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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Madagascar

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the languages 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-eighth session from 20 to 31 January 2025. The review of Madagascar was held at the 11th meeting, on 27 January 2025. The delegation of Madagascar was headed by the Garde des Sceaux, Minister of Justice, Benjamin Alexis Rakotomandimby. At its 16th meeting, held on 29 January 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Madagascar.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Madagascar: Benin, Costa Rica and Qatar.

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 Madagascar:

(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, Canada, 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, 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 Madagascar 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 of Madagascar stated that the country was continuing its efforts to meet its international obligations and implement the 174 recommendations accepted in 2019, despite the financial and global crises.

6. Madagascar was a party to eight of the nine main human rights instruments.

7. Since 2019, Madagascar had adopted a number of key laws to strengthen its legal framework and support sustainable development. These included laws on media communications, the education system, investment and the reform of the Mining Code and the Labour Code. At the same time, a number of bills and legislative proposals were being examined, such as those relating to land-related offences, the fight against trafficking in persons, the protection of persons with albinism and the fight against child marriage.

8. The laws in force demonstrated the State’s determination to strengthen the independence of the judiciary in Madagascar. Under article 107 of the Constitution, the President of the Republic was responsible for safeguarding judicial independence. Article 108 of the Constitution provided that judges enjoyed independence in issuing decisions and were subject only to the Constitution and the law. The High Judicial Council managed judges’ careers and monitored compliance with rules of professional conduct, while an ethics and professional conduct committee attached to the appeal courts provided technical and moral support to judges who requested it.

[1] A/HRC/WG.6/48/MDG/1.
[2] A/HRC/WG.6/48/MDG/2.
[3] A/HRC/WG.6/48/MDG/3.

9. The Government had amended the Act against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to bring it into compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Optional Protocol to that Convention and the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment following its visit to Madagascar in 2023. This amendment established the obligation to open immediate investigations and provided for the punishment of ill-treatment, the strengthening of sanctions and the non-applicability of amnesty in cases of torture. With regard to the launch of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the Deputy Chair of the National Independent Commission on Human Rights was responsible for this mechanism.

10. Since 2019, Madagascar has taken a number of measures to improve detention conditions, including measures to increase the funding allocated to prisons for food and healthcare. The measures taken included overhauling prison camps to ensure food self-sufficiency; providing vocational training to promote social reintegration; providing literacy training, including for minors; and recruiting 1,637 prison officers. In the fight against prison overcrowding, nine prisons that comply with international standards had been built since 2019, an effort recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2024. Other measures had been taken, such as expediting the processing of criminal cases and regularly recruiting judges and clerks of the court. With regard to children in conflict with the law, specific measures had been taken to reduce the application of custodial measures to them, including by issuing ministerial circulars to expedite the processing of cases, training juvenile justice personnel, promoting alternatives to detention such as probation, and improving access to legal assistance tailored to the needs of vulnerable children.

11. The State had prioritized the fight against gender-based violence in order to put an end to impunity, prevent the resurgence of this problem and provide appropriate social protection to victims through the criminal justice system for combating gender-based violence, which had been in place since 2020 and was accompanied by a criminal justice policy intended to punish these offences and expedite the processing of cases. Local women's brigades had been set up by the Ministry of Public Security to prevent such violence and support victims. A new national strategy for combating gender-based violence was being developed for the period 2025–2030 in order to strengthen these measures.

12. The National Office to Combat Human Trafficking was the authority responsible for coordinating and regulating measures to combat this scourge in Madagascar. The State had reaffirmed its commitment by allocating funds to the related national action plan and by introducing, through a circular issued by the Ministry of Justice, a strict criminal justice policy aimed at rigorously prosecuting perpetrators, making use of pretrial detention, ceasing to release suspects prior to their trial, applying severe penalties and compiling judicial statistics. Training courses for justice officials and awareness-raising campaigns had been implemented in order to step up the fight against trafficking. Since 2019, a toll-free number had been available around the clock so that victims or persons at risk could report cases of trafficking or receive guidance. In addition, a bill on strengthening penalties was scheduled to be presented at the first parliamentary session of 2025 with a view to making sanctions more dissuasive.

13. In Madagascar, the freedoms of opinion, expression, the press, association, assembly and movement were guaranteed by the Constitution, subject to restrictions relating to the rights of others, public order, national dignity and State security. In line with international and regional standards, the Organic Act on the General Rules Governing Elections and Referendums recognized these freedoms while placing restrictions on them. In the event of a risk to public order, State officials were authorized to prohibit, suspend or order the cancellation of demonstrations. Aside from election campaigns, all public events were subject to authorization.

14. The President of the Republic ensured that women had equal access to public and political posts and had increased the proportion of women in the Government to 12 out of 29 members. Women had also been appointed to positions in strategic departments traditionally occupied by men. This trend could also be observed within the High Constitutional Court and the ministerial departments. Where elections are concerned, 16.2 per cent of members of

the parliament were women and, in the local elections of December 2024, a woman had been elected mayor of the capital.

15. Access to drinking water for all was included in the humanitarian component of the first pillar of the State's general policy. In 2024, 6,201 water points had been established across the country, providing access to water for 55.8 per cent of the population, with 235,000 new beneficiaries. A total of 100 water points had been installed in southern Madagascar, and work on a further 412 water points was planned. A total of 35 boreholes equipped with treatment units were being installed in and around the capital. For 2025, the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene would devote 97.38 per cent of its budget to the construction or rehabilitation of climate-resilient, solar-powered systems for supplying drinking water and to the construction of sanitation infrastructure.

16. Persons reporting environmental offences or cases of corruption benefited from a witness and whistle-blower protection regime provided for by the Criminal Code, the Anti-Corruption Act, the Act on Combating Gender-Based Violence, the Act on Trafficking in Persons and environmental laws.

17. The Government had set up anti-corruption units in the three former provincial capitals and adopted a new national strategy for combating corruption for the period 2025–2030. A number of initiatives had strengthened transparency, including the publication of annual reports by anti-corruption bodies and the establishment in 2021 of the Agency for the Recovery of Illicit Assets. In 2024, 46 cases involving 59 senior officials and elected representatives had resulted in 13 convictions. In 2023, 521 bank accounts, containing a total of 6.3 billion ariary (MGA), had been frozen by the Agency.

18. In 2003, the Government had set up an interministerial committee to draft national reports for the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review. Since being reformed in 2017, this committee has been monitoring the implementation of international recommendations and, most recently, has been setting up a human rights database to guide national human rights policy.

19. Since the submission of the national report, the Government has made considerable progress. With regard to the fight against corruption, the new strategy for combating corruption for the period 2025–2030 had been adopted by the Council of Ministers on 15 January 2025. The reform of civil status and personal identity had already begun with the digitization of the civil register and the establishment of the National Centre for Civil Registration and Identification. With regard to land tenure, the Government had set up an office for land-related grievances that is responsible for receiving and processing claims and providing guidance to users.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

20. During the interactive dialogue, 82 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

21. Jordan commended the efforts made in preparing the national report, reflecting human rights achievements.

22. Malawi noted that Madagascar had ratified the core United Nations human rights treaties and key optional protocols.

23. Malaysia praised the progress in improving access to clean water and sanitation, including through the Madagascar Madio 2025 road map.

24. Maldives commended Madagascar for designating the National Independent Commission on Human Rights as the national preventive mechanism.

25. Mali congratulated Madagascar for extending social protection to non-salaried workers and expanding access to inclusive, equitable and quality education.

26. Mauritania welcomed the cooperation of Madagascar with regional and international mechanisms and measures to improve the quality of education.

27. Mauritius praised the initiatives taken by Madagascar to promote and protect human rights.

28. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and progress in access to healthcare.

29. Montenegro commended the progress made in education, legal protection, gender equality, social programmes and protecting the rights of children, notably children with disabilities.

30. Morocco welcomed the ratification of international instruments, the strengthening of the domestic legal framework and the new anti-corruption strategy.

31. Mozambique congratulated Madagascar on the substantial progress made since the previous review cycle in strengthening its human rights system.

32. Namibia commended the efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with albinism, including establishing a national committee and organizing awareness-raising campaigns.

33. Nepal took positive note of the adoption in 2021 of the National Climate Change Policy and the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy.

34. Nigeria commended the continued cooperation of Madagascar with human rights mechanisms, its efforts to promote women's rights, its legal reforms and its anti-corruption measures.

35. Oman praised Madagascar for promoting the right to education by increasing the education budget and integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into education curricula.

36. The Philippines welcomed the road map for the reduction of maternal and newborn mortality and the initiative to digitize birth registration.

37. The Russian Federation praised Madagascar for ratifying a number of international human rights instruments and incorporating their provisions into national legislation.

38. Rwanda recognized the efforts of Madagascar to combat corruption and promote access to justice, including through an online complaint system.

39. Senegal commended the cooperation of Madagascar with the bodies and mechanisms established under international human rights instruments.

40. Sierra Leone welcomed the increased education budget, the climate governance legislation and the I-TOROKA platform for making anonymous complaints to the Anti-Corruption Office.

41. Singapore praised the efforts to combat gender-based violence, improve children's health, reduce the maternal and newborn mortality rates and improve nutrition.

42. Slovenia commended the efforts of Madagascar to improve access to education and combat gender-based violence and encouraged it to adopt measures to protect human rights defenders and persons with albinism.

43. South Africa commended Madagascar for its commitment to advancing human rights, notably through Decree No. 2022-1219 on gender-based violence.

44. South Sudan commended Madagascar for ratifying almost all the international human rights instruments and for strengthening the functioning of its national institutions.

45. Spain welcomed the efforts of the Government to improve women's representation in public affairs.

46. The delegation of Madagascar stated that the Constitution guaranteed the right to life for all, including alleged offenders. The defence and security forces prioritized this right when discharging their duties and considered that the use of weapons should be a last resort after other measures had been exhausted. Training in human rights and international humanitarian law had been organized to prevent summary executions and arbitrary arrests. The State imposed a strict legal framework on the use of force by State officials, which must

remain proportionate and be aimed exclusively at protecting the lives and physical integrity of individuals.

47. The Constitution prohibited all forms of discrimination. The law on cybercrime penalized discriminatory language, while the administration guaranteed equal access to public office. In 2024, a social security programme for self-employed workers had been launched to promote social equality and awareness-raising campaigns to combat discrimination against persons with albinism had been stepped up, in connection with which a bill was under discussion. Progress had been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS thanks to an amendment made to the relevant law in 2023 to protect people living with the virus.

48. A bill to promote gender equality was being finalized. Women's and girls' access to education was guaranteed by law, although sociocultural barriers persist. To address this problem, programmes to empower girls and women, implemented with the Development Activities Fund, were aimed at keeping girls in school, creating safe spaces, providing scholarships and preparing young women for productive employment. Between 2019 and 2024, steps had been taken to distribute school kits, open canteens in 6,006 schools, grant funding for 22,206 non-civil servant teachers, incorporate 31,500 teachers into the civil service and construct 1,650 classrooms. These measures had promoted equitable access to education and reduced school dropout rates.

49. The Government had built 30 referral hospitals fitted out with modern equipment and 147 new basic health centres at the local level. It had provided 893 basic healthcare centres with new equipment. It had also purchased 150 ambulances, 10 scanners, 35 X-ray machines and 11 oxygen concentrators, facilitating access to healthcare that had previously been available only in large towns. An investment of $15 million over two years had ensured access to family planning commodities, while no vaccine shortages had been reported since 2021. Mention should be made of two flagship programmes, one relating to annual medical caravans that had provided diverse forms of care, free of charge, to 1.2 million beneficiaries since 2022 and another relating to the provision of free emergency care in public hospitals.

50. Where infrastructure is concerned, the Government had built 1,650 classrooms, 4 regional universities, police stations, operational bases for the army, 11 courts and 9 prisons. The purpose of these projects was to extend geographical coverage and improve access to local public services.

51. In Madagascar, the main monitoring institutions were the General State Inspectorate, the Court of Audit and the Council for Budgetary and Financial Discipline. The General State Inspectorate, which is attached to the Office of the President, monitored public services at all levels. Since 2019, the Government had strengthened its staff by holding more competitive examinations to recruit State inspectors. Their inspections had led to the prosecution before the courts of a number of persons alleged to have engaged in corruption.

52. In 2023, the Court of Audit had been set up as an independent body responsible for the external monitoring of public finances, thereby increasing the frequency of inspections of national State agencies. The Council for Budgetary and Financial Discipline, which was attached to the Office of the Prime Minister, prevented and punished financial offences while promoting good governance. The acquisition of administrative and financial autonomy by the Council had ensured that the managers of State agencies no longer avoided disciplinary sanctions.

53. The Sudan welcomed the adoption of the national policies on combating trafficking in persons, on combating climate change and on health.

54. Switzerland thanked Madagascar for its presentation.

55. Togo congratulated Madagascar for its adoption of the national anti-corruption strategy 2015–2025.

56. Tunisia welcomed the anti-corruption strategy, the Agency for the Recovery of Illegally Obtained Assets and the adoption of measures to improve social protection.

57. Ukraine commended Madagascar for its efforts to implement the recommendations received during the previous review and the progress achieved in human rights protection.

58. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requested clarification of whether the new Labour Code covered child labour.

59. The United Republic of Tanzania acknowledged the steps taken to reform the judiciary and the progress made in the educational sector.

60. Uruguay thanked Madagascar for the presentation of its national report and praised the efforts made by the country.

61. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela urged Madagascar to continue implementing measures and plans to address human rights challenges.

62. Viet Nam welcomed the adoption of significant measures to combat gender-based violence, strengthen social protection and address climate change.

63. Zambia applauded Madagascar for the progress made since the third review cycle, especially the increase in 2024 of 33 per cent in funding for education.

64. Zimbabwe commended Madagascar on its implementation in full of some of the recommendations made during the previous review cycle.

65. Algeria welcomed the measures taken to fight trafficking in persons, in particular the implementation of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons.

66. Angola acknowledged the 2021 National Climate Change Policy, the national adaptation programmes of action and the nationally appropriate mitigation actions.

67. Armenia acknowledged the progress made in implementing policies for the advancement of women's rights and steps to improve access to education.

68. Australia acknowledged the adoption by Madagascar of anti-corruption strategies and laws to address gender-based violence.

69. Bangladesh took note of the efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the validation of a gender-sensitive, evidence-based national labour migration policy.

70. Belgium, while recognizing the progress Madagascar had made since the previous review cycle, noted that the legislative framework and its implementation could be improved.

71. Botswana commended Madagascar for the National Policy against Trafficking in Persons and the adoption and implementation of the National Climate Change Policy.

72. Brazil lauded the efforts to combat child labour, including the steps taken to align the minimum age of employment with that of compulsory schooling.

73. Burkina Faso commended the efforts aimed at reducing prison overcrowding and improving prison conditions, including the increased budget for detainee health and nutrition.

74. Burundi welcomed the plans to combat trafficking in persons, the National Social Protection Policy and the proposed national strategy for women's economic empowerment.

75. Cabo Verde commended the efforts made by Madagascar to protect human rights since the previous universal periodic review.

76. Cameroon commended the efforts to strengthen the institutional framework, particularly in the fight against trafficking in persons and the promotion of children's rights.

77. Canada praised the measures taken to combat the sexual exploitation of children and to implement the National Strategy to Combat Child Marriage.

78. Chile acknowledged the progress made by Madagascar in criminalizing all forms of violence, in particular domestic violence and marital rape.

79. China praised the efforts to promote socioeconomic development and judicial reform, combat trafficking in persons and illegal migration and ensure the rights of women and children.

80. Colombia thanked the delegation for the presentation of its report and made recommendations.

81. Costa Rica recognized the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

82. Côte d'Ivoire commended the measures taken to address statelessness and the progress made regarding the rights of women, girls, children with albinism and twins.

83. Cuba acknowledged the efforts made to overcome the challenges identified in the national report and to protect and promote human rights.

84. Cyprus commended the progress made in the representation of women in public affairs, their appointments to decision-making positions and their protection against gender-based violence.

85. The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomed the adoption of the National Policy and the second National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons.

86. The delegation of Madagascar stated that, despite the Government's efforts to crack down on sex offences, there had been an alarming increase in sexual assaults on minors, including cases of rape. Thousands of children, girls and women who were victims of rape, including within their families, were suffering lifelong physical and psychological trauma. The Government had strengthened penalties for rape in order to better protect children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Among the measures envisaged, the chemical castration of sexual predators had been introduced to deter such acts.

87. The National Strategy to Combat Child Marriage, which was adopted in 2018, raised awareness among the public, including among traditional leaders and parents, with a view to preventing this problem. More than 224,000 people had benefited from these measures and training courses had strengthened the capacities of local players. Child victims of sexual violence had received medical, psychosocial and legal support. Furthermore, bills on child marriage and the marital property regime were due to be discussed in the National Assembly.

88. Madagascar had taken national and international measures to guarantee the right to a healthy and sustainable environment. Article 29 of the Constitution recognized this right as fundamental. Multisectoral initiatives had been put in place to manage natural resources, protect ecosystems, combat deforestation and promote adaptation to climate change.

89. The country had adopted a number of strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy, including the National Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, which included measures relating to conservation, sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (the National REDD+ Strategy); the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan; disaster risk management initiatives; and the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy. In March 2024, an awareness-raising campaign had been launched to encourage the use of clean energy. A management transfer system had also been introduced at the level of local communities.

90. In order to protect biodiversity, the Government was tackling poaching and the illegal trafficking of protected species. In that connection, a number of persons had been arrested, including a member of the parliament and four parliamentary assistants involved in turtle trafficking.

91. Madagascar afforded great importance to older persons, who were considered to be deserving of respect and a source of wisdom. In reality, however, they suffered from a lack of respect and proper care. The Government recognized the specific vulnerability of older persons, in particular owing to their physical and mental health and social conditions. In line with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, the Government was taking steps to improve older persons' quality of life. These measures were aimed at preventing discrimination, empowering older persons and protecting them from abuse. More than 303,963 older persons had benefited from programmes to raise awareness of their rights, promote intergenerational dialogue, increase retirement pensions (for persons aged 80 years and over), distribute essential products and enhance access to free medical consultations, among other measures. Psychological support facilities and intergenerational centres had also been set up.

92. Djibouti commended the measures taken to implement the recommendations from the third review cycle, including to combat poverty and promote the rights to education, health and work.

93. The Dominican Republic congratulated Madagascar on its legislative policies to prevent and penalize gender-based violence and corporal punishment against boys and girls.

94. Egypt commended Madagascar for its cooperation with human rights mechanisms, the empowerment of women and their appointment to decision-making positions in the Government.

95. Estonia acknowledged the efforts made to promote family planning and reduce the maternal and newborn mortality rates, and encouraged Madagascar to further promote children's rights.

96. Eswatini commended Madagascar for its judicial reforms aimed at increasing efforts to tackle corruption and speeding up the processing of court cases.

97. Ethiopia praised Madagascar for its commitment to implementing recommendations from previous review cycles and its continued efforts to promote and protect human rights.

98. Gabon congratulated Madagascar for the positive measures it was taking to support persons with albinism and persons with disabilities and for strengthening the legal framework for environmental protection.

99. The Gambia recognized the progress Madagascar had made in improving judicial procedures, combating gender-based violence and expanding access to education through increased funding and infrastructure development.

100. Georgia welcomed the measures taken to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and acknowledged the progress made in addressing and preventing gender-based violence.

101. Germany, while praising the 2019 legislation adopted on combating sexual and gender-based violence, expressed concern about restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly.

102. Ghana commended Madagascar for undertaking legal reforms and awareness-raising campaigns targeting victims of gender-based violence, child exploitation and persons with disabilities.

103. Guinea welcomed the efforts made to combat corruption and protect vulnerable persons, including laws addressing violence against children and child labour.

104. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Madagascar and its national report.

105. India commended the legislative progress and reforms, including on combating trafficking in persons and gender-based violence, safeguarding children's rights and enhancing press freedom.

106. Indonesia acknowledged the measures taken to address gender-based violence, the sexual exploitation of children and child labour, and the increased budget for education and health.

107. The Islamic Republic of Iran recognized the efforts of Madagascar to combat HIV/AIDS, promote inclusive education and enhance labour protection for migrant workers.

108. Iraq welcomed the adoption of the National Social Protection Strategy (2019–2023) and looked forward to the adoption of the strategy for the period 2024–2030.

109. Ireland commended Madagascar for Act No. 2019/008 criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence. Nevertheless, it expressed concern about continued gender-based violence and child marriage.

110. Italy acknowledged efforts to improve prison conditions and prison overcrowding, and to combat trafficking in persons and gender-based violence.

111. Portugal praised the increased allocation of resources in the field of education and the establishment of 10 years of mandatory education.

112. Qatar welcomed the adoption of national policies on human rights, including on universal health coverage and access to education.

113. The Niger lauded the progress made by Madagascar regarding the strict application of recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review.

114. Chad welcomed the commitment to protect human rights, through the implementation of almost all of the recommendations accepted in the previous review cycle.

115. France noted the measures taken by Madagascar since the previous review cycle.

116. The delegation of Madagascar stated that a law on media communications had been drawn up in a participatory and inclusive manner in cooperation with various actors in the communications sector in Madagascar, including journalists. The most important aspect of this law was that press-related offences had been completely decriminalized in Madagascar. In practical terms, no arrests for press offences had been made since 2019, which was a real step forward for the country. In 2020, the introduction of regular adversarial debates on public channels had also marked a real step forward.

117. Since 2020, the Government has provided the education sector with an ambitious budget. The funds allocated to the Ministry of Education had risen steadily. This increase in the budget demonstrated the Government's determination to support national education and improve learning conditions in State schools. For the 2024/25 school year, the school fund for State primary schools and general lower secondary schools had received MGA 66 billion.

118. The Government had invested in education, allocating a budget of MGA 47.8 billion to State primary schools, covering equipment, teaching materials and the maintenance of infrastructure. Lower secondary schools would receive MGA 10 billion to guarantee quality education, while high schools would have a support fund of MGA 8 billion to improve educational standards. A specific budget was allocated to school canteens to provide daily meals, combat malnutrition and enhance pupils' concentration. These measures reflected the Government's commitment to accessible, quality education.

119. The delegation of Madagascar thanked all the States that had asked questions and made recommendations, demonstrating their interest in the country. These enriching and constructive exchanges encouraged the Government to step up its efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during this cycle of the universal periodic review. The measures taken by the State were in alignment with the three pillars of its general policy: the development of human capital; industrialization and economic transformation; and governance and the rule of law. Despite financial constraints, Madagascar had honoured the majority of the commitments made at the end of the previous cycle of the universal periodic review, thanks to the multilateral and bilateral support received. Madagascar was willing to cooperate with all partners to promote and protect human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

120.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Côte d'Ivoire);**

120.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Portugal);**

120.3 **Establish a national preventive mechanism in the framework of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Portugal);**

120.4 **Continue consistent efforts to modernize the national legislation in the area of protecting human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);**

120.5 **Ensure its national human rights institution has sufficient human and financial resources to carry out its legal mandate (Australia);**

120.6 **Ensure adequate resources are allocated to the National Independent Human Rights Commission to address human rights challenges (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.7 **Strengthen the capacity of and increase resources for the National Independent Human Rights Commission and other human rights protection bodies (Mozambique);**

120.8 **Increase resources for the National Independent Human Rights Commission as well as its regional presence (Cyprus);**

120.9 **Strengthen the National Independent Human Rights Commission so that its activities are in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Djibouti);**

120.10 **Continue efforts to maintain the independence of the national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

120.11 **Formalize the appointment of Commissioners to the National Independent Human Rights Commission (South Africa);**

120.12 **Provide the national mechanism for the prevention of torture with the necessary resources to carry out its activities with autonomy and independence (Chile);**

120.13 **Continue efforts to implement policies aimed at eliminating discrimination based on gender, ethnicity and religion (Mozambique);**

120.14 **Continue to bolster measures aimed at removing discrimination, especially against girls and children with disabilities (Burkina Faso);**

120.15 **Develop relevant policies and programmes to combat all forms of racial discrimination (Burundi);**

120.16 **Redouble efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination in the labour market (Nepal);**

120.17 **Strengthen measures to eliminate discrimination against girls, twins, children with disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS and those with albinism (Cyprus);**

120.18 **Adopt comprehensive legislation, accompanied by relevant policies and programmes, to combat all forms of racial discrimination (Niger);**

120.19 **Continue strengthening measures for the adoption of comprehensive legislation, coupled with the relevant policies and programmes, to combat all forms of racial discrimination (Angola);**

120.20 **Step up measures to reduce prison overcrowding (United Republic of Tanzania);**

120.21 **Reduce prison overcrowding by adopting alternatives to incarceration, ensure the separation of minors from adults in detention facilities, and provide adequate healthcare, nutrition and humane conditions for detainees (Gambia);**

120.22 **Improve detention centres and prisons by addressing overcrowding, separate minors from adults and provide adequate healthcare and nutrition for detainees (Ghana);**

120.23 **Encourage the continued strengthening of efforts in the fight against corruption (Sierra Leone);**

120.24 **Continue the effective implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2015–2025 beyond 2025 (Morocco);**

120.25 **Enhance measures to prevent and eradicate corruption by renewing the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and ensuring its effective implementation (Indonesia);**

120.26 **Fully implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, including its provisions for the protection of whistle-blowers (Ireland);**

120.27 **Continue its efforts to recruit and train new judges and police officers, based on the highest standards of transparency and relevant investigations, in order to combat corruption (Canada);**

120.28 **Continue with efforts aimed at strengthening the judiciary to ensure effective and efficient justice delivery (Malawi);**

120.29 **Further strengthen the independence of the judiciary and ensure access to justice for all citizens, particularly in rural and remote areas (Ethiopia);**

120.30 **Ensure the independence of the judiciary, take concrete steps to improve access to justice, including by removing financial barriers, and increase access to independent legal aid, particularly for children (Belgium);**

120.31 **Pursue measures to expand access to justice, including providing free legal aid to people who cannot afford to pay for their own legal representation (Brazil);**

120.32 **Enhance and strengthen its judicial framework to ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all (Nigeria);**

120.33 **Ensure that robust investigations are initiated and completed promptly so that perpetrators of crimes against persons with albinism are prosecuted, and ensure that victims obtain redress (Togo);**

120.34 **Reduce prison overcrowding by accelerating the implementation of alternatives to incarceration and by improving the judicial follow-up of detainees (Guinea);**

120.35 **Accelerate the processing of cases of prisoners in pretrial detention (France);**

120.36 **Uphold its obligations to peaceful assembly, including with respect to political parties, under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

120.37 **Take measures to ensure that all individuals and political parties can fully enjoy the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, and ensure that any restrictions on the exercise of these rights are in accordance with the conditions set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**

120.38 **Ensure the safety of journalists and human rights defenders by establishing mechanisms for the monitoring, prevention, protection and investigation of violations against them (Switzerland);**

120.39 **Strengthen the legal protection of journalists (Germany);**

120.40 **Ensure that the laws on defamation, contempt and libellous statements respect the right to freedom of expression (Canada);**

120.41 **Increase efforts to protect human rights defenders and prevent all forms of intimidation, reprisals, arbitrary arrests, violence and unwarranted prosecutions (Italy);**

120.42 **Adopt a new national strategy to combat child marriage and ensure its full implementation (Estonia);**

120.43 **See to the full implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Child Marriage 2018–2024 (Eswatini);**

120.44 **Continue efforts to combat child marriage (Georgia);**

120.45 **Combat child marriage by renewing and strengthening the expired National Strategy to Combat Child Marriage (Iceland);**

120.46 **Implement fully the national strategy to prevent and eradicate early and forced marriages (Italy);**

120.47 **Continue rendering comprehensive assistance to the institution of the family as it is understood in its traditional sense (Russian Federation);**

120.48 **Ensure equal rights in all areas relating to marriage and family relations and in the area of inheritance, divorce and child custody (Canada);**

120.49 **Continue to bolster measures towards the eradication of child marriage (Botswana);**

120.50 **Design awareness-raising campaigns on the harmful effects of child marriage on girls' health and well-being (Togo);**

120.51 **Strengthen, in terms of operational capacities, the effective application of the law against trafficking in persons (Morocco);**

120.52 **Continue implementing the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, ensuring the effective allocation of resources to combat this crime (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

120.53 **Strengthen the fight against trafficking in persons by establishing protection and rehabilitation mechanisms for victims, in particular children (Cameroon);**

120.54 **Adopt a national plan on child labour, increase labour inspections and tackle the root causes of child exploitation, including family vulnerability and lack of access to education for children (Ghana);**

120.55 **Fully implement the National Social Protection Strategy (2024–2028) and increase support, particularly to those in disaster-prone regions and in extreme poverty (Malaysia);**

120.56 **Further implement the National Social Protection Strategy and enhance the protection of vulnerable groups (China);**

120.57 **Sustain efforts in expanding social protection coverage, particularly for self-employed workers and vulnerable households (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

120.58 **Continue strengthening social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations and promote sustainable development (Ethiopia);**

120.59 **Further improve the implementation of the National Social Protection Strategy and ensure the integration of the right to development into national development plans by enhancing public participation, ensuring transparency in managing natural resources (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

120.60 **Ensure access to basic health, nutrition, education, protection, water and sanitation services for all, especially those living in rural areas (Malaysia);**

120.61 **Strengthen access to basic health, nutrition, education, protection and water and sanitation services for people living in rural areas (Morocco);**

120.62 **Increase funding and strengthen policies for water, sanitation, housing, health and nutrition, particularly in rural areas, by constructing adequately staffed health centres, expanding the infrastructure for safe drinking water, ensuring affordable access to basic healthcare and meeting the budget health financing target (Germany);**

120.63 **Strengthen conditions of access to water, sanitation and hygiene (Mali);**

120.64 **Continue updating the national policy for water and sanitation services (Oman);**

120.65 **Strengthen measures to reduce poverty in the country and improve access to education and healthcare (Mozambique);**

120.66 **Sustain and intensify poverty alleviation efforts, aiming to improve the socioeconomic well-being of its people (Nigeria);**

120.67 **Strengthen efforts on the implementation of its national poverty strategy (South Africa);**

120.68 **Ensure adequate allocation of resources to cushion vulnerable communities, especially those living in conditions of extreme poverty (Zimbabwe);**

120.69 **Adopt more measures to further bridge the gap between rural and urban areas and ensure improved living standards in rural and remote areas (China);**

120.70 **Pursue efforts in order to improve the health sector and to secure safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation, especially in the areas that are most vulnerable and exposed to climate change (Iraq);**

120.71 **Address the policy gaps to improve access to primary healthcare services, especially for persons from rural areas (Maldives);**

120.72 **Continue the policy for reducing regional discrepancies in access to basic services, especially access to drinking water, sanitation and primary healthcare (Cameroon);**

120.73 **Continue efforts to promote the right to health and access to medical services, especially in rural areas (Egypt);**

120.74 **Pursue efforts to enhance healthcare and improve health facilities, especially in remote areas (Tunisia);**

120.75 **Improve the quality and accessibility of services in health centres by applying free primary care, eradicating discrimination against the poor, lowering the price of medicine and increasing the number of hospitals, health centres and health staff working in childcare (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.76 **Consider further increasing the budget allocated for the health sector to ensure good-quality health services (United Republic of Tanzania);**

120.77 **Continue enhancing the healthcare financing system to provide the Malagasy population with access to quality health services (Cuba);**

120.78 **Continue its efforts to strengthen universal health coverage, while taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups (India);**

120.79 **Accelerate the adoption of the national strategic plan to address public health diseases (Sierra Leone);**

120.80 **Strengthen access to obstetric care for pregnant adolescents and effectively implement the national strategic plan for the elimination of obstetric fistula (Mali);**

120.81 **Increase the availability and quality of reproductive health services, prioritizing rural areas (Estonia);**

120.82 **Adopt a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents and ensure that sexual and reproductive health education is part of the mandatory school curriculum (Estonia);**

120.83 **Design and implement a national awareness campaign on sexual and reproductive health among young people in both urban and rural areas (Mexico);**

120.84 **Protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for all (Iceland);**

120.85 **Ensure the provision of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school settings (Iceland);**

120.86 **Make progress in the provision of adequate sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls (Chile);**

120.87 **Strengthen HIV programmes, with a particular focus on young people and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (Senegal);**

120.88 **Strengthen efforts to increase school enrolment, attendance and completion rates for all children (Maldives);**

120.89 **Guarantee access to education free of charge and increase school enrolment, attendance and completion rates for all children (South Sudan);**

120.90 **Take the measures necessary to ensure free access to education and increase enrolment, attendance and completion rates for all children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.91 **Take all measures necessary to increase school enrolment, school attendance and school completion rates, particularly at the secondary school level (Cabo Verde);**

120.92 **Implement initiatives and programmes to ensure that all children, including those with disabilities and marginalized groups, have equal access to quality education (Montenegro);**

120.93 **Ensure the implementation of its legislation on access to education by safeguarding inclusive participation of those living with disabilities as well as marginalized communities (Zimbabwe);**

120.94 **Ensure that all children have access to education without any discrimination (Ukraine);**

120.95 **Take further measures to fully implement inclusive education policies, ensuring access to quality education for all, particularly for children from vulnerable groups (Armenia);**

120.96 **Continue to improve access to quality education for all, especially for vulnerable children such as those with disabilities, with albinism or living in rural areas (Cameroon);**

120.97 **Expand access to quality education for all, especially in rural areas (Viet Nam);**

120.98 **Continue to improve access to quality education and increase school completion rates for all children (Indonesia);**

120.99 **Continue efforts to promote the right to education for all (Djibouti);**

120.100 **Pursue efforts to promote the right to education and combat school dropout, especially for children from poor families (Tunisia);**

120.101 **Strengthen efforts to increase the percentage of persons in pre-, primary and secondary education by extending free schooling to the secondary and pre-primary levels (Zambia);**

120.102 **Improve educational infrastructure and ensure equal access to education for children in both urban and rural areas, with a focus on reducing dropout rates and enhancing technical and vocational education (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

120.103 **Increase efforts in order to increase the number of children in schools and to improve quality education outputs (Iraq);**

120.104 **Make more efforts to provide quality education for children and reduce the phenomenon of school dropout (Qatar);**

120.105 **Continue efforts to reduce the dropout rate and expand the scope of initiatives to distribute school supplies to vulnerable groups (Oman);**

120.106 **Continue to enhance the capacity of duty bearers to uphold and protect human rights through targeted, mandatory human rights education and training, with special focus on gender equality and the rights of the child (Philippines);**

120.107 **Pursue national policies and programmes aimed at protecting the environment and addressing the risks and consequences of climate change (Sudan);**

120.108 **Implement measures to prevent and adequately manage the effects of climate change, such as droughts, to avoid the risk of internal displacement and increased food insecurity (Dominican Republic);**

120.109 **Strengthen climate resilience and environmental protection measures by implementing community initiatives and improving the effectiveness of the National Climate Change Policy (Viet Nam);**

120.110 **Further improve the legal system of environmental protection and enhance environmental law enforcement (China);**

120.111 **Take steps to ensure that environmental defenders can work in a safe environment, free from intimidation, harassment or reprisal (Chile);**

120.112 **Enhance international cooperation to bolster climate mitigation and adaptation measures (Botswana);**

120.113 **Finalize the development of the draft law on non-forest environmental crimes with a view to its adoption (Gabon);**

120.114 **Promote the right to development through the adoption of strategies to empower vulnerable populations, including rural communities, by ensuring equitable access to education, healthcare and social protection (Cuba);**

120.115 **Continue the work of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Russian Federation);**

120.116 **Pursue national policies and programmes aimed at implementing the sustainable development agenda (Sudan);**

120.117 **Continue efforts to enhance women's empowerment through a national strategy (Nepal);**

120.118 **Further expand opportunities for women's full and meaningful participation in politics and the economy, including by urgently adopting the national strategy for women's economic empowerment which is currently under deliberation (Philippines);**

120.119 **Adopt specific support measures to enable women to have access to a broader range of employment opportunities, including promoting their access to formal employment and decision-making positions (South Sudan);**

120.120 **Continue implementing initiatives aimed at empowering women economically, socially and politically (Oman);**

120.121 **Strengthen measures to ensure equal access for men and women in both public and private employment (Bangladesh);**

120.122 **Redouble efforts to substantially reduce the prevalence of child marriage (Bangladesh);**

120.123 **Proceed with promoting gender equality (Georgia);**

120.124 **Take all measures necessary to combat gender-based violence (Ukraine);**

120.125 **Continue to enhance its efforts to combat gender-based violence (Singapore);**

120.126 **Continue to fight against gender-based violence and all forms of discrimination against women (Cyprus);**

120.127 **Pursue and scale up efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Italy);**

120.128 **Continue to take measures to ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have effective access to justice, guaranteeing their adequate protection, strengthening support systems and improving judicial processes so that they are accessible and safe (Dominican Republic);**

120.129 **Strengthen mechanisms for preventing and combating domestic violence in order to protect victims and provide them with justice and rehabilitation as well as all forms of assistance (Djibouti);**

120.130 **Ensure the implementation and funding of a renewed national strategy on ending gender-based violence in line with Act No. 2019-008 (Iceland);**

120.131 **Intensify efforts to comply with the application of the law on gender-based violence, allocating resources for the reduction of gender-based violence rates through advocacy programmes, capacity-building and support for victims, especially in rural areas (Uruguay);**

120.132 **Provide training to law enforcement, judicial officers and community leaders in support of implementation of gender-based violence laws (Australia);**

120.133 **Accelerate efforts to combat gender-based violence, promote women's political participation and leadership, and strengthen legal protection for women's rights (Ethiopia);**

120.134 **Enhance programmes targeting gender-based violence and child exploitation by expanding shelters, integrating prevention measures in schools and providing adequate resources for victim support (Gambia);**

120.135 **Adopt the measures necessary to improve access to services and protection and support mechanisms for victims of gender-based violence, with special emphasis on rural areas (Mexico);**

120.136 **Increase awareness on combating gender-based violence (United Republic of Tanzania);**

120.137 **Strengthen women's economic empowerment and strengthen support for victims of sexual abuse (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.138 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, in particular in school establishments (Cabo Verde);**

120.139 **Fully implement the law prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings (Estonia);**

120.140 **Ban corporal punishment in all settings, promoting positive, non-violent and participatory forms of parenting, and implementing awareness-raising campaigns aimed at parents and professionals who work with children (Costa Rica);**

120.141 **Adopt legal and policy reforms to fully protect children from physical and other abuse, neglect and violence (Montenegro);**

120.142 **Implement a registration and identification process for children who are effectively homeless, and strengthen existing laws to protect them from further exploitation (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.143 **Take further measures to prevent violence against children (Georgia);**

120.144 **Step up efforts in the fight against the sexual exploitation of children (Cyprus);**

120.145 **Step up measures to combat the sexual abuse and exploitation of children online and offline and other forms of child abuse (Philippines);**

120.146 **Adopt a comprehensive national child protection policy, including on sexual exploitation and violence against children (Uruguay);**

120.147 **Implement a national child protection policy to prevent and combat the high incidence of labour and sexual exploitation of boys and girls (Spain);**

120.148 **Implement a national strategy to end violence, discrimination and stigmatization of children in street situations, ensure their access to education and increase the number and quality of State-run reception centres and shelters for them, particularly in terms of services such as health, education, nutrition, support and guidance (Costa Rica);**

120.149 **Continue steps to combat all forms of child labour (Malawi);**

120.150 **Continue and strengthen the fight against child labour, child sexual exploitation and child marriage (Burundi);**

120.151 **Develop a comprehensive strategy to evaluate and address child abuse, strengthen awareness-raising programmes to combat child abuse, and ensure timely reporting and investigation of all child abuse cases (Malaysia);**

120.152 **Continue to enhance its efforts to improve children's access to healthcare (Singapore);**

120.153 **Continue efforts aimed at promoting the rights of the child, in particular by increasing the allocation of funds to the education system as a percentage of gross national product and by combating discrimination against vulnerable children and girls in the educational system (Brazil);**

120.154 **Strengthen measures aimed at guaranteeing the rights of children and adolescents, in particular those aimed at eliminating any type of discrimination they may suffer (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.155 **Promote measures that prohibit child abuse and extend free access from primary to secondary education, including to refugee children (Colombia);**

120.156 **Strengthen the implementation capacity of its legislation on the promotion of the rights of children (Zimbabwe);**

120.157 **Adopt a national plan with a human rights-based approach to eliminate child labour, with sufficient resources, and that increases labour inspections and addresses structural causes, such as family vulnerability and lack of access to education (Costa Rica);**

120.158 **Develop a social protection programme addressing the worst forms of child labour (Eswatini);**

120.159 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate child labour by adopting a national plan (Gambia);**

120.160 **Strengthen the enforcement and implementation of existing legislation to combat child labour, forced marriage and illicit adoptions (Germany);**

120.161 **Redouble the efforts to end child labour, particularly by accelerating the adoption of the new national plan (Ukraine);**

120.162 **Strengthen national policies aimed at combating child labour (Cuba);**

120.163 **Strengthen policies to combat child labour and to enhance children's access to education, health and social protection (India);**

120.164 **Strengthen the fight against child labour by intensifying inspections and facilitating access to education, especially in rural areas (Guinea);**

120.165 **Ensure access to education and healthcare for persons with disabilities (Jordan);**

120.166 **Expand initiatives to guarantee the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, including through improved access to healthcare, employment opportunities and public services (Armenia);**

120.167 **Redouble efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against persons with disabilities (Djibouti);**

120.168 **Enhance measures to eliminate discrimination, including against children with disabilities and children living with HIV/AIDS (South Africa);**

120.169 **Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to promote non-discrimination against persons with disabilities (Italy);**

120.170 **Ensure greater outreach and awareness-raising about the situation of people with disabilities (Mauritania);**

120.171 **Intensify efforts to further strengthen the protection of persons with albinism, particularly in remote areas (Namibia);**

120.172 **Consider children suffering from acute or severe malnutrition as a top priority and provide them with the necessary treatment and nutrition, and take measures to protect persons with albinism from abuse, ill-treatment, discrimination in access to employment and social protection programmes, among others (Cabo Verde);**

120.173 **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns aimed at the general population with the main goal of eradicating any type of action or discrimination against people with albinism (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.174 **Continue and strengthen awareness campaigns on albinism by involving all stakeholders, including community and religious leaders, in order to demystify albinism and combat false beliefs (Gabon);**

120.175 **Combat the discrimination that prevents persons with albinism from accessing the labour market, and ensure that complaints made by persons with albinism about discrimination in the labour market are addressed by the relevant bodies (Zambia);**

120.176 **Take the measures to necessary protect vulnerable communities and internally displaced persons from the impact of climate change (Colombia);**

120.177 **Strengthen internal migration policies, including by providing local authorities with adequate resources and training to manage migration and addressing the adverse effects of climate change (Indonesia);**

120.178 **Create a free, universal and accessible national birth registration system, adequately fund it and widely disseminate it to ensure the right to an identity for all persons (Mexico).**

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

121.1 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and repeal discriminatory provisions in inheritance and matrimonial property laws (Rwanda);**

121.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Colombia) (Côte d'Ivoire) (France) (South Sudan);**

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

121.4 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Côte d'Ivoire) (Rwanda);**

121.5 **Consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Rwanda);**

121.6 **Consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Eswatini);**

121.7 **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Colombia);**

121.8 **Ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);**

121.9 **Consider ratifying the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (Algeria);**

121.10 **Ratify the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Chad);**

121.11 **Consider acceding to the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (Algeria);**

121.12 **Ensure that the National Independent Human Rights Commission and its commissioner representing civil society actors working for the promotion of human rights receive sufficient resources to effectively carry out their mandates (Jordan);**

121.13 **Enact an access to information law that will be in accordance with international standards, establishing an independent oversight institution (Zambia);**

121.14 **Raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age (Chad);**

121.15 **Raise the legal age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age, ensure the use of non-custodial measures for children and, where detention is unavoidable, that children are not detained with adults (Belgium);**

121.16 **Follow up on recommendations made by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including by raising the legal age of responsibility to ensure that children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled (Ireland);**

121.17 **Fully guarantee freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and put an end to the intimidation, arbitrary detention and judicial harassment suffered by defenders, journalists and other civil society actors in the exercise of their legitimate work (Spain);**

121.18 **Guarantee the right to freedom of assembly and association for all, and protect civil society organizations from any form of intimidation or reprisals (Switzerland);**

121.19 **Complete the adoption of the law providing for a system of protection for human rights defenders and whistle-blowers (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

121.20 **Adopt and operationalize the draft law on the protection of human rights defenders of March 2022 and ensure adequate resourcing for its implementation in close cooperation with civil society (Germany);**

121.21 **Adopt the draft legislation on the protection of human rights defenders from harassment, intimidation and arbitrary criminal prosecution (Ireland);**

121.22 **Continue efforts to amend the law relating to marriage and matrimonial regimes in order to remove exceptions to the minimum age of marriage, which is set at 18 years (Mauritius);**

121.23 **Consider decriminalizing abortion and amending the marriage law to remove exemptions to the minimum age for marriage, which is set at 18 years (Colombia);**

121.24 **Eliminate legal exceptions to the minimum age of 18 for marriage and implement a comprehensive and well-funded strategy to combat child marriage through public awareness campaigns and community engagement (Costa Rica);**

121.25 **Remove the legal exceptions to the minimum marriage age of 18 and conduct awareness campaigns on the harmful effects of child marriages (Ghana);**

121.26 **Remove all exceptions to the minimum age of 18 years for marriage, including in the Law on Marriage and Matrimonial Regimes (Iceland);**

121.27 **Amend the Law on Marriage and Matrimonial Regimes to eliminate exemptions to the minimum age of marriage in article 3 (Slovenia);**

121.28 **Amend Law No. 2007-022 to remove exceptions or to better regulate the grounds that may justify marriage under the age of 18 (Chad);**

121.29 **Adopt the bill on therapeutic termination of pregnancy (France);**

121.30 **Decriminalize and legalize abortion in all circumstances (Iceland);**

121.31 **Consider including exceptions to the laws that criminalize termination of pregnancy, making abortion legal in cases of rape, risk to the mother's life and fetal inviability (Chile);**

121.32 **Guarantee free primary and secondary education for all children by 2028 by increasing the education budget, in line with international recommendations (Estonia);**

121.33 **Encourage and promote the participation of communities where transnational companies wish to operate, through prior consultations, to generate better negotiations and avoid social conflict (Dominican Republic);**

121.34 **Promote gender equality by introducing the bill prepared on the subject, removing provisions in inheritance and matrimonial property laws that place women at a disadvantage (Belgium);**

121.35 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equity through the legislative process (India);**

121.36 **Consider repealing Memorandum No. 2023-862, which currently prohibits continued studies for girls married after pregnancy (Sierra Leone);**

121.37 **Fully implement legal frameworks for women's representation, promote their socioeconomic empowerment, safeguard their sexual rights and prevent sexual and gender-based violence (Germany);**

121.38 **Continue to fight against all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women, including by ensuring effective enforcement of the 2019 law against gender-based violence, reforming the 2007 marriage law to remove exceptions to child marriage, and improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, including abortion (Spain);**

121.39 **Take adequate administrative and legal measures to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings (Bangladesh);**

121.40 **Finalize the development of the national policy for the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, initiated in 2022 (Gabon);**

121.41 **Reform the law on the rights of persons with disabilities and develop the national policy on their inclusion and empowerment (Qatar);**

121.42 **Adopt the measures necessary to prevent, combat and prosecute all forms of discrimination, violence and hate speech against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Spain);**

121.43 **Take concrete measures to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Switzerland);**

121.44 **Amend article 331 of the Criminal Code to ensure the age of consent is equal for all, irrespective of sexual orientation (Iceland);**

121.45 **Develop a rights-based national framework for refugees and asylum-seekers that guarantees their full economic and social inclusion (Uruguay);**

121.46 **Grant refugees and asylum-seekers full access to self-employment and paid employment, through the refugee framework currently being developed (Niger);**

121.47 **Continue efforts to enhance services provided to refugees and asylum-seekers and provide them with the necessary protection (Egypt).**

122. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Madagascar and have been noted by Madagascar:**

122.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);**

122.2 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Malawi);**

122.3 **Finalize the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

122.4 **Promote ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Chile);**

122.5 **Further strengthen efforts to improve the legal framework on human rights by acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Burkina Faso);**

122.6 **Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that explicitly ensures effective protection for persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);**

122.7 **Adopt legislative measures to combat discrimination against vulnerable or minority groups, LGBT+ persons, persons living with HIV or persons with disabilities (France);**

122.8 **Repeal Law No. 2024-001 amending the Criminal Code, which provides for the penalty of surgical castration for perpetrators of certain crimes (Spain);**

122.9 **Withdraw the law providing for surgical castration for the perpetrators of certain crimes (France);**

122.10 **Consider bringing the Criminal Code into line with the standards of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, eliminating penalties that establish physical or chemical castration for the commission of certain crimes (Chile).**

123. **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 Madagascar was headed by Garde des Sceaux, Minister of Justice, Benjamin Alexis RAKOTOMANDIMBY, and composed of the following members:

- Monsieur RAKOTOARIMANANA Herilala, Ministre de la Sécurité Publique;
- Monsieur TIANDAZA Dinaraly Odilon, Sénateur de Madagascar;
- Madame RABY SAVATSARAH Ain'Harimanga Gabrielle, Député de Madagascar élue à Farafangana, Présidente de la Commission Juridique de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Monsieur MAMINIRINA Jolce Emilien, Député élu à Manakara, Président de la Commission Intérieur près de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Monsieur TEHINDRAZANARIVELO Djacoba Andry Solofonirina Oliva, Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire, Représentant Permanent de Madagascar auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève et à Vienne;
- Monsieur JEAN CLAUDE, Secrétaire Général par intérim du Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports;
- Monsieur RABEARISOA Rochel, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de la Justice;
- Madame RABEMANANJARA Harifera Elisa, Directeur Général de la Coopération Internationale du Ministère des Affaires étrangères;
- Madame VOLAZARA Sakina Mohamady, Directeur Général de l'Administration Pénitentiaire du Ministère de la Justice;
- Monsieur RANARIVELO Andrianampoina Hajaina, Directeur Général de l'Office de la Radio et de la Télévision publiques de Madagascar du Ministère de la Communication et de la Culture;
- Madame ANDRIAMAMPIANDRA Hasindraibe Christiane, Directeur des Etudes Juridiques de la Présidence de la République;
- Madame RAMINOSOA Arozoa, Directeur de la Législation et du Contentieux auprès de la Primature;
- Madame RAFARAMALALA Florence Isabelle, Directeur des Relations Multilatérales du Ministère des Affaires étrangères;
- Madame RAKOTOMALALA Nadia Volatiana, Directeur des Etudes et des Réformes Législatives du Ministère de la Justice;
- Monsieur TOMBOHAVANA Fabien, Directeur des Droits Humains et des Relations Internationales du Ministère de la Justice;
- Madame RABENOROHANTA Aina Diamondra, Directeur des Affaires Juridiques du Ministère de la Santé;
- Madame RAKOTOVAO Vonjinirina Todisoa, Directeur du Travail et de la Promotion des Droits Fondamentaux du Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, et de la Fonction Publique;
- Madame RASOANIRAINY Diana Mirella Volahanta, Directeur des Affaires Juridiques du Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Assainissement et de l'Hygiène;
- Madame RAKOTOMAVO Nathalie Rosette, Directeur des Affaires Juridiques et Contentieux du Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable;
- Monsieur RAHOLINARIVO SOLONAVALONA Paolo Emilio, Directeur des Etudes et de Gestions des Risques du Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes du Ministère de l'Intérieur;

- Monsieur RAZAFIMANDIMBY Tiana Heriniaina, Conseiller auprès de la Mission Permanente de Madagascar à Genève;
- Madame RAKOTONIAINA Andry Marie Ange, Chef du Service des Droits de l'Homme et des Affaires Humanitaires du Ministère des Affaires étrangères;
- Madame RAKOTOARSON Rinja Ninah, Chef du Service des Affaires Juridiques du Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances;
- Monsieur FIDIMANANTSOA Liva, Inspecteur Général de l'Assemblée Nationale.