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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Congo

* 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 the Congo was held at the 14th meeting, on 30 January 2024. The delegation of the Congo was headed by the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples, Aimé Ange Wilfrid Bininga. At its 17th meeting, held on 2 February 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on the Congo.
2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Congo: Côte d'Ivoire, Luxembourg and Maldives.
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 the Congo:
 - (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 Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to the Congo 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 the Congolese delegation presented the national report and gave a detailed overview of the Government's commitment to improving the human rights situation in the country. He expressed his gratitude to the Member States that were represented at the meeting for their interest in improving the human rights situation in the Congo.
6. The importance of the universal periodic review as a vital tool for assessing progress and identifying areas requiring particular attention was highlighted. Congo had opted for a participatory approach in drawing up the national report, which had involved close collaboration with the relevant administrative entities, the parliament and human rights non-governmental organizations and demonstrated the Government's determination to ensure a transparent and inclusive process.
7. The development of the regulatory and institutional human rights framework in the Congo was highlighted, as was the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle. The persistent challenges facing the country were nevertheless recognized. Concrete examples of legislative measures adopted were presented, illustrating the Government's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.
8. Efforts to promote gender equality, protect children and persons with disabilities and improve the health and education systems were also highlighted.

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/45/COG/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/45/COG/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/45/COG/3](#).

9. The new National Development Plan 2022–2026 had been launched. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Plan served as an operational framework for all national policies and strategies related to childhood. In addition, the revised National Policy for Social Action was contributing to the strengthening of the national child protection system. In addition, with the technical and financial support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government had taken action to protect and assist refugee and asylum-seeking children. To this end, it had adopted the National Policy for Integrated Early Childhood Development 2022–2030, the National Strategy for Girls’ Enrolment and the Sectoral Education Strategy 2021–2030.

10. The head of the delegation acknowledged the persistent human rights challenges facing the Congo, particularly in terms of access to justice, prison conditions and the protection of vulnerable groups. He stressed the importance of multifaceted support from the international community to enable the Congo to meet these challenges and further strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights.

11. Lastly, the head of the delegation reaffirmed the firm commitment of the Congo to cooperating with the international community to ensure respect for human rights in the country.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 93 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

13. The United States of America congratulated the Congo on its efforts to advance women’s rights and combat gender-based violence by passing the Mouebarara Act but remained concerned by discrimination against women, human trafficking, excessive use of pretrial detention, and deaths in detention.

14. Uruguay welcomed the enactment of the Mouebarara Act on combating violence against women.

15. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed measures against gender-based discrimination and criminalizing marital abuse and human trafficking, as well as the National Development Plan 2022–2026.

16. Viet Nam welcomed the adoption of the National Development Plan 2022–2026, and improvements in the health-care sector.

17. Zambia commended the measures adopted to improve the human rights situation.

18. Algeria welcomed the ratification of several international instruments, and legislative reforms strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights.

19. Angola welcomed efforts to promote decent work, to reduce statelessness, to humanize conditions of detention and to establish the High Authority to Combat Corruption.

20. Argentina welcomed the ratification of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

21. Armenia welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

22. Australia welcomed the Mouebarara Act and the moratorium on the death penalty. It remained concerned by limits on freedom of expression and by human trafficking.

23. Belgium welcomed the Mouebarara Act on combating violence against women but remained concerned about discrimination against women and girls.

24. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed legislative measures to combat violence against women and trafficking in persons, and the National Action Plan to Improve the Quality of Life of Indigenous Peoples 2022–2025.

25. Botswana welcomed measures protecting vulnerable children from discrimination, the High Authority to Combat Corruption, and the National Development Plan 2022–2026.

26. Brazil welcomed measures promoting education, and the Mouebarara Act. It encouraged the Congo to revise the legal minimum age of marriage.
27. Bulgaria appreciated the adoption of the Mouebarara Act and of laws against child labour and exploitation.
28. Burkina Faso welcomed legal advancements: in combating human trafficking, in 2019; on asylum rights, in 2021; and in combating violence against women, in 2022.
29. Burundi praised the Mouebarara Act on combating violence against women and endorsed initiatives for children's rights and for persons with disabilities.
30. Cabo Verde commended the Congo for the implementation of the third cycle universal periodic review recommendations and the ratification of international human rights instruments.
31. Cameroon commended the commitment by the Congo to strengthen human rights governance and to consolidate democracy, notably through the protection of rights and freedoms and through initiatives to accelerate modernization.
32. Canada emphasized efforts undertaken by the Congo to prevent violence against women and girls.
33. Chad welcomed measures taken by the Congo to eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination and to combat maternal and infant mortality.
34. Chile commended the Congo for legally incorporating international prison standards and urged further enhancement of detainees' fundamental rights.
35. China acknowledged the efforts of the Congo to promote sustainable socioeconomic development, citing its National Development Plan 2022–2026 and national legislation to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, Indigenous Peoples and persons with disabilities.
36. Colombia acknowledged the progress by the Congo in ratifying several international human rights treaties, as outlined in its national report.
37. Costa Rica commended the National Human Rights Commission's efforts, and new legislation focusing on children's and detainees' rights, and on combating violence.
38. Côte d'Ivoire commended the Congo for passing laws to protect human rights, notably the Mouebarara Act to combat violence against women and the 2019 anti-trafficking law.
39. Cuba acknowledged the achievements by the Congo in implementing accepted recommendations and commended its commitment to the universal periodic review process.
40. The Democratic Republic of the Congo praised the Congo for prioritizing human rights protection through legal reforms and encouraged the acceleration of several child protection measures.
41. Djibouti commended the inclusive approach of the Congo to report drafting and its commitment to human rights, highlighting the ratification of two conventions and ongoing legal reforms.
42. The Dominican Republic congratulated the Congo on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
43. Ecuador highlighted the adoption of the National Action Plan to Improve the Quality of Life of Indigenous Peoples for the period 2022–2025.
44. Egypt commended the efforts of the Congo in strengthening human rights, gender equality and the protection of vulnerable groups, and valued its engagement with international human rights mechanisms.
45. Estonia welcomed the human rights efforts of the Congo and urged the implementation of its 2022–2026 health plan to ensure women's access to reproductive and maternal health services.

46. Ethiopia thanked the Congo for its comprehensive report and commended the implementation of recommendations received during previous universal periodic review cycles.
47. Finland highlighted the 2022 law to combat violence against women as an important step towards increased accountability for sexual and gender-based violence.
48. France congratulated the Congo on the 2022 law to combat gender-based violence and encouraged further efforts to implement accepted universal periodic review recommendations.
49. Gabon welcomed the legal and administrative reforms aimed at promoting the reduction of all forms of domestic violence and gender-based discrimination.
50. The Gambia commended the commitment of the Congo to climate action, including efforts to reduce emissions, protect coastlines and engage in global climate initiatives.
51. Georgia commended measures taken to modernize the national police force as an important step aimed at strengthening human rights.
52. Germany commended the Congo for recent legal reforms, while being concerned by serious deficits in translating these into action.
53. Ghana commended the efforts by the Congo for the elimination of violence against women, the protection and promotion of gender equality, and children's rights.
54. Honduras highlighted the efforts of the Congo in complying with the universal periodic review recommendations, particularly in relation to the ratification of multiple international instruments.
55. India welcomed laws for the protection of personal data and for combating violence against women, cybercrime, corruption and trafficking in persons.
56. Indonesia noted the committed efforts and legislative steps by the Congo to promote gender equity and equality and to eliminate violence against women.
57. Iraq expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Congo within the framework of promoting human rights since the last universal periodic review.
58. Ireland was concerned by reports of shrinking civil society space and by allegations of torture and ill-treatment.
59. Italy welcomed the adoption of the Mouebarara Act and Act No. 22 on combating trafficking in persons.
60. Jordan thanked the Congo for the measures taken for the promotion of human rights, such as the laws related to violence against refugee women.
61. The Congolese delegation highlighted the significant progress made in women's rights and the promotion of equality in the country.
62. The importance of ratified legal instruments to protect women's rights was highlighted, in particular the Mouebarara Act (Act No. 19-2022) on combating violence against women, which had been adopted in 2022 and criminalized all forms of violence against women. The Act has received international recognition in the form of the Positive Masculinity Prize awarded by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, and in remarks by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security .
63. Measures taken to implement these laws were then presented, including training for justice and police professionals, awareness-raising about violence against women and the creation of a call centre for victims. Specific initiatives had also been taken to improve school enrolment rates among girls and promote women's participation in political and economic life.
64. With regard to the informal economy, progress had been made in the form of the adoption of a new national policy and the creation of a dedicated national agency. Fiscal

measures had been planned to support workers in the informal sector and facilitate their transition to the formal economy.

65. The innovations set out in the Mouebara Act were also highlighted, particularly with regard to protection for young girls who were victims of violence and for widows in matters of inheritance.

66. Despite these advances, there was still much to be done, in particular to build the Mouebara Centre for the reception and rehabilitation of women and girls who were victims of violence. The delegation called for contributions and partnerships to support this initiative and enable the Congo to make further progress in promoting women's rights.

67. Several aspects of the international commitments of the Congo were presented, as were a range of measures taken in the fields of human rights, justice, gender equality and social protection.

68. With regard to international commitments, the Congo had ratified several international legal instruments, including the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The ratification process was under way for other instruments, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, for which the deposit of the instrument of ratification was in progress; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189); the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190); and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

69. While there were legal provisions prohibiting all forms of discrimination based on gender, there was no specific provision allowing same-sex marriage. The Congolese Constitution and laws prohibited torture and inhuman treatment, and the country had undertaken to submit reports to the treaty bodies.

70. Laws and decrees had been passed to protect Indigenous populations and guarantee their access to education, health, property and work and to protect their culture.

71. The National Human Rights Commission had constitutional status, thereby guaranteeing its independence and autonomy, and a budget for its work.

72. Policies and strategies had been adopted to promote education given the literacy rate, which was estimated at 82.5 per cent, and to improve access to health care, including through the introduction of measures to combat HIV and reduce maternal and infant mortality.

73. With regard to the fight against corruption and impunity, bodies had been set up to combat corruption, misappropriation of public funds and fraud, with tangible results including convictions handed down by Congolese courts, for example against the perpetrators of acts of torture in the Chacona police station case. Police officers and gendarmes involved in several cases of torture and ill-treatment resulting in death had been tried more recently. On 5 July 2023, the Supreme Court had imposed heavy sentences on the former Mayor of Loandjili, the President of the Loandjili District Court and the Director of the Loandjili Mayor's Office.

74. Specific measures had been taken to promote gender equality and integrate persons with disabilities into society, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

75. With regard to fundamental freedoms and political rights, freedom of association, assembly and expression were guaranteed by the Constitution, and there was no repression of political opponents or the media.

76. Action was being taken to combat trafficking in persons, including providing training for those involved in the criminal justice system and setting up mechanisms to receive and reintegrate victims.

77. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme was under way in the Department of Pool to promote the social and economic reintegration of former combatants

and the development of communities in the region. As part of the implementation of the Kinkala Agreement signed on 23 December 2017, and with technical and financial support from the United Nations, the United States of America and Japan, the Congo had put in place a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for 20,000 beneficiaries, including 7,500 former combatants, 2,500 associates of armed groups and 10,000 members of host communities.

78. Lastly, the Congolese delegation reiterated the Government's ongoing commitment to respecting human rights and pursuing reforms aimed at improving the social and legal situation in the country.

79. Kenya commended the positive efforts and equally urged the Congo to continue its cooperation and dialogue with civil society organizations on human rights.

80. Kyrgyzstan appreciated the efforts of the Congo in implementing the accepted universal periodic review recommendations from the third cycle.

81. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended the commitments of the Congo to promoting and protecting human rights by ratifying a number of international human rights instruments.

82. Lesotho welcomed the strides taken to eliminate gender-based discrimination through the enactment of laws and public education.

83. Lithuania welcomed positive developments but expressed concern about intimidation and violence faced by human rights defenders, journalists, and other media workers.

84. Luxembourg thanked the Congo for the presentation of its national report and the efforts made to implement the universal periodic review recommendations from the third cycle.

85. Malaysia welcomed the national health policy of the Congo, which sought to improve the quality of health services by providing health centres with appropriate resources.

86. Maldives welcomed the revision of the national policy for social action contributing to the strengthening of the national child protection system and the measures taken to integrate students with disabilities in the formal education system.

87. Mali welcomed the implementation of the National Development Plan 2022–2026 which integrated the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

88. Mauritania commended the engagement by the Congo in a comprehensive reform process in the areas of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

89. Mauritius welcomed the initiatives of the Congo for the promotion and protection of human rights.

90. Mexico appreciated the approval in 2022 of the Mouebara Act on preventing and combating violence against women.

91. Montenegro called upon the Congo to continue with efforts improving the overall socioeconomic position of women in society.

92. Morocco welcomed the commitment by the Congo to promote human rights through the ratification of a number of conventions and the harmonization of national and international provisions.

93. Mozambique commended the Congo for the progress achieved since the last universal periodic review process, particularly the ratification of several international instruments.

94. Nepal took positive note of the "Police +" programme aimed at preventing torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

95. The Kingdom of the Netherlands was concerned about the reported cases of torture and inhumane living conditions in prisons.

96. The Niger noted the progress made in the protection of human rights, particularly those of women and children.

97. Nigeria took positive note of the cooperation by the Congo with the human rights mechanisms and the ratification of international human rights instruments.
98. Pakistan noted the various measures taken by the Congo to protect human rights, including administrative, policy and legislative measures.
99. Panama thanked the delegation of the Congo for the presentation of the national report.
100. Paraguay expressed concern about the lack of proper investigation into alleged arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and torture.
101. Portugal commended the Congo for adopting its strategic plans for reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health for 2022–2026.
102. The Republic of Korea noted efforts to promote women’s rights and to improve the quality of the public health service.
103. The Russian Federation noted the active cooperation of the Congo with United Nations human rights bodies, the increased ratification of international human rights instruments and the efforts to bring the national legislative framework into line with international human rights obligations.
104. Rwanda noted the ratification of eight international human rights instruments and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.
105. Saudi Arabia noted the adoption of legislation and policies for the promotion of human rights.
106. Senegal welcomed the enactment of legislation establishing the Mouebara Centre for the Reception and Rehabilitation of Women and Girl Victims of Violence.
107. Serbia noted measures taken to improve the regulatory framework, to eliminate gender-based discrimination and to prohibit domestic violence and trafficking in persons.
108. Sierra Leone commended the Congo for its collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous People and its accession to relevant international conventions.
109. Singapore commended the Congo for its cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its efforts in ensuring access to education for persons with disabilities.
110. Slovenia commended the Congo for ratifying relevant conventions and expressed concern over reports of unequal treatment of children.
111. South Sudan commended the Congo for the ratification of international human rights conventions and measures taken to protect vulnerable groups.
112. South Africa commended the commitment by the Congo to promoting human rights and the implementation of previous universal periodic review recommendations.
113. Spain welcomed the adoption by the Congo of laws against human trafficking and violence against women, and the adoption of a new penitentiary code.
114. The Sudan commended progress in the field of institutional reform through the adoption of a number of national plans and policies.
115. Timor-Leste praised the efforts by the Congo to promote children’s rights and to advance election transparency, police modernization, and the “Police +” programme.
116. Togo congratulated the Congo on the measures taken to improve the human rights situation, including the ratification of numerous international instruments.
117. Tunisia appreciated the progress made in implementing previous universal periodic review recommendations, and the ratification of numerous international conventions and the adoption of national plans.
118. Türkiye appreciated measures taken to train law enforcement officials, to combat discrimination against women and to improve the quality of health services and of education.

119. Uganda commended the Congo for the positive milestones put in place to ensure the promotion of human rights.

120. Ukraine commended efforts made to reinforce the legislative and institutional frameworks, but remained concerned over allegations of arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions, and torture.

121. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed steps taken to address human trafficking but remained concerned by reports of torture and gender-based violence.

122. The United Republic of Tanzania appreciated the cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and the measures taken to eliminate gender-based discrimination.

123. Iceland welcomed the delegation of the Congo and its national report and gave recommendations.

124. The head of the Congolese delegation reaffirmed the Government's commitment to implementing the National Development Plan for the period 2022–2026, which had arisen from the President's social project entitled "Together, Let's Keep Moving Forward", with the aim of accelerating the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. He also confirmed the ongoing commitment of the Congo to adhere to international legal instruments and align its domestic legal framework with international standards, including by incorporating the provisions of international human rights conventions into national law.

125. The Ornano tragedy, which had occurred in November 2023 and left many citizens dead, was also discussed. The President had taken a number of actions, including meeting the bereaved families, opening administrative and judicial inquiries and suspending military officials. Respect for the constitutional status of the leader of the opposition was also emphasized.

126. With regard to cooperation with civil society and the European Union, the Government had set up regular discussion forums on human rights issues.

127. Lastly, the head of the delegation announced that 2024 had been designated as the "Year of Youth" in his country. The Congo undertook to implement the recommendations accepted following the universal periodic review and to maintain interministerial follow-up mechanisms for reports submitted to the treaty bodies.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

128.1 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and deposit the ratification instruments of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

128.2 **Ratify all human rights treaties to which the Congo is not yet a party, in particular the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and endorse the Safe Schools Declaration (Argentina);**

128.3 **Continue its efforts to complete the process already under way for the ratification of other human rights instruments, namely the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);**

128.4 **Advance in the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Colombia);**

128.5 **Accelerate the process of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Niger);**

- 128.6 **Finalize the ratification process of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**
- 128.7 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia) (Côte d'Ivoire) (Ecuador) (Finland) (France) (Mexico) (Paraguay) (Sierra Leone) (Ukraine);**
- 128.8 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, as previously recommended (Armenia);**
- 128.9 **Accelerate the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger);**
- 128.10 **Initiate the procedure to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chad);**
- 128.11 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Finland);**
- 128.12 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ghana);**
- 128.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, by depositing the ratification instruments (France);**
- 128.14 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**
- 128.15 **Take further steps to accelerate the national process towards ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and ensuring its implementation (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 128.16 **Continue its process of ratifying international agreements, notably the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), as well as the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in West and Central Africa (Burkina Faso);**
- 128.17 **Continue advancing international human rights instruments as well as domestic legislation (Georgia);**
- 128.18 **Strengthen cooperation with international bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights (Saudi Arabia);**
- 128.19 **Extend an open and standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Finland);**
- 128.20 **Continue to seek international cooperation and assistance in developing and implementing effective training programmes focusing on human rights, the rule of law, and the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment (Indonesia);**
- 128.21 **Work to increase training for public officials and civil society actors on using international and regional mechanisms to protect human rights, enforce the law, and protect human rights (Jordan);**
- 128.22 **Intensify efforts to mobilize resources and galvanize international support to enhance its capacity to promote and protect human rights (Nigeria);**
- 128.23 **Continue its efforts to harmonize its national legislation with international human rights standards (Algeria);**
- 128.24 **Continue its efforts to improve national legislation in the field of human rights (Russian Federation);**
- 128.25 **Continue strengthening institutional and legal frameworks to promote and protect human rights (Ethiopia);**

- 128.26 Continue strengthening its legislation and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Dominican Republic);
- 128.27 Continue to strengthen its legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights (Nigeria);
- 128.28 Strengthen the legislative and legal protection of human rights defenders through the adoption of a law on the promotion and protection of defenders and ensure its full implementation through an effective protection mechanism (Belgium);
- 128.29 Fight impunity and fully implement national legislation relating to human rights, ensuring adequate funding of the relevant national policies and institutions (Italy);
- 128.30 Consider publishing an action plan showing how it will implement its accepted universal periodic review recommendations, including those accepted during this cycle (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 128.31 Strengthen the independence, effectiveness and visibility of the national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles, and give it sufficient and necessary human and financial resources (Dominican Republic);
- 128.32 Strengthen the independence and the effectiveness of the National Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles (Kenya);
- 128.33 Continue the support provided to the National Human Rights Commission in order to further strengthen its tasks and independence (Jordan);
- 128.34 Step up efforts to ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 128.35 Align the National Human Rights Commission with the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient human and financial resources (South Sudan);
- 128.36 Consider establishing an intersectoral national mechanism for information and follow-up, with a view to monitoring the progress and impact of the universal periodic review process (Angola);
- 128.37 Continue the cooperation with OHCHR and finalize the establishment of a national mechanism for the drafting of reports and follow-up to the recommendations (Georgia);
- 128.38 Strengthen the Interministerial Committee for Monitoring Cooperation with International and Regional Human Rights Mechanisms as a national implementation, reporting and monitoring mechanism, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 128.39 Continue taking measures to combat discrimination against persons belonging to vulnerable groups (Bulgaria);
- 128.40 Enhance efforts aimed at protection and promotion of the human rights of vulnerable groups (Georgia);
- 128.41 Continue the work of promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms of socially vulnerable groups of the population, including children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly (Russian Federation);
- 128.42 Strengthen the implementation of existing laws aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities, for example by adopting monitoring mechanisms to ensure an effective implementation of these laws (Canada);
- 128.43 Scale up efforts in the implementation and enforcement of measures to protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Nigeria);

- 128.44 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia) (Estonia);**
- 128.45 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, by depositing the ratification instruments (France);**
- 128.46 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**
- 128.47 **Deposit the instrument of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**
- 128.48 **Remove all references to the death penalty from the national legal framework and expedite the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);**
- 128.49 **Delete any reference to the death penalty in the Congolese legal framework and deposit the instruments of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 128.50 **Include a definition of torture in its Criminal Code and take effective measures to prevent the use of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention (Portugal);**
- 128.51 **Include a definition of torture in the criminal code which fully incorporates article 1 of the Convention against Torture (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 128.52 **Conclude the reform process of the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, integrating torture as an autonomous and imprescriptible crime, in line with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**
- 128.53 **Amend the Penal Code to fully align the criminalization of torture with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ecuador);**
- 128.54 **Criminalize torture as an autonomous crime in the Penal Code, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mexico);**
- 128.55 **Revise the penal code to punish the crime of torture in accordance with the provisions of the Convention against Torture, and impartially investigate and prosecute all cases of allegations of torture (Spain);**
- 128.56 **Include in the Penal Code a definition of torture as an imprescriptible crime and allow victims to access complaint mechanisms and remedies (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 128.57 **Conclude the penal reform process, incorporating torture and enforced disappearance as autonomous and imprescriptible crimes, and ensure their appropriate investigation and punishment (Paraguay);**
- 128.58 **Take concrete action to ensure compliance with international standards on the prevention of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment (Sierra Leone);**
- 128.59 **Swiftly designate an effective national preventive mechanism to uphold the commitment to human rights and the prevention of torture (Armenia);**
- 128.60 **Improve living conditions in detention and limit prison overcrowding by prioritizing alternatives to detention and speeding up the construction and rehabilitation of prisons (Luxembourg);**

- 128.61 **Ensure the full elimination of the use of torture, particularly in prison environments, and the improvement of detention conditions in accordance with international standards both in terms of infrastructures and respect for procedures and the rights of detainees (Belgium);**
- 128.62 **Strengthen efforts to prevent arbitrary detentions and torture and to improve the condition of detainees (Italy);**
- 128.63 **Ensure that security forces refrain from imprisoning detainees for longer than the 72-hour limit stipulated in the Criminal Code of Procedure and grant human rights monitors access to detention centres and improve the conditions of detention in prisons (Germany);**
- 128.64 **Address the occurrence of deaths in detention by investigating allegations of abuse and torture of detainees by security forces and improving detention conditions (United States of America);**
- 128.65 **Beef up measures to prohibit all forms of torture by security personnel and ensure that victims of torture and ill-treatment receive compensation (Lesotho);**
- 128.66 **Ensure that any acts of torture and ill-treatment committed by police and security and defence forces are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are held to account (Ireland);**
- 128.67 **Enhance measures to combat impunity for law enforcement officials, ensuring thorough investigations into allegations of torture and ill-treatment (Republic of Korea);**
- 128.68 **Investigate fully the events in the Stade Michel d'Ornano during the night of 20 November 2023 in Brazzaville and take adequate precautions to prevent similar tragedies in the future (Germany);**
- 128.69 **Continue efforts to reintegrate former combatants into society (Sudan);**
- 128.70 **Continue to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other international partners to enhance its ability to combat cross-border crime, including drug trafficking (Singapore);**
- 128.71 **Continue implementing measures aimed at strengthening good governance and improving the quality of public services (Angola);**
- 128.72 **Continue efforts to fight corruption (Morocco);**
- 128.73 **Promote the strengthening of the judicial system, through a single independent and unified legal system throughout its territory, which guarantees greater geographic reach and access for all people (Costa Rica);**
- 128.74 **Continue to develop the court system with the aim of establishing a single, unified legal system throughout its territory (South Sudan);**
- 128.75 **Continue work on the development of the judicial system in order to create a regional court in each region and begin the reform process with the goal of creating a single unified structure throughout the country (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 128.76 **Adopt concrete measures to strengthen the independence of the judiciary, free from corruption and from interference from the executive, ensuring that all have access to a fair trial, within a reasonable time, and thus combat impunity (Canada);**
- 128.77 **Continue efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Egypt);**
- 128.78 **Work to strengthen the independence of the judicial system (Burkina Faso);**

- 128.79 Continue efforts to guarantee the independence of the judiciary by allocating additional financial and human resources in order to ensure its proper and effective functioning (Lesotho);
- 128.80 Continue to implement measures to strengthen the justice system, including access to justice for victims of past human rights violations in line with the right to truth and memory (Honduras);
- 128.81 Take measures to objectively and thoroughly investigate all allegations of human rights violations committed by law enforcement officials (Lithuania);
- 128.82 Take the necessary measures to ensure that alleged perpetrators of human rights violations committed as members of the security forces or law enforcement are brought to justice in full transparency (Canada);
- 128.83 Intensify efforts to investigate all credible allegations of human rights abuses and violations, to convict perpetrators and to ensure reparations for victims (Ukraine);
- 128.84 Ensure access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence (Iceland);
- 128.85 Train judges and law enforcement agencies in human rights, mainly child rights, and to adequately address cases of gender-based violence (Mexico);
- 128.86 Protect the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, including by ceasing State harassment of journalists (Australia);
- 128.87 Step up its efforts to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including media freedom and the safety of journalists (Republic of Korea);
- 128.88 Respect article 27 of its Constitution of 25 October 2015, which recognizes and guarantees the freedoms of association, assembly, procession and demonstration (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 128.89 Guarantee the enjoyment of the rights of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in line with international standards (Italy);
- 128.90 Keep following consistently its Constitution, providing freedom of speech and the press (Slovenia);
- 128.91 Adopt measures to ensure a safe civic space for civil society organizations, so that they can carry out their activities without facing intimidation, reprisals or harassment (Canada);
- 128.92 Take all necessary measures to promote and protect a safe and enabling environment to ensure that civil society and human rights defenders can operate free from fear, hindrance and insecurity (Ireland);
- 128.93 Consider adopting a law for the protection of human rights defenders (Italy);
- 128.94 Design and adopt a public policy for the protection of human rights defenders, in line with the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (Colombia);
- 128.95 Develop measures to ensure the safety of journalists and media workers and accountability for crimes against them (Lithuania);
- 128.96 Abolish the regime of prior authorization for peaceful demonstrations, and guarantee the independence and impartiality of the High Council for Freedom of Communication (Spain);
- 128.97 Revise the minimum age for marriage from 16 to 18 and repeal the exception that allows marriages for children below the age of 16 with the consent of a judge (Zambia);
- 128.98 Revise the legal age of marriage so that it is not possible to marry a child under the age of 16, even with a court exemption (Luxembourg);

- 128.99 **Revise the minimum age for marriage and ensure that a child under 16 can not be married, even with the approval of a judge (Montenegro);**
- 128.100 **Consider amending the law to allow Congolese women to transfer their nationality to their spouses on an equal basis with men (Timor-Leste);**
- 128.101 **Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Australia) (Dominican Republic);**
- 128.102 **Adopt a law on trafficking in persons in line with international standards and which includes confronting its root causes, the realization of thorough investigations, the prosecution of perpetrators and adequate support to victims (Brazil);**
- 128.103 **Expedite the adoption of the bill on trafficking in persons and ensure that it complies with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (South Sudan);**
- 128.104 **Continue the process of adopting the draft law on trafficking in persons (Burundi);**
- 128.105 **Continue the legal and policy fight against human trafficking to adequately address cases of trafficking and forced child labour (Uganda);**
- 128.106 **Increase efforts to combat trafficking in persons by investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking, identifying trafficking victims and referring them to care, and establishing an interministerial anti-trafficking task force (United States of America);**
- 128.107 **Intensify efforts to curb trafficking in persons (Iraq);**
- 128.108 **Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, through timely investigation and prosecution of perpetrators (Kenya);**
- 128.109 **Effectively investigate, prosecute and adequately sanction perpetrators of trafficking in persons, especially in women and girls (Montenegro);**
- 128.110 **Strengthen measures to combat all forms of trafficking of persons, especially women and children (Mozambique);**
- 128.111 **Strengthen measures to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Senegal);**
- 128.112 **Redouble efforts to eliminate human trafficking and forced labour, especially involving children; and prohibit corporal punishment of children, while ensuring inclusive access to education (Cabo Verde);**
- 128.113 **Strengthen the protection of boys and girls against all forms of exploitation, eradicating child labour and child trafficking (Chile);**
- 128.114 **Address the root causes of the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls by providing training and alternative livelihoods to women and girls and design and implement well-funded programmes to support women and girls who wish to break free from prostitution (Luxembourg);**
- 128.115 **Improve women's access to formal employment by providing trainings and capacity-building activities (Malaysia);**
- 128.116 **Continue efforts to strengthen measures related to the social protection system and access to health care (Mauritania);**
- 128.117 **Intensify efforts to expand the social safety net to cover all regions of the country (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 128.118 **Guarantee social protection plans for women, especially those who work in the informal sector (Ecuador);**

- 128.119 **Ensure the application of social protection schemes to all women, including those working in the informal sector (Gabon);**
- 128.120 **Implement and finance a programme of care, reintegration, education and vocational training for people in street situations (Costa Rica);**
- 128.121 **Continue efforts for poverty reduction and the enhancement of the living standard of the people (Ethiopia);**
- 128.122 **Continue efforts to strengthen the implementation of the national programmes and measures on poverty reduction as provided in the National Development Plan 2022–2026 (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**
- 128.123 **Strengthen institutional and policy measures, such as the Health for All Project and the Integrated Strategic Plans for Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health, in order to universalize access to quality public health care, and improve the medical-hospital infrastructure and extend its coverage throughout the country, especially in rural areas (Brazil);**
- 128.124 **Continue efforts to achieve universal health coverage and improve medical and health services (Chad);**
- 128.125 **Continue its efforts aimed at improving health infrastructures, paying particular attention to improving access to quality health care for the most vulnerable populations (Algeria);**
- 128.126 **Continue to increase investment in the health-care sector to effectively protect people’s right to health (China);**
- 128.127 **Continue efforts to guarantee access to health and education services (Dominican Republic);**
- 128.128 **Redouble efforts to improve access to medical care (Iraq);**
- 128.129 **Continue its efforts to improve the quality of health services, and its efforts to improve the education system (Serbia);**
- 128.130 **Continue developing government programmes aimed at facilitating access to health care for persons with disabilities and older adults (Cuba);**
- 128.131 **Continue its efforts within the National Development Plan to improve health infrastructure and guarantee access to quality, uninterrupted health services for all citizens (Türkiye);**
- 128.132 **Continue efforts to increase investment in the health sector towards ensuring quality health care for all (South Africa);**
- 128.133 **Strengthen the health-care system to decrease maternal and child mortality rates, including by ensuring adequate health-care facilities, addressing accessibility issues in remote areas, and improving the national vaccination programme (Indonesia);**
- 128.134 **Take the necessary steps to expand investment in the health sector, especially in rural areas (Kenya);**
- 128.135 **Continue efforts to establish universal health coverage and improve access to health care, particularly in rural areas (Côte d’Ivoire);**
- 128.136 **Improve access to health care, especially in rural areas, by strengthening infrastructure and increasing the number of trained medical personnel (Mali);**
- 128.137 **Redouble efforts to increase access to health care, in particular in rural areas (Ukraine);**
- 128.138 **Continue ongoing efforts to improve access to medical services, particularly in rural areas (Mauritius);**

- 128.139 **Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) to ensure universal availability of high-quality, affordable and safe modern contraceptives (Iceland);**
- 128.140 **Implement the commitment made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 on zero preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, by integrating a comprehensive approach to the essential sexual and reproductive health package (Panama);**
- 128.141 **Continue efforts to combat maternal and infant mortality and strengthen sexual and reproductive health services (Tunisia);**
- 128.142 **Continue efforts to improve universal access to primary health care and pregnancy care, particularly in rural areas, especially to reduce maternal and infant mortality (Djibouti);**
- 128.143 **Step up its efforts to increase access to health care, in particular to address maternal mortality and morbidity (India);**
- 128.144 **Devise necessary strategies to combat maternal mortality (Nepal);**
- 128.145 **Continue advancing in the implementation of projects to improve the health of its population, especially to reduce maternal and infant mortality (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 128.146 **Increase efforts and resources to implement reforms in the educational system that guarantee the right to free compulsory education for all boys and girls, without distinction on sex, socioeconomic or ethnic grounds, among others (Uruguay);**
- 128.147 **Continue to increase investment in education to ensure the right to education for girls, children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (China);**
- 128.148 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the right to education, in particular for women and girls, and consider the possibility of establishing a year of free and compulsory preschool education (Argentina);**
- 128.149 **Improve public policies that will allow access to education, particularly for girls (Morocco);**
- 128.150 **Increase efforts to ensure the enrolment and retention of girls in schools (Botswana);**
- 128.151 **Redouble efforts to ensure the enrolment and retention of girls in school, particularly Indigenous girls (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 128.152 **Redouble efforts to ensure girls' enrolment and retention, especially at the secondary level (Mali);**
- 128.153 **Enhance endeavours to ensure the enrolment and retention of girls in school (Timor-Leste);**
- 128.154 **Increase its efforts for the enrolment and retention of girls in schools (India);**
- 128.155 **Take additional measures to improve access to quality education for all children, including girls (Bulgaria);**
- 128.156 **Strengthen school infrastructure in rural and remote areas to guarantee girls' access to the educational system, and improve the quality of education throughout the country (Costa Rica);**
- 128.157 **Continue its efforts in providing equitable education and vocational training in rural areas through the construction of school infrastructure (Viet Nam);**

- 128.158 **Improve child rights and access to quality education, especially in rural areas (Gambia);**
- 128.159 **Improve school infrastructure, particularly in rural and remote areas, to ensure access for girls to high-quality education (Botswana);**
- 128.160 **Strengthen efforts to improve school infrastructure in rural and remote areas to ensure access for girls to high-quality education, in particular at the secondary level (Malaysia);**
- 128.161 **Take additional measures to continue efforts aimed at strengthening the right to education by ensuring children’s schooling and promoting increased access for girls to primary and secondary school (Djibouti);**
- 128.162 **Improve school structures in rural and remote areas to ensure access for girls to high-quality education (Maldives);**
- 128.163 **Undertake efforts to improve learning conditions and expand educational opportunities for all children and young people in all areas of the country (Lithuania);**
- 128.164 **Increase efforts to ensure the enrolment and retention of girls in school, in particular at the secondary level, with special attention to Indigenous girls (South Sudan);**
- 128.165 **Redouble efforts to ensure the availability of inclusive education, particularly to Indigenous children (Montenegro);**
- 128.166 **Continue efforts to enable persons with disabilities to access education and vocational training (Tunisia);**
- 128.167 **Continue to ensure inclusive education, including for children with disabilities (Türkiye);**
- 128.168 **Continue moving towards the respect, protection and guarantee of the economic, social and cultural rights of its population, including Indigenous Peoples (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 128.169 **Enhance environmental conservation efforts, particularly in addressing climate change impacts, ensuring sustainable development for future generations (Gambia);**
- 128.170 **Intervene without further delay to end the illegal mining activities in the UNESCO-classified biosphere reserve of Dimonika and in the national park of Conkouati-Douli (Germany);**
- 128.171 **Protect the local and Indigenous populations from contamination and poisoning caused by mining activities (Germany);**
- 128.172 **Continue consolidating its social and human rights policies with the National Development Plan 2022–2026 in order to continue strengthening the quality of life of its people, particularly of the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 128.173 **Continue working on the National Development Plan for the period 2022–2026 to be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Saudi Arabia);**
- 128.174 **Improve and complete policies and measures to keep implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (China);**
- 128.175 **Continue ongoing efforts to eradicate poverty, implementing national strategies to eliminate inequity and inequality gaps (Cuba);**
- 128.176 **Harmonize national legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, starting with the comprehensive definition of discrimination against women (Cabo Verde);**
- 128.177 **Continue to strengthen the domestic framework to protect the rights of women and girls (India);**

128.178 Consider adopting a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, that covers all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, and intersecting forms of discrimination (Rwanda);

128.179 Adopt a broad definition of discrimination against women, in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, covering all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, and intersectional forms of discrimination (Colombia);

128.180 Adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Zambia);

128.181 Take measures to incorporate a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women into its legislation and eliminate gender stereotypes, aligning with the recommendations of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Republic of Korea);

128.182 Take measures that enable the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in decision-making bodies, including by adopting a stronger definition of discrimination against women, in line with article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

128.183 Repeal all discriminatory provisions against women and girls in legislation and adopt a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women (Estonia);

128.184 Repeal all legal provisions, including in the Family Code, that discriminate against women (Iceland);

128.185 End all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including by repealing laws criminalizing adultery (Portugal);

128.186 Complete the adoption of the draft law on parity (Gabon);

128.187 Promote the approval of the bill on parity in order to continue increasing the participation of women in decision-making bodies (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

128.188 Strengthen the fight against gender-based discrimination, so that more women have access to nominative and elective positions (Cameroon);

128.189 Continue its efforts in increasing women's representation in the decision-making bodies (Nepal);

128.190 Continue to strengthen the national policies to ensure effective representation of women in political space and decision-making (Uganda);

128.191 Continue with awareness-raising campaigns to encourage more women into national politics and to increase the rate of women in decision-making positions (United Republic of Tanzania);

128.192 Continue efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and enhance their participation in public life (Egypt);

128.193 Continue to implement measures aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination against girls and women (Honduras);

128.194 Enhance gender equality, combat gender-based violence, and increase women's participation in decision-making (Gambia);

128.195 Further reinforce the measures for enhancing women's role in the political arena, commercial activities and employment opportunities (Pakistan);

- 128.196 Continue efforts to protect women's rights and increase their participation in decision-making processes (Sudan);
- 128.197 Carry out education campaigns on the rights of women and girls, as well as the means to make them effective, and the possibilities of protection and reporting in case they are violated (Chile);
- 128.198 Increase the availability of training and capacity-building programmes for women wishing to hold public office or to enter the professional business world (Viet Nam);
- 128.199 Increase the availability of training and capacity-building programmes for women wishing to enter political life or hold public office (Maldives);
- 128.200 Increase the number of professional training and skill development programmes for women and girls (Kyrgyzstan);
- 128.201 Enforce and implement measures and legislation to promote and protect women's rights and to combat impunity for gender-based violence (United States of America);
- 128.202 Continue the implementation of actions to promote gender equality and the eradication of all forms and manifestations of violence (Cuba);
- 128.203 Reinforce the rights of rural women (Iraq);
- 128.204 Adopt and implement comprehensive measures to combat gender stereotypes (Iceland);
- 128.205 Redouble efforts to promote gender equality (Morocco);
- 128.206 Continue efforts to promote gender issues and eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination (Mozambique);
- 128.207 Continue its efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including patriarchal gender stereotypes and intersectional forms of discrimination against women, including Indigenous and rural women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 128.208 Redouble efforts to eradicate practices such as female genital mutilation, corporal punishment, early and forced marriage, and sexual and domestic violence (Paraguay);
- 128.209 Eradicate female genital mutilation and eliminate child marriage and forced teenage pregnancies (Iceland);
- 128.210 Accelerate efforts to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation (Timor-Leste);
- 128.211 Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls (Ghana);
- 128.212 Continue to strengthen measures to eliminate gender-based violence (Lesotho);
- 128.213 Consider implementing concrete further measures to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, provide victim-oriented support mechanisms and ensure accountability of perpetrators (Lithuania);
- 128.214 Introduce legislative changes on the protection of victims of gender-based violence (Sierra Leone);
- 128.215 Adopt effective measures for the effective implementation of the Mouebara Law, including training and raising awareness of judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers, and ensuring access by women to information about their rights and legal procedures (Paraguay);

- 128.216 Establish effective measures to ensure the comprehensive protection of children, at the national level (Ecuador);
- 128.217 Establish a national mechanism to further protect children with albinism and eliminate all forms of discrimination against them (Sierra Leone);
- 128.218 Consider establishing a child protection coordination framework with the participation of civil society (Lithuania);
- 128.219 Continue to strengthen mechanisms to safeguard the rights of vulnerable groups and especially the rights of children (Pakistan);
- 128.220 Introduce legislation and policies to protect children with albinism (Zambia);
- 128.221 Take additional measures to ensure inclusive and effective protection for children in street situations (Angola);
- 128.222 Develop and fund a programme for the care, reintegration, education and vocational training of children in street situations, in which families and child protection organizations participate (Panama);
- 128.223 Guarantee and strengthen equal access to basic social services, including education and health for children, particularly in rural areas (Cameroon);
- 128.224 Improve child rights protections and access to quality education, particularly in rural areas, addressing issues such as child labour and child marriage (Gambia);
- 128.225 Intensify efforts to ensure timely birth registration and issuance of birth certificates, throughout its territory (South Africa);
- 128.226 Strengthen the law enforcement institutions to protect girl children from early marriages, through detailed investigation to prosecute all perpetrators engaged in child abuse (Uganda);
- 128.227 Take concrete measures to raise awareness on children's rights and to address violence against children, including about the prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings (Estonia);
- 128.228 Provide training in children's rights to judges, prosecutors and police officers, while allocating additional resources to children's courts (South Africa);
- 128.229 Enhance the protection of persons with disabilities through the implementation of national action plans (Bulgaria);
- 128.230 Continue to develop and implement comprehensive policies and legislation that specifically address the rights and needs of persons with disabilities (Indonesia);
- 128.231 Consider allocating further resources for protecting the rights of disabled persons (Pakistan);
- 128.232 Continue to ensure that its educational policies remain inclusive for persons with disabilities (Singapore);
- 128.233 Promote the integration of Indigenous Peoples through access to education, health services and income-generating activities (Burundi);
- 128.234 Strengthen efforts so that poverty reduction programmes include measures to culturally adapt their activities and services to Indigenous populations (Costa Rica);
- 128.235 Implement Law No. 5-2011 and the Planning Framework for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and re-establish inclusive schools for the socio-educational integration of Indigenous children (Slovenia);

128.236 Continue to strengthen measures to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of ethnic and linguistic minorities (Cameroon);

128.237 Adopt provisions to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);

128.238 Abolish articles 330 and 331 of the Criminal Code, as they are conducive to discrimination against persons of diverse sexual orientation or gender identities and expressions or sexual characteristics (Iceland);

128.239 Include hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity in the Penal Code and effectively combat any form of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Spain);

128.240 Increase actions aimed at criminalizing hate crimes and acts in the Criminal Code, with a special emphasis on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and adopt policies that facilitate access to education, health care, housing and employment, among others, to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex population (Uruguay);

128.241 Take action to combat discrimination, hate speech, social stigmatization and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Argentina);

128.242 Develop concrete policies to combat acts of discrimination against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Portugal);

128.243 Adopt a specific law on asylum-seekers (Uruguay);

128.244 Intensify efforts to ensure the registration of births and the issuance of birth certificates free of charge and in a timely manner throughout the territory to reduce the risk of statelessness, paying special attention to Indigenous Peoples (Panama).

129. 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 the Congo was headed by H.E. Mr. Aimé Ange WILFRID BININGA, Garde des sceaux, Ministre de la Justice, des Droits Humains et de la Promotion des Peuples Autochtones and composed of the following members:

- Madame Inès Nefer Bertille INGANI, Ministre de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Intégration de la femme au Développement et de l'Economie Informelle ;
- Monsieur André POH, Secrétaire Général du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de la Francophonie et des Congolais de l'Etranger ;
- Monsieur Aimé Clovis GUILLOND, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la République du Congo en Suisse ;
- Monsieur Justice Jerolin Bibich LALISSINI BIKINDOU, Parlementaire, Deuxième Vice-Président de la Commission Affaires Juridiques et Administratives, de la Décentralisation et du Contrôle de l'exécution des lois ;
- Monsieur Constant TATY, Parlementaire, Secrétaire à la Commission Affaires Juridiques et Administratives ;
- Madame Melaine Aurestie NSATOUNKAZI MPOMBO, Secrétaire Générale adjointe, cheffe de Département des Affaires Multilatérales et de la Francophonie au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, de la Francophonie et des Congolais de l'Etranger ;
- Monsieur Cyr Maixent TIBA, Directeur Général des Droits humains et des Libertés Fondamentales au Ministère de la Justice, des Droits humains et de la Promotion des Peuples Autochtones ;
- Monsieur Christian Roch MABIALA, Directeur Général des Affaires Sociales au Ministère des Affaires Sociales, de la Solidarité et de l'Action Humanitaire ;
- Monsieur Céphas Germain EWANGUI, Secrétaire Permanent du Conseil Consultatif de la Société Civile et des Organisations Non Gouvernementales ;
- Monsieur Prince Michrist KABA-MBOKO, Secrétaire Exécutif du Conseil Consultatif de la Jeunesse ;
- Monsieur Jules-César BOTOKOU EBOKO, Ministre Conseiller à l'Ambassade et Mission Permanente de la République du Congo en Suisse ;
- Monsieur Gérard ONDONGO, Conseiller à l'Ambassade et Mission Permanente de la République du Congo en Suisse ;
- Monsieur IKAMA Nique Anderson, Conseiller à l'Ambassade et Mission Permanente de la République du Congo en Suisse ;
- Monsieur Guillaume Désiré BONKOUTOU, Conseiller à l'Ordre Public au Ministère de l'Intérieur ;
- Monsieur Rudel Belyan BELA BASSOUAKA, Conseiller au Suivi-évaluation des projets et programmes au Ministère de la Justice, des Droits humains et de la Promotion des Peuples Autochtones ;
- Monsieur Elvisse Patrick TSIBA EGOMBO, Conseiller Administratif et Juridique au Ministère de la Promotion de la femme, de l'Intégration de la femme au Développement et de l'Economie Informelle ;
- Monsieur Jean Michel OBAKANDAKA, Attaché à la promotion des peuples autochtones Ministère de la justice, des droits humains et de la promotion des peuples autochtones, chef de délégation ;

- Monsieur Jérôme OKAMA EKIRANGAZO, Attaché aux relations publiques au Ministère de la justice, des droits humains et de la promotion des peuples autochtones, chef de délégation ;
- Monsieur Jean Pierre MAMOSSO, Attaché aux affaires sociales au Ministère des affaires sociales, de la solidarité et de l'action humanitaire ;
- Monsieur Blaise Junior OWOSSI LEKAKA, Attaché aux relations extérieures au Ministère de la promotion de la femme, de l'intégration de la femme au développement et de l'économie informelle ;
- Monsieur Mavie Laurel INGANI, Chef de service de la protection au Ministère de la promotion de la femme, de l'intégration de la femme au développement et de l'économie informelle ;
- Madame BIKOUMOU Ndebani Estelle Laudesia, Directrice de la Communication au Ministère de la promotion de la femme, de l'intégration de la femme au développement et de l'économie informelle ;
- Monsieur BATAYIO Ntondele Moise, Attaché de presse au Ministère de la promotion de la femme, de l'intégration de la femme au développement et de l'économie informelle.
