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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Equatorial Guinea

* 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-seventh session from 4 to 15 November 2024. The review of Equatorial Guinea was held at the 12th meeting, on 11 November 2024. The delegation of Equatorial Guinea was headed by the Second Deputy Prime Minister, in charge of human rights, Alfonso Nsue Mokuy. At its 17th meeting, held on 15 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Equatorial Guinea.

2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Equatorial Guinea: India, Luxembourg and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Equatorial Guinea:

(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, Costa Rica, members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Equatorial Guinea through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation congratulated the United Nations on the work it carried out to promote and protect human rights throughout the world. It noted that the fourth universal periodic review of Equatorial Guinea would take place in the context of a high degree of implementation of the recommendations that the country had received during the third cycle.

6. The delegation highlighted the concrete measures undertaken by the Government to guarantee respect for human rights at all levels of the State, particularly those pertaining to civil and political rights, economic and social rights and environmental rights.

7. The delegation recalled that in accordance with article 13 (1) (a) of the Constitution, the Criminal Code had been amended, abolishing the death penalty in Equatorial Guinea.

8. Regarding the judiciary, the delegation noted that the reform of the Organic Act of 1995 which created the High Council of the Judiciary – the governing body responsible for the selection, appointment, promotion and removal of judges, prosecutors and other personnel from the administration of justice – constituted a substantial improvement for the independence of the judiciary. Additional action taken to regulate the functioning of the judiciary included the adoption of the Organic Act on the High Council of the Judiciary (No. 4/2002 of 21 November), which had been amended by Organic Act No. 6/2003 of 21 November – which regulated the structure, functioning and legal status of the High Council. The delegation also noted the establishment in 1997 of the Institute of Judicial

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/47/GNQ/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/47/GNQ/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/47/GNQ/3](#).

Practice, which was responsible for the initial and continuing training of magistrates, judges, prosecutors and other personnel in the service of the administration of justice.

9. The delegation noted that a national conference for the consolidation of justice and the rule of law had been organized in 2003, and that the 40 recommendations of the conference's final report constituted the road map that the Government was progressively implementing for the strengthening of judicial independence in the country.

10. Regarding penitentiary institutions, the delegation noted that the Government had adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules). The general budget allocated an annual subsidy for penitentiary institutions and juvenile re-education centres of 1.5 billion CFA francs (approximately 2.3 million euros) to ensure the rights to health, food and schooling, among others. In the area of pretrial detention, a policy of reducing overcrowding in prisons had been implemented through the adoption of an abbreviated procedure for speedy trials.

11. Article 3 of the General Education Act guaranteed free compulsory education to ensure school attendance, and consequently the literacy rate had improved significantly over the past five years, to 95 per cent. This growth in the school population had notably been in proportion to the increase in the availability of education throughout the national territory. Likewise, there had been significant improvements in the parity index at all levels of education, thus ensuring access to education for girls and young women. Additionally, regarding inclusive education, the availability of special education had been increased, and special education classrooms in both public and private schools had been established.

12. Healthcare, including preventing and combating sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, as well as other diseases such as tuberculosis, leprosy and malaria, was guaranteed and the Government had made free care and medicine for these diseases available to the entire population.

13. In terms of corruption, Act No. 1/2021, dated 10 May, on preventing and combating corruption in Equatorial Guinea had been enacted. The implementation of this law had resulted in several criminal proceedings with final judgments, including against former senior members of the Government.

14. With regard to the environment, Equatorial Guinea had adopted Act No. 7/2003, dated 27 November, regulating the environment. Another important piece of legislation was Act No. 8/1978, dated 31 December, regulating wildlife, hunting and protected areas. Additionally, the Government had invested in water purification plants in all districts at the national level, and regarding the sanitation policy and access to drinking water, a national water company had been created.

15. Equatorial Guinea considered that it was of fundamental importance to ensure that the universal periodic review mechanism maintained its constructive and non-politicized character. One of the ways to accomplish this and maintain the credibility and legitimacy of the mechanism was to ensure that the recommendations made by States during the interactive dialogue were consistent with the internal realities and the good practices of States. In this regard, Equatorial Guinea considered that it had received some recommendations on issues that did not correspond to the reality of the country.

16. The delegation expressed the Government's willingness to maintain close cooperation with the United Nations system in the field of human rights and reiterated its commitment to – with the assistance of the international community – continuing its collaboration and reporting to the mechanisms, including the universal periodic review and treaty bodies.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 75 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

18. Zambia noted with appreciation the achievements made by Equatorial Guinea, including the adoption of a new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty.

19. Zimbabwe commended the renewed commitment of Equatorial Guinea to fulfilling its national and international human rights obligations, and the strategic actions taken at the national level, including the signature, ratification and domestication of international conventions.
20. Angola recognized the continued efforts made by Equatorial Guinea towards the realization of all human rights and commended its accomplishments, especially the adoption of its National Plan for Economic, Social and Cultural Development.
21. Armenia welcomed the abolition of the death penalty, efforts to combat torture and ill-treatment, including by training law enforcement personnel, and the development of national plans on gender and disabilities.
22. Australia expressed concern at the narrowing political and civic space and the use of torture and extrajudicial killings by State officials. Australia welcomed the abolition of the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
23. Belgium welcomed positive steps regarding the human rights situation in the country, including abolishing the death penalty and adopting strong articles on gender-based violence in the Criminal Code.
24. Botswana commended Equatorial Guinea on having appointed the first woman as a Prime Minister for 2023 and 2024 and for depositing the instrument of ratification for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
25. Brazil congratulated Equatorial Guinea on abolishing the death penalty in 2022 and welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons 2022–2024.
26. Burkina Faso congratulated the Government on depositing the instrument of ratification for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and on efforts to improve basic services for persons with disabilities and older persons.
27. Burundi welcomed the fact that preschool and elementary education were free for all, as well as the parity index, which indicated that the percentage of girls in school had significantly increased.
28. Cameroon welcomed measures taken to implement national strategies to combat inequality and poverty, with the aim of accelerating economic and social development.
29. Canada encouraged Equatorial Guinea to fulfil its commitments concerning the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
30. Chile congratulated Equatorial Guinea on the abolition of the death penalty for common crimes and on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
31. China welcomed the vigorous implementation of the National Plan for Economic, Social and Cultural Development. It noted practical results in preventing and treating infectious diseases such as malaria, AIDS and leprosy, and the active protection of the environment.
32. Colombia expressed appreciation to the delegation for its willingness to cooperate with the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review.
33. The Congo encouraged Equatorial Guinea to strengthen awareness-raising actions among the population in the fight against sexist stereotypes in families.
34. Costa Rica thanked the delegation for the report and applauded the country for abolishing the death penalty.
35. Cuba acknowledged the efforts made by Equatorial Guinea to implement recommendations it had accepted in previous universal periodic review cycles and to protect the human rights of its population.

36. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Equatorial Guinea for efforts to promote and protect human rights through the strengthening of its legislative and institutional framework, despite challenges.
37. The Dominican Republic applauded the efforts made by Equatorial Guinea in the implementation of the 2035 Agenda, which was oriented towards economic diversification with a view to reducing poverty in all its dimensions.
38. Egypt commended the efforts made by Equatorial Guinea to combat impunity and trafficking in persons and to improve the conditions in correctional institutions.
39. Estonia noted efforts made, including the abolition of the death penalty in the Criminal Code, but remained concerned about the severe restrictions on freedom of expression and about documented cases of repression against civil society organizations.
40. France noted that the new Criminal Code approved in 2022 no longer provided for the death penalty.
41. The Gambia commended Equatorial Guinea on the adoption of a law in 2022 abolishing the death penalty and on efforts to combat gender-based violence through the creation of programmes and training for government officials and social workers.
42. Georgia positively noted the Government's intention to finalize legal procedures aimed at aligning its national institutions with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It also welcomed the revised Criminal Code of 2022 that abolished the death penalty.
43. Germany remained concerned about prison conditions, including overcrowding and reports of torture, persisting suppression and persecution of political opposition, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression.
44. Ghana welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the new Criminal Code that abolished the death penalty.
45. Iceland made recommendations.
46. Indonesia noted that Equatorial Guinea faced significant challenges in addressing poverty, inequality, and disparities in human development, and welcomed the National Health Development Plan. It also acknowledged initiatives undertaken to prevent and punish acts of torture.
47. In response to comments on strengthening human rights protection, the delegation noted that, at a constitutional level, the Constitution of Equatorial Guinea included the protection of human rights in its preamble. Moreover, article 8 of that document recognized international human rights law and principles and the different international treaties and mechanisms to which Equatorial Guinea was a party.
48. Regarding prisons, the delegation recalled that the Nelson Mandela Rules were applied effectively in Equatorial Guinea and noted that the Ministry of Justice, Worship and Prisons had issued several ministerial orders for their effective implementation. The Government had also designated a comprehensive budget to protect prisoners' human rights to food and health through an annual allocation of State funds. Additionally, in recent years and particularly in 2024 the Government had focused on measures to reduce prison overcrowding.
49. With regard to minors in prisons and other detention centres, the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) were part of the Government's approach to prison administration. Juvenile rehabilitation centres had been established to guarantee minors' access to education and to build capacity for entering the labour market.
50. Concerning social, economic and cultural rights, the Senate had approved the Draft Act Regulating the Use of Social Media and Cybercrime, which followed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) guidelines for regulating

human rights online and protecting freedom of expression. This legislation also integrated the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime.

51. With regard to impunity, the Ministry of Justice, Worship and Prisons had focused efforts on prosecuting law enforcement officials responsible for the crime of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and there had been several convictions with final sentences in both the ordinary and the military justice systems.

52. Regarding the independence of the judiciary, the Ministry of Justice, Worship and Prisons had strengthened the role of the High Council of the Judiciary, which oversaw the appointment, promotion and removal of judges, prosecutors and all officials involved in the administration of justice. A further guarantee of independence was the Institute of Judicial Practice, aimed at enhancing the continued education of magistrates.

53. Work on the judiciary also included a gender approach and there was a special tribunal that addressed gender-based violence. Additionally, the country had ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. These efforts were based on articles 13 and 15 (1) of the Constitution, which recognized the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds of gender, ethnicity or nationality.

54. In response to concerns over the abolition of the death penalty in the Criminal Code but not in the Code of Military Justice, the delegation stressed that through its abolition in the Criminal Code, the death penalty was effectively abolished in all legal texts, including the Code of Military Justice. The delegation noted that article 13 (1) (a) of the Constitution stipulated that only the criminal law could define a crime as being punishable by the death penalty, and indicated that therefore when the death penalty had been abolished in the Criminal Code it had been automatically abolished in the Code of Military Justice. Moreover, such sentences previously had not been applied, as a moratorium had been in place.

55. In response to comments on statelessness, the delegation mentioned that forced displacement and receiving refugees were relatively new issues for Equatorial Guinea, which meant that, for the moment, there was no official law or policy regulating these issues. However, the Government was working on drafting a legal instrument dealing with asylum and forced displacement and had been receiving advice from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of the Interior and Local Corporations and the Ministry of National Defence. For the moment, a forced displacements centre existed that would identify persons requiring asylum or support so that they could be provided with the social protection that they needed.

56. Iraq welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2022.

57. Ireland welcomed the adoption of the new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty, while noting that it remained legal under the Military Code of Justice. It expressed concern about the continued use of arbitrary detention of citizens and human rights defenders.

58. Italy commended Equatorial Guinea for abolishing the death penalty and for its commitment to combating trafficking in persons through the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons 2022–2024.

59. Japan recognized efforts to empower women and the inclusion of persons with disabilities, but voiced concern over reported restrictions on civil society and journalists' rights, including those guaranteed by ratified treaties.

60. Jordan commended the progress made, including the signing and ratification of international conventions, and the implementation of awareness-raising programmes in the field of human rights and in the fight against discrimination.

61. Kenya applauded Equatorial Guinea for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged the ratification of additional human rights instruments. Kenya also encouraged improvements in healthcare and access to education, with a focus on reducing disparities and ensuring non-discrimination.

62. The Lao People's Democratic Republic appreciated the progress made, including the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It also welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
63. Lebanon commended Equatorial Guinea on its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the substantive efforts made towards achieving gender parity and protecting women's rights.
64. Lesotho acknowledged the commitment by Equatorial Guinea to protecting the rights of vulnerable groups through national policies and applauded its human rights training initiatives within the civil service and judicial structures.
65. Luxembourg welcomed the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and thanked it for its report.
66. Malawi commended Equatorial Guinea for taking significant steps in the promotion and protection of human rights.
67. Malaysia commended the ratification of international conventions and their incorporation into national law. It welcomed the implementation of annual action plans for training, capacity-building, and awareness-raising programmes to promote good governance in public services.
68. Maldives praised Equatorial Guinea for adopting the National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons 2022–2024, establishing a protocol for the protection of victims, and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
69. Mali welcomed the creation by Equatorial Guinea of 64 social worker positions to support female victims of violence, the protocol for caring for victims of gender-based violence, and the national strategy to increase women's representation in decision-making roles.
70. Malta praised the commitment by Equatorial Guinea to universal healthcare and urged non-discriminatory access. It expressed concern over proposed legislation that seemed to equate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights with prostitution. It urged that the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons be discussed on their own merit.
71. Mauritius welcomed the initiatives of the Government to promote health services, particularly the policies put in place to reduce rates of malaria.
72. Mexico acknowledged progress made, including in the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with international standards, the criminalization of gender-based violence and the abolition of the death penalty.
73. Montenegro asked what steps would be taken to fulfil the commitment made during the previous review regarding ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
74. Morocco welcomed the implementation of the National Plan for Economic, Social and Cultural Development, and of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, also known as the 2035 Agenda for Equatorial Guinea.
75. Mozambique commended Equatorial Guinea for notable achievements, especially the abolition of the death penalty in 2022, in fulfilment of the commitments assumed under human rights treaties.
76. Namibia commended Equatorial Guinea for its adoption in 2022 of a new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty.
77. Nepal appreciated the constructive engagement of Equatorial Guinea with human rights mechanisms and commended the adoption of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.
78. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Equatorial Guinea for recognizing freedom of expression as a constitutional right, however it noted that civic freedoms continued to be violated, both offline and online.

79. The Niger welcomed the commitment of Equatorial Guinea to promoting and protecting human rights and to respecting its international and national commitments, illustrated by the signing and ratification of international conventions.

80. Oman commended the efforts made to promote sustainable development, especially through the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, also known as the 2035 Agenda for Equatorial Guinea.

81. Panama welcomed the members of the delegation of Equatorial Guinea and thanked them for presenting the national report.

82. Paraguay welcomed the adoption of a new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

83. The Philippines commended Equatorial Guinea for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the abolition of the death penalty, and cooperation with human rights mechanisms to strengthen national frameworks.

84. Portugal commended the adoption of a new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty and noted with appreciation the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

85. Regarding follow-up from human rights mechanisms, the delegation indicated that a human rights department had been created to monitor, implement and follow up on the reports to the universal periodic review and treaty bodies. Within that department, a commission had been established to draft such reports and follow up on the recommendations received. The creation of an interministerial network to follow up on these treaties was also under way. The delegation expressed the Government's readiness to collaborate with United Nations Special Rapporteurs on any question related to the country.

86. On the concerns raised regarding detentions, the delegation stated that there was no evidence of arbitrary detention in the country, and that all detentions were justified by the constitutional principle of independence of the judiciary from the executive.

87. The delegation clarified that education was a constitutional right under the General Education Act and that all children resident in Equatorial Guinea were mandated to attend school. Since 2016, preschool education had also been institutionalized in both urban and rural areas. Education was free of charge at all levels, from preschool to university.

88. In response to the interventions expressing concern about discrimination in education, the delegation highlighted the improvement in gender parity in education since 2016, with a higher percentage of women enrolled at several levels, including university, so the country had achieved parity. Additionally, national legislation mandated the existence of special education classrooms for all schools, both public and private, in the country.

89. In response to concerns about discrimination against pregnant girls in the education system, the delegation reported that 92 out of every 100 girls returned to school after their pregnancies, that the measures that had been taken due to the increase in child and teenage pregnancies were now being mitigated and that today, girls who did not attend school did so not because of pregnancy.

90. Schooling rates had improved since 2019 due to the efforts undertaken for all children to begin schooling at an early age. Efforts undertaken in the education sector had resulted in a literacy rate of 95 per cent, demonstrating widespread access to education in Equatorial Guinea.

91. The delegation noted the issues raised in the recommendations received during the preceding portion of the review, to be examined and followed up by government action.

92. The Russian Federation noted the accession by Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while acknowledging ongoing human rights and security challenges.

93. Senegal welcomed the progress made, which included the review of the Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty, the creation of an independent national human rights institution, independence of the judiciary, and improvements in prison conditions.

94. Sierra Leone commended Equatorial Guinea for its efforts to train law enforcement officials, for its commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality and for abolishing the death penalty.
95. Singapore welcomed the introduction of the National Agenda for Disability and the National Health Development Plan, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
96. Slovenia welcomed efforts towards abolishing the death penalty, and expressed concern at reports of, among other things, excessive use of force by police and security officers, lack of independence of the judiciary and widespread corruption.
97. South Africa commended the ratification by Equatorial Guinea of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the new Criminal Code abolishing the death penalty.
98. Spain welcomed progress with regard to the death penalty, and to disabilities, and welcomed the introduction of a bill on a comprehensive act to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women.
99. Timor-Leste commended the abolishment of the death penalty, and the progress made in gender equality, such as through Horizon 2020 and Horizon 2035, which increased the representation of women in decision-making.
100. Togo encouraged Equatorial Guinea to take the necessary measures to strengthen the capacities and independence of the judiciary, with a view – among other things – to strengthening the fight against corruption.
101. Tunisia welcomed the measures and legislation adopted in the field of women's empowerment, promoting gender equality, combating violence against children, integrating persons with disabilities, improving prison conditions and combating migrant smuggling.
102. Türkiye congratulated Equatorial Guinea on intensifying its efforts in the fight against corruption and on the creation of an independent human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles.
103. Ukraine noted the steps taken to adopt provisions in the Criminal Code aimed at strengthening protection against arbitrary detention, torture, ill-treatment and sexual violence and at ensuring accountability for the perpetrators.
104. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Equatorial Guinea to take concrete steps towards the full abolition of capital punishment, including by satisfying provisions to become a signatory to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
105. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the measures taken for gender equality and the economic autonomy of women and for the eradication of violence against women. It commended safeguards for the rights of persons with disabilities, and improved prison conditions.
106. The United States of America called on Equatorial Guinea to protect the rights to freedom of expression and association for all people, including human rights defenders and members of the political opposition.
107. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended the efforts made to implement human rights training and awareness-raising programmes and underscored the creation and strengthening of national institutions protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.
108. Viet Nam expressed appreciation for the adoption of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and commended action to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, particularly the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
109. The delegation thanked all participants who had spoken on matters related to violence against women, and indicated that a new protection law was being developed and that it was being considered by the Council of Ministers and would shortly be promulgated.

110. Regarding the right to health, the delegation emphasized that access to healthcare in Equatorial Guinea was universal, including in remote rural areas.

111. With a view to improving the participation of women in political life, the Government provided educational and life opportunities to empower women and encourage their participation, which had resulted in a figure of 35 per cent of women at all levels of the public administration. The delegation noted concerns expressed about gender inequality and stated that voting rights and salaries were equal for women and men.

112. In response to comments concerning excessive use of force, the delegation underscored that all judicial police units in the country, composed of police officers and gendarmes, had a prosecutor unit that oversaw their actions.

113. Regarding concerns over restrictions to press freedoms, a revision of the law on press freedom was under way to decriminalize offences related to the press. This would not mean that other crimes would not be still applicable, when relevant, as in all countries in the world.

114. The delegation expressed its readiness to respond to concrete allegations of excessive use of force and restriction of liberties and to implement improvements in that regard but stressed that it would need concrete elements in order to respond.

115. The delegation reaffirmed that it had noted all the recommendations received during the review and that the Government would make the appropriate decisions and implement recommendations received in respect of human rights. It thanked the Vice-President, the States who made interventions, and those present during the session, and expressed its gratitude to the troika for its work and efforts during the review.

116. In conclusion, Equatorial Guinea would continue to make efforts to implement the recommendations it had received, as the protection of human rights, peace, harmony and good coexistence were a priority for the Government. The delegation recognized the patriotic spirit and good work of its members during the review.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

117.1 **Accelerate the processes leading to the ratification of additional international instruments for the promotion and protection of human rights whose internal ratification procedures have been delayed by a number of difficulties (Togo);**

117.2 **Redouble efforts to continue ratifying the international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Paraguay);**

117.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

117.4 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, supported at the last review cycle (Germany);**

117.5 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Malawi);**

117.6 **Take measures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**

117.7 **Continue its efforts to strengthen its legal framework relating to human rights by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Burkina Faso);**

- 117.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France) (Ghana);**
- 117.9 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Malawi);**
- 117.10 **Ratify and implement outstanding international human rights treaties, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mozambique);**
- 117.11 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 117.12 **Intensify efforts for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);**
- 117.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and fully implement Act No. 6/2006 prohibiting torture and guaranteeing reparation, including compensation, supported at the last review cycle (Germany);**
- 117.14 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**
- 117.15 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia) (France) (Luxembourg) (Malta);**
- 117.16 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and fully abolish the death penalty for all (Ireland);**
- 117.17 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to ensure the permanent abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);**
- 117.18 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium) (Nepal);**
- 117.19 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 117.20 **Accelerate the process of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Colombia);**
- 117.21 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius) (Niger);**
- 117.22 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Togo);**
- 117.23 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 117.24 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);**
- 117.25 **Ratify the core international human rights conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to further align with global human rights standards (Gambia);**

- 117.26 Cooperate fully with United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, inviting independent bodies to monitor human rights progress and provide recommendations (Mozambique);
- 117.27 Maintain cooperation and collaboration with regional and international institutions (Türkiye);
- 117.28 Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Luxembourg);
- 117.29 Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Montenegro);
- 117.30 Consider issuing invitations to the special procedures on education and health as well as to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Malawi);
- 117.31 Continue to cooperate fully with all special procedure mandate holders and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, especially the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (South Africa);
- 117.32 Accept requests from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to visit Equatorial Guinea in accordance with their respective mandates (United States of America);
- 117.33 Take concrete steps to engage with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, including by both responding to recent opinions made by the Working Group and facilitating a visit by the group, as accepted in 2019 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 117.34 Continue the implementation and strengthening of human rights training and awareness-raising programmes, prioritizing attention to the most vulnerable groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 117.35 Continue to increase efforts to protect the rights of citizens (Russian Federation);
- 117.36 Continue to take targeted steps to improve national legislation in terms of the observance of human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);
- 117.37 Reinforce national legislation in order to comply with international human rights instruments (Angola);
- 117.38 Encourage the continuation of training and public awareness activities in the area of human rights (Senegal);
- 117.39 Continue to implement human rights education and training initiatives, particularly on gender equality and the rights of the child (Philippines);
- 117.40 Continue to undertake efforts to ensure that the national human rights commission complies with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);
- 117.41 Continue the efforts to establish a national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Lebanon);
- 117.42 Consider the creation of an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, that is fully independent of the Government (Chile);
- 117.43 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);
- 117.44 Consider the possibility of establishing an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Niger);
- 117.45 Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Armenia);

- 117.46 Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Gambia);
- 117.47 Establish an independent national human rights institution with a broad human rights protection mandate and adequate human and financial resources, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Zambia);
- 117.48 Establish an independent national human rights institution, fully aligned with the Paris Principles, adopt comprehensive legislation to guarantee its independence and mandate, and allocate it an autonomous and sufficient budget to enable it to function effectively (Luxembourg);
- 117.49 Establish a national mechanism for the follow-up and implementation of recommendations of the universal periodic review, using, if necessary, assistance from the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (Luxembourg);
- 117.50 Consider the possibility of establishing a permanent interministerial national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and follow-up of international recommendations on human rights, with the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 117.51 Enact comprehensive legislation providing full and effective protection against discrimination in all spheres and on all grounds (Estonia);
- 117.52 Promote a comprehensive law that provides full and effective protection against all forms of discrimination, in accordance with the grounds listed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Colombia);
- 117.53 Adopt legislation that provides comprehensive and effective protection against discrimination in all its forms and safeguards fundamental rights (Italy);
- 117.54 Take concrete measures to eliminate from its domestic legislation all discriminatory provisions against women and adopt the necessary measures to promote the participation of women, on equal terms, in all aspects of public life (Paraguay);
- 117.55 Adopt measures, including legislative measures, to ensure effective and full protection against multiple forms of discrimination, including with regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and disability (Brazil);
- 117.56 Promote national legislation that defines and prohibits discrimination, considering the grounds set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly sexual orientation, gender identity and disability (Mexico);
- 117.57 Enact comprehensive legislation providing full and effective protection against discrimination on any ground, namely based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Montenegro);
- 117.58 Combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (France);
- 117.59 Remove all provisions on the death penalty from the Code of Military Justice (Canada);
- 117.60 Remove death penalty provisions from the Code of Military Justice, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ukraine);
- 117.61 Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with a view to ensuring full accountability and preventing recurrence (Australia);
- 117.62 Redouble efforts to prevent, punish and prohibit torture, by increasing training and awareness-raising sessions for law enforcement officials (Jordan);

- 117.63 **Adopt measures to effectively eliminate all forms of excessive use of force by police and security officers, and to prevent torture and arbitrary detentions (Colombia);**
- 117.64 **Take measures to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of excessive use of force by police and security officers (Italy);**
- 117.65 **Undertake measures to prevent excessive use of force, by adopting appropriate laws and intensifying the provision of trainings to members of the police and the army (Lesotho);**
- 117.66 **Implement measures to prevent and eliminate excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, including the provision of human rights training (Mexico);**
- 117.67 **Adopt measures to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of excessive use of force by State agents, through the approval of laws, the training of agents and the proper investigation of cases of excessive use of force (Paraguay);**
- 117.68 **End arbitrary detention and ensure full application of article 13 of the Constitution (Canada);**
- 117.69 **Release all those detained without any judicial process or held beyond the period established by law (Luxembourg);**
- 117.70 **Amend its national legislation to limit the duration of pretrial detention, in accordance with the criteria established in article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**
- 117.71 **Continue efforts aiming at implementing the Convention against Torture, and especially at protecting the rights of minors in detention centres (Lebanon);**
- 117.72 **Continue to improve prison and detention conditions in line with the Nelson Mandela Rules and to ensure the separation of prisoners according to age, sex and grounds for deprivation of liberty (Zimbabwe);**
- 117.73 **Intensify efforts to improve the conditions of detention of prisoners and to reform the penitentiary system in general (Russian Federation);**
- 117.74 **Improve the conditions of detention in the country's prisons, and anchor legal assistance, access for relatives and diplomatic representations in a robust legal framework (Germany);**
- 117.75 **Strengthen efforts to improve prison conditions, including ensuring access to adequate food, sanitation and healthcare for detainees (Indonesia);**
- 117.76 **Continue efforts to improve prison conditions, in particular with regard to access to food, sanitation, health care and overcrowding (Lesotho);**
- 117.77 **Continue its efforts to fight corruption in all sectors (Türkiye);**
- 117.78 **Intensify its efforts to combat corruption, including money laundering (Zambia);**
- 117.79 **Intensify efforts to combat corruption and improve transparency in governance as crucial for sustainable development and human rights protection (Kenya);**
- 117.80 **Take additional measures to ensure an inclusive and effective campaign to combat corruption at all levels (Angola);**
- 117.81 **Continue strengthening the legal normative framework and introducing measures to address corruption (Cuba);**
- 117.82 **Continue efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Egypt);**

- 117.83 **Implement in full the separation of powers enshrined in law, especially with regard to independence of the judiciary (Germany);**
- 117.84 **Work towards the adoption of legislative and administrative measures to achieve the independence of the judiciary, implementing objective and transparent procedures for the appointment and dismissal of judges and prosecutors, as well as guaranteeing the irremovability and independence of judges and the autonomy of prosecutors (Brazil);**
- 117.85 **Redouble efforts to reform the justice system in order to ensure that all judicial proceedings respect the procedural guarantees set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Colombia);**
- 117.86 **Establish permanent mechanisms, including regular inspections, to ensure the ongoing protection of and respect for human rights during law enforcement operations (Sierra Leone);**
- 117.87 **Conduct thorough and independent investigations to hold perpetrators accountable for human rights violations in specific, documented cases (Sierra Leone);**
- 117.88 **Strengthen measures to protect fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and association (Armenia);**
- 117.89 **Implement effective measures to protect and promote the fundamental freedoms and rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including freedom of expression and freedom of movement, which are an integral part of a democratic society (Japan);**
- 117.90 **Adopt measures to ensure respect for the principles relating to freedom of expression and association, particularly for lawyers and human rights defenders (France);**
- 117.91 **Remove all restrictions imposed on media freedom (Estonia);**
- 117.92 **Review all restrictions imposed on press and media activities, and protect journalists and the media from any form of undue interference, harassment and attack (Italy);**
- 117.93 **Lift any restrictions on independent media, including by suppressing Law 6/1997, and take all necessary measures to guarantee that journalists, civil society and human rights defenders can exercise their right to the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Belgium);**
- 117.94 **Amend the 1997 legislation to protect freedom of expression (Germany);**
- 117.95 **Amend Act No. 6/1997 to remove all restrictions on the activities of the press and the media, in strict compliance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and to protect journalists and other media workers from all forms of undue interference, harassment and aggression, including online (Costa Rica);**
- 117.96 **Review all restrictions imposed on press and media activities, to ensure that they are consistent with the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Namibia);**
- 117.97 **Review all restrictions imposed on press and media activities, so as to ensure that they are strictly in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (South Africa);**
- 117.98 **Guarantee free exercise of the right to freedom of expression for human rights defenders, journalists, activists and opposition leaders (Chile);**
- 117.99 **Release any political dissidents, human rights defenders or journalists who have been detained for legitimately exercising their freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Australia);**

- 117.100 Release human rights defenders unjustly detained, including as a consequence for activism or for otherwise peacefully exercising their rights, and instruct security services to cease arbitrary detentions (United States of America);
- 117.101 Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, including by releasing those who have been arbitrarily detained without delay and ensuring that the perpetrators of harassment, violence or intimidation against human rights defenders are held to account (Ireland);
- 117.102 Ensure prompt and effective investigations into all reports of human rights violations against human rights defenders, activists and opposition leaders (Slovenia);
- 117.103 Implement effective measures to protect human rights defenders, as well as civil associations, and allow them to register and operate freely without fear of harassment, violence and intimidation (Costa Rica);
- 117.104 Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, lawyers and civil society organizations, guaranteeing their rights to privacy and freedom of movement and association (Gambia);
- 117.105 Further implement the recommendations from the third universal periodic review cycle regarding the freedoms of association and assembly, particularly by reforming Act No. 1/1999 to secure NGOs' access to international funding, enabling their independent functioning (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 117.106 Ensure that human rights defenders can exercise their legitimate activity in a safe manner, including through the adoption of a specific law for their protection, as well as the amendment of articles 221 and 224 of the Penal Code and articles 2 and 11 of Law 1/1999 to include the promotion and protection of human rights among the areas of activity that NGOs can carry out, and establish a maximum time limit for the decisions on their recognition (Spain);
- 117.107 Strengthen guarantees for the full enjoyment of all freedoms, access to information, and protection of human rights defenders, journalists and NGOs (Senegal);
- 117.108 Repeal articles 221 to 224 of the 2022 Penal Code on the abusive exercise of fundamental rights (Luxembourg);
- 117.109 Continue efforts to combat migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons within the framework of the new National Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons 2022–2024 (Tunisia);
- 117.110 Pursue efforts aiming at combating trafficking in persons, to which women and girls are particularly vulnerable, including by fully implementing the Action Plan for the Prevention and Fight against Trafficking in Persons 2022–2024 (Lebanon);
- 117.111 Enforce anti-trafficking legislation by conducting gender- and age-sensitive investigations and ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and appropriately punished (Namibia);
- 117.112 Continue implementing policies and measures to protect the rights of specific groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities, and combat crimes such as human trafficking (China);
- 117.113 Intensify efforts to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour in the domestic sector (Maldives);
- 117.114 Develop a national strategy, in consultation with civil society organizations, to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour, especially in the domestic sector (Panama);
- 117.115 Take all necessary measures to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour, particularly in the domestic sector (Ghana);

- 117.116 Continue strengthening social security, ensuring that all people have access to high-quality medical and educational services without discrimination, and making every effort to prevent and treat infectious diseases (China);
- 117.117 Continue promoting poverty reduction, improving living standards, and bringing more benefits to the people (China);
- 117.118 Continue efforts to eradicate poverty through the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (Iraq);
- 117.119 Continue implementing national policies aiming at the reduction of poverty in all its dimensions (Morocco);
- 117.120 Continue with the inclusive implementation of the 2035 Agenda for Equatorial Guinea for the well-being of all (Dominican Republic);
- 117.121 Take adequate measures to avoid inequalities between rural and urban areas with regard to the supply of drinking water (Congo);
- 117.122 Continue its efforts to ensure equitable and quality healthcare access for all (Georgia);
- 117.123 Continue ensuring that all segments of society enjoy good health by providing high-quality medical services (Oman);
- 117.124 Continue to implement measures to ensure access to healthcare for all sectors of its population (Singapore);
- 117.125 Continue to create an enabling environment for the improvement of the public health system through national policies and funding (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 117.126 Pursue the social policy in the health sector aimed at universal health coverage through the provision of primary healthcare (Burundi);
- 117.127 Enhance access to quality healthcare services through capacity-building initiatives for healthcare professionals (Malaysia);
- 117.128 Enhance access to basic health services, particularly in rural and remote areas (Indonesia);
- 117.129 Strengthen efforts and strategies to uphold the right to health throughout the country, especially in rural areas (Ghana);
- 117.130 Guarantee compliance with measures in the 2035 Agenda for Equatorial Guinea to ensure access to quality medical services (Cuba);
- 117.131 Continue to support the 2035 Agenda for Equatorial Guinea to enable access to health services for all and strengthen the work of the National Health Development Plan (Jordan);
- 117.132 Increase the health budget to provide antiretroviral treatment to all people living with HIV/AIDS, prioritizing care for girls, boys, adolescents and women in vulnerable or marginalized situations (Panama);
- 117.133 Strengthen public health measures, especially in the fight against malaria and HIV/AIDS (Dominican Republic);
- 117.134 Strengthen communication for social behaviour change targeting adolescents and young people, aged 15 to 49, in order to reduce the prevalence of HIV among these target groups (Mali);
- 117.135 Step up efforts to make health services more accessible to all, with a focus on reducing maternal and child mortality and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS (Philippines);
- 117.136 Ensure full access to sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education, including in rural and remote areas (Estonia);

- 117.137 Decriminalize abortion under all circumstances and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education for all (Iceland);
- 117.138 Strengthen preventive measures against maternal mortality, particularly in rural areas (Cameroon);
- 117.139 Scale up free malaria care and treatment programmes for pregnant women, prioritizing rural areas (Mali);
- 117.140 Continue with awareness-raising programmes on malaria prevention measures (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 117.141 Continue with the efforts directed by the master plan on neglected diseases, in particular with regard to the measures implemented in support of persons with leprosy and their full social inclusion (Dominican Republic);
- 117.142 Continue to ensure accessible and high-quality education for all (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 117.143 Increase efforts to improve the conditions of access to inclusive and quality education throughout the national territory (Congo);
- 117.144 Strengthen measures to increase access to education (Timor-Leste);
- 117.145 Improve access to education for all children, including those in vulnerable situations (Dominican Republic);
- 117.146 Continue efforts to improve equal access to quality education for all, including children with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 117.147 Extend compulsory education to secondary education to cover at least nine years (Portugal);
- 117.148 Continue strengthening initiatives aimed at increasing the percentage of girls enrolled in educational institutions (Oman);
- 117.149 Remove legal provisions that prohibit schooling of pregnant girls at all levels of the educational system (Malta);
- 117.150 Take the necessary measures to ensure the return to school of girls who drop out due to pregnancy (Zimbabwe);
- 117.151 Guarantee the right to education in rural areas and eliminate the prohibition of access to classrooms for pregnant students (Chile);
- 117.152 Abolish the 2017 ministerial decree prohibiting access to school for pregnant girls and guarantee their right to education by implementing school reintegration programmes and arrangements adapted to their specific needs (Belgium);
- 117.153 Implement measures to help pregnant girls and adolescent mothers continue their education, including by combating cultural stigma through awareness-raising campaigns and repealing the ministerial resolution of 18 July 2017 prohibiting girls from enrolling or attending school during pregnancy (Panama);
- 117.154 Take further action to ensure accessibility and a non-discriminatory environment in education, especially for children with disabilities and girl victims of child marriage and early pregnancy (Japan);
- 117.155 Continue promoting the protection of biodiversity and the environment, making rational use of the natural resources at its disposal (Cuba);
- 117.156 Redouble efforts to protect the vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change (Nepal);
- 117.157 Continue efforts to implement the National Plan for Economic, Social and Cultural Development (Egypt);

- 117.158 Continue to make progress in achieving the goals set out in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, known as the 2035 Agenda for Equatorial Guinea (Lao People's Democratic Republic);
- 117.159 Continue to prioritize resources to realize goals set out in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, including eliminating poverty and enhancing access to healthcare and education services for people (Viet Nam);
- 117.160 Continue efforts to implement awareness-raising and capacity-building action plans for good governance in the public sectors based on respect for human rights in order to achieve the objectives of Horizon 2035 (Türkiye);
- 117.161 Develop further efforts towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those focusing on environmental sustainability, education and economic equality (Mozambique);
- 117.162 Strengthen macroeconomic aggregates, consolidate public accounts and promote greater fiscal justice, as leverage for social development (Morocco);
- 117.163 Continue efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (Tunisia);
- 117.164 Pursue the efforts aiming at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls (Morocco);
- 117.165 Strengthen measures to raise public awareness with a view to combating gender stereotypes in the family and in society (South Africa);
- 117.166 Continue promoting programmes forming part of the National Gender Policy, including the Generation Leadership Programme for young female leaders (Angola);
- 117.167 Continue the National Multisectoral Plan for the Promotion of Women and Gender Equity with the aim of promoting, in particular, the economic and financial empowerment of women through the granting of credit (Burundi);
- 117.168 Take necessary measures to combat gender inequalities and promote women's access to the labour market and to career prospects and better remuneration (Congo);
- 117.169 Continue taking active measures aimed at improving gender equality in employment and preventing violence against women (Malaysia);
- 117.170 Review its domestic legislation and policy to remove provisions that perpetuate discrimination against women and traditional gender stereotypes on the respective roles of women and men in the family (Botswana);
- 117.171 Focus on enhancing measures to promote gender equality and increase women's participation in political life and decision-making bodies (Kenya);
- 117.172 Increase the representation of women in decision-making posts (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 117.173 Continue efforts towards increasing women's representation in all the spheres of life (Nepal);
- 117.174 Strengthen efforts to promote gender equality by implementing policies that support equal representation of women and men in both the public and private sectors (Sierra Leone);
- 117.175 Bolster efforts to advance women's political participation in the electoral process (Lesotho);
- 117.176 Implement effective actions aimed at dismantling gender stereotypes and promoting women's equal participation in all aspects of public life (Chile);
- 117.177 Implement a national action plan to combat gender stereotypes in families and society, and take measures to promote women's equal participation in all aspects of public life and in legislative and judicial bodies (Costa Rica);

- 117.178 Take additional steps to raise awareness of, and combat, gender stereotypes, and to enhance women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes, in consultation with civil society (Japan);
- 117.179 Continue to adopt measures to increase women's participation in political and public life through quotas or other mechanisms that promote equal representation (Mozambique);
- 117.180 Take all necessary measures to promote women's participation in the public and private sectors and to protect both women and girls from domestic violence (Maldives);
- 117.181 Consider reviewing traditional and customary norms to eliminate discrimination against women in matters relating to marriage, guardianship and inheritance, in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Zimbabwe);
- 117.182 Continue to work with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other international organizations to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, including by banning underage marriage (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 117.183 Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by strengthening programmes to fight against gender-based violence and enhance women's economic autonomy (Viet Nam);
- 117.184 Strengthen initiatives to empower and protect women, especially against violence (Dominican Republic);
- 117.185 Enhance efforts to address gender-based violence against women and girls (Timor-Leste);
- 117.186 Further improve measures to combat gender-based violence (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 117.187 Adopt a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence (Zambia);
- 117.188 Adopt a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls (Chile);
- 117.189 Take further steps to establish a comprehensive legal framework to prevent, combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence (Georgia);
- 117.190 Continue its efforts towards comprehensive protection against violence against women through prevention, repression and elimination of this violence (Burkina Faso);
- 117.191 Promote a comprehensive law on violence against women and girls, including domestic violence (Colombia);
- 117.192 Adopt, in consultation with civil society, a comprehensive law to combat and punish all forms of violence against women and girls in both the public and the private spheres (Gambia);
- 117.193 Expedite the formulation of legislation on gender-based violence (Botswana);
- 117.194 Adopt a comprehensive law to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence, both in the public and the private spheres (Iceland);
- 117.195 Continue efforts to put in place a legal framework for comprehensive protection against violence against women, including domestic violence, as recommended by the Human Rights Committee (Mauritius);
- 117.196 Improve its legal framework on violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and eliminate provisions in its domestic law that

could promote discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage, guardianship and inheritance (Portugal);

117.197 Strengthen the existing legal framework to prevent and eliminate violence against women, including domestic violence; repeal discriminatory provisions against women; and promote their participation on equal terms in public life (Mexico);

117.198 Strengthen its legal framework for the protection of women, focusing on preventing and eliminating violence against women, including domestic violence (Indonesia);

117.199 Urgently adopt national legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, against women and girls (Canada);

117.200 Further strengthen legislation and mechanisms on women's empowerment and combating violence against women and children (Philippines);

117.201 Publish the draft comprehensive law to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women, involve civil society in its preparation, approve it in Parliament and swiftly and fully implement its operational provisions (Spain);

117.202 Increase prosecutions for gender-based violence and promote gender equality, including in schools (United States of America);

117.203 Continue to protect the rights of women, including by safeguarding sexual and reproductive health and rights, and by establishing an effective legal framework to ensure accountability for all sexual and gender-based violence (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

117.204 Strengthen public awareness measures both to combat gender stereotypes in the family and society and to encourage the abolition of corporal punishment against children (Italy);

117.205 Take steps to protect children from violence, including sexual violence (Estonia);

117.206 Continue efforts to promote children's rights and protect them from all forms of violence, exploitation and trafficking (Tunisia);

117.207 Continue expanding the scope of initiatives to protect children's rights and improve educational facilities, especially in areas that suffer from a lack of services (Oman);

117.208 Strengthen training programmes for health personnel and the social workforce within the Directorate General for the Provision of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons (Malaysia);

117.209 Strengthen the implementation of the national programmes implemented in favour of older persons and persons with disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

117.210 Continue to facilitate the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in society, including through access to education (Singapore);

117.211 Continue to make effective adjustments to the education system, including improvements in physical access for persons with disabilities, adaptations to the curriculum, teacher training, student awareness and parental involvement (Spain);

117.212 Strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples (Cameroon);

117.213 Modify the legal system in order to combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, including amending the Penal Code to

classify violence against LGBTI people as hate crimes, and prohibit conversion therapies (Spain);

117.214 Enact robust legislation to ensure effective protections for persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics from all forms of discrimination (Iceland);

117.215 Ban “conversion therapies” (Iceland);

117.216 Ban conversion therapies, adopt specific health policies to assist LGBTI+ individuals, and allow the registration of civil society organizations working in these sectors (Malta);

117.217 Ban conversion therapy and protect LGBTI+ minors on the basis of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Luxembourg);

117.218 Develop a national action plan to reduce statelessness and protect stateless persons, with the support, technical advice and experience of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders (Costa Rica).

118. 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 Equatorial Guinea was headed by the H.E.M. Alfonso NSUE MOKUY, Second Deputy Prime Minister the Government in charge of Human Rights (Head of the delegation) and composed of the following members:

- H.E.M. Juan Ndong NGUEMA MBENGONO, Ambassador of the permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea in Geneva (Switzerland);
- H.E.M. Sergio Esono ABESO TOMO, Minister of State in charge of Legal Affairs and Relations with Parliament;
- H.E.M. Maricruz EVUNA ANDEME, Secretary of state in charge of Multilateral, Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E.M. Rime BOSIO ROKALO, Vice-Minister of Justice and Human Rights;
- H.E.M. Amadeo Efa MBA NCHAMA, Minister-Counselor of the permanent;
- Mission of Equatorial Guinea in Geneva (Switzerland);
- H.E.M Maria Del Pilar NZANG MOKUY DE EKUA, Counselor of the permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea in Geneva (Switzerland);
- Ms. Restituta Afang ONDO MIBUY, Administrative Attaché of the Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea in Geneva (Switzerland);
- Ms. Juana Maria Mbengono NDONG ANGUE, Administrative Attaché of the Permanent Mission of Equatorial Guinea in Geneva (Switzerland);
- Mr. Angel Custodio ESONO AYANG, Director of Legal Acts of the Ombudsman;
- Mr. Acacio Esono NDONG NKENE, Director General of Human Rights;
- Mrs Josefa Clara Andeme Ondo Coordinator of the island part ONG AGECEDEA (protection of the elderly);
- Mr. Alfonso Alogo NDONG AYANG, Director General of Educational Planning and Training;
- Mr. Manuel Gabilondo SUKU, Director General of Multisectoral Coordination of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Gender Equality and Crafts;
- Mr. Santiago Francisco EBE OBAMA, aide-de-camp to the Second Vice-Prime Minister;
- Mr. Manuel Mba NCOGO NENGONO, journalist, cameraman of the Ministry of Information, Press and Culture.