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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Malaysia

* 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-fifth session from 22 January to 2 February 2024. The review of Malaysia was held at the 8th meeting, on 25 January 2024. The delegation of Malaysia was headed by the Deputy Secretary-General (Multilateral Affairs), Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato' Bala Chandran Tharman. At its 16th meeting, held on 31 January 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Malaysia.
2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Malaysia: Argentina, Eritrea and Viet Nam.
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 Malaysia:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Pakistan, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to Malaysia 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 Malaysia had established a practical mechanism to implement recommendations by the Human Rights Council, the special procedures and the treaty bodies and monitor progress. It entailed a biannual multi-stakeholder consultation and the upgraded National Recommendations Tracking Database. The database, which comprised 168 time-based indicators, had cultivated stronger ownership and strengthened coordination among government agencies, as well as with non-governmental stakeholders.
6. Malaysia took a whole-of-society approach in carrying out its human rights responsibilities. It consulted and coordinated with civil society, academics, parliamentarians, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in implementing recommendations. In 2024, Malaysia would expand consultations to include business entities and the private sector.
7. Malaysia had made significant strides in its legal and institutional reforms. It had established 10 bipartisan special parliamentary select committees on several fundamental human rights issues to ensure good governance, transparency and accountability at all levels of government. There was an initiative to establish Ombudsman Malaysia, which would be submitted to Cabinet.

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/45/MYS/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/45/MYS/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/45/MYS/3](#).

8. The amendments to the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act had been tabled in the House of Representatives in November 2023 and would be tabled in the Senate in April 2024.

9. The abolishment of the mandatory death penalty in July 2023 underscored the Government's unwavering commitment to upholding human rights and justice for all in Malaysia. The amendments to the Penal Code (sect. 309) to decriminalize attempted suicide had been passed in the House of Representatives and Senate in May and June 2023, respectively.

10. Online sexual exploitation of children was a cross-border issue. In 2023, Malaysia had amended the Sexual Offences against Children Act 2017. The amendment allowed for the prosecution of perpetrators who were outside Malaysia.

11. To further streamline the protection of children from neglect, prosecution, abuse and exploitation, Malaysia was finalizing a holistic national policy and plan of action focusing on cross-sectoral issues, including juvenile rehabilitation, bullying, mental health, child exploitation, child marriage, protection during disasters and protection from online exploitation. It was on a similar trajectory with regard to the protection of the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.

12. Malaysia continued to uphold its standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. With the support of OHCHR, Malaysia had translated the nine core human rights instruments, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into Bahasa Malaysia, which was central to the efforts of Malaysia to build awareness on human rights as a prelude to the eventual ratification of the remaining core human rights instruments.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

13. During the interactive dialogue, 130 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

14. Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden and the Plurinational State of Bolivia made statements. The complete version of the statements can be found in the webcast archived on the United Nations website.⁴

15. Malaysia stated that, despite numerous constraints, it continued to make efforts to manage the influx of refugees and asylum-seekers, providing health-care services, access to education and employment opportunities. Refugee children were provided with educational opportunities at 18 alternative learning centres that were registered with the Government. Malaysia called upon States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

⁴ <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k11/k1151uim6q>.

Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to expedite the resettlement of refugees and asylum-seekers to third countries.

16. Malaysia prioritized poverty eradication, especially extreme poverty. The ultimate goal of the Government was to ensure that no one was left behind in the socioeconomic development. It was focusing on increasing household income through the People's Income Initiative. Many poverty eradication programmes were being implemented to address disparities between urban and rural areas, as well as between regions, including in the states of Sabah and Sarawak.

17. Malaysia had abolished the mandatory death penalty and provided for reviews by the Federal Court of the sentences of all individuals who had been sentenced to death or natural life imprisonment, allowing for a potential resentencing. The review concerned 1,020 prisoners. Prisoners may exercise their right to choose their own counsel or opt for court-assigned counsel. In response to several recommendations pertaining to the total abolishment of the death penalty, Malaysia reiterated its stance on the establishment of a just and equitable legal system for all taking into consideration the views of all parties, including the victims' families and the offenders.

18. Malaysia aimed to amend the Whistleblower Protection Act 2010, enact the Freedom of Information Act, establish an independent office of the public defender and establish Ombudsman Malaysia. Malaysia was also developing a national action plan for business and human rights and a holistic and inclusive National Human Rights Action Plan version 2.0.

19. Malaysia continued to expand the functions and powers of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, providing it with the necessary institutional strength required to further promote and uphold human rights in Malaysia effectively. The amended Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act would be tabled in the Senate in March 2024. The amendments provided for diverse representations and institutionalized the Office of Children's Commissioner within the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia.

20. As regards ratification of the remaining core human rights instruments, Malaysia continued to take a two-pronged approach, namely, to accelerate human rights literacy on doctrines and instruments of human rights and to carry out institutional and legislative reforms and capacity-building. That was necessary to enable Malaysia to fulfil its obligations and responsibilities effectively, according to the letter and spirit of the treaties.

21. The Constitution provided that civil law and sharia law coexisted as parallel legal systems in Malaysia. It also recognized native laws as an integral part of the legal system. Malaysia had taken numerous measures as a continuous effort to harmonize sharia and civil laws. Several committees had been established by the Government to review sharia laws related to criminal offences, criminal and civil procedures and family law. In addition, a special committee had been established to study issues on the competency of the state legislative assemblies to enact sharia laws and the jurisdiction of sharia courts under the Constitution.

22. The Constitution guaranteed the right to freedom of expression. Malaysia prioritized an enabling environment in which the exercise of freedom of opinion was done responsibly. The Government had continuously engaged with the relevant stakeholders to review the application of certain laws, such as the Sedition Act 1948 and the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984. That would be an ongoing exercise.

23. As regards statelessness, Malaysia had successfully provided advisory services and implemented awareness-raising programmes related to national documentation, including in rural and remote areas.

24. The Government continued to enhance the treatment of detainees in detention centres, through the development of a code of conduct for law enforcement officials and periodic inspections by the International Committee of the Red Cross, allowing visits to any prisons at any time and investigations of any complaint or abuse within 72 hours.

25. To address overcrowding in detention facilities, Malaysia had implemented alternative sentencing, which facilitated the reintegration of offenders into society. Malaysia was implementing various preventive measures to prevent deaths in custody. Detainees were

given proper medical treatment and all prisons and immigration centres were staffed with experienced medical officers or attended by medical personnel on scheduled visits. Serious cases were immediately referred to a nearby hospital for urgent treatment.

26. Malaysia had established care centres in the states of Negeri Sembilan and Sabah to shelter foreign children aged 10 and younger with their guardians who had been detained in immigration centres.

27. In combating trafficking in persons, Malaysia prioritized a victim-centred approach by providing care and protection to victims through eight government shelter homes and establishing the Victim Assistance Specialist Programme. It had updated the National Guidelines on Human Trafficking Indicators 2.0 and trained law enforcement officers on the screening and identification of victims and investigation and prosecution techniques in combating trafficking in persons.

28. Security laws to prevent violent extremism, terrorism and serious crimes were not arbitrarily used against particular individuals or groups. There were various safeguards to protect the rights of detainees, including the right to be informed of the reasons for their arrest, the right to consult their own lawyers and the right to file a writ of habeas corpus and judicial review.

29. To further ensure the right to a fair trial of citizens and non-citizens during an application alleging unlawful detention made by detainees, or on their behalf, against private, as well as public, authorities, the detainees would appear before a court in advance of its decision.

30. That procedure was in line with the commitment of the judiciary to ensure the right to a fair trial in all circumstances and to uphold justice in accordance with the Constitution.

31. Malaysia was fully committed to protect the rights of children. It had established a fully fledged Children Development Department, focusing on prevention, rehabilitation, development and integration of children into society. The Department would enhance the efficiency of child protection, including handling cases of child abuse and neglect.

32. As regards child marriage, Malaysia had launched the National Strategy Plan in Handling the Causes of Child Marriage 2020–2025. It covered awareness-raising campaigns on sexual and reproductive health, gaps in legislation, education, strengthening family support systems and collecting socioeconomic data. It had led to a significant reduction in cases of child marriage.

33. Malaysia had accelerated the implementation of sexual and reproductive health education. Tailored health education materials for adolescents were disseminated in school programmes, as well as on digital platforms.

34. Given that child marriage was a complex and multisectoral issue, the Government would continue to advocate for change within the community. That included awareness-raising campaigns and continued engagement with various stakeholders.

35. Malaysia had made significant advancements in promoting gender equality and empowering women. It had enacted the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act and would establish an anti-sexual harassment tribunal by September 2024, providing for a redress mechanism.

36. Malaysia was moving forward with its intention to establish an effective protection and redress mechanism in addressing domestic violence. Towards that end, it had established and institutionalized a multi-stakeholder Committee on Domestic Violence and had revised its guidelines on handling domestic violence cases. The updated guidelines included the introduction of rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators and simplified procedures for emergency protection orders and one-stop crisis centres. In addition, Malaysia had enacted anti-stalking provisions in the Penal Code.

37. As regards the rights of persons with disabilities, Malaysia had upgraded and digitalized the registration process of persons with disabilities, providing them with digital cards within 24 hours of registration, which aimed to encourage more persons with disabilities to register, assisting the Government in addressing their specific needs.

38. To address issues faced by older persons, Malaysia had implemented a national registry system to gather data on older persons, including sociodemographic information and health conditions, which would lead to the next phase in which it would be accessible to the public, focusing on job matching and employment.

39. Malaysia was committed to protect the rights of migrant workers. Forced labour had to be addressed as a matter of priority. Malaysia had amended the Employment Act 1955, the Trade Unions Act 1959 to incorporate the International Labour Organization Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), launched the guidelines on preventing and eradicating forced labour practices in the workplace and implemented the National Action Plan on Forced Labour 2021–2025 in parallel with the implementation of the National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons.

40. To promote the social protection of foreign workers, all employers were obliged to register their employees with the Social Security Organization and contribute to the Employment Injury Scheme under the Employees' Social Security Act 1969. To date, approximately 1.93 million foreign workers had benefited under the Scheme.

41. Malaysia had established the Working for Workers mobile application, one of the grievance mechanisms for all workers, local and foreign, to file complaints. Currently, there were 17 categories of complaints, corresponding to International Labour Organization indicators of forced labour that could be reported to the Department of Labour through that application. Since the inception of the application, of the 36,176 complaints received, 32,203 had been resolved.

42. Malaysia and the International Labour Organization had signed a memorandum of understanding on the decent work country programme (2019–2025) to implement projects on forced labour, child labour and labour trafficking.

43. At the bilateral level, Malaysia was pursuing cooperation with source countries to mitigate the risks of forced and child labour in palm oil plantations. At the regional level, Malaysia and other States were planning to organize an awareness-raising campaign to improve public perception of the positive contribution of migrant workers.

44. Malaysia had implemented comprehensive programmes, specifically targeting rural and Indigenous communities, including on poverty eradication, the development of infrastructure, economic empowerment and human capital development. Through those programmes, Malaysia had successfully reduced the poverty rate in rural areas. The Income Enhancement Programme was one of the notable initiatives to eradicate poverty. Rural communities had also benefited from several community-based economic programmes on agriculture, rural tourism and entrepreneurship. Malaysia pursued collaboration with industries to provide skills training for rural and Indigenous youth.

45. Malaysia ensured that the Indigenous communities, especially children, had access to education, which included schools, meals and transport allowances, scholarships, as well as technical, vocational and educational training.

46. In promoting the land rights of Indigenous communities in Peninsular Malaysia, the Government and state authorities were collaborating to gazette the Indigenous areas and reserves according to the Constitution, the Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954 and the National Land Code. Various programmes were being implemented, including infrastructure development, regrouping of traditional villages and structured settlements. Malaysia provided specific assistance to construct new houses and repair damaged houses for Indigenous communities.

47. Regarding land development projects that affected Indigenous communities, the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 allowed any party to register their objections to a land development proposal.

48. The government of Sabah, in collaboration with the United Nations country team, had commissioned a study on the legal and socioeconomic dimensions of the challenges faced by undocumented individuals. The government had already implemented temporary measures for undocumented children. Informal training in writing, reading and arithmetic were provided to children.

49. The government of Sabah aimed to further improve water infrastructure, targeting a reduction in non-revenue water for major towns in Sabah by 2025.
50. The Sabah Native Land Administration Section had been established to oversee the implementation of the Sabah Native Land Service programme, through which, a total of 72,194 landowners had received their land titles.
51. Under the Sarawak Water Supply Masterplan, the government of Sarawak aspired to provide 100 per cent treated water by 2030. The coverage of sanitation services, such as the centralized sewerage system and integrated waste management, were being expanded.
52. The rights of Indigenous peoples to their customary lands were provided for under the Sarawak Land Code. In 2018, the Land Code had been amended to legally recognize and give effect to the Indigenous custom of native territorial domain. The native communal title issued conferred a proprietary right on the native territorial domain.
53. The federal Government and the government of Sarawak had established a special joint task force to address issues pertaining to statelessness, including the issuance of proper documentation, such as birth certificates and identity cards.
54. Malaysia would duly consider the recommendations it had received, taking into account their merits and in consultation with all stakeholders in the country.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

- 55.1 **Ratify the six core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Paraguay); Accede to the remaining six core international human rights treaties without delay (Poland); Expedite ratification of key human rights instruments to which Malaysia is not yet a party (Uruguay);**
- 55.2 **Ratify and implement all six remaining core human rights treaties, especially concerning civil and political rights (Norway);**
- 55.3 **Ratify the six core human rights instruments that it has not yet ratified, in particular the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**
- 55.4 **Set a clear time frame for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and all other core international human rights treaties, including their optional protocols, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Czechia);**
- 55.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**
- 55.6 **Step up its efforts to ratify the remaining core United Nations human rights instruments and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees by establishing a clear timeline (Republic of Korea);**
- 55.7 **Continue exploring possibilities to broaden its international commitments to protect human rights, including by ratifying core human rights treaties as soon as possible (Japan);**
- 55.8 **Continue and accelerate actions undertaken for the ratification of the core international human rights instruments (Senegal);**

- 55.9 Consider acceding to the core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Ukraine); Consider ratifying the remaining core international human rights treaties (Gambia);
- 55.10 Strengthen efforts aiming at ratifying core international human rights treaties, like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Hungary);
- 55.11 Continue the efforts of adhering to international legal instruments in the field of human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Morocco);
- 55.12 Continue the efforts of adhering to international legal instruments in the field of human rights, inter alia, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Romania);
- 55.13 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and all other core human rights treaties (Cyprus);
- 55.14 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Albania); Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Croatia);
- 55.15 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols (Liechtenstein);
- 55.16 Expedite the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Botswana);
- 55.17 Promptly ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and abolish the sentences of whipping and caning (Australia);
- 55.18 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (Madagascar);
- 55.19 Consider the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, as a further step towards the complete abolition of the death penalty (Lithuania);
- 55.20 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger); Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);
- 55.21 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Liechtenstein);
- 55.22 Accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Fiji);
- 55.23 Expedite the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Botswana);
- 55.24 Expedite ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol (Ghana);

- 55.25 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to further bolster Malaysia's efforts in anti-torture (Indonesia);
- 55.26 Align its national legislation with the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and ratify the Convention against Torture (Switzerland);
- 55.27 Intensify efforts to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Zimbabwe);
- 55.28 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);
- 55.29 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Madagascar);
- 55.30 Consider the accession at the earliest possible date to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Morocco);
- 55.31 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger);
- 55.32 Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Afghanistan); Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Spain);
- 55.33 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and allow the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to fully carry out its mandate (United States of America);
- 55.34 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, as well as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Brazil);
- 55.35 Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and grant the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees access to immigration detention centres (Mexico);
- 55.36 Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and establish a national framework for the protection of refugees (New Zealand);
- 55.37 Combat all forms of violence and discrimination against migrant workers and refugees and ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (France);
- 55.38 Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Burkina Faso);
- 55.39 Ratify and implement the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Luxembourg);
- 55.40 Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Malawi);
- 55.41 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Colombia);
- 55.42 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization, and strengthen policies and the legal framework to continue protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly their land rights (Mexico);

- 55.43 **Ensure the rights of Indigenous Peoples, notably by ratifying the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Sierra Leone);**
- 55.44 **Consider ratifying the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 55.45 **Ratify the 2010 version of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);**
- 55.46 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia) (France) (Luxembourg);**
- 55.47 **Withdraw all remaining reservations to articles 9 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Finland); Withdraw the remaining reservations on articles 9 and 16 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Sweden);**
- 55.48 **Consider the withdrawal of remaining reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Malawi);**
- 55.49 **Withdraw the reservation to article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 55.50 **Take concrete action on the submission of long overdue reports to treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**
- 55.51 **Continue cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Tajikistan);**
- 55.52 **Continue constructive cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 55.53 **Continue cooperation with regional and international human rights mechanisms, in accordance with national priorities (Egypt);**
- 55.54 **Continue cooperating with relevant United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to protect Malaysians against transnational threats, including the world drug problem (Singapore);**
- 55.55 **Continue the effective implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 55.56 **Continue efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Georgia);**
- 55.57 **Continue to strengthen and guarantee the independence of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia so that it performs its functions in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Costa Rica);**
- 55.58 **Strengthen the Government's interaction with the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia to foster the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations and the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies (Bulgaria);**
- 55.59 **Finalize enacting legislation to establish the office of the Ombudsman to ensure improved public service delivery (Kenya);**
- 55.60 **Strengthen measures for the establishment of the office of the Ombudsman (Lesotho);**
- 55.61 **Strengthen the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up for effective implementation of accepted universal periodic review and**

treaty body recommendations (Timor-Leste); Reinforce the national mechanism for monitoring and follow-up for effective implementation of accepted universal periodic review and treaty body recommendations (Uzbekistan);

55.62 Strengthen its national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation to that end (Paraguay);

55.63 Strengthen the capacity of the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up with the support of OHCHR and the Commonwealth (Samoa);

55.64 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation on all prohibited grounds (Estonia);

55.65 Take effective measures to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Ghana) (Montenegro);

55.66 Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to protect individuals at risk of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of ethnicity, nationality, religion or belief, sexual orientation or gender identity, disability and age (Israel);

55.67 Continue efforts to combat discrimination, including through the development of a comprehensive law (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

55.68 Strengthen efforts to prevent and fight against all forms of discrimination (Italy);

55.69 Continue efforts to ensure the protection of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Timor-Leste);

55.70 Continue implementing national policies and programmes aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Egypt);

55.71 Continue efforts towards the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons (Ethiopia);

55.72 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Costa Rica) (Cyprus); Abolish the death penalty (Canada);

55.73 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 (Iceland);

55.74 Abolish the death penalty for crimes not meeting the threshold of most serious crimes, as a step towards the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes (Belgium);

55.75 Swiftly pass legislation to fully abolish the death penalty (Germany);

55.76 Take further steps towards the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes (Ukraine); Take further steps to fully abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Italy); Take further steps towards the total abolishment of the death penalty (Slovakia); Continue efforts aimed at the full abolition of the death penalty (Spain);

55.77 Take steps to completely abolish the death penalty and to end caning within the Malaysian legal system (both civil and sharia) (New Zealand);

55.78 Continue discussions with a view to reducing the use of the death penalty, moving towards a prompt moratorium and possible abolition (Chile);

55.79 Maintain the moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);

- 55.80 Place a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition (Poland);
- 55.81 Extend the official moratorium on executions until the death penalty is fully abolished and all existing death sentences are reviewed and commuted (Norway);
- 55.82 Take the measures necessary to prevent the occurrence of acts of torture, ill-treatment and deaths resulting from these practices, in detention centres (Cabo Verde);
- 55.83 Continue to advance the implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (South Africa);
- 55.84 Continue efforts to reduce prison overcrowding (Togo);
- 55.85 Abolish corporal punishment in the legal system (Germany);
- 55.86 Explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in schools (Liechtenstein);
- 55.87 Take the measures necessary to put an end to beatings and other forms of corporal punishment, especially in the family (Cabo Verde);
- 55.88 Take measures to eliminate caning and other forms of corporal punishment in schools, alternative care settings and prisons (Togo);
- 55.89 Take steps to explicitly prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in schools (Armenia);
- 55.90 Intensify its efforts to enact a law to clearly prohibit all corporal punishment in schools (Kenya);
- 55.91 Prohibit, combat and eradicate all forms of corporal punishment in schools (Paraguay);
- 55.92 Eliminate all forms of corporal punishment in schools and in alternative care settings (Panama);
- 55.93 Establish permanent independent bodies, such as parliamentary select committees, to oversee appointments to anti-corruption and all oversight institutions, with sufficient resources and independence to perform their function (Canada);
- 55.94 Engage constructively with civil society and involve them in the advancement of the human rights agenda (Greece);
- 55.95 Continue to engage with and to involve the representatives of civil society in the deliberation of national policies and programmes (Serbia);
- 55.96 Undertake legislative reform that allows access to a fair trial to detainees and reduce the minimum period of detention in order to ensure compliance with effective judicial protection (Spain);
- 55.97 Strictly enforce section 15 of the Child Act 2001 to prevent the identity of any child involved in a court case from being revealed to the public (Eswatini);
- 55.98 Repeal or amend laws that undermine human rights, including the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief, such as the Sedition Act 1948, the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998, the Printing Presses and Publication Act 1984 and Penal Code provisions on offending religious sensitivities (United States of America);
- 55.99 Review, amend or abolish, within a clear time frame, legal provisions that violate or limit the right to freedom of expression and opinion, and bring them into line with international standards (Montenegro);

- 55.100 **Repeal the Communications and Multimedia Act and the Printing Presses and Publications Act in order to ensure their compliance with international human rights standards (Switzerland);**
- 55.101 **Repeal the Sedition Act, the Printing Presses and Publications Act and section 233 of the Communications and Multimedia Act to strengthen freedom of expression, and prioritize the submission of anti-discrimination legislation to parliament (Australia);**
- 55.102 **Repeal the Sedition Act 1948 (Act 15) and amend or reform the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 (Act 301) to ensure that it is in line with international law on freedom of expression (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 55.103 **Build upon its efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of freedom of opinion and expression by repealing the Sedition Act (Czechia);**
- 55.104 **Repeal the Sedition Act 1948 and repeal or amend other laws that arbitrarily restrict the right to freedom of expression (Norway);**
- 55.105 **Take the steps necessary to ensure citizens' right to freedom of expression and information in line with article 10 of the Federal Constitution within the next three years (Germany);**
- 55.106 **Study the possibility of strengthening the regulatory framework relevant to the promotion and protection of freedom of expression and opinion in accordance with international standards (Peru);**
- 55.107 **Strengthen legislative measures to uphold the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Republic of Korea);**
- 55.108 **Continue efforts for the creation of an environment conducive to freedom of opinion and expression (Senegal);**
- 55.109 **Step up efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of the media (Slovakia);**
- 55.110 **Revise the Peaceful Assembly Act in order to eliminate discrimination and hindrance in the exercise of the freedom of association and assembly (Czechia);**
- 55.111 **Review the Peaceful Assembly Act and other relevant laws to ensure the right to freedom of peaceful assembly without arbitrary restrictions (Sweden);**
- 55.112 **Strengthen the measures necessary to guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their work freely, without fear of reprisals or aggression (Colombia);**
- 55.113 **Ensure protection for human rights defenders in the context of their work, including environmental defenders, and timely investigation of threats and attacks against them (Ecuador);**
- 55.114 **Promote a safe and enabling environment for everyone to exercise the freedoms of assembly, association and expression (Lithuania);**
- 55.115 **Intensify the continuous human rights training programme for law enforcement officials (Nigeria);**
- 55.116 **Strengthen human rights training for its law enforcement officials (Pakistan); Strengthen human rights training for law enforcement officials (Azerbaijan);**
- 55.117 **Strengthen human rights training for law enforcement officials (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 55.118 **Improve the existing human rights training module for law enforcement officials to include guidelines, which are in line with international standards, on policing public assemblies (Kazakhstan);**

- 55.119 Set the minimum age of marriage at 18 without exceptions (Cyprus);
- 55.120 Raise the minimum legal age for marriage to 18, in accordance with the international human rights standards, and fully implement the National Strategic Plan in Handling the Causes of Child Marriage (Australia);
- 55.121 Take concrete steps to address issues related to early, forced and child marriage by setting the minimum age for marriage at 18 years with no exceptions (Sierra Leone);
- 55.122 Amend all legislative provisions that allow or facilitate child marriage and set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years without exceptions, in all legal jurisdictions, including customary law (Dominican Republic);
- 55.123 Review legislation to set the minimum legal age for marriage at 18 for everyone (Germany);
- 55.124 Introduce a legal minimum age for marriage of 18 years, to better uphold the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals (New Zealand);
- 55.125 Enact legislative and other measures to prohibit child and/or forced marriage (Slovenia);
- 55.126 Undertake comprehensive reform of all legal systems to eliminate inconsistencies among them, including by aligning the definition of the child with the definition provided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ensure that the minimum age of marriage is 18, without exception (Croatia);
- 55.127 Intensify efforts to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, in order to prevent early and forced child marriage, in line with the recommendation made in 2018 (Argentina);
- 55.128 Continue to take comprehensive measures to eliminate child marriage, including by fully implementing its national strategic plan (Republic of Korea);
- 55.129 Adopt policies to discourage child marriage (Albania);
- 55.130 Take legislative and other measures to prohibit child or forced marriage (Armenia);
- 55.131 Ensure legal protection for all children from child and early forced marriage (Canada);
- 55.132 Continue the dialogue and engagement with relevant stakeholders to amend the law relating to the age limit for marriage (Cuba);
- 55.133 Amend all provisions in laws to prohibit child marriage and raise awareness of its harmful effects on children (Estonia);
- 55.134 Take measures to eliminate the practices of child and forced marriage, child labour and physical punishment of children (Israel);
- 55.135 Continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to amend law pertaining to the age limit for marriage (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 55.136 Intensify efforts to raise the age of marriage to 18 years of age, in order to eliminate child, early and forced marriage (Poland);
- 55.137 Continue to implement the National Strategic Plan in Handling the Causes of Child Marriage for 2020–2025 (Zimbabwe);
- 55.138 Fully implement by 2025, all 17 strategies and 58 programmes listed in the 2020–2025 National Strategic Plan in Handling the Causes of Child Marriage (Belgium);
- 55.139 Fully implement its National Strategic Plan in Handling the Causes of Child Marriage (Norway);
- 55.140 Prohibit female genital mutilation (Costa Rica);

- 55.141 **Repeal the fatwa on female circumcision (Chile);**
- 55.142 **Extend the ban on female genital mutilation throughout its territory (Comoros);**
- 55.143 **Continue its efforts to prevent, suppress and combat trafficking in persons (Georgia) (Ukraine);**
- 55.144 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including measures to investigate crimes and protect victims (Belarus);**
- 55.145 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons, by taking measures to reduce impunity and investigate cases of trafficking with a victim-centred approach (Djibouti);**
- 55.146 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Iraq);**
- 55.147 **Continue efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and ensure the thorough investigation, as well as prosecution, of all who engage in trafficking and related offences while prioritizing a victim-centred approach (Hungary);**
- 55.148 **Effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons, including by ensuring that all persons involved are subject to thorough investigation and prosecution (Greece);**
- 55.149 **Ensure that all those engaged in trafficking in persons and related offences, including complicit law enforcement officials, are prosecuted (Israel);**
- 55.150 **Continue efforts to prevent trafficking and train law enforcement officials to identify and assist victims (Kazakhstan);**
- 55.151 **Redouble efforts to combat trafficking in persons (Nepal);**
- 55.152 **Consolidate the measures of the national action plan to combat trafficking in persons in force, to prevent child trafficking and remove those who are already victims of trafficking, and ensure their rehabilitation and social integration (Burundi);**
- 55.153 **Strengthen measures to eradicate trafficking in persons, particularly trafficking in children, and ensure that the necessary conditions exist to carry out impartial, prompt and thorough investigations that reduce impunity (Peru);**
- 55.154 **Continue efforts to strengthen the national mechanism to combat terrorism and trafficking in persons (Somalia);**
- 55.155 **Increase efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate trafficking in persons, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and child labour, especially with respect to refugee and asylum-seeking, undocumented, street and migrant children (Uruguay);**
- 55.156 **Take steps necessary to combat trafficking in persons, in particular of women and girls (Kenya);**
- 55.157 **Enhance the measures aimed at combating trafficking in persons, especially children (Qatar);**
- 55.158 **Redouble efforts to protect the rights of workers through labour legislation that establishes guarantees, such as maximum daily working hours and the minimum wage (Peru);**
- 55.159 **Prevent child labour by strengthening the monitoring capacity of labour inspections, especially in palm oil plantations (Costa Rica);**
- 55.160 **Reinforce the measures for ending child labour, including in palm oil plantations (Portugal);**
- 55.161 **Continue efforts to combat child labour and child marriage, by raising the minimum age of marriage to 18 years (France);**

- 55.162 Increase efforts to strengthen child labour prevention mechanisms (Lithuania);
- 55.163 Continue efforts to strengthen the social protection system (Bhutan) (Lesotho);
- 55.164 Implement reforms in its social protection system to ensure that the needs of persons living in poverty are comprehensively addressed (Portugal);
- 55.165 Continue to strengthen social protection programmes targeting the most vulnerable women (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 55.166 Continue to strengthen the social protection system in order to guarantee the well-being of its citizens (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 55.167 Continue to strengthen legislative measures for addressing social protection gaps, with a particular focus on people living in vulnerable situations (Algeria);
- 55.168 Continue implementing integrated social security support programmes (Ethiopia);
- 55.169 Enhance efforts to ensure that social protection is adaptive to the various risks, including changes in the economy and labour markets (Brunei Darussalam);
- 55.170 Continue its national efforts to eliminate extreme poverty through the governmental programmes dedicated to this purpose (Bahrain);
- 55.171 Continue strengthening poverty eradication programmes to increase the incomes of the poor and improve their access to essential services (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 55.172 Continue its efforts to eradicate poverty and improve livelihoods (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 55.173 Continue efforts to strengthen and sustain the fight against poverty (Mauritania);
- 55.174 Build on existing efforts to ensure effective policy implementation to fight poverty (Singapore);
- 55.175 Strengthen programmes to eliminate poverty and to access basic services, particularly aimed at persons living in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 55.176 Continue to address the burden of malnutrition among children, including those in rural areas, by strengthening the National Plan of Action for Nutrition of Malaysia III 2016–2025 (Viet Nam);
- 55.177 Continue efforts to implement the National Housing Policy and the National Affordable Housing Policy in favour of low-income persons (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 55.178 Ensure effective implementation of the National Housing Plan through allocation of adequate resources and comprehensive monitoring mechanisms (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 55.179 Continue implementing the National Housing Plan, including the National Affordable Housing Policy for the period 2018–2025 (Oman);
- 55.180 Continue efforts made to eradicate poverty and support social advancement programmes (Tunisia);
- 55.181 Continue strengthening the national health services budget to ensure access to health care and provide the highest level of physical and mental health to its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

- 55.182 Continue working on the plans and programmes established to guarantee the right to health for all with high-quality standards, including in rural and remote areas (Oman);
- 55.183 Ensure universal and unhindered access to sexual and reproductive health information, counselling, education and services (Estonia);
- 55.184 Lower the age of access to sexual and reproductive health services and information and eliminate third-party authorization requirements (Iceland);
- 55.185 Ensure universal access to quality health services at affordable cost, particularly for low-income categories (Qatar);
- 55.186 Continue its collaboration with the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies to strengthen health-care services, especially for vulnerable groups (Serbia);
- 55.187 Continue its ongoing efforts in strengthening health-care services for all, especially vulnerable groups (State of Palestine);
- 55.188 Continue its efforts in improving access to health care in rural areas (Bhutan);
- 55.189 Further develop training programmes for health workers and increase access to quality medical services (Belarus);
- 55.190 Strengthen training programmes for health personnel and social workforce who are responsible for serving older persons and persons with disabilities (Tajikistan);
- 55.191 Strengthen training programmes for health workers and other workers in the social sectors concerned with serving the elderly and people with disabilities (Tunisia);
- 55.192 Increase psychosocial support for those with mental illness, including through the National Center of Excellence in Mental Health (Tunisia);
- 55.193 Increase psychosocial support for those with mental illness, including through the National Centre of Excellence for Mental Health (Cuba) (Jordan);
- 55.194 Further strengthen, streamline and coordinate activities related to mental health (Brunei Darussalam);
- 55.195 Continue to implement all Sustainable Development Goal-related programmes to ensure access to quality health care, affordable housing and access to education for all citizens (Bangladesh);
- 55.196 Strengthen cooperation to implement the national strategic plan to eliminate AIDS by 2030 (Iraq);
- 55.197 Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation to implement the National Strategic Plan on Ending Aids by 2030 (South Africa);
- 55.198 Take further measures to strengthen universal health care through the National Nutrition Policy of Malaysia and the National Agenda for a Healthy Malaysia (Sri Lanka);
- 55.199 Continue efforts to improve the quality and inclusiveness of education for all, without exception (Algeria);
- 55.200 Take concrete measures to ensure access to free and inclusive education for all children (Greece);
- 55.201 Redouble efforts to ensure universal access to education, including for migrant workers' families (Indonesia);
- 55.202 Increase investment in support for low-income students and improve access to education in rural areas (Qatar);

- 55.203 Seek technical assistance from development partners in order to continue efforts to improve education, in particular for children living in rural areas (Samoa);
- 55.204 Take measures to ensure access to free primary education and health-care services for all children, including non-Malaysian and undocumented children (Ukraine);
- 55.205 Allocate additional resources to the Government's Special Education Needs Programme for underprivileged and disadvantaged groups (Sri Lanka);
- 55.206 Guarantee to all persons the right to participate in cultural and religious practices, and enjoy cultural life without discrimination (India);
- 55.207 Take into consideration the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities in climate change strategies (Timor-Leste);
- 55.208 Take into account the rights of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in climate change adaptation strategies (Viet Nam);
- 55.209 Take into account the rights of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in climate change strategies (United Arab Emirates);
- 55.210 Incorporate the rights of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities into climate change strategies (Russian Federation);
- 55.211 Continue to promote economic and social development, coordinating development in rural and urban areas (China);
- 55.212 Continue to promote economic and social rights (Egypt);
- 55.213 Take measures towards achieving further progress in Sustainable Development Goals by allocating additional resources to the National Sustainable Development Goal Centre established in 2022 (Sri Lanka);
- 55.214 Strengthen its implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including by expediting the conclusion of its first business and human rights national action plan (Thailand);
- 55.215 Foster corporate social responsibility, collaborating with Internet service providers and telecommunication companies in order to strengthen the safety of children online and prevent child sexual exploitation and cybercrime (Panama);
- 55.216 Continue to protect and promote women's rights through a gender equality bill and enshrine a clear and workable definition of "discrimination" in law (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 55.217 Enact a gender equality act in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the general recommendations of the Committee (Iceland);
- 55.218 Adopt comprehensive legislation on gender equality (Malawi);
- 55.219 Continue to improve gender equality legislation with a view to reducing inequalities between men and women (Albania);
- 55.220 Continue to advance gender equality, including the participation of women in the executive and legislature (South Africa);
- 55.221 Continue its commendable efforts to empower women in all spheres of life, including by continuing its measures to improve women's employment (Türkiye);
- 55.222 Continue enhancing women's integration across all sectors to achieve the Government's target of at least 30 per cent women's participation in leadership and decision-making (Bahamas);

- 55.223 Continue to take initiatives to advance women's rights, in particular to increase women's participation in leadership and decision-making (Bulgaria);
- 55.224 Continue its efforts to further advance women's empowerment in all sectors (Cambodia);
- 55.225 Continue taking active measures aimed at improving gender equality in employment (Mauritius);
- 55.226 Continue to take effective measures aimed at improving gender equality in employment (Saudi Arabia);
- 55.227 Continue taking effective measures aimed at improving gender equality in employment (Kuwait);
- 55.228 Continue taking active measures aimed at improving gender equality in employment (Pakistan);
- 55.229 Develop a comprehensive gender equality policy and plan of action, with a view to advance women's rights and empowerment, and address gender discrimination (Samoa);
- 55.230 Continue its commendable efforts in taking various initiatives on the advancement of children and women's rights (State of Palestine);
- 55.231 Continue efforts to protect women's rights (Sudan);
- 55.232 Continue efforts aimed at eliminating violence against women (United Arab Emirates);
- 55.233 Continue efforts to combat violence against women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 55.234 Continue efforts to effectively prevent violence against women (Viet Nam);
- 55.235 Strengthen measures to prevent violence against women in accordance with the national legal framework and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cameroon);
- 55.236 Adopt concrete procedures to combat sexual and gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence, and increase the establishment of shelters (Israel);
- 55.237 Develop protection and support measures for victims of domestic violence (Burkina Faso);
- 55.238 Strengthen measures to eliminate domestic violence (Lesotho);
- 55.239 Eliminate all forms of violence against women and children, including by criminalizing female genital mutilation, and intensifying efforts to eradicate child, early and forced marriage (Italy);
- 55.240 Intensify efforts to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation and child and forced marriage (Paraguay);
- 55.241 Prohibit by law all forms of female genital mutilation and abrogate the fatwa on female genital mutilation issued by the Malaysian National Council of Islamic Religious Affairs in 2009 (Croatia);
- 55.242 Uphold women and girls' rights by implementing effective legislation that prohibits all forms of female genital mutilation and abrogate the fatwa on female genital mutilation, as well as by granting them access to sexual and reproductive health information and services (Romania);
- 55.243 Review the standard operating procedures of government agencies and the police in dealing with complaints of online gender-based violence in

order to ensure that they are timely, fully victim-centred and action-oriented (Panama);

55.244 Establish reception and accommodation structures for victims of domestic violence (Madagascar);

55.245 Provide adequate assistance, including shelters, for survivors of domestic violence (Liechtenstein);

55.246 Take further measures to protect social rights and continue efforts to effectively prevent violence against women (Tajikistan);

55.247 Strengthen the promotion and protection of women's rights through the implementation of additional measures to combat violence against women (Djibouti);

55.248 Take immediate measures to detect, investigate, prosecute and sanction the crimes of the sale and sexual exploitation of children (Greece);

55.249 Strengthen the efforts to detect, investigate, prosecute and sanction the crimes of the sale and sexual exploitation of children (Slovenia);

55.250 Continue its efforts aiming at protecting children's rights, especially against sexual abuse and exploitation (Lebanon);

55.251 Adopt and implement comprehensive and unified national legislation aiming at preventing and eradicating the practice of child marriage and the sexual exploitation of children (Romania);

55.252 Build on efforts such as the multi-stakeholder committee to prevent and address cyberbullying and sexual crimes against children (Bahamas);

55.253 Consider further measures to address cyberbullying, hate speech and other acts of discrimination and violence against children in the digital space (Lithuania);

55.254 Enhance enforcement of legislation aimed at upholding the rights of the child, including the right to education, health and to acquire a nationality (Philippines);

55.255 Strengthen the protection of all children in Malaysia, without distinction, and enshrine the right to education in law (Luxembourg);

55.256 Undertake comprehensive reform to harmonize the civil, customary and sharia legal systems on children's rights (Mexico);

55.257 Take further steps to strengthen domestic legislation to protect children's rights, especially by further improving access to education and combating sexual exploitation of children both online and offline (Japan);

55.258 Continue working so as to conclude its comprehensive and cross-sectoral National Policy and Plan of Action on Children (Türkiye);

55.259 Consider developing its comprehensive National Policy and Plan of Action on Children to ensure the protection and promotion of children's rights (Bulgaria);

55.260 Provide the necessary assistance to the Office of the Children's Commissioner so that it can continue its mandate and benefit from the best practices in this field (Bahrain);

55.261 Continue efforts to address the problems of children in rural areas within the framework of the effective implementation of the National Nutrition Plan in Malaysia for the years 2016–2025 (Sudan);

55.262 Take the necessary measures to adopt the bill on older persons (Syrian Arab Republic);

- 55.263 Continue to take the necessary measures, including through the enactment of laws and implementation of national plans, to ensure the protection and well-being of older persons (Bangladesh);
- 55.264 Continue with initiatives to improve the well-being of older persons (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 55.265 Continue efforts to improve care provided for elderly persons and persons with disabilities (Yemen);
- 55.266 Continue protecting the rights of older persons to further raise their sense of fulfilment, happiness and security (China);
- 55.267 Continue the efforts to protect the rights of older persons (Cuba); (Kyrgyzstan);
- 55.268 Enhance efforts in protecting the rights of older persons (Nigeria);
- 55.269 Continue efforts to promote the rights and meet the needs of older persons (Dominican Republic);
- 55.270 Strengthen the care provided to the elderly (Iraq);
- 55.271 Strengthen the availability and accessibility of palliative care for older persons (Kazakhstan);
- 55.272 Enhance the availability and accessibility of palliative care for older people (Kuwait);
- 55.273 Continue efforts towards the sustainability of seniors' activity centres and their activities (Libya);
- 55.274 Continue efforts towards the sustainability of activity centres for older persons and their activities (Saudi Arabia);
- 55.275 Redouble efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in the areas of education and employment, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ecuador);
- 55.276 Continue improving the social security system and caring services for persons with disabilities to promote the comprehensive development of this sector (China);
- 55.277 Continue to work for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including accessibility, particularly in the areas of employment, education and housing (Dominican Republic);
- 55.278 Work further for promotion and protection of rights of persons with disabilities, including accessibility in employment, education and housing (India);
- 55.279 Continue to strengthen approved social protection programmes for persons with disabilities (Libya);
- 55.280 Continue to strengthen social protection programmes for persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);
- 55.281 Continue efforts aimed at improving the access of persons with disabilities to education, vocational training and health care (Somalia);
- 55.282 Bolster the National Council for Persons with Disabilities by enhancing awareness-raising programmes on the rights of persons with disabilities (South Africa);
- 55.283 Allocate more funds for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including accessibility, in particular in the areas of employment, education, and housing (Maldives);
- 55.284 Conduct an evaluation of existing programmes, such as the 2 Years Exit Programme and OKU Talent Enhancement Programme to assess their

effectiveness in improving employment and accessibility for persons with disabilities (Bahamas);

55.285 Continue the fight for the strengthening and promotion of the well-being of older persons and persons with disabilities (Cameroon);

55.286 Continue to improve the services provided to the elderly and persons with disabilities (Jordan);

55.287 Enhance legal and policy frameworks to continue protecting the rights of Indigenous groups (Uzbekistan);

55.288 Protect and uphold the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular their rights to land and resources, as well as the protection of their cultural heritage (Norway);

55.289 Adopt measures to protect and respect the identity and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples (Paraguay);

55.290 Continue to take steps to protect and promote the rights of Indigenous communities (Russian Federation);

55.291 Implement public policies to preserve Indigenous Peoples' cultural identity, to fulfil their human rights and to ensure proper access to basic needs (Brazil);

55.292 Continue its work to address inequalities that disproportionately affect Indigenous Peoples, especially in the areas of health, well-being and education, and continue efforts to preserve Indigenous cultural identities (New Zealand);

55.293 Apply the principle of free, prior and informed consent to issues related to the lands and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples (Colombia);

55.294 Build on existing efforts to improve access to quality health care and education for Indigenous communities (Maldives);

55.295 Better protect the land rights of Indigenous Peoples by integrating and applying the principle of free, prior and informed consent in matters concerning the lands and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples (Luxembourg);

55.296 Enhance the protection of minority rights, including those of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic and religious minorities, ensuring equal opportunities and preserving cultural heritage (Gambia);

55.297 Work on equal education and employment opportunities for ethnic and religious minorities in public and private spheres (India);

55.298 Take concrete steps to eliminate extremist ideologies that promote and condone violence and discrimination and propagate hate speech against religious and ethnic minorities (India);

55.299 Pursue efforts aiming at ensuring the inclusion and respect of rights of all religious communities in a spirit of peaceful coexistence (Lebanon);

55.300 Repeal or amend laws and policies that discriminate against persons based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (United States of America);

55.301 Repeal all laws, regulations and measures that criminalize or discriminate against persons based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (Finland);

55.302 Repeal all legislation that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Germany);

55.303 Repeal all laws, regulations and measures that criminalize or discriminate against persons of diverse sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics (Iceland);

- 55.304 **Repeal sections 377A–C of the Penal Code that criminalize same-sex relations in order to guarantee and protect the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons (Ireland);**
- 55.305 **Repeal all laws that directly and indirectly criminalize same-sex sexual activities (Israel);**
- 55.306 **Eliminate legal provisions that criminalize persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and eliminate conversion or rehabilitation practices (Mexico);**
- 55.307 **Repeal laws that criminalize or discriminate against LGTBI persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);**
- 55.308 **Repeal laws that discriminate and penalize based on sexual orientation or gender identity and expression (Argentina);**
- 55.309 **Decriminalize homosexuality (France);**
- 55.310 **Repeal laws that directly or indirectly criminalize same-sex sexual relations (Luxembourg);**
- 55.311 **Take steps to tackle discrimination against LGBT individuals, including by supporting the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Standards of Conduct for Business (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 55.312 **Take effective measures to end hostility and intolerance on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity as recommended by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (Cyprus);**
- 55.313 **Take immediate and effective measures to end hostility and intolerance on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and provide meaningful protection to LGBTI persons against all forms of stigmatization, violence and discrimination (Montenegro);**
- 55.314 **Take steps to eliminate legislation and policies that discriminate based on sexual orientation, gender non-conformity and/or criminalize same-sex relations (New Zealand);**
- 55.315 **Ban conversion therapies, including *mukhayyam* rehabilitation programmes (Iceland);**
- 55.316 **End all forms of censorship of material on sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics, both online and offline (Iceland);**
- 55.317 **Observe the international principle of non-refoulement and provide protection to migrants and refugees (Afghanistan);**
- 55.318 **Continue to provide protection to migrant workers by ensuring an efficient recruitment system and access to legal remedies (Bangladesh);**
- 55.319 **Commit to creating conditions for access to basic public services and employment for vulnerable groups of the population, in particular, Indigenous groups and migrants (Cabo Verde);**
- 55.320 **Continue implementing its national acts and policies to ensure the safety, and to promote the welfare, of migrant workers (Cambodia);**
- 55.321 **Improve labour protection measures, including for domestic and migrant workers (Ecuador);**
- 55.322 **Improve the rights and conditions of migrants and refugees, providing them with access to legal protections, basic services and humanitarian assistance (Gambia);**

- 55.323 Promote a comprehensive approach to advance basic rights, welfare and livelihoods of migrant workers and their families, including undocumented migrant workers and those in detention centres (Indonesia);
- 55.324 Step up efforts to enhance migrant workers' access to justice (Nepal);
- 55.325 Effectively adopt the decent work principle and strengthen ethical recruitment practices for migrant workers (Nepal);
- 55.326 Enhance capacity-building efforts for more robust management of irregular migrants in line with national policies and laws (Pakistan);
- 55.327 Step up efforts in protecting the rights of all migrant workers, including by ensuring due process, as well as better and timely access to justice (Thailand);
- 55.328 Develop a legal and policy framework for the recognition and protection of all refugees, asylum-seekers, and undocumented migrants that includes upholding their human rights, including rights to education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and freedom from forced labour (Canada);
- 55.329 Develop a comprehensive legal and policy framework for the recognition and protection of all refugees and asylum-seekers that includes the right to seek asylum, legal status and basic rights, such as work, education and health care within the next three years (Germany);
- 55.330 Implement a comprehensive refugee management framework, including health services, education and the right to work (Finland);
- 55.331 Adopt measures to comply with international refugee and migrant law and put an end to discriminatory acts towards these people, while taking measures to guarantee the principle of non-refoulement (Argentina);
- 55.332 Respect the principle of non-refoulement and guarantee the safety of asylum-seekers (Sweden);
- 55.333 Guarantee universal access to affordable health services for vulnerable groups, such as refugees and stateless persons, including by eliminating prohibitive fees (Costa Rica);
- 55.334 End the arbitrary arrest, detention and refoulement of child refugees and their families (Ireland);
- 55.335 Ensure refugees' access to suitable education and health care and the access of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to immigration detention centres (Ireland);
- 55.336 Increase its efforts in supporting the Palestinian refugees in Malaysia, in particular in the fields of education and health care (State of Palestine);
- 55.337 Continue efforts to prevent and end statelessness, including the amendment of regulations that prevent women from conferring citizenship on their children on an equal basis with men (Uruguay);
- 55.338 Address challenges in terms of access to birth registration procedures and birth certificates for all children to reduce statelessness (Thailand);
- 55.339 Adopt measures to prevent children from becoming stateless and guarantee universal access to free primary education, regardless of citizenship and migratory status (Colombia);
- 55.340 Urgently develop a comprehensive framework of rights for stateless people and refugees, guaranteeing the rights to education and health for children, in accordance with relevant international conventions (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

- 55.341 **Grant citizenship to children born overseas to Malaysian mothers and non-Malaysian fathers to ensure comparable treatment to those born of Malaysian fathers and non-Malaysian mothers (United States of America);**
- 55.342 **Grant Malaysian women the same rights as men to confer citizenship on their children born abroad and halt legislative amendments that regress existing constitutional safeguards (Canada);**
- 55.343 **Amend all provisions in the Federal Constitution that deny women equal rights with respect to the transmission of their nationality to their children and foreign spouses (Belgium);**
- 55.344 **Advance gender equality, guaranteeing that Malaysian citizenship is obtained by the children of Malaysian women and foreign fathers born outside the territory (Chile);**
- 55.345 **Amend legislation with the aim of allowing women to confer nationality on their children on an equal basis with men (Slovakia);**
- 55.346 **Take concrete measures to prevent children from becoming stateless and guarantee universal access to free primary education, irrespective of their status (Ghana);**
- 55.347 **Continue taking steps to ensure access to birth registration, including in remote and rural areas (Azerbaijan);**
- 55.348 **Take into consideration recommendations to ensure that all persons, including asylum-seekers and refugees, can register the births of their children in a timely and accessible manner (Eswatini).**
56. **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 Malaysia was headed by H.E. Mr. Dato' Bala Chandran Tharman, Deputy Secretary-General (Multilateral Affairs), Department of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Dato' Nadzirah Osman, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva;
- Datu Buckland Bangik, Deputy State Secretary (Administration), Sarawak State Government;
- Mr. Mohd Azlan Razali, Undersecretary, International Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Mr. Hairuddin Abdullah, Deputy Undersecretary, Security and Public Order Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Dr. Punitha Silivarajoo, Deputy Director General, Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department;
- Dr. Noradura Hamzah, Director of Policy and Legislation Division, Office of the Chief Registrar Federal Court of Malaysia;
- Mr. Muhammad Rushdan Mohamed, Deputy Head of International Affairs Division III Office, International Affairs Division, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Mr. Ahmad Hanir Hambaly @ Arwi, Head of Unit, Constitutional and Administrative Law Unit, Civil Division, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Ms. Sharon Ho Swee Peng, Undersecretary, Human Rights and Humanitarian Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Rina Hanis Rodzli, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva;
- Datin Haryati Mohamed Razali, Deputy Director (Education Planning and Research Division), Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Celestina Aron, Deputy Director (Policy), Sabah State Economic Planning Unit;
- Ms. Nazlinda Zamani, Principal Assistant Secretary, Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Rural Development;
- Ms. Mildred Voon Hian Ya, Division Head for Social Development and Performance Management, Economic Planning Unit Sarawak, Sarawak State Government;
- Ms. Nazifah Jusoh, Principal Assistant Secretary, International Relations Division, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development;
- Ms. Nur Asiah Mohd Shariff, Principal Assistant Director, National Security Council;
- Ms. Ainul Suhaina Abdul Razak, Deputy Registrar, Policy and Legislation Division, Office of the Chief Registrar Federal Court of Malaysia;
- Dr. Harris Gani, Principal Assistant Secretary, International Division, Ministry of Human Resources;
- Mr. Mazlan Mohd Daly, Assistant Director, Planning and Research Division, Department of Orang Asli Development, Ministry of Rural Development;
- Ms. Lonie Anak Pinda, State Counsel, State Attorney General's Chambers, Sarawak State Government;
- Ms. Nurul Aishah Mohd Yunus, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva;

- Mr. Ang Cheng Liang, Assistant Secretary, Policy and Strategic Planning Division, Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development;
 - Ms. Farah Hanum Ramli, Assistant Director, Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department;
 - Ms. Kalpana Devi Rajantran, Assistant Secretary, Human Rights and Humanitarian Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Diana Corazon Blikau, Special Officer to Deputy State Secretary (Administration), Sarawak State Government;
 - Ms. Nur Atiqah Md Akim, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva; and
 - Ms. Chan Sze Zest, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva.
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