken to promote and protect the human rights of all citizens, including women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.
53. Fiji noted the commitment of Botswana to the universal periodic review mechanism and the process through which it promoted meaningful engagement with civil society organizations.
54. Finland commended Botswana for the improvement of the rights of LGBTQI persons, including the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations.
55. France noted initiatives taken to protect human rights, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee.
56. The Gambia commended Botswana for efforts made in protecting human rights, including the rights of women and children.
57. Georgia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, measures to reduce HIV rates, including among young people, and the establishment of the National Gender Commission.
58. Germany expressed concern about capital punishment, gender-based violence and discrimination against ethnic minorities, refugees and migrants.
59. Ghana noted the progress made in implementing recommendations from the previous review, including the drafting of the comprehensive human rights strategy and national action plan.

60. Greece noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and expressed appreciation for the extended mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman.
61. Honduras noted the implementation of recommendations from the previous review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of social and economic policies.
62. Iceland made recommendations.
63. India noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the establishment of the National Gender Commission and the launching of a plan to reduce barriers to HIV and tuberculosis services.
64. Indonesia welcomed the measures taken to protect human rights, including to curb gender-based violence and HIV prevalence.
65. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and measures taken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.
66. Iraq welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments, efforts to combat poverty and the development of rural infrastructure.
67. Ireland expressed concern about high levels of violence against women and children and regretted the continued use of the death penalty.
68. Israel expressed concern over the persistence of customary laws and practices that discriminated against women and over the prevalence of domestic violence.
69. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations.
70. Kenya noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the school feeding programme in primary and secondary schools, including in schools in remote areas.
71. Kuwait noted efforts to promote the economic and social rights of vulnerable groups, to reduce poverty and unemployment and to provide health care.
72. Lebanon welcomed the ongoing efforts of Botswana to protect and promote human rights.
73. The delegation of Botswana stated that, in relation to violence against women and children, there was a well-established, child-friendly gender-based violence reporting system. Police stations had child-friendly units, standard operating procedures for child victims had been developed and front-line workers received the necessary training. The First Lady of Botswana had led a project focusing on raising awareness of gender-based violence.
74. Botswana was committed to continuing to implement measures in public security while upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of vulnerable and special groups. The Botswana Defence Force Act and the Directorate of Intelligence and Security had established boards to preside over disciplinary matters relating to the abuse of power by security personnel. Anonymous reporting and whistle-blowing were allowed in many State organizations, pursuant to the Whistleblowing Act of 2016.
75. Civil society organizations were members of the interministerial technical advisory committee on gender-based violence and the district gender committees. There were no State-owned shelters for survivors of gender-based violence, but there were two shelters that were operated by non-governmental organizations.
76. Botswana expected to finalize an action plan on addressing child labour in June 2023, with the assistance of the International Labour Organization. Research and baseline studies would be conducted to unveil the magnitude of child labour in the country.
77. A real-time birth registration system had been developed, with all births in hospitals registered immediately and birth certificates issued. There were also mobile registration facilities for people in remote areas.

78. Lesotho commended the positive developments achieved since the last review, notably in strengthening programmes to address economic and social challenges.
79. Libya noted the initiatives taken to improve economic and social rights, including by eradicating discrimination against women and protecting the rights of children and youth.
80. Luxembourg welcomed efforts made to implement the recommendations from the previous review.
81. Malawi noted the progress made in the protection of human rights, including the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman as a national human rights institution.
82. Malaysia noted reforms and policy implementations aimed at promoting sustainable industries and trade, improving social protection, providing economic opportunities to vulnerable populations and empowering youth.
83. Maldives welcomed the establishment of the National Gender Commission and the high-level interministerial committee to oversee the national response to gender-based violence.
84. Mauritania welcomed the positive efforts made to protect human rights and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
85. Mauritius commended efforts in promoting human rights, both nationally and internationally, and expressed appreciation for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
86. Mexico noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations.
87. Montenegro noted actions taken to strengthen the legal framework and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encouraged Botswana to ratify other core human rights instruments.
88. Morocco welcomed the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Programme, particularly through initiatives on economic independence and empowerment.
89. Mozambique noted the progress made in the implementation of recommendations from the previous review.
90. Namibia applauded Botswana for implementing programmes aimed at eradicating poverty, as well as ongoing efforts to advance respect for the rights of persons with disabilities.
91. Nepal noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as efforts to alleviate poverty and to combat gender-based violence.
92. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Botswana for the concrete measures taken to ensure a safer environment for women and girls.
93. New Zealand noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the steps taken to decriminalize consensual same-sex relations.
94. The Niger encouraged Botswana to complete ongoing initiatives to implement recommendations from the previous review that had not been fully implemented.
95. Pakistan expressed appreciation for the cooperation of Botswana with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and the measures taken to further the human rights agenda.
96. Panama made recommendations.
97. Paraguay expressed appreciation for efforts to strengthen human rights institutions but was concerned that Botswana had not ratified several international human rights instruments.
98. The Philippines welcomed measures to strengthen domestic mechanisms to address gender-based violence but noted that violence against women and girls remained a daunting challenge.
99. Portugal noted the adoption of a national employment policy and the granting of the mandate of national human rights institution to the Office of the Ombudsman.

100. The Russian Federation noted efforts to integrate the provisions of ratified conventions into national legislation so that they could be applied by courts.
101. Qatar commended Botswana for its commitment to complying with its international human rights obligations, as reflected by the ratification of the majority of the human rights conventions.
102. Saudi Arabia noted the adoption of the Poverty Eradication Programme and the campaign launched by the National Council for Children to protect children from abuse.
103. Senegal noted policies and programmes for the right to food, the empowerment of youth and the empowerment of women in the economic sector.
104. Sierra Leone regretted that most of the recommendations from the previous review had been noted and invited Botswana to reconsider its position on those recommendations.
105. Serbia noted, among other things, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the development of the Poverty Eradication Programme, which provided economic opportunities for the most vulnerable populations.
106. Singapore noted efforts to improve access to health care, including the National Cancer Control Plan, which had reduced the mortality rates of women from cervical cancer.
107. Slovenia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and welcomed the incorporation of human rights education into school curricula. It remained concerned about high levels of gender-based violence.
108. Somalia noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the legislative measures taken to align national legislation with that Convention.
109. South Africa welcomed the initiatives undertaken, including the establishment of the National Gender Commission and the development of the comprehensive human rights strategy and the national action plan.
110. South Sudan commended Botswana for its commitment to ratifying the international human rights conventions.
111. Spain welcomed the decriminalization of consensual same-sex relations.
112. Sri Lanka noted the draft comprehensive human rights strategy, the national action plan and the ongoing Poverty Eradication Programme.
113. The State of Palestine commended Botswana for its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.
114. The Sudan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and efforts made in the empowerment of women.
115. Switzerland made recommendations.
116. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the poverty-reduction and child-protection measures taken but noted an alarming increase in children needing emergency interventions.
117. Thailand noted the expansion of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman.
118. Timor-Leste welcomed the strengthening of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman and the development of a draft comprehensive human rights strategy and national action plan.
119. Togo noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the efforts made to promote human rights, including the right to health.
120. Tunisia noted the progress made in implementing recommendations from the previous review, including the two recommendations that it had made.
121. Türkiye noted the establishment of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution of Botswana, the Gender-Based Violence Perpetrators Programme and the Gender and Child Protection Branch in the police service.



122. Uganda welcomed the implementation of recommendations from the previous review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
123. Ukraine noted the commitment to improve legal and institutional frameworks in compliance with international human rights instruments.
124. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland noted efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence and enhance child protection. It expressed concern about use of the death penalty.
125. The delegation of Botswana recalled that the majority of the submissions received by the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Review of the Constitution of Botswana had supported the retention of the death penalty and corporal punishment. Nevertheless, Botswana would continue to conduct human rights education for its population on those issues.
126. The United Republic of Tanzania noted efforts to implement youth empowerment programmes and economic empowerment programmes for people with disabilities.
127. The United States of America commended Botswana for decriminalizing same-sex relations and expressed concern over the impact of mining, tourism and agriculture on the Basarwa, or San, communities.
128. Uruguay noted the expansion of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman to include the promotion and protection of human rights.
129. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that the international community should assist Botswana in implementing its social protection and poverty eradication programmes. It noted the lack of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation.
130. Viet Nam noted efforts to reduce poverty and combat HIV/AIDS, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the drafting of the disability bill.
131. Zambia noted that Botswana had implemented more than half of the supported recommendations from the previous review.
132. Zimbabwe noted the progress made in implementing recommendations from the previous review.
133. Algeria noted the policies adopted to eradicate poverty, combat HIV/AIDS and protect marginalized persons, and the incorporation of human rights education in school curricula.
134. Angola noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the introduction of the Reset Agenda and the dispensation for the Rural Area Development Programme.
135. The delegation of Botswana stated that the appropriation of tribal lands was not taking place. Residents of settlements in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve continued to receive social services provided by the Government.
136. In relation to combating gender-based violence against children, the Sexual Offenders Registry Act had been enacted in 2021, to allow for the registration of persons convicted of sexual offences. The Penal Code had been amended to increase the age under which a person was considered a child, from 16 to 18 years.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

- 137.1 **Consider ratification of outstanding international human rights treaties, in line with the country's national priorities (Malawi);**

- 137.2 **Ratify those international instruments that Botswana had committed to ratifying in its previous reviews (Tunisia);**
- 137.3 **Continue efforts to ratify other international human rights instruments (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 137.4 **Advance the processes aimed at ratifying the core human rights treaties that have not yet been ratified, as previously recommended (Paraguay);**
- 137.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);**
- 137.6 **Ratify the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular the Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Togo);**
- 137.7 **Take the necessary steps towards ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and take the necessary measures to abolish the death penalty from the legislation (Argentina);**
- 137.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin);**
- 137.9 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Croatia);**
- 137.10 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Cyprus);**
- 137.11 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 137.12 **Take prompt measures to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Bangladesh);**
- 137.13 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto (Chad);**
- 137.14 **Consider ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chile);**
- 137.15 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Colombia);**
- 137.16 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 137.17 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Cyprus);**
- 137.18 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (India);**
- 137.19 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Kenya);**
- 137.20 **Undertake efforts to accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Lesotho);**
- 137.21 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mauritania);**

- 137.22 Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius);
- 137.23 Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);
- 137.24 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Qatar) (Somalia) (South Africa);
- 137.25 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ukraine);
- 137.26 Ratify and domesticate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Angola);
- 137.27 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- 137.28 Sign the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Dominican Republic);
- 137.29 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Gambia);
- 137.30 Ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 137.31 Explore the possibility of ratifying the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Niger);
- 137.32 Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 137.33 Consider the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Lebanon);
- 137.34 Carry out the necessary consultations to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Mexico);
- 137.35 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);
- 137.36 Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Senegal);
- 137.37 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Benin);
- 137.38 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt) (Gambia);
- 137.39 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);

- 137.40 Strengthen measures to protect migrants with a view in particular to ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco);
- 137.41 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Somalia) (Togo);
- 137.42 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and harmonize the national migration policy with the principles espoused in the Convention (Sri Lanka);
- 137.43 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Cyprus);
- 137.44 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish the national preventive mechanism, as previously recommended (Czechia);
- 137.45 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Gambia);
- 137.46 Consider ratifying outstanding core international legal instruments, notably the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);
- 137.47 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);
- 137.48 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Togo);
- 137.49 Withdraw the reservation to article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);
- 137.50 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and withdrawing the reservation to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Chad);
- 137.51 Consider withdrawing the reservations to articles 7 and 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Lebanon);
- 137.52 Enhance cooperation with United Nations bodies and partners in order to better respect obligations in the field of human rights (Kuwait);
- 137.53 Continue collaboration with treaty monitoring bodies and development partners for technical support on issues of ratification of international instruments (Azerbaijan);
- 137.54 Pursue cooperation with international human rights mechanisms by accepting individual communications procedures under ratified conventions (France);
- 137.55 Continue addressing the issue of technical support in the area of ratification (Georgia);
- 137.56 Make efforts to implement the obligations to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique);
- 137.57 Consider implementing and/or operationalizing the 2030 Eastern and Southern African Ministerial Commitment with a focus on combating sexual and gender-based violence, and keep advancing gender equality and the health and education of adolescents and other vulnerable persons (Sierra Leone);

137.58 **Strengthen the implementation of legal and institutional frameworks in responding to gender-based violence, discrimination and inequalities (Indonesia);**

137.59 **Intensify efforts to amend article 15 of the Constitution to bring the definition of discrimination into line with international human rights commitments (Uruguay);**

137.60 **Enact a comprehensive freedom of information law in line with the constitutional and international legal obligations of Botswana (Belgium);**

137.61 **Harmonize legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Chad);**

137.62 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to prohibit discrimination (Chile);**

137.63 **Repeal section 167 of the Penal Code (Iceland);**

137.64 **Conclude the process of enacting the anti-human trafficking (amendment) bill of 2023 (Malawi);**

137.65 **Take the necessary measures to finalize the extension of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson to include human rights and make it operational (Côte d'Ivoire);**

137.66 **Create a human rights institution independent of existing governmental ministries, reporting directly to the President to enhance the safeguarding of human rights (Germany);**

137.67 **Consider expediting the operationalization of the Office of the Ombudsman as a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (India);**

137.68 **Expedite the operationalization of the Office of Ombudsman with the human rights mandate, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Indonesia);**

137.69 **Finalize the operationalization of the Ombudsman (Amendment Act of 2021) in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Kenya);**

137.70 **Take steps to establish 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) (Mexico);**

137.71 **Step up efforts to establish the national 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) (Nepal);**

137.72 **Ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman has adequate resources to perform the mandate in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Philippines);**

137.73 **Expedite the accreditation process of the Office of the Ombudsman by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (Thailand);**

137.74 **Ensure the prompt operationalization of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman as a national human rights institution (Timor-Leste);**

137.75 **Give priority to the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

- 137.76 Take further steps for the adoption and implementation of the comprehensive human rights strategy (Azerbaijan);
- 137.77 Continue to increase efforts in strengthening human rights, particularly within the framework of gender equality, and protecting children's rights (Bahrain);
- 137.78 Strengthen the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);
- 137.79 Continue to effectively protect people's right to life and health and the equal enjoyment of the right to education by children (China);
- 137.80 Continue strengthening the institutional framework favourable to respect for human rights (Ethiopia);
- 137.81 Effectively implement the National Policy on Gender and Development through a comprehensive strategy to ensure equal access to socioeconomic, cultural and political opportunities for men and women (Malaysia);
- 137.82 Strengthen the legal protection of individuals belonging to the most vulnerable groups and ensure the prevention and investigation of all forms of violence, including domestic and sexual violence (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 137.83 Create a national accountability mechanism based on the renewed targets of the 2030 Eastern and Southern Africa Ministerial Commitments, in order to combat sexual and gender-based violence and promote gender equality, health and education (Panama);
- 137.84 Continue efforts to consolidate a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up in relation to human rights recommendations (Paraguay);
- 137.85 Ensure protection in law and practice of vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);
- 137.86 Finalize the validation and adoption of the comprehensive human rights strategy and national action plan for its effective implementation in the period 2023–2024 (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 137.87 Adopt concrete measures to strengthen the capacity of the Interministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols so that recommendations of international human rights mechanisms are properly followed up on (Uruguay);
- 137.88 Accelerate the development of a strategy to guide the work of the National Gender Commission (Zimbabwe);
- 137.89 Accelerate efforts towards the adoption and implementation of the national human rights strategy and action plan (Zimbabwe);
- 137.90 Take additional measures to strengthen the mandate, budget allocations and technical capacities of the district-level gender committees (Angola);
- 137.91 Develop a national policy and plan of action to support children in street situations (Montenegro);
- 137.92 Consider developing a national policy and plan of action to support children in street situations and strengthen measures to ensure that children in street situations are provided with educational opportunities (State of Palestine);
- 137.93 Continue efforts to strengthen the national regulatory framework to prohibit all forms of discrimination (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

- 137.94 **Adopt strong domestic law, policy and strategy frameworks to protect and promote the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers by guaranteeing access to basic human rights (Somalia);**
- 137.95 **Incorporate fully the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into national legislation (Uruguay);**
- 137.96 **End discrimination, especially against women, by adopting a comprehensive legislative framework that protects their rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 137.97 **Develop and implement strategies and policies to combat patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes and discrimination against women (Estonia);**
- 137.98 **Pursue efforts to promote the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures to increase the participation of women in political and public life in accordance with the National Policy on Gender and Development (Djibouti);**
- 137.99 **Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and empower them economically and politically (Egypt);**
- 137.100 **Intensify efforts to combat discrimination against women through the implementation of national policies and strategies aimed at eliminating negative stereotypes against women (Morocco);**
- 137.101 **Criminalize marital rape and make further progress in combating gender stereotypes and discriminatory traditional practices through awareness-raising, training and the provision of resources for the police and the justice system (Spain);**
- 137.102 **Develop and promote community-owned awareness programmes to eradicate gender stereotypes, harmful myths and traditional practices around sexual violence (Zimbabwe);**
- 137.103 **Abolish the death penalty (Australia);**
- 137.104 **Introduce an official moratorium on executions, and continue an informed national public debate aimed at promoting full abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 137.105 **Repeal the death penalty and consider a moratorium on its application pending its complete abolition (Canada);**
- 137.106 **Consider establishing a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Chile);**
- 137.107 **Abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on current death sentences (Costa Rica);**
- 137.108 **Abolish the death penalty in law and in practice (Croatia);**
- 137.109 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus);**
- 137.110 **Maintain the moratorium on executions, abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Czechia);**
- 137.111 **Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Estonia);**
- 137.112 **Impose a moratorium on the execution of the death penalty (Germany);**
- 137.113 **Abolish the death penalty (Iceland);**

- 137.114 **Abolish the death penalty in law and in practice, including by declaring an official moratorium, ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and commute existing death sentences (Ireland);**
- 137.115 **Adopt a de facto moratorium on capital executions, with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty and consider at least abstaining on the General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of death penalty (Italy);**
- 137.116 **Abolish the death penalty, consider a regulatory framework on torture in line with relevant international standards and investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment (Luxembourg);**
- 137.117 **Make progress towards the abolition of the death penalty, or introduce a moratorium on its application (Mexico);**
- 137.118 **Consider commuting all death sentences and taking steps aimed at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 137.119 **Continue efforts to abolish the death penalty (New Zealand);**
- 137.120 **Take the necessary legislative measures for the total and definitive abolition of the death penalty, both in the normative framework and in practice (Paraguay);**
- 137.121 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its full abolition (Portugal);**
- 137.122 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);**
- 137.123 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and establish an official moratorium on executions (Spain);**
- 137.124 **Take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty for all crimes, in particular sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and in the meantime carry out a moratorium on the application of the death penalty (Switzerland);**
- 137.125 **Consider introducing a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Timor-Leste);**
- 137.126 **Consider establishing an official moratorium on the death penalty as a first step to its full abolition and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);**
- 137.127 **Impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty while working towards further reforms of its justice system and gathering public opinion on its relevance and efficiency as a deterrent (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 137.128 **Allow independent and transparent investigations of cases of extrajudicial arrests, unlawful detentions and arbitrary executions (Israel);**
- 137.129 **Provide regular training to law enforcement officials and other stakeholders within the field of human rights, in particular on the documentation and investigation of cases related to torture and ill-treatment (Ghana);**
- 137.130 **Step up efforts to combat torture and enforced disappearance by incorporating international instruments into domestic law (Honduras);**
- 137.131 **Pursue ongoing human rights training for prison officials (Burundi);**
- 137.132 **Provide regular training to judicial, legal and law enforcement officials on human rights (Maldives);**



- 137.133 Redouble efforts and provide the material and human capacity to upgrade the judicial sector to improve its efficiency and ensure access to justice throughout the country (Tunisia);
- 137.134 Strengthen the legal and institutional framework to ensure access to justice for all, notably vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities (Armenia);
- 137.135 Enforce laws criminalizing gender-based violence, including domestic abuse, train police in the appropriate handling of sexual assault cases and ensure that legal frameworks exist to support the effective prosecution and detention of those convicted (United States of America);
- 137.136 Strengthen measures to ensure that children are not revictimized in judicial investigations and that criminal proceedings are safe and child sensitive, with particular attention to their protection and right to privacy (Colombia);
- 137.137 Step up efforts to provide specialized training to law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other professionals who work to protect and support victims and survivors of gender-based violence (Philippines);
- 137.138 Take effective measures to address threats to democracy by strengthening media freedom, freedom of expression and transparency and accountability (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 137.139 Ensure freedom and plurality of the media (Czechia);
- 137.140 Revise national legislation that might restrict the right to freedom of expression (Ghana);
- 137.141 Repeal legal provisions that may restrict access to information and freedom of assembly and association (Honduras);
- 137.142 Strengthen efforts to ensure freedom of expression as well as independence and freedom of media. Guarantee a safe and enabling environment for journalists and human rights defenders (Italy);
- 137.143 Continue with efforts to promote rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association for all (Kenya);
- 137.144 Eliminate from legislation all provisions that undermine the freedom of the press and the independence of the media (New Zealand);
- 137.145 Maintain and promote the full enjoyment of the rights of expression and freedom of assembly (Sierra Leone);
- 137.146 Guarantee freedom of the media and the rights to freedom of expression and information, and take active measures to protect media professionals against attacks, harassment and intimidation, especially in the run-up to the upcoming elections (Switzerland);
- 137.147 Guarantee the protection of politicians, journalists and dissidents, investigate intimidation and threats against them and eliminate from legislation all provisions that undermine the freedom of press and the independence of the media (Germany);
- 137.148 Bolster efforts to ensure the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health rights by adolescents, particularly on access to contraceptives (Lesotho);
- 137.149 Contribute to the safety of civil society, including human rights defenders and journalists, by refraining from using criminal charges to obstruct freedom of expression and information (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 137.150 Fully ensure freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association (Spain);
- 137.151 Ensure the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association (Timor-Leste);

- 137.152 Guarantee the equal participation of women in decision-making spaces, including Indigenous women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 137.153 Encourage measures to ensure adequate representation of women in the political sphere and combat gender-based violence (Germany);
- 137.154 Continue with efforts to increase the representation of women in senior positions of the public service (Malawi);
- 137.155 Create enabling legislation and support systems for women candidates to run for office to encourage greater female political participation (New Zealand);
- 137.156 Introduce special measures to increase the number of women in decision-making positions (South Africa);
- 137.157 Adopt quotas to advance the political participation of women and increase the economic empowerment of women to facilitate their participation in politics (Zambia);
- 137.158 Continue promoting the participation and role of women in national policies and programmes (Algeria);
- 137.159 Strengthen the legal framework and policies to guarantee equal rights for men and women in marriage (Uganda);
- 137.160 Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Colombia);
- 137.161 Continue and intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially girls and women, for the purposes of economic and sexual exploitation by severely punishing the perpetrators and placing greater emphasis on prevention and on protection and rehabilitation of victims (Djibouti);
- 137.162 Take further measures to combat human trafficking, including child trafficking, through the enforcement and full implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (Estonia);
- 137.163 Intensify efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including through the enforcement and full implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (Israel);
- 137.164 Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking, including through the enforcement and full implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, investigation and accountability, and provide protection and reparations to victims (Lebanon);
- 137.165 Strengthen efforts to combat all forms of slavery, including by enhancing the implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (Namibia);
- 137.166 Strengthen measures towards combating human trafficking (Nepal);
- 137.167 Continue to take effective measures to prevent trafficking in persons and rehabilitate victims (Russian Federation);
- 137.168 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons and ensure that all cases of trafficking in persons are thoroughly investigated, alleged perpetrators are prosecuted and victims are provided with full reparation (State of Palestine);
- 137.169 Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation and support measures for the care, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims, especially children and women (Tunisia);
- 137.170 Promote specific measures to eliminate forced labour, particularly in the agricultural sector and rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 137.171 Continue efforts to expand the social protection system (Iraq);

- 137.172 Support social services and provide comprehensive health care, especially for the most vulnerable people in society, within the framework of national strategic plans (Libya);
- 137.173 Consider evaluating the social protection programmes to enable children living in poverty to have adequate access to social assistance (Serbia);
- 137.174 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development so as to provide a solid foundation for people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 137.175 Adopt effective measures to improve the provision of electricity in rural areas (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 137.176 Strengthen measures to supply the population with drinking water by implementing water quality monitoring protocols and exploring appropriate technologies to improve water quality (Saudi Arabia);
- 137.177 Continue to implement more programmes to eradicate poverty and implement further mechanisms to widen the scope of those programmes, and increase the budgets assigned to them (Bahrain);
- 137.178 Pursue actions aimed at eradicating poverty and offering greater economic opportunities to vulnerable populations (Cuba);
- 137.179 Continue applying social programmes with a view to eradicating poverty and guaranteeing access to health and education services (Dominican Republic);
- 137.180 Intensify efforts to implement the Poverty Eradication Programme, which provides economic opportunities to the most vulnerable populations, including remote-area communities (Ethiopia);
- 137.181 Continue developing and implementing effective legislative and administrative measures aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Poverty Eradication Programme, especially through the national development plan (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 137.182 Step up efforts to eradicate poverty by ensuring that those living in poverty have sufficient access to social assistance (Malaysia);
- 137.183 Accelerate the revision of the national poverty eradication policy to ensure the effective participation of targeted citizens in the economic growth and development of the economy (Mozambique);
- 137.184 Continue to allocate greater resources to the Poverty Eradication Programme (Pakistan);
- 137.185 Increase the accessibility of various programmes on youth empowerment that are aimed at eradicating poverty and ensure that the implementation of such programmes is supported by monitoring, accountability and sustainability (Zambia);
- 137.186 Continue working on poverty eradication initiatives, with a special focus on persons in vulnerable situations (Algeria);
- 137.187 Continue efforts to improve the health-care infrastructure, especially for combating HIV/AIDS (Pakistan);
- 137.188 Continue to strengthen policies to improve access to health care for the population (Singapore);
- 137.189 Take necessary measures to improve health infrastructure and ensure access to quality health-care services for all citizens without interruption (Türkiye);
- 137.190 Allocate sufficient resources to the integrated reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent and nutrition strategy with a view to reducing the mortality rate among children under 5 years of age (Bangladesh);

- 137.191 Decriminalize abortion and ensure safe abortion up to 28 weeks throughout the country (Iceland);
- 137.192 Strengthen access to family-planning information and services, including access to quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives, through capacity-building for health-care workers on the integration of family-planning services at all service delivery points (Malaysia);
- 137.193 Implement the ICPD25 commitment to strengthen access to family-planning information and services, including access to quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives, through capacity-building for health-care workers on the integration of family-planning services at all service delivery points (Panama);
- 137.194 Introduce free and confidential sexual and reproductive health services, information and education for adolescents (Estonia);
- 137.195 Strengthen resource allocations to develop and maintain an enabling environment, especially for adolescents and young people, to access sexual and reproductive health services and information (Fiji);
- 137.196 Strengthen policies to combat HIV/AIDS (Senegal);
- 137.197 Sensitize and conduct public awareness to protect children born and living with HIV/AIDS from discrimination in all walks of life (Uganda);
- 137.198 Continue efforts to provide quality education for all, especially for girls and persons with disabilities (Viet Nam);
- 137.199 Continue to strengthen social and economic programmes to provide education and health care for vulnerable groups (Kuwait);
- 137.200 Take all appropriate measures to ensure children's equal access to quality education, including, when possible, education in their own language (Finland);
- 137.201 Continue taking effective measures to facilitate access to education for all children, especially girls (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 137.202 Continue efforts to reform and develop the education sector to include all segments of society, including those with special needs (Libya);
- 137.203 Make further efforts to improve the quality of education at all levels, including through the implementation of the joint annual action plan on education (Qatar);
- 137.204 Continue to work on measures aimed at further strengthening the right of children to quality education through the establishment of child-friendly schools, and ensuring the presence of basic education components in education and training sector strategies such as availability, equitable access and quality education (Saudi Arabia);
- 137.205 Enhance efforts to improve the quality of education at all levels (Sri Lanka);
- 137.206 Continue efforts aimed at advancing the right to education by enabling access to quality education for all (Mauritania);
- 137.207 Continue to implement initiatives to improve digital literacy among youth (Singapore);
- 137.208 Continue efforts to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to early childhood education and to promote quality vocational training to enhance the skills of children, particularly those who have dropped out of school (State of Palestine);
- 137.209 Ensure comprehensive sexuality education (Iceland);

- 137.210 Continue efforts in human rights awareness and in the integration of human rights education into the education curricula (Sudan);
- 137.211 Continue efforts to promote human rights education and awareness-raising for the public, including schools, through government ministries and other bodies (Algeria);
- 137.212 Develop policies for public schools to teach in minority languages where it is reasonably possible (Serbia);
- 137.213 Ensure the increased participation of vulnerable groups, especially women, youth and persons with disabilities, in economic empowerment programmes (Indonesia);
- 137.214 Continue efforts to support development programmes, especially in rural areas (Iraq);
- 137.215 Strengthen the Youth Development Fund to economically empower youth in the mainstream economy (Pakistan);
- 137.216 Continue policies and national programmes aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the reduction of poverty, by ensuring the provision of education, health care and drinking water for citizens in rural areas (Sudan);
- 137.217 Strengthen national programmes for the economic empowerment of women, youth and other vulnerable members of society (Viet Nam);
- 137.218 Continue efforts to combat corruption through awareness-raising campaigns among public officials and finalizing the draft national anti-corruption policy (Türkiye);
- 137.219 Integrate climate change considerations into the implementation of national policies and government action plans (Burundi);
- 137.220 Strengthen existing policies and institutions to combat illicit financial flows (Namibia);
- 137.221 Deepen measures aimed at recognizing the rights of women and girls against discrimination and gender disparities, in particular by amending legislation that does not yet fully guarantee their rights (Argentina);
- 137.222 Eliminate laws and practices that discriminate against women, particularly with regard to property rights and subjection to male guardianship (Colombia);
- 137.223 Continue effectively applying public measures and programmes aimed at promoting women's rights and combating gender violence (Dominican Republic);
- 137.224 Strengthen the legal frameworks to protect women and children against violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, including by criminalizing marital rape and reviewing and amending the Domestic Violence Act to bring it into line with international human rights law (Ireland);
- 137.225 Fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and further national efforts to eradicate gender-based violence (Italy);
- 137.226 Define and appropriately sanction violence against women in all its manifestations, including physical, psychological, sexual, work-related, economic, political, within the family, media, telematic and institutional, and against their dignity (Paraguay);
- 137.227 Continue to align the country's legislative and policy frameworks with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly to combat trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation (Philippines);

- 137.228 Continue work to eliminate gender-based violence, including through education programmes aimed at preventing violence (Australia);
- 137.229 Continue and strengthen the training of all relevant professionals, including police officers and other law enforcement officials working with victims of gender-based violence, in order to facilitate access to justice (Belgium);
- 137.230 Strengthen prevention and enforcement measures to effectively combat gender-based violence and trafficking in persons (Benin);
- 137.231 Strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to protect women against violence, including by explicitly criminalizing marital rape and sexual violence and ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (Brazil);
- 137.232 Criminalize rape within marriage and ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to means of protection and assistance, including shelters and medical and psychological assistance (Costa Rica);
- 137.233 Take measures to prevent all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including by criminalizing marital rape, investigating and prosecuting all acts of sexual violence and providing training to law enforcement officials on victim- and survivor-centred handling of cases of sexual and gender-based violence (Canada);
- 137.234 Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to protect women and children from domestic violence by explicitly criminalizing marital rape and sexual violence (Chile);
- 137.235 Strengthen efforts to combat gender-based violence (Cyprus);
- 137.236 Take action to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence, especially sexual violence (Czechia);
- 137.237 Strengthen efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence, including efforts to prevent violence and support survivors, as well as by removing obstacles that prevent access to justice (Fiji);
- 137.238 Address and combat all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination, including by criminalizing marital rape (Finland);
- 137.239 Continue measures aimed at effectively combating gender-based violence (Georgia);
- 137.240 Establish a national accountability mechanism to combat sexual and gender-based violence and advance gender equality (Ghana);
- 137.241 Enhance measures to ensure that victims of domestic violence have access to shelters and adequate support services (Greece);
- 137.242 Strengthen women's and girls' access to multisectoral gender-based violence services and justice, including by expanding one-stop service shelters for survivors of gender-based violence (Iceland);
- 137.243 Continue with the policy and legislative measures and raising public awareness for combating gender-based violence, including access to safe reproductive health services (India);
- 137.244 Explicitly criminalize marital rape and sexual violence and ensure the full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (Israel);
- 137.245 Continue efforts to ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence against women and girls are punished (Lesotho);
- 137.246 Amend the Domestic Violence Act to bring it into line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Montenegro);

- 137.247 **Recognize marital rape as a criminal offence in domestic legislation (Slovenia);**
- 137.248 **Redouble the Government's efforts to fight gender-based violence against women and children, especially in the sectors of education and public security (South Sudan);**
- 137.249 **Effectively enforce existing legislation to combat gender-based violence and implement preventive measures, as well as continuing its efforts in the empowerment of women and girls (Thailand);**
- 137.250 **Continue to set up child-friendly centres at police stations as part of efforts to address gender-based violence and consider establishing victim-friendly units to cater for adult victims (Zimbabwe);**
- 137.251 **Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to protect women and children from violence, and ensure that victims have access to protection and assistance (Burkina Faso);**
- 137.252 **Strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks to protect women and children against violence (Croatia);**
- 137.253 **Bolster the legal and institutional frameworks to protect women against violence and ensure the full and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act (South Africa);**
- 137.254 **Ensure that all violence against women and girls constitutes criminal offences (Sri Lanka);**
- 137.255 **Strengthen measures aimed at the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls (Ukraine);**
- 137.256 **Continue strengthening legislation to end violence against women and girls, including repealing the use of corporal punishment and strengthening penalties for sexual and gender-based violence-related offences (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 137.257 **Continue the progress made in the promotion and protection of the rights of children, women and girls (Cameroon);**
- 137.258 **Continue to implement national actions to guarantee the protection of children, adolescents and young people from sexual abuse and exploitation (Cuba);**
- 137.259 **Take further steps towards the promotion and protection of the rights of the child (Georgia);**
- 137.260 **Intensify efforts to harmonize the Children's Act with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations (Maldives);**
- 137.261 **Increase efforts to eliminate all forms of child labour and child trafficking, especially in rural areas (Greece);**
- 137.262 **Intensify efforts to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour, particularly in the agricultural sector (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 137.263 **Increase enforcement of penalties for forced or compulsory labour and improve data collection and legal frameworks to address the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);**
- 137.264 **Amend the legislation to prohibit child marriage on its territory (Burkina Faso);**
- 137.265 **Amend the law to prohibit all marriages, including customary and religious marriages, to persons under the age of 18 (Luxembourg);**
- 137.266 **Ban marriage for all persons under the age of 18, including traditional and religious marriages (Costa Rica);**

- 137.267 Consider amending the Children's Act to criminalize child marriage in both customary and religious marriages (Sierra Leone);
- 137.268 Continue to put in place measures to eliminate early child marriages and protect girls from sexual and gender-based violence (Uganda);
- 137.269 Explicitly prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings (Estonia);
- 137.270 Abolish all forms of corporal punishment against children, including within school settings (Finland);
- 137.271 Ensure accessible, confidential and child-friendly reporting channels for cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of children and provide victims with adequate remedies and support (Greece);
- 137.272 Adopt the necessary measures to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all areas and carry out awareness campaigns in this regard (Mexico);
- 137.273 Establish effective mechanisms, procedures and guidelines for the mandatory reporting of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of children in all settings, including online, and ensure effective, accessible, confidential, child-friendly, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive reporting channels (Panama);
- 137.274 Continue to take effective measures to ban the use of corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure (Russian Federation);
- 137.275 Prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Slovenia);
- 137.276 Review the Children's Act to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain);
- 137.277 Take necessary measures to address the continuous rise in rates of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including by strengthening means of criminalizing and punishing the perpetrators of such acts (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 137.278 Introduce further measures to economically empower youth with a view to including them in the mainstream economy (Azerbaijan);
- 137.279 Adopt a human rights-based approach to disability, set up a comprehensive strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities, guarantee all their rights to inclusive education and prevent their separation from their families by providing support and services to enable families to care for them (South Sudan);
- 137.280 Take action for the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Armenia);
- 137.281 Continue strengthening awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatization of and prejudice against children with disabilities (Serbia);
- 137.282 Continue efforts to integrate the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into the national legal framework (Thailand);
- 137.283 Continue efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in view of facilitating access to health care and education (Cameroon);
- 137.284 Encourage efforts to promote and protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples (Australia);
- 137.285 Strengthen the protection of Indigenous Peoples (Cameroon);
- 137.286 Protect the right of Indigenous Peoples to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied, used or acquired,



**protect Indigenous Peoples from delocalization threats and provide access to quality education and timely public services (Canada);**

**137.287 Redouble efforts to address the specific needs of Indigenous women and protect their cultural and tribal identity (Colombia);**

**137.288 Ensure that Indigenous Peoples can exercise their free, prior and informed consent to development projects taking place on their lands (Costa Rica);**

**137.289 Promote respect for the rights of members of minority communities such as the Basarwa, or San (United States of America);**

**137.290 Take the appropriate measures to repeal the norms that punish and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in particular article 164 of the Penal Code, as well as investigate and punish the perpetrators of acts of discrimination and violence against them (Argentina);**

**137.291 Repeal section 164 of the Penal Code following the 2021 ruling of the Court of Appeal and enact protective legislation to combat discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community (Brazil);**

**137.292 Introduce a transparent administrative self-identification process for legal gender recognition free from intrusive requirements (Iceland);**

**137.293 Implement specific legislation to protect victims of violence committed against persons on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in line with resolution 275 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as stipulated by the judge in Botswana (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

**137.294 Protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination by including sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds of non-discrimination in the Constitution (Canada);**

**137.295 Continue efforts to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression (Luxembourg);**

**137.296 Ensure, in accordance with international law, that a fair asylum procedure is guaranteed and end the practice of automatic and unlimited detention of migrants, including minors (Switzerland);**

**138. 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 Botswana was headed by Honourable Machana Ronald Shamukuni, Minister, Ministry of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Dr Athaliah Lesiba Molokomme, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Botswana, Geneva;
  - Ms Naledi Stella Moroka, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice;
  - Mr Pilane I. Sebigi, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Botswana Police Service;
  - Mr Noah T. Ramatebele, Assistant Commissioner, Botswana Prison Services;
  - Ms Tebogo T. Mapodisi, Director-Human Rights, Ministry of Justice;
  - Ms Thapelo Phuthego, Director – Gender Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture;
  - Ms Mpho Mogobe, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Botswana, Geneva;
  - Ms Ellen C. Kgotlhang, Deputy Director – Social Protection, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development;
  - Mr Benjamin Mbanga, Principal Education Officer, Ministry of Education and Skills Development;
  - Mr Phinda Khame Principal Disability Officer, Ministry for State President;
  - Ms Neo N. Sonnyboy, Senior Programmes Officer, Ministry of Youth, Gender, Sport and Culture;
  - Ms Dinah Ramaabya, Chief Health Officer, Ministry of Health;
  - Ms Diana G.K Moswele, Legal and Human Rights Officer, National AIDS and Health Promotion Agency;
  - Ms Tshepo B. Sebegu, Senior Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
  - Ms Chuma Samunzala, Private Secretary to the Minister, Ministry of Justice;
  - Mr Dimpho Tsiane, Minister Counsellor Permanent Mission of Botswana, Geneva;
  - Mr Tumelo Tsimanyana, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Botswana, Geneva;
  - Mr. Gaolatlhe Pule, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Botswana, Geneva.
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