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Universal periodic review

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

### Uzbekistan

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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-fourth session from 6 to 17 November 2023. The review of Uzbekistan was held at the 5th meeting, on 8 November 2023. The delegation of Uzbekistan was headed by the Director of the National Centre for Human Rights of Uzbekistan, Akmal Saidov. At its 10th meeting, held on 10 November 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Uzbekistan.
2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Uzbekistan: Germany, Nepal and Somalia.
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 Uzbekistan:
  - (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 Uzbekistan 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 head of delegation stated that the universal periodic review was an important mechanism for strengthening the protection of human rights globally. The year 2023 marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. In that regard, Uzbekistan had adopted a special programme to improve human rights legislation and law enforcement practice. In addition, Uzbekistan had made a voluntary contribution to the OHCHR budget.
6. The New Uzbekistan Development Strategy and the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy had been developed with a view to strengthening civil society, promoting sustainable environmental development and combating poverty and corruption.
7. By undertaking a constitutional reform, Uzbekistan aimed to modernize the country in accordance with the principle of “man, society, State”. The head of delegation expressed his gratitude to OHCHR and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for their valuable suggestions regarding the constitutional reform. The Constitution now incorporated a greater number of human rights-related provisions. It incorporated the Miranda rules, habeas corpus, the prohibition of the death penalty and the right to appeal to international and national human rights institutions. Emphasis was put on strengthening constitutional guarantees for labour, social and environmental rights, in particular for vulnerable groups.
8. Uzbekistan actively engaged in the World Programme for Human Rights Education. In 2023, the National Programme for Human Rights Education had been adopted, and

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/44/UZB/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/44/UZB/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/44/UZB/3](#).

training courses on human rights had been introduced in education settings and for civil servants.

9. Targeted steps had been taken to implement the Secretary-General's call for a global campaign to end statelessness by granting Uzbek citizenship to more than 80,000 persons. In addition, a national campaign had been launched to identify and register all unregistered births.

10. As part of its humanitarian efforts, Uzbekistan had successfully repatriated a number of individuals from areas of armed conflict and had adopted a holistic approach to assisting them with reintegration into society.

11. Following the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to Uzbekistan, the parliament had endorsed a road map to implement the High Commissioner's recommendations. Uzbekistan remained committed to the implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations.

12. Moreover, in collaboration with OHCHR, Uzbekistan had organized several important events, such as the Asian Forum on Human Rights and the Global Forum on Human Rights Education. A human rights adviser role had been introduced within the United Nations office in Tashkent.

13. Membership of the Human Rights Council had been an important milestone for the country. Uzbekistan expressed its strong support for the Council and the Council's mechanisms for strengthening the protection of human rights. As part of its obligations as a member of the Council, Uzbekistan had presented its voluntary national reviews on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and had taken measures to improve its national mechanism to prevent torture and mechanisms for protecting and restoring the rights of victims of torture. Other important steps included the adoption of a law to provide for additional measures to protect women and children from violence, the creation of the Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office and the adoption of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality.

14. To enhance its capacity to fulfil its international human rights commitments, Uzbekistan had created a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up. Moreover, parliamentary commissions had been established to ensure compliance with international human rights obligations.

15. Uzbekistan had incorporated the recommendations of the third review cycle into its National Human Rights Strategy.

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

16. During the interactive dialogue, 84 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

17. Kazakhstan welcomed the comprehensive and transparent reform process aimed at strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development, including the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026.

18. Kuwait welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

19. Kyrgyzstan expressed appreciation for the achievements made in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the active cooperation with OHCHR, the treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

20. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Uzbekistan for adopting national strategies and mechanisms to promote and protect human rights and welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

21. Liechtenstein made recommendations.

22. Lithuania noted the progress made in ensuring gender equality, tackling ill-treatment in detention centres and combating gender-based violence and commended Uzbekistan for deciding to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
23. Luxembourg made recommendations.
24. Malaysia congratulated Uzbekistan on the recent adoption – for the first time by referendum – of its Constitution, which reaffirmed human rights guarantees and ensured the continuity of democratic reforms.
25. Maldives commended Uzbekistan for establishing new national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, including the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office.
26. Malta welcomed the National Human Rights Strategy, adopted in June 2020, which addressed issues such as women’s equality, torture and ill-treatment in detention.
27. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the incorporation of habeas corpus, the *pro homine* principle and the appeal of unconstitutionality.
28. Mongolia applauded Uzbekistan for its efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework, including through the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality for the period until 2030.
29. Montenegro noted the establishment of the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family and the adoption of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality for the period until 2030.
30. Morocco welcomed the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and the adoption of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality for the period until 2030.
31. Nepal welcomed the establishment of the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family, the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the creation of the National Database for Follow-up to Human Rights Recommendations.
32. Norway remained concerned about restrictions on civil society and fundamental freedoms in Uzbekistan. It was encouraged that a small number of law enforcement officials had been sentenced for abuses during the events in Karakalpakstan in 2022. It stated, however, that a more thorough investigation, also addressing systemic shortcomings, should be carried out.
33. Pakistan welcomed the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026 and the National Programme for Human Rights Education and the establishment of the National Commission on Children and the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family.
34. Panama made recommendations.
35. Paraguay welcomed the new Constitution, establishing greater guarantees of human rights and the prohibition of the death penalty. It also welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of a national reporting and monitoring mechanism.
36. The Philippines commended Uzbekistan for its constitutional reforms, the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the establishment of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office and the National Commission on Children.
37. Poland recognized the progress achieved by Uzbekistan in eradicating forced child labour.
38. Portugal commended Uzbekistan for establishing the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office.
39. Qatar welcomed the measures taken to improve education and to promote the rule of law, human rights and sustainable development and the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy.

40. The Republic of Moldova congratulated Uzbekistan on the public dialogue on its new draft legislation and commended the country for adopting the National Human Rights Strategy and constitutional laws ensuring the continuity of democratic reforms.
41. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction the establishment of a system of national human rights institutions such as the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Business Ombudsman's Office and the National Centre for Human Rights.
42. Saudi Arabia expressed appreciation for the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy, which was aimed at involving citizens in the management of public affairs, improving living conditions and simplifying access to public services.
43. Senegal welcomed the continued efforts of Uzbekistan towards the protection and promotion of human rights, in particular in the field of justice, the introduction into legislation of habeas corpus and the notable improvement with regard to addressing child labour during the cotton harvest.
44. Serbia commended Uzbekistan for the reform process undertaken to strengthen the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development. It encouraged Uzbekistan to increase the duration of free education as provided for in its legislation to cover at least 12 years of primary and secondary education.
45. Singapore noted the establishment of the National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour. It noted the improvement in access to education for students living in rural areas, women and girls, and students with special needs.
46. Uzbekistan stated that it had achieved widespread literacy and would work towards improving the quality of its education system. It would also work towards ensuring the compliance of its national human rights institution with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The development of civil society was a priority, and Uzbekistan had been working towards the adoption of a consolidated law on non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
47. Regarding the rights of women, Uzbekistan had adopted major gender-oriented laws, such as the Act on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men and the Act on Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence. Moreover, a national programme had been adopted to increase women's activity in all spheres of life.
48. One of the key aims of public policy in Uzbekistan was to prevent gender discrimination and create conditions for decent work. Measures taken in that regard had increased the role of women in the social, political and economic life of the country.
49. Consistent efforts had been made to increase women's access to higher education by providing grants and interest-free educational loans. A law had been passed to enhance the professional skills of educators and their conditions of work.
50. Uzbekistan had criminalized domestic violence. To expand psychosocial assistance to women, social counselling centres had been set up at the interregional and district levels.
51. Regarding the rights of young persons, Uzbekistan had increased enrolment at all levels of education.
52. Uzbekistan had strengthened its institutional framework to counter trafficking in persons through the National Commission on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour and the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour. Civil society, in particular 16 organizations specializing in combating trafficking in persons, had been actively engaged in dealing with the matter. Uzbekistan had improved its national legislation on trafficking in persons by adopting laws and ratifying International Labour Organization and International Organization for Migration conventions.
53. Criminal liability for the use of child and forced labour had been tightened. Consequently, the Cotton Campaign had lifted the global boycott of Uzbek cotton.

54. Over the previous seven years, there had been a focused effort to address gender equality in the judiciary, resulting in a 37 per cent increase in the number of women judges. Special attention was being paid to the admission of women judges to the Higher School of the Judiciary.
55. Torture and other forms of violence had been prohibited at the constitutional level. Authorities and courts were required to verify allegations of torture, and procedural actions during the detention of a person were subject to mandatory video recording. A mechanism had been established to conduct independent medical examinations. Regular monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty was carried out. The new Criminal Code provided for strengthened penalties for torture and established that no statute of limitations applied for such acts.
56. A working group had been established to examine the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The experience of other countries had been studied. Uzbekistan was currently deliberating the matter and was planning to hold public consultations with civil society.
57. Regarding the recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Uzbekistan had created a national preventive mechanism based on the “Ombudsman Plus” model. Accordingly, the Ombudsman, other national institutions and civil society enjoyed the right to free and unhindered access to prisons. Many of the procedural aspects of the ratification of the Optional Protocol had been addressed, and Uzbekistan would follow its parliamentary procedures.
58. The possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure was being examined. Uzbekistan had submitted periodic reports under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.
59. Uzbekistan was studying the possibility of ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto. Uzbekistan had been closely cooperating with IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
60. Uzbekistan had taken significant measures to reduce statelessness, including by granting Uzbek citizenship to more than 80,000 persons and conducting joint awareness-raising activities with UNHCR.
61. The possibility of acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been studied, as the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was of paramount importance for Uzbekistan.
62. Slovakia noted the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Programme and the steps taken to consolidate the rights of persons with disabilities and women and to eradicate child labour. It encouraged Uzbekistan to strengthen guarantees for the protection of journalists and media workers.
63. Slovenia welcomed the establishment of the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family.
64. Spain acknowledged the constitutional changes regarding the abolition of the death penalty, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of legislation on equal rights and opportunities and the protection of women against violence.
65. Sri Lanka commended Uzbekistan for taking measures to strengthen the rule of law, respect for human rights and sustainable development.
66. Switzerland welcomed the importance attached to human rights in the new Constitution of Uzbekistan.
67. Tajikistan made recommendations.

68. Togo congratulated Uzbekistan for the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, which was aimed at actively involving the population in the conduct of public affairs, improving living conditions in the country and facilitating access to public services.
69. Tunisia expressed appreciation for the measures taken to develop the institutional and legal framework on human rights and harmonize it with international standards and to adopt strategies and an action plan to implement international human rights conventions.
70. Türkiye commended Uzbekistan for undertaking a comprehensive reform process to strengthen human rights and the rule of law and welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality.
71. Turkmenistan noted the strengthening of the constitutional, legislative and institutional framework to promote and protect human rights. It also noted the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy and the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality.
72. Ukraine acknowledged the efforts made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, promote human rights education programmes, ensure gender equality and cooperate with international and regional human rights mechanisms.
73. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, the affirmation of human rights guarantees in the country’s Constitution, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the establishment of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office.
74. The United Kingdom welcomed the enactment of legislation criminalizing gender-based violence and eliminating systemic forced labour in the cotton harvest. It urged Uzbekistan to decriminalize defamation and insult and strengthen legal protection guarantees for journalists, the media and civil society.
75. The United Republic of Tanzania noted efforts to improve living conditions, create more employment opportunities and improve working conditions, in particular for women. It welcomed efforts to fight trafficking in persons and the commitment to protect and promote children’s rights.
76. Uruguay made recommendations.
77. The United States commended Uzbekistan for criminalizing gender-based violence and ending statelessness. It remained concerned about prison conditions and restrictions on civil and political rights.
78. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the establishment of the Children’s Rights Ombudsman’s Office and the creation of the National Commission on Children and regional commissions.
79. Viet Nam commended Uzbekistan for strengthening its constitutional and legislative frameworks. It welcomed the alignment of national policies with the Sustainable Development Goals.
80. Yemen noted the establishment of national mechanisms for monitoring and protecting human rights and of parliamentary committees to monitor compliance with international human rights obligations.
81. Afghanistan encouraged Uzbekistan to fully implement international treaties on the rights of women, persons with disabilities, refugees and stateless persons.
82. Algeria commended Uzbekistan for adopting a new Constitution, which enshrined a commitment to democracy, social justice, universal human values and the universally recognized principles and rules of international law.
83. Argentina welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy.
84. Armenia acknowledged the progress made with regard to judicial reform, the eradication of forced labour and the promotion of freedom of expression.

85. Australia commended Uzbekistan for closing the Jaslyk prison, making efforts to eliminate the torture of detainees, criminalizing domestic violence and strengthening protections for women and girls. It expressed concern about the unfair use of article 221 of the Criminal Code against human rights defenders and critics of the Government.
86. Azerbaijan commended Uzbekistan for aligning its national policies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, thereby ensuring good governance and the promotion of human rights education.
87. Bahrain welcomed measures to safeguard women, children and young people in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including to prevent violence against women.
88. Bangladesh highlighted the adoption of the Constitution by referendum and noted the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy and the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality.
89. Belarus noted the expansion of access to legal information and the strengthening of the institutional and legal system for human rights protection. It welcomed the implementation of the President's Action Strategy, which addressed such areas as social development, science, education and the digital economy.
90. Belgium stated that Uzbekistan could further increase the protection of human rights in line with the core international human rights treaties.
91. Brazil welcomed the constitutional reform abolishing the death penalty. It commended Uzbekistan for making efforts and a commitment to criminalize domestic violence.
92. Bulgaria expressed appreciation for the amendments to the Constitution, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy. It reiterated the importance of strengthening democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
93. Cameroon made recommendations.
94. Canada welcomed the criminalization of domestic violence and the constitutional amendments strengthening the prohibition of capital punishment and degrading punishment.
95. Chile congratulated Uzbekistan on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the decent work programme for 2021–2025.
96. China acknowledged the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, measures to effectively address the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and national legislation promoting gender equality, sustainable development and the rights of vulnerable groups.
97. Uzbekistan had experienced a dynamic increase in the number of NGOs, which now exceeded 10,000. Steps had been undertaken to gradually address the issue of premises for NGOs, to introduce information systems to facilitate their registration and to extend their financial freedom. Reporting procedures for NGOs had been simplified, and a single interactive portal entitled "Transparent charity" had been introduced.
98. More than 40 pieces of legislation had been adopted with a view to safeguarding the rights of the child. The New Uzbekistan Development Strategy outlined social objectives to ensure children's rights to education, quality medical services and physical education. A concept to advance inclusive education in the national education system until 2025 had been approved in order to improve the quality of education for children with disabilities.
99. The Government had allocated resources to publish school textbooks developed in cooperation with Cambridge University Press, Klett publishing house and Herzen University. A school evaluation system had been introduced on a pilot basis, and foreign specialists were working in 480 schools. Numerous teachers had enhanced their skills on the basis of the principle of lifelong learning. Uzbekistan also required children who were not enrolled in preschool educational institutions to do a one-year preparation for primary school.



100. A decree had been adopted in 2021 on additional measures to provide comprehensive support to persons with disabilities, including with regard to employment and social participation. A national agency for social protection had been established under the Office of the President. Moreover, the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Elimination worked on vocational guidance, retraining and measures aimed at creating working conditions and removing barriers for persons with disabilities. The minimum amount of the disability pension had been increased.

101. A procedure had been introduced to provide housing to the population through market-based mortgage loans. In addition, a unified register of social protection had been created.

102. The New Uzbekistan Development Strategy prioritized the availability of medical services, including in remote areas. A number of primary health-care facilities had been re-established, which had resulted in a 90 per cent increase in the availability of health-care services.

103. A new system had been created to provide medical services for children and pregnant women, and steps would be taken to modernize equipment in all 229 maternity centres. Although maternal and infant mortality had been decreasing over the previous seven years, Uzbekistan was aiming to achieve a twofold reduction in those indicators.

104. Uzbekistan was taking measures to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas in terms of the supply of teachers, in particular at the primary education level. In addition, a large number of children with disabilities had been enrolled in mainstream schools.

105. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Uzbekistan had set up clinics in each region to provide outpatient treatment, while individuals with mild symptoms had been treated at home by family doctors. Those steps, along with the assistance of international organizations, had helped to improve coordination and prevent deaths.

106. As for accession to international treaties, a bill on accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture had been submitted to the Government. The main elements of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance were already reflected in legislation. Enforced disappearance was addressed under article 137 of the Criminal Code.

107. Regarding the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, a law had been adopted in 2020 to regulate issues concerning the acquisition and termination of citizenship. Individuals who had arrived in Uzbekistan and had registered their place of permanent residence before 1 January 1995 and who had not acquired citizenship of any other State on the basis of a residence permit for a stateless person were recognized as Uzbek citizens if they so wished. Stateless persons who had not acquired citizenship of another State, had arrived before 1 January 2005 and had been residing continuously in Uzbekistan for 15 years were recognized as Uzbek citizens.

108. Costa Rica welcomed the creation of the national preventive mechanism and the establishment of the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family.

109. Cuba made recommendations.

110. Czechia welcomed the efforts made to advance women's rights and the positive developments that had occurred regarding the implementation of the Convention against Torture, which were in accordance with previous recommendations made by Czechia.

111. Egypt made recommendations.

112. Estonia welcomed legislative amendments criminalizing gender-based violence. It remained concerned about restrictions on freedom of opinion and expression and peaceful assembly and about reports of torture, ill-treatment and excessive use of force during the events of July 2022.

113. Ethiopia made recommendations.

114. Finland made recommendations.

115. France welcomed the adoption, in April 2023, of the law on the protection of women and children.
116. The Gambia made recommendations.
117. Georgia welcomed the cooperation between Uzbekistan and OHCHR and encouraged the Government to engage more actively with special procedure mandate holders. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
118. Germany commended Uzbekistan for abolishing systematic child and forced labour in the cotton industry. It remained concerned about poor monitoring and supervision of public security agencies and their activities. It noted that activities of NGOs were continuously restricted and that their working conditions did not comply with international standards.
119. Greece stated that the adoption of the new Constitution was a positive step for ensuring further democratic reforms in the country. It commended Uzbekistan for making efforts to promote and protect children's rights, in particular the creation in 2021 of the National Commission on Children and regional commissions.
120. Iceland made recommendations.
121. India commended Uzbekistan for establishing various institutional mechanisms, such as the Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office, the National Commission on Children's Rights, the National Commission on the Enhancement of the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family and the special parliamentary commissions for ensuring compliance with international human rights obligations and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It expressed appreciation for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
122. Indonesia commended Uzbekistan for expanding institutional mechanisms for human rights protections, including the Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office and the National Commission on Children. It welcomed the criminalization of domestic violence.
123. The Islamic Republic of Iran congratulated Uzbekistan on its new Constitution and welcomed all its human rights-related positive developments.
124. Iraq praised the efforts made to establish new mechanisms to protect human rights and adopt national programmes for education in the field of human rights.
125. Ireland welcomed the June 2021 presidential decree aimed at improving the system for detecting and preventing cases of torture and the establishment of national preventive mechanism groups to prevent torture and abuse in detention facilities. It expressed regret about ongoing reports of torture, ill-treatment and reprisals against those reporting abuses by law enforcement officials.
126. Italy welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Strategy in 2020 and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It encouraged Uzbekistan to move forward with the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.
127. Oman welcomed the adoption of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026.
128. The delegation of Uzbekistan stated that an article on domestic violence had been added to the Criminal Code. Centres for the rehabilitation and adaptation of women had been set up in order to provide emergency medical, social, legal and other assistance.
129. In 2023, 22 criminal offences for sodomy had been registered. The registration of those cases was not a consequence of any deliberate punitive reaction against the social group in question.
130. Regarding the mass riots in the city of Nukus, damage totalling 6.5 billion sum had been incurred, with an impact on both citizens and the State. Over 250 Uzbek citizens had sustained injuries. The courts had convicted 63 individuals for their involvement in the riots. Those convicted had the right to appeal the judgment. In addition, three internal affairs officials had been prosecuted for abuse of authority and were currently serving prison sentences.

131. Uzbekistan had adopted a new Labour Code to prevent child and forced labour and a new law on trade unions, which would ensure the principle of tripartism.
132. Uzbekistan had submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while a number of NGOs had submitted alternative reports.
133. The concept of the family as the primary unit of society had been enshrined in the Constitution.
134. Uzbekistan underscored that it remained open to cooperation and reaffirmed its commitment to United Nations initiatives, including the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and the Human Rights 75 initiative.

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

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

- 135.1 **Ratify all core human rights treaties pending to date and realize the visits requested by special procedure mandate holders (Paraguay);**
- 135.2 **Pursue efforts on accession to and ratification of international conventions and additional protocols to them related to ensuring and protecting human rights (Turkmenistan);**
- 135.3 **Consolidate international commitments in the field of human rights, such as ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco);**
- 135.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**
- 135.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina) (France) (Luxembourg);**
- 135.6 **Positively consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mongolia);**
- 135.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Estonia) (Liechtenstein) (Luxembourg) (Maldives) (Spain) (Uruguay);**
- 135.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish a national preventive mechanism (Brazil);**
- 135.9 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 135.10 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and strengthen the investigation and prosecution of allegations of torture and violence by security forces during the events in Nukus in the Republic of Karakalpakstan in July 2022 (Czechia);**
- 135.11 **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Serbia);**
- 135.12 **Take further steps with a view to ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Slovakia);**

- 135.13 **Take further steps towards ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**
- 135.14 **Expedite the review and ratification of the key mechanism for monitoring and preventing torture, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);**
- 135.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile) (Iceland) (Luxembourg) (Malta);**
- 135.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and introduce mandatory, age-appropriate and inclusive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights into school curricula (Mexico);**
- 135.17 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to bring national legislation into line with international standards (Spain);**
- 135.18 **Take further steps towards ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);**
- 135.19 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Argentina) (Italy);**
- 135.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Liechtenstein);**
- 135.21 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Malta);**
- 135.22 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
- 135.23 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 135.24 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Türkiye);**
- 135.25 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**
- 135.26 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in its 2010 version (Liechtenstein);**
- 135.27 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (France);**
- 135.28 **Further strengthen cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Kazakhstan);**
- 135.29 **Continue cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, to protect and promote social, economic and cultural rights (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 135.30 **Continue constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);**
- 135.31 **Continue to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other international organizations to strengthen its capacity to combat drug trafficking (Singapore);**

- 135.32 Take measures to amend its Penal Code to ensure that the definition of torture fully complies with 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 (Costa Rica);
- 135.33 Sustain efforts to harmonize domestic laws with recent constitutional reforms and international human rights obligations, particularly on strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law (Philippines);
- 135.34 Continue work to bring Uzbekistan's domestic legislative framework into line with its international obligations (Russian Federation);
- 135.35 Continue ongoing processes to expand institutional mechanisms for the protection of human rights (Turkmenistan);
- 135.36 Continue to improve its legal and administrative framework in the field of human rights promotion and protection, in accordance with its international obligations (Ukraine);
- 135.37 Further strengthen capacity in the field of promotion and protection of human rights, including within the framework of the updated Constitution, the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, the National Human Rights Strategy and other programme documents (Belarus);
- 135.38 Continue efforts to improve the legal and administrative framework in accordance with international obligations (Ethiopia);
- 135.39 Continue improving the legal and administrative framework, in accordance with its international obligations (Georgia);
- 135.40 Continue work to further strengthen human rights institutions and mechanisms (Russian Federation);
- 135.41 Include marital rape as a specific crime in the Criminal Code (Iceland);
- 135.42 Enhance the effective implementation of the national plan of action on human rights with the participation of civil society and national human rights institutions (Kazakhstan);
- 135.43 Redouble efforts for the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy and move towards the establishment of a comprehensive national policy to mainstream a human rights approach into the various State plans and programmes (Paraguay);
- 135.44 Ensure the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy (Bahrain);
- 135.45 Continue efforts to align its national human rights institution with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 135.46 Strengthen efforts to upgrade the national human rights institution to A status, in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 135.47 Strengthen the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman and bring national human rights institutions into full compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Moldova);
- 135.48 Continue measures aimed at strengthening the national human rights institution and aligning it with the Paris Principles (United Arab Emirates);
- 135.49 Implement all necessary strategies to fortify the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Bahrain);
- 135.50 Strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman to enable its accreditation as an A status national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Australia);

- 135.51 Support respect for the rule of law by strengthening the mandate and independent role of the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman's Office (Finland);
- 135.52 Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the National Centre for Human Rights in accordance with international human rights standards (Kyrgyzstan);
- 135.53 Strengthen the anti-torture mechanism under the national human rights institution, in particular its transparency and independence (Montenegro);
- 135.54 Continue to refine its national mechanism for reporting and follow-up by incorporating the dimension of implementing recommendations and consider receiving cooperation to this effect (Paraguay);
- 135.55 Adopt a comprehensive law that prohibits all forms of discrimination and hate crimes, in both the public and the private sectors, and includes protection and support services for victims (Mexico);
- 135.56 Take adequate measures to eliminate all sorts of discrimination with particular attention to removing socioeconomic discrimination (Bangladesh);
- 135.57 Adopt complex anti-discrimination legislation and lift the ban on consensual homosexual relationships (Czechia);
- 135.58 Continue efforts to ensure that the rights of socially vulnerable population groups are protected in law and in practice (Russian Federation);
- 135.59 Follow up legal frameworks and allocate further resources to address issues such as gender-based violence, child labour and discrimination (Armenia);
- 135.60 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and ethnic minorities (Armenia);
- 135.61 Pursue actions aimed at achieving higher results in the fight against racism and racial discrimination (Cuba);
- 135.62 Ensure effective and prompt investigation into allegations of torture and ill-treatment (Kuwait);
- 135.63 Ensure prompt, thorough and effective investigations into all alleged cases of torture in order to prevent impunity (Liechtenstein);
- 135.64 Conduct thorough, effective, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment in the prison system, ensuring that perpetrators of such acts are prosecuted and duly punished and that victims receive full reparation (Luxembourg);
- 135.65 Investigate all reports of ill-treatment against persons deprived of liberty, including allegations of rape and sexual violence, and bring perpetrators to justice (Malta);
- 135.66 Conduct effective investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by prison officials and law enforcement personnel (Slovenia);
- 135.67 Allow independent, non-governmental prison monitoring and fully investigate and prosecute, as appropriate, those alleged to have committed torture of detainees (United States of America);
- 135.68 Expedite the procedure for including in articles 991 and 1021 of the Civil Code compensatory measures for persons who have suffered torture or ill-treatment (Spain);
- 135.69 Eliminate the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by thoroughly and impartially investigating allegations thereof and bringing perpetrators to justice (Canada);

- 135.70 Establish an independent police complaint mechanism that can effectively investigate instances of torture and ill-treatment, to reduce impunity for perpetrators (Ireland);
- 135.71 Redouble efforts in the fight against corruption by strengthening the role of the Anti-Corruption Agency, in particular by providing it with sufficient financial and human resources, guaranteeing its independence and giving it broader powers of inspection (Togo);
- 135.72 Maintain its awareness-raising and training activities on human rights for the general public to raise legal awareness across the country (Turkmenistan);
- 135.73 Support expanded public discourse, political pluralism and an expanded role for civil society (United States of America);
- 135.74 Continue measures aimed at advancing the provision of public services, including through implementation of the National Strategy for the Modernization and Accelerated Development of Public Services for 2022–2026 (Azerbaijan);
- 135.75 Take all necessary measures to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary in accordance with article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);
- 135.76 Continue taking additional measures to enhance the full independence and impartiality of the judicial system (Greece);
- 135.77 Take steps to bolster the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary by enhancing security of tenure and reviewing the regime for the appointment, promotion and dismissal of judges in line with relevant international standards (Ireland);
- 135.78 Continue efforts to expand citizens' access to justice and to reform the judicial and legal system (Ethiopia);
- 135.79 Continue the work of reforms contributing to the strengthening of the rule of law and justice (France);
- 135.80 Set up a genuinely independent, impartial and effective committee to broadly investigate human rights violations during the Karakalpakstan events (Norway);
- 135.81 Conclude and make public a comprehensive investigation into the violation of human rights and mistreatment of people involved in the July 2022 demonstrations in Karakalpakstan (Canada);
- 135.82 Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee freedom of expression and opinion in all its fullness, mainly through the adoption and implementation of appropriate legislation, and facilitate the registration of human rights defenders and their free exercise (Uruguay);
- 135.83 Guarantee to all persons the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression, in accordance with international standards, particularly in the case of human rights defenders, in follow-up to the recommendation made in 2018 (Argentina);
- 135.84 Adopt further measures to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, including freedom of the media, offline and online, and create a safe environment for journalists, bloggers and activists (Czechia);
- 135.85 Take effective measures for the promotion of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as the protection of the safety of journalists and human rights defenders against intimidation and harassment (Greece);
- 135.86 Include concrete measures in the reform agenda of the Government to further strengthen freedom of expression by creating an environment in which

journalists, independent bloggers and civil society activists can freely operate in accordance with international standards (Finland);

135.87 Ensure that all journalists and human rights defenders are able to work, both online and offline, free from any intimidation and any form of legal or other harassment (Luxembourg);

135.88 Ensure that all journalists and bloggers can work, online and offline, free from intimidation and from judicial and other forms of harassment (Poland);

135.89 Take further measures to strengthen the protection of journalists and media freedom in law and in practice (Slovakia);

135.90 Ensure that everyone, including human rights defenders, journalists and media professionals, can exercise their rights to freedom of expression and access to information, without fear for their safety or other negative consequences, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);

135.91 Ensure that journalists, writers and bloggers can work freely, without fear of retribution for expressing critical opinions or covering subjects deemed sensitive (Belgium);

135.92 Adopt a framework for protecting journalists and media workers from persecution, intimidation and judicial and other forms of harassment and threats, including to allow them to work without government interference (Estonia);

135.93 Ensure that the press, journalists and bloggers can work freely and independently without any undue restrictions (Germany);

135.94 Continue efforts to take legislative measures to ensure freedom of speech and protect journalists, including by continuing to provide a conducive environment for free and independent media (Indonesia);

135.95 Enhance efforts to provide a safe and enabling environment for journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs (Italy);

135.96 Refrain from using article 221 of the Criminal Code to punish persons exercising their rights to freedom of expression, including through the extension of prison sentences without due process (Australia);

135.97 Facilitate favourable conditions for NGOs, human rights defenders, journalists and other civil society members to freely exercise their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly (Lithuania);

135.98 Immediately grant pardons to all journalists, bloggers and activists and ensure that those who are currently imprisoned are swiftly released and rehabilitated (Norway);

135.99 Continue strengthening measures to ensure access to objective and independent information for everyone, both online and offline (Lithuania);

135.100 Ensure the compliance of the draft information code with Uzbekistan's international human rights obligations, particularly in terms of freedom of expression and freedom of the press (France);

135.101 Adopt an NGO code in line with international standards with a view to ensuring freedom of association (Norway);

135.102 Encourage the development of independent civil society by reducing administrative barriers restricting the establishment and activities of NGOs (Canada);



- 135.103 **Repeal the 2022 decree requiring NGOs in the country to have national partners and/or representatives of a government agency to obtain foreign grants (Spain);**
- 135.104 **Introduce a simplified and more transparent registration process for NGOs with an NGO code in line with international norms and standards and revise the June 2022 decree, lifting restrictions imposed on the use of funding received and relaxing extensive reporting requirements to the Government (Switzerland);**
- 135.105 **Ensure the implementation of the 1991 Voluntary Associations Act, the 1996 Political Parties Act and the 1999 Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Act (France);**
- 135.106 **Continue improving the legal and operational environment for NGOs and ensuring their independence and effectiveness (Indonesia);**
- 135.107 **Revise the NGO registration law and streamline the registration process so that it is less burdensome for NGOs to carry out foreign donor-funded projects (United States of America);**
- 135.108 **Improve transparency around registration and foreign funding declaration requirements for NGOs operating in the country (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 135.109 **Amend the legislation restricting the right to freedom of peaceful assembly (Czechia);**
- 135.110 **Take further measures to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief and to prevent related restrictions and discrimination (Italy);**
- 135.111 **Strengthen and protect civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights (Cameroon);**
- 135.112 **Maintain ongoing efforts to enhance civil society participation in discussion and decision-making on human rights issues (Cuba);**
- 135.113 **Take measures to repeal legal provisions that unduly impede freedom of religion and expression in accordance with international legal obligations (Gambia);**
- 135.114 **Ensure the rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, especially regarding women's rights and freedom of the press (Germany);**
- 135.115 **Promote fundamental freedoms and the right to public life (Iraq);**
- 135.116 **Introduce legislation and guidelines aimed at ensuring children's privacy in the media and digital domains, including ethical standards for media reporting on children (Gambia);**
- 135.117 **Continue efforts to strengthen policies to support and protect the family as the basic unit of society protected by society and the State (Tunisia);**
- 135.118 **Continue to strengthen efforts to provide the necessary support and protection to the family as the natural and basic unit of society (Egypt);**
- 135.119 **Continue the work of the Family and Women's Committee of the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction (Oman);**
- 135.120 **Conduct effective, independent and impartial investigations of all cases of trafficking in women and girls and ensure that victims of trafficking have adequate access to support services (Montenegro);**
- 135.121 **Continue measures to combat trafficking in persons and forced labour (Nepal);**
- 135.122 **Take decisive action to address cases of trafficking in women and girls, including by ensuring prompt and effective investigations of complaints,**

**prosecuting perpetrators and providing victims with appropriate redress (Portugal);**

**135.123 Continue to implement measures to address trafficking in persons in a comprehensive manner (Singapore);**

**135.124 Strengthen efforts to end trafficking in women and children (Iraq);**

**135.125 Continue the work of the National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labour (Oman);**

**135.126 Take measures to improve labour rights and the status of workers, and ensure occupational safety at workplaces (Sri Lanka);**

**135.127 Intensify efforts to eradicate forced labour, in particular by ensuring the effective implementation of national laws and policies in force (Costa Rica);**

**135.128 Facilitate the freedom of trade unions and labour organizations and allow independence in their activities (Germany);**

**135.129 Improve working conditions and social protection for individuals (Iraq);**

**135.130 Establish a social protection system with a human rights perspective and a systemic and comprehensive approach in order to intensify efforts to fight poverty throughout life and without discrimination (Paraguay);**

**135.131 Ensure that the level of social protection benefits allocated to persons with disabilities, older persons, refugees and asylum-seekers is sufficiently high, and periodically review the level of social benefits (Togo);**

**135.132 Strengthen measures to combat poverty through the implementation of structural social policies (Morocco);**

**135.133 Continue redoubling efforts by promoting successful social policies to provide the greatest possible well-being to its people, especially the most needy sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**135.134 Continue efforts to achieve higher economic growth so as to raise the standard of living of people and improve the social, health and educational status of all (Algeria);**

**135.135 Intensify efforts to provide affordable housing and combat hunger and chronic malnutrition, with special emphasis on vulnerable groups (Paraguay);**

**135.136 Strengthen efforts to provide affordable housing (India);**

**135.137 Guarantee the right to food and strengthen efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition, especially for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (India);**

**135.138 Continue efforts to ensure access to quality health services for vulnerable populations, particularly those living in rural and remote areas and those belonging to marginalized groups (Senegal);**

**135.139 Ensure access to health-care services for vulnerable groups and work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals related to health (Sri Lanka);**

**135.140 Continue guaranteeing the health of the population, through its programmes to reduce the incidence of tuberculosis and HIV and to control hepatitis and other infectious diseases (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**135.141 Continue the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources with a view to ensuring the availability and accessibility of quality health-care services for all (Bangladesh);**

**135.142 Continue increasing investment in the health service to effectively protect people's right to life and health (China);**

- 135.143 **Intensify efforts to strengthen the public health-care system, including by allocating sufficient human and financial resources (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 135.144 **Continue efforts to reduce neonatal, infant, under-5 and maternal mortality rates (Qatar);**
- 135.145 **Repeal article 113 of the Penal Code to decriminalize HIV transmission and ensure that HIV testing is strictly voluntary in all circumstances (Mexico);**
- 135.146 **Consider strengthening measures to further reduce premature mortality (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 135.147 **Ensure the availability and accessibility of quality sexual and reproductive health services for all (Iceland);**
- 135.148 **Continue to strengthen the education system and reduce the gap between urban and rural areas (Maldives);**
- 135.149 **Continue measures to improve the quality of education by allocating sufficient resources and increasing the duration of free education in legislation to cover at least 12 years of primary and secondary education (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 135.150 **Continue to improve access to basic education for children living in impoverished and rural areas (Malaysia);**
- 135.151 **Increase the resources allocated to education in order to ensure that all children have access to quality education (Qatar);**
- 135.152 **Strengthen measures to improve the quality of education by allocating sufficient resources to the education sector, increasing the number of qualified teachers and improving the quality of educational materials (Saudi Arabia);**
- 135.153 **Maintain its efforts to ensure access to education for relevant sectors of its population (Singapore);**
- 135.154 **Continue efforts to develop the education system and improve the quality of educational services, including for children with disabilities (Tunisia);**
- 135.155 **Continue to allocate resources to the education sector (Türkiye);**
- 135.156 **Ensure that all children have access to quality education on an equal and non-competitive basis, paying special attention to girls, children from poor families, children from rural and remote areas and children with disabilities (United Arab Emirates);**
- 135.157 **Strengthen measures to improve the quality of education by allocating sufficient resources to the education sector, increasing the number of qualified teachers and improving the quality of educational materials (Viet Nam);**
- 135.158 **Step up efforts to protect the right to education of vulnerable groups of girls and children with disabilities (China);**
- 135.159 **Introduce mandatory age-appropriate and inclusive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights in school curricula (Iceland);**
- 135.160 **Continue to strengthen the national system of human rights education, including for law enforcement officials (Yemen);**
- 135.161 **Take measures to prevent the negative impact of climate change on human rights (Viet Nam);**
- 135.162 **Improve its policies and measures to continuously implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (China);**
- 135.163 **Continue efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights (Ethiopia);**

- 135.164 Continue efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 (Kyrgyzstan);
- 135.165 Continue actions under the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy to further strengthen measures for promoting good governance and realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);
- 135.166 Adopt its draft national action plan on business and human rights (Mongolia);
- 135.167 Take measures to expedite the approval and implementation of the national action plan for implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Indonesia);
- 135.168 Ensure that any engagement with the Taliban de facto authorities is contingent on and centred around their respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Afghanistan, especially those of women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities (Afghanistan);
- 135.169 Continue its good efforts to promote gender equality and to promote women's representation at all levels of private, public and economic life (Kazakhstan);
- 135.170 Ensure the principles of gender equality and increase women's representation in the judicial system (Kuwait);
- 135.171 Continue efforts to promote gender equality by advancing women's rights and participation in society (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 135.172 Continue measures under the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality to further empower women in the public sphere (Pakistan);
- 135.173 Strengthen the support system for women, ensuring their rights and legitimate interests, increasing the social, economic and political activity of women and ensuring gender equality (Tajikistan);
- 135.174 Continue efforts to promote gender equality and empower women in society and in political, economic and social life, within the framework of the national strategy that was developed for this purpose (Tunisia);
- 135.175 Continue to advance gender equality and increase the representation of women in public life (Türkiye);
- 135.176 Maintain support for women's engagement in scientific research (Azerbaijan);
- 135.177 Continue the progress made in promoting the rights of women and girls (Cameroon);
- 135.178 Carry out awareness-raising activities to eliminate gender stereotypes, eliminate all professional prohibitions for women, open inclusive educational and employment opportunities and create an atmosphere of zero tolerance towards violence against women (Chile);
- 135.179 Continue efforts to maintain momentum towards women's empowerment and gender equality (Ethiopia);
- 135.180 Step up ongoing efforts to establish mechanisms to provide comprehensive support for women, especially through the implementation of the National Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality for the period until 2030 (Greece);
- 135.181 Implement the April 2023 law criminalizing gender-based violence, encourage women to pursue options for protection, support and legal redress and partner with the international community to adopt best practices (United States of America);

135.182 Ensure that cases of violence against women are thoroughly investigated and that victims have access to effective remedies and means of protection and assistance (Liechtenstein);

135.183 Take concrete steps to ensure that all victims of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, have access to medical and legal services, including counselling, redress and rehabilitation, as well as to shelters throughout the country (Malaysia);

135.184 Consider including provisions criminalizing all forms of domestic violence, including psychological, economic and sexual violence, in the final draft of the proposed new Criminal Code, currently under review (Malta);

135.185 Continue efforts to address all forms of violence against women and girls, including gender-based and domestic violence (Mongolia);

135.186 Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) to achieve zero violence against women by allocating State funding to service providers for victims of violence, such as shelters and hotlines, and conduct training on gender equality for all government personnel, including those working in law enforcement and the education sector (Panama);

135.187 Strictly enforce the law adopted in April 2023 explicitly criminalizing domestic violence (Philippines);

135.188 Expand measures aimed at providing the necessary protection and support, including legal, social and psychological assistance, to victims and survivors of gender-based violence (Philippines);

135.189 Take effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including by implementing the new legislation criminalizing some types of gender violence and by providing human rights training and conducting awareness-raising campaigns (Portugal);

135.190 Enhance legislation in order to effectively counter violence against women while prosecuting and punishing perpetrators and ensuring access to remedies and protection for victims (Republic of Moldova);

135.191 Allocate the necessary human and financial resources to comply with the law on gender violence in the family, as well as implement an effective system for registering and monitoring complaints and judicial sentences in cases of gender violence (Uruguay);

135.192 Take appropriate legal and policy measures to combat the prevalence of gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and ensure that all such cases are effectively investigated, the perpetrators prosecuted and appropriate sanctions imposed (Belgium);

135.193 Continue to fight violence against women (Italy);

135.194 Implement comprehensive measures to promote and protect the rights of the child and ensure the safety of children in all circumstances (Lithuania);

135.195 Further strengthen the Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office and continue its efforts for the protection of children from all forms of violence (Pakistan);

135.196 Continue efforts to uphold the rights of children through the Children's Rights Ombudsman's Office, the National Commission on Children and regional commissions and the Public Council for the Protection of Children's Rights (Sri Lanka);

135.197 Enact legislation prohibiting all forms of violence against children (United Arab Emirates);

- 135.198 Enshrine in its legal framework a clear prohibition of corporal punishment targeting children, not just in public places but also within the confines of alternative care settings and day-care and other educational institutions (Gambia);
- 135.199 Continue efforts to address issues of violence against persons in vulnerable situations, such as women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities (Algeria);
- 135.200 Take further legislative measures to ensure a safe digital environment for children, in which their rights are protected (Bulgaria);
- 135.201 Intensify efforts to strengthen family-based and alternative care support for children, particularly children with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 135.202 Enforce the prohibition of child marriage, including through campaigns and programmes to raise awareness of its harmful effects on children, and women and girls in particular (Panama);
- 135.203 Enforce the prohibition of child marriage alongside raising awareness of its harmful effects (Republic of Moldova);
- 135.204 Eliminate the exception to the minimum age for marriage and coordinate efforts to combat polygamy and forced child marriage, especially in rural areas (Costa Rica);
- 135.205 Enforce the prohibition of child marriage (Estonia) (Iceland);
- 135.206 Conduct a full review of national legislation to assess and ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, providing for inclusive social protection, employment and education policies and for community-based services to avoid institutionalization (Panama);
- 135.207 Consider taking further steps to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 135.208 Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to government services and facilities, as well as to ensure their access to employment, health care and social services (Saudi Arabia);
- 135.209 Take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to government services and facilities, as well as to ensure their access to employment, health care and social services (Tajikistan);
- 135.210 Take steps to increase the accessibility to persons with disabilities of government services, employment, health care and social services (Türkiye);
- 135.211 Adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to public services and facilities and to ensure that they have access to employment, health services and social services (Afghanistan);
- 135.212 Continue efforts to improve educational infrastructure with a view to ensuring the accessibility of all schools and universities to persons with disabilities (Bulgaria);
- 135.213 Continue efforts to integrate persons with disabilities into the process of facilitating access to health care and education (Cameroon);
- 135.214 Continue to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Oman);
- 135.215 Further promote inclusive education (Azerbaijan);
- 135.216 Strengthen efforts to achieve inclusive education at all levels, including by improving the physical accessibility of schools and universities, equipping educational facilities with adapted learning materials and providing teachers with adequate training (Bangladesh);

135.217 Increase efforts to protect Christians and other religious minorities from all forms of violence, harassment and discrimination (Poland);

135.218 End de facto segregation in education and ensure that Lyuli/Roma children, especially Lyuli/Roma girls, enjoy their right to inclusive and quality education (Costa Rica);

135.219 Promote the protection of migrants and refugees (Cameroon).

136. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Uzbekistan and have been noted by Uzbekistan:

136.1 Repeal article 120 of the Penal Code to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and end the use in judicial proceedings of examinations as evidence of homosexual behaviour (Mexico);

136.2 Repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code referring to the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting male adults (Montenegro);

136.3 Decriminalize consensual relationships between adults of the same sex, as included in article 120 of the Penal Code (Spain);

136.4 Initiate a discussion at the national level, with the involvement of civil society, in order to move towards decriminalization of consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex (Uruguay);

136.5 Repeal the regulatory framework and administrative acts that penalize and stigmatize consensual relationships between persons of the same sex, in accordance with what was recommended in the universal periodic review in 2018 (Argentina);

136.6 Decriminalize consensual same-sex activity between consenting adults through repealing article 120 of the Criminal Code (Australia);

136.7 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Chile);

136.8 Repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code (Iceland);

136.9 Release all LGBTQI+ persons serving sentences under article 120 of the Criminal Code and remove their conviction records from State registers (Iceland);

136.10 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between men and release and rehabilitate all those convicted under article 120 of the Penal Code (France);

136.11 Halt intimidation and violence towards LGBTQI+ people and ensure equal opportunity, including by eliminating discriminatory laws and policies (Belgium);

136.12 Adopt comprehensive legislation prohibiting all forms of discrimination, including sexual orientation and gender identity, in addition to proscribing the criminalization of consensual same-sex relationships (Brazil);

136.13 Ensure the protection of the rights of women and LGBTI people in accordance with international standards and promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and men throughout society, including by adequately increasing the representation of women in the Cabinet of Ministers (Canada);

136.14 Cease immediately the practice of forced and intrusive physical examinations of LGBTQI+ persons (Iceland);

136.15 Repeal laws and policies on enforced testing for HIV and remove policies and/or internal instructions requiring health-care providers to report LGBTQI+ persons who test positive for HIV to law enforcement (Iceland).

137. **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.**



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## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Uzbekistan was headed by H.E. Mr. Akmal Saidov, Director of the National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Gulnora Marufova, Member of the Committee on women and gender equality of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
  - Mr. Ikrom Muslimov, Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
  - Mr. Yahyojon Abdulkhakov, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
  - Ms. Elmira Basitkhanova, Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
  - Mr. Ildar Shigabudinov, Head of the Department of Cooperation with the United Nations and other International Organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
  - Mr. Askar Mirsaidov, Counsellor, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to UN in Geneva;
  - Mr. Berdak Kalmuratov, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to UN in Geneva;
  - Mr. Shiraz Abdullaev, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to UN in Geneva.
-