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Universal periodic review

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

### Zambia

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\* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-second session from 23 January to 3 February 2023. The review of Zambia was held at the 12th meeting, on 30 January 2023. The delegation of Zambia was headed by the Minister of Justice, Mulambo Haimbe. At its 16th meeting, held on 3 February 2023, the Working Group adopted the report on Zambia.

2. On 11 January 2023, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Zambia: Montenegro, Sudan and United States of America.

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 Zambia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);<sup>1</sup>

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);<sup>2</sup>

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).<sup>3</sup>

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States and Uruguay was transmitted to Zambia through the troika. The 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 Zambia stated that, in relation to the abolition of the death penalty, relevant provisions in the Penal Code (chapter 87) and the Criminal Procedure Code (chapter 88) of the laws of Zambia had been repealed. Relevant provisions relating to the defamation of the President had also been repealed in the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide had been ratified, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child was being implemented through the national child policy, which was an integral part of the national development process. The enactment of the Children's Code of 2022 harmonized all the laws relating to children and integrated into the domestic legislative framework the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Zambia had enjoyed overwhelming support from the United Nations human rights mechanisms in relation to the implementation of recommendations.

6. The seventh national development plan, which had concluded in 2021, had resulted in notable achievements, including the construction of six gender-based violence fast-track courts, the decentralization and strengthening of the national prosecution authority, the construction of two modern correctional facilities, the formulation of the national legal aid policy and the development of a legal framework to support the establishment of parole boards. Measures to enhance technical and vocational education and entrepreneurship development had been put in place to enhance job and wealth creation. In 2022, the eighth national development plan had been launched, focusing on four strategic development areas,

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/42/ZMB/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/42/ZMB/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/42/ZMB/3](#).

namely, economic transformation and job creation, human and social development, environmental sustainability and good governance.

7. The national strategy on financial education, 2019–2024, had been developed with the overall strategic objective of improving the knowledge, understanding and skills of the population. The Office of the Commissioner for Children had been supported by the social welfare workforce, which was present in all districts, and projects had been implemented to address a number of issues, including sexual and reproductive health care of adolescents.

8. The policy to combat gender-based violence against women and girls had been implemented through the national gender policy, the national referral mechanism on gender-based violence and violence against children, the national guidelines for the multidisciplinary management of survivors of gender based violence in Zambia and the national strategy on ending child marriage in Zambia, 2016–2021.

9. The recommendation to establish a transparent public service had been implemented through the incorporation of non-State actors in the development and implementation of the national development plans and the enactment of the National Planning and Budgeting Act of 2020, which enhanced transparency in the formulation of national budgets. Additional tasks had been devolved to the local authority level, and integrity committees had continued to be established in public and private institutions.

10. Various human rights trainings on gender and gender-mainstreaming had been conducted in institutions, and human rights education had been included in the curricula of schools and training centres. The human rights knowledge of military and security personnel had been broadened through the curriculum offered at various military training schools. Training on ethics and the legal implications of discrimination had been given to health-care workers and teachers.

11. The welfare of persons with albinism had been promoted through measures including hosting cancer clinics and covering the medical costs for some persons with albinism. A situation analysis was being undertaken to provide appropriate measures and interventions for person with albinism.

12. In order to protect the environment and enhance safety, as well as security, during mining operations, measures had been introduced, which include establishing a security system to limit and control access by young people to the mine site and ensure that every worker accessing the site had the appropriate personal protective equipment. The environmental management (amendment) bill, 2022, had been drafted to provide for the registration of toxic substances, such as mercury, prior to their use. The bill would also include provision for an environmental impact assessment before the commencement of mining projects and would regulate the use of pesticides for agricultural purposes.

13. Birth registration had been increased through the implementation of the integrated national registration information system. The registration process had been decentralized to the district and sub-district levels.

14. Measures had been implemented to prevent trafficking in persons, which included launching the policy on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, in 2022, amending the Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2022 and appointing focal points in all police stations to deal with cases of trafficking in persons.

15. The water, sanitation and hygiene programme had continued to improve equitable access to drinking water. People's standard of living had continued to be raised through programmes aimed at protecting vulnerable groups. There had been an increase in the number of beneficiaries of social protection programmes. Measures had been put in place to ensure the continuous monitoring and evaluation of the social cash transfer programme.

16. In 2022, the budgetary allocation for the health sector had been 8 per cent of the national budget, less than the 15 per cent prescribed in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases. In relation to health care for adolescents, the national standards and guidelines for provision of adolescent-friendly health services had been developed, and adolescent health spaces had been established in 53 per cent of health facilities. Progress had been made in the response to HIV through sensitization, the early

commencement of treatment leading to viral suppression, the provision of free condoms in facilities, the conduct of behavioural change campaigns, the elimination of mother-to-child transmission and the implementation of voluntary medical male circumcision.

17. Measures to reduce maternal mortality, by ensuring universal access to family planning, skilled attendants at birth and basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care, had continued to be implemented. During the period under review, 563 of the projected 650 health posts and 92 of 115 mini-hospitals had been constructed. Construction of a specialized hospital for mothers and newborns was in progress in Lusaka.

18. The Mental Health Act of 2019 had been enacted, and mental health services had been introduced in provinces and districts. Free health and education services had been provided to all migrant persons in refugee camps and at border posts.

19. The education for all national policy had been revised and included the home-grown school feeding programme, which was aimed at increasing school enrolment, reducing absenteeism and enhancing children's nutritional status and cognitive development. Free education from early childhood to the secondary level had been introduced. Access to education for children with special educational needs had been enhanced through the provision of user-friendly facilities.

20. A two-tier educational system had been implemented that offered learners an opportunity to follow either an academic or vocational career path. Girls who had dropped out of school due to pregnancy had continued to be encouraged to return to school after giving birth. The menstrual hygiene management programme was aimed at reducing absenteeism by providing appropriate infrastructure, materials, free-of-charge menstrual hygiene products and training for adolescent girls.

21. Pursuant to the Anti-Gender-based Violence Act of 2011, various measures had been implemented to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. The measures had been aimed at increasing access to essential services for survivors of gender-based violence and engaging traditional leaders on tackling social norms that promoted the subordination of women.

22. Zambia had progressively endeavoured to ensure that women took up leadership positions. Since 2016, all vice-presidents had been women, and the thirteenth National Assembly of Zambia had elected the first female Speaker. The Deputy Speaker was also a woman.

23. The prevention of child, early and forced marriage had been addressed through the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022. The Act also prohibited the economic exploitation of children.

24. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) had been integrated into the Zambia Correctional Service Act of 2021. Zambia had embarked on building and renovating infrastructure to provide for the effective separation of children who were in conflict with the law and awaiting trial from adults.

25. Abortion had not been liberalized. The Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1972, which set out conditions to be satisfied before an abortion was procured, to protect the right to life of the unborn child, continued to be applicable.

26. Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Voting Patterns and Electoral Violence had been implemented through legal, administrative and institutional reforms. The access to information bill was in the process of being drafted, and it would enhance the independence and freedom of journalists. Various provisions in the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code that prejudiced the independence of the media were being reviewed, and legislation on human rights defenders was being developed.

27. Zambia had faced various challenges in the implementation of recommendations from the previous review, which included the global economic downtrend, financial constraints and competing needs, such as the holding of the general election in 2021 and unplanned expenditure in dealing with emerging issues, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

28. Zambia would require support from the international community, including financial and technical support, for the preparation of a national action plan, the training of medical personnel in specialized fields and for combating the effects of climate change.

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

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

30. The Congo highlighted the progress made in the areas of education and health.

31. Costa Rica made recommendations.

32. Côte d'Ivoire noted the adoption of the Children's Code Act of 2022 and the national strategy for ending child marriage, as well as the construction of two modern detention centres and the formulation of the national legal aid policy.

33. Croatia noted the efforts made to broaden access to education, the measures aimed at decongesting overcrowded prisons and the abolishment of the death penalty.

34. Cuba made recommendations.

35. Israel expressed concern about violence and discrimination against persons with albinism, abortion restrictions and the criminalization of same-sex relations.

36. Denmark noted the adoption of the Children's Code Act of 2022. It expressed concern about reports of restrictions on the exercise of freedom of expression and of poor prison conditions.

37. Djibouti noted the efforts made to raise people's standard of living and the numerous normative reforms that had been undertaken.

38. The Dominican Republic noted the implementation of guidelines to protect child victims and witnesses in legal proceedings, as well as the preparation of a manual on the prosecution of sexual crimes.

39. Egypt noted the human rights dimension in the implementation of the seventh national development plan, as well as the conduct of awareness-raising and the provision of vocational training in the field of human rights.

40. Ethiopia noted the implementation of the eighth national development plan, 2022–2026.

41. France welcomed the amendment of the Penal Code with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

42. The Gambia noted the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022 and the efforts to encourage girls to go back to school after giving birth.

43. Georgia welcomed the commitment of Zambia to undertake comprehensive constitutional reform, as well as the efforts to address concerns related to the welfare of children.

44. Germany expressed concern about the lack of respect for the freedoms of expression and assembly and the lack of protection from torture, among other concerns.

45. Ghana welcomed the national strategy on financial education, 2019–2024, the policies to combat gender-based violence and to protect children and the national health scheme.

46. Iceland made recommendations.

47. India welcomed the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022, the launch of the eighth national development plan and the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up.

48. Indonesia noted the efforts to align national laws with international human rights standards, including the prohibition of the corporal punishment of children.

49. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the implementation of the eighth national development plan, 2022–2026, which had incorporated activities intended to actualize human rights standards.
50. Iraq noted the efforts aimed at reducing poverty, promoting economic and social development, and improving health care services.
51. Finland noted the abolishment of the death penalty and the repeal of the law that criminalized the defamation of the President. It also noted progress made in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights.
52. Ireland welcomed the removal of the death penalty and the offence of criminal defamation of the President from the Penal Code, but remained concerned by restrictions on civil society, as well as the prevalence of gender-based violence and harmful practices.
53. Czechia noted the abolition of the death penalty and the steps taken to eliminate child marriage.
54. Italy commended Zambia for the progress made towards the abolition of the death penalty and recognized measures taken to improve access to education and to protect children's rights.
55. Latvia welcomed the decision to abolish the death penalty and to repeal section 69 of the Penal Code on the criminal defamation of the President.
56. Lesotho noted the efforts to strengthen public policies to address economic and social challenges, particularly the national strategy on financial education.
57. Luxembourg noted the progress made in the field of human rights, in particular the investment in the training of health-care providers with clinical and obstetric skills.
58. Malawi appreciated the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights since the last review, in particular the accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
59. Malaysia encouraged Zambia to include economic, social and cultural rights in its Constitution with the aim of protecting vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities.
60. Maldives welcomed the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022, the national gender policy and the national referral mechanism on gender-based violence and violence against children.
61. Mali noted the progress made in strengthening access to education, with massive investments in primary and secondary education, as well as the use of new information and communications technologies in rural areas.
62. Mauritania welcomed the national policies on human rights, especially the policies on economic, social and cultural rights, including free education, economic development and increasing the living standards of the population.
63. Mauritius appreciated the continued efforts to consolidate human rights by improving the standard of living and by providing social protection to vulnerable persons.
64. Mexico noted the efforts to improve the birth registration system and the progress made in the abolition of the death penalty.
65. Montenegro welcomed the accession to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and called upon Zambia to ratify the remaining core human rights instruments and to address the root causes of mortality among infants and children under five years of age.
66. Morocco noted with appreciation the steps taken to respect, promote and fulfil its human rights obligations, despite the financial constraints.
67. Mozambique commended the progress made since the last review and the commitment to implementing human rights obligations, despite a challenging global environment.

68. Namibia noted the continued efforts aimed at the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to social security.
69. Nepal welcomed the efforts to combat gender-based violence against women and girls, the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022, and the commitment to abolish the death penalty.
70. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Zambia for abolishing the death penalty and the offence of the criminal defamation of the President, but regretted that Zambia did not support recommendations relating to the protection of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons from the previous review.
71. The Niger noted the efforts made to implement the national development plans, including the seventh national development plan, which had led to the establishment of six fast-track courts for handling cases of gender-based violence.
72. Nigeria welcomed the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022, which addressed the needs of children.
73. Pakistan noted the formulation of the national legal aid policy, the introduction of fast-track courts for gender-based violence cases and the enactment of the Children's Code Act of 2022.
74. Panama thanked Zambia for the presentation of its national report.
75. Paraguay expressed concern at the failure to recognize the existence of Indigenous Peoples in Zambia.
76. Poland noted the measures that had been taken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and welcomed the abolition of the death penalty.
77. In response to advance questions and matters raised during the interactive dialogue, the delegation of Zambia stated that the COVID-19 pandemic had resulted in economic challenges for families. In addition, the Government's policy of obliging people staying at home during the pandemic had resulted in gender-based violence. Zambia had embarked on a massive sensitization campaign, using community radio stations highlighting the dangers of gender-based violence, and had established gender-based violence focal points at police stations. The Anti-Gender-based Violence Act of 2011 was currently being revisited in order to strengthen the prosecution of gender-based violence cases. The adoption of a national strategic plan on gender-based violence was being envisaged.
78. Zambia endeavoured to reduce gender inequality through the application of the Gender Equity and Equality of 2015 and other measures, including increasing the allocation of constituency development funds for women. The Employment Code Act of 2019 prohibited discrimination in the workplace.
79. The anti-torture bill was currently under review. The delegation identified various international human rights conventions that were under consideration for ratification.
80. Portugal noted the abolition of the death penalty.
81. Romania welcomed measures, such as the strengthening of the health system, but noted that many challenges remained to be tackled.
82. The Russian Federation noted the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the implementation of human rights obligations.
83. Saudi Arabia noted the positive engagement of Zambia with human rights mechanisms.
84. Senegal noted the efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional human rights framework and to improve access to socioeconomic rights, specifically through the eighth national development plan, 2022–2026.
85. Serbia noted the implementation of national development plans and social protection programmes, the introduction of free primary education for all and the enhanced access to education for children with special needs.

86. Sierra Leone noted the social cash transfer programme for vulnerable persons and the new policies and guidelines on gender-based violence.
87. Slovenia noted the introduction of free education from early childhood to the secondary level and the increase in preschools.
88. Somalia noted the progress made in the field of human rights, in particular the improvements made to the national legal system.
89. South Africa suggested that Zambia adopt the Southern African Development Community model law on eradicating child marriage.
90. Rwanda noted the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in April 2022.
91. Spain welcomed the progress made to improve the protection and promotion of human rights, in particular through the abolition of the death penalty.
92. Sri Lanka welcomed the measures to address economic and social sustainable development and to provide human rights training for military and security personnel.
93. The Sudan noted the eighth national development plan, 2022–2026, the inclusion of human rights education in school curricula and the incorporation of the Nelson Mandela Rules into correctional, legislative and policy frameworks.
94. Sweden expressed concern about the situation for LGBTIQ persons, the lack of enjoyment of rights by women and girls and the lack of adequate resources for education.
95. Timor-Leste welcomed the abolition of death penalty, the progress made on birth registration, the measures to assist migrant children and the commitment to undertake comprehensive constitutional reform.
96. Togo welcomed the constructive cooperation with treaty bodies, the national development plan, the strategy on financial education and the implementation of policies to combat gender-based violence.
97. Türkiye welcomed the implementation of the seventh national development plan and the implementation of an integrated national registration information system to boost birth registration.
98. Ukraine noted the efforts made since the previous review and encouraged further efforts to implement all recommendations supported by Zambia during the current review.
99. The United Kingdom noted the progress made in access to education, human trafficking and advocacy to end female genital mutilation. It expressed concern about prison overcrowding and excessive pretrial detention.
100. The United States commended Zambia for its renewed focus on improving its human rights record and commitment to democracy since its elections in August 2021.
101. Uruguay welcomed the efforts and progress made by Zambia in the area of human rights, in particular the steps taken towards the abolition of the death penalty.
102. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated the completion of the seventh national development plan, which was aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability, eliminating inequalities and strengthening human development.
103. Viet Nam noted the measures aimed at implementing recommendations from the previous review, especially the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up.
104. Yemen noted the accession of Zambia to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the measures taken to punish the crime of genocide.
105. Algeria noted the efforts to strengthen national policies to protect children's rights, advance the status of women and combat violence and discrimination against women.

106. Angola noted the implementation of the seventh national development plan, 2017–2021, that included human rights issues.
107. Argentina welcomed the incorporation of human rights standards into the domestic legal framework under the eighth national development plan, 2022–2026.
108. Armenia noted the establishment of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up and expressed concern about the health emergency in Kabwe.
109. Australia welcomed the formal abolition of the death penalty and expressed concern at reports of discrimination and threats of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
110. Azerbaijan noted the enactment of the Children’s Code Act of 2022 and the measures taken to increase transparency and accountability in public service delivery.
111. The Bahamas noted the introduction of free primary and secondary level education, as well as the efforts to improve access to education for children with special needs.
112. Bangladesh expressed concern about the lack of a clear road map for incorporating the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into domestic law.
113. Belgium welcomed the adoption of the Penal Code Amendment Act of 2022, resulting in the abolishment of the death penalty and the annulment of the Defamation Act.
114. Botswana noted the reports of continued high incidence of sexual abuse and violence against children and called upon Zambia to mitigate such incidents.
115. Brazil commended the establishment of specialized gender-based violence courts and the incorporation of the Nelson Mandela Rules into national legislation.
116. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the enactment of the Mental Health Act of 2019 and the introduction of mental health services in many provinces and districts.
117. Burkina Faso welcomed the adoption of the Child Protection Code Act of 2022, which was aimed at preventing child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage.
118. Burundi expressed its appreciation for the steps already taken by Zambia in the area of human rights.
119. Cabo Verde noted the implementation of the seventh national development plan, 2017–2021, and the formulation of the eighth national development plan, 2022–2026.
120. Cameroon noted the progress made in the protection of human rights and in the implementation of recommendations from the previous review.
121. Canada welcomed the positive steps taken to open up civic space, to allow greater media freedom, to promote political dialogue and to ban child, early and forced marriage.
122. Chad noted the formulation of the eighth national development plan and the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.
123. Chile noted the legal framework for the elimination of discrimination based on sex, race and disability and the policies and guidelines to combat gender-based violence.
124. China noted the promotion of sustainable social and economic development and highlighted the necessity to address inequality, gender-based discrimination and human trafficking.
125. Colombia noted the efforts to combat gender-based violence and the drafting of legislation in relation to human rights defenders.
126. The delegation of Zambia stated that social support for children was being addressed through various initiatives, including the social cash transfer programme and the food support programme. A prison audit was being undertaken, with a view to formulating a programme to address prison overcrowding. The delegation thanked all States who had participated in the review.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

127.1 Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed in 2008, and strengthen protections against early marriage, in line with the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (France);

127.2 Ratify the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Togo);

127.3 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Mozambique);

127.4 Adopt additional measures to promote and protect the rights of children, as well to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Ukraine);

127.5 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);

127.6 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Czechia);

127.7 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, on the establishment of monitoring mechanisms of places of detention (Czechia);

127.8 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and consider voting in favour of the General Assembly resolution for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Italy);

127.9 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Poland);

127.10 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);

127.11 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);

127.12 Ratify, without reservation, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);

127.13 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Argentina) (Brazil) (Ukraine) (Uruguay);

127.14 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia) (Rwanda);

127.15 Consider the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Colombia);

127.16 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique);

- 127.17 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Poland);**
- 127.18 **Consider ratifying the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Convention against Discrimination in Education (Mauritius);**
- 127.19 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Sudan);**
- 127.20 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**
- 127.21 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and adjust its domestic legislation to comply with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering and guarantee due process (Costa Rica);**
- 127.22 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed in 2010 (France);**
- 127.23 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 127.24 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Maldives) (Niger);**
- 127.25 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**
- 127.26 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);**
- 127.27 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Nepal);**
- 127.28 **Redouble ongoing efforts for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);**
- 127.29 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Argentina);**
- 127.30 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Australia);**
- 127.31 **Extend a standing invitation for country visits to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Czechia);**
- 127.32 **Consider inviting, among other special procedures, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (Angola);**
- 127.33 **Consider endorsing the Paris Commitments to protect children from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups (France);**
- 127.34 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Algeria);**

- 127.35 Integrate the principle of gender equality into the Constitutional framework and take measures to promote the empowerment of women and increase the number of women voting and their representation in political positions (Cabo Verde);
- 127.36 Promote the incorporation of the gender perspective into the institutional and legislative framework in relation to strategies for food and nutrition security and rural development (Colombia);
- 127.37 Increase efforts to incorporate and harmonize domestic national legislation with the main international human rights instruments (Chile);
- 127.38 Rapidly adopt and implement the anti-torture bill (Germany);
- 127.39 Finalize and enact the anti-torture bill, to criminalize acts of torture, in line with its Constitutional obligations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 127.40 Expedite the process of enacting appropriate legislation, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Nigeria);
- 127.41 Speed up efforts to pass the environmental management (amendment) bill into law in order to protect the human rights of people within the proximity of mining areas (Lesotho);
- 127.42 Move forward in the adoption of a normative framework in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and adopt the necessary measures for its effective implementation, strengthening, among other things, sensitization campaigns aimed at the population and traditional authorities (Spain);
- 127.43 Enact legislation to facilitate access to information (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (Somalia);
- 127.44 Enact legislation providing for and protecting the right to request access to government records and information (United States of America);
- 127.45 Enact legislation on access to information, in line with international human rights standards (Brazil);
- 127.46 Harmonize the legislative framework with international human rights norms to guarantee the full enjoyment of the freedoms of expression, the press and association (Spain);
- 127.47 Make the necessary legislative changes to ensure the freedoms of expression and association are protected and to ensure that the police enforce these and other laws in a proportionate manner (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 127.48 Strengthen its National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up regarding human rights recommendations (Paraguay);
- 127.49 Ensure the proper functioning of an independent human rights institution that complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and provide it with sufficient financial resources (Luxembourg);
- 127.50 Take the necessary measures to guarantee the proper functioning of the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 127.51 Guarantee the independence of the National Human Rights Commission and ensure its proper functioning in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Namibia);

- 127.52 Take steps to ensure the effective operation of the Office of the Commissioner for Children (Azerbaijan);
- 127.53 Ensure protection in law and in practice of the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities, elderly persons and ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);
- 127.54 Work in collaboration with the United Nations so that the police and military services receive continuous training on the legal obligations of the State in the area of human rights (Dominican Republic);
- 127.55 Continue efforts aimed at conducting various human rights education training on matters relating to a gender-based approach (Morocco);
- 127.56 Continue to improve the institutional and legislative framework with the goal to eliminate all forms of discrimination (Serbia);
- 127.57 Strengthen the efforts on equality and non-discrimination through the Persons with Disability Act and the Gender Equality Act (Cameroon);
- 127.58 Continue efforts to address the problem of discrimination based on gender and violence against women and girls, including child marriage (Viet Nam);
- 127.59 Take effective measures to combat discrimination and violence against women and to protect their rights (China);
- 127.60 Increase non-discrimination and inclusion campaigns, with a focus on migrants and persons with albinism (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 127.61 Continue, where possible, to intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against disadvantaged children and to raise awareness of discrimination against disadvantaged children (Chad);
- 127.62 Abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica);
- 127.63 Pursue efforts regarding the abolition of the death penalty by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);
- 127.64 Continue implementing measures to prevent and eradicate violence against women, children and adolescents, including through protection and assistance to victims (Chile);
- 127.65 Protect the human rights of people with albinism, including by preventing acts of violence and promoting their equal access to education, health services and economic opportunities, through public awareness-raising campaigns and by providing training to officials delivering government services (Canada);
- 127.66 Implement the commitment made at the twenty-five-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to eradicate harmful practices, including sexual cleansing and aspects of rites of passage (Iceland);
- 127.67 Implement the commitment made at the twenty-five-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to eradicate harmful traditional practices, such as sexual cleansing and some negative aspects of rites of passage that violate the rights of women, girls and children (Panama);
- 127.68 Redouble efforts to effectively protect persons with albinism against all forms of violence and ensure their full enjoyment of rights (Congo);
- 127.69 Address the situation of people with albinism through community education programmes to counteract superstitious beliefs about their bodies and to end impunity (Costa Rica);

- 127.70 Strengthen efforts to protect persons with albinism from violence, abduction, stigma and discrimination (Iraq);
- 127.71 Guarantee the right to life of persons with albinism and redouble efforts to ensure equal access to education, health and employment, as well as take more effective measures to protect them against violence, kidnappings, discrimination and stigmatization (Luxembourg);
- 127.72 Take measures to protect persons with albinism from violence, by providing safe spaces, and ensure that perpetrators of attacks against them are investigated and punished (Mexico);
- 127.73 Take effective measures to protect persons with albinism from violence and discrimination, including by guaranteeing their right to life (Namibia);
- 127.74 Consider further positive measures to promote the rights of persons living with albinism (Nigeria);
- 127.75 Take more effective measures to protect people with albinism from violence, abduction, discrimination and stigmatization (Paraguay);
- 127.76 Continue promoting governmental protection programmes for people with albinism in order to ensure their interests and promote their greater social welfare (Cuba);
- 127.77 Take concrete steps to prevent all forms of discrimination against, the mutilation and death of and attacks against persons with albinism and provide them with access to health care and education (Sierra Leone);
- 127.78 Step up efforts to ensure equal access to education, health and employment for persons with albinism (Slovenia);
- 127.79 Take action to combat the mutilation and killing of persons with albinism (South Africa);
- 127.80 Combat violence and discrimination against persons with albinism (Israel);
- 127.81 Continue with efforts to protect persons with albinism from attacks, violence and discrimination by providing visible police patrols and expediting the prosecution of alleged perpetrators of these types of attacks (Dominican Republic);
- 127.82 Improve the situation of detained persons, especially concerning the overcrowding in places of detention and access for detainees to health care (Czechia);
- 127.83 Improve safety and living conditions in prisons and take all measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons (Sri Lanka);
- 127.84 Take measures aimed at improving the situation in the judicial and penitentiary systems (Russian Federation);
- 127.85 Bolster efforts to undertake legal reforms in order to address the backlog of criminal cases (Lesotho);
- 127.86 Ensure that judicial proceedings involving children are carried out promptly and effectively (Croatia);
- 127.87 Ensure access to justice and address the medical and psychological needs of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, in line with the Anti-Gender-based Violence Act of 2011(Iceland);
- 127.88 Accelerate and finalize the revision of the Public Order Act and the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act to better protect the freedom of expression online and offline (Germany);
- 127.89 Amend the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act and proceed with ongoing reforms of the Public Order Act to ensure that the legislative framework

does not impede fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Ireland);

127.90 Repeal the provisions of the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act which restrict freedom of expression and the press and ensure that the law is in line with international human rights instruments (Mexico);

127.91 Amend the 1955 Public Order Act and the 2021 Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act to uphold the freedom of assembly, the freedom of expression and protection for privacy as enshrined in the Constitution (United States of America);

127.92 Amend the 1955 Public Order Act, the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act in order to ensure that the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association are respected and protected (Belgium);

127.93 Continue to adopt and implement effective policies to ensure freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly, including for journalists and the media (Indonesia);

127.94 Guarantee without delay the right to freedom of expression and opinion through amendments to the Law on cybersecurity and cybercrimes of 2021, the Penal Code and other laws that question and provisions that criminalize opinions that dissent from the Government's and immediately release those who suffer deprivation of liberty for these reasons (Costa Rica);

127.95 Take further steps to ensure freedom of opinion and expression and media freedom (Italy);

127.96 Ensure freedom of opinion and expression, particularly for human rights defenders, journalists and activists, reviewing any legislation that may undermine the enjoyment of these rights, such as the law on cybersecurity and cybercrime (Uruguay);

127.97 Review and amend the sections of the Cybersecurity and Cybercrimes Act of 2021 which are inconsistent or incompatible with international human rights standards (Denmark);

127.98 Redouble efforts to guarantee respect for freedom of expression and ensure the protection of political opponents and journalists against threats, attacks and reprisals (Chile);

127.99 Contribute to the safety of human rights defenders and civil society by enacting legislation prohibiting torture, through the finalization of the anti-torture bill of 2016, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

127.100 Strengthen gender equality by increasing women's political participation and addressing gender-based violence (Australia);

127.101 Implement the recommendations of the European Union Election Observation Mission which observed the general elections in Zambia in August 2021 (Czechia);

127.102 Continue its efforts to support the family as the natural and basic unit of society, and in conformity with its values and morals, as enshrined in its Constitution (Islamic Republic of Iran);

127.103 Continue to take measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and provide the necessary resources to support victims of trafficking to prevent revictimization (Indonesia);

127.104 Adopt and implement wider programmes for combating human trafficking (Azerbaijan);

- 127.105 Put in place mechanisms to combat the human trafficking of women and children for forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude (Gambia);
- 127.106 Intensify efforts to adopt the national plan to combat trafficking in persons (Ghana);
- 127.107 Expedite the adoption of a national plan of action to combat trafficking in persons (Timor-Leste);
- 127.108 Take measures to investigate, punish and prevent the exploitation of children for commercial purposes and to strengthen the training of professionals responsible for identifying child victims of trafficking and referring them to the appropriate services (Luxembourg);
- 127.109 Continue to take all measures to protect children from all forms of exploitation (Malawi);
- 127.110 Continue its efforts for combating the economic exploitation of children and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, children and persons with disabilities (Nepal);
- 127.111 Take urgent measures to investigate, punish and prevent the commercial exploitation and trafficking of children, strengthen the training of professionals who are responsible for identifying and referring child victims of trafficking and ensure effective referral and support services for child victims of sale and trafficking (Argentina);
- 127.112 Take measures to investigate and end commercial child exploitation (Cabo Verde);
- 127.113 Effectively combat human trafficking activities aimed at the sexual exploitation and exploitation of children (China);
- 127.114 Further reinforce measures for the enhancement of people's right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work, especially for the most vulnerable groups (Pakistan);
- 127.115 Pursue efforts aimed at combating unemployment and improving the standard of living of the population, in particular by targeting the vulnerable segments of society in all the components of the eighth national development plan (Djibouti);
- 127.116 Intensify efforts to enhance social protection and improve the livelihoods of women and children in rural areas (Iraq);
- 127.117 Continue strengthening the frameworks for the coordination of social protection policies focused on adolescents, to facilitate safe and productive transitions to adulthood in lower- and middle-income families (South Africa);
- 127.118 Continue to take measures to strengthen social protection policies and to continue to consolidate its programme on social cash transfers (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 127.119 Continue efforts to protect the rights of the child, by providing an adequate and sustainable standard of living for all children (Georgia);
- 127.120 Intensify efforts to address social and economic challenges, including by increasing budgetary allocations to promote sustainable access to safe drinking water (Malaysia);
- 127.121 Strengthen measures to reduce child poverty, including by developing a comprehensive social protection programme with adequate domestic funding (Montenegro);
- 127.122 Continue implementing poverty alleviation programmes in favour of vulnerable people, with particular attention given to street children (Angola);

- 127.123 **Adopt pragmatic policies to ensure food availability and safe drinking water for all citizens (Bangladesh);**
- 127.124 **Further pursue the goal of strengthening its health system to overcome the issue of providing equity of access and high-quality health care (Georgia);**
- 127.125 **Ensure the financing of the health sector in accordance with the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases (Mali);**
- 127.126 **Strengthen health institutions with human and financial resources (Mexico);**
- 127.127 **Continue to develop the health-care system in order to ensure peoples' right to health (Sri Lanka);**
- 127.128 **Bolster efforts to further increase budgetary allocations in the areas of health and education (Bahamas);**
- 127.129 **Strengthen and support efforts to prioritize women's health by building clinics and hospitals in rural areas (Gambia);**
- 127.130 **Continue with its initiatives for reducing maternal mortality and ensuring access to essential health services for all (India);**
- 127.131 **Strengthen measures to reduce mortality rates among children under 5 years of age (Serbia);**
- 127.132 **Continue efforts to increase awareness on mental health programmes and services (Brunei Darussalam);**
- 127.133 **Consider further measures aimed at ensuring access to quality education for all children (India);**
- 127.134 **Increase access to quality secondary and tertiary education to improve the learning outcomes of children and youth (Maldives);**
- 127.135 **Improve and expand comprehensive early childhood care and education (Mauritania);**
- 127.136 **Continue to pursue measures in the direction of providing inclusive and accessible education to all, especially children in rural areas (Mauritius);**
- 127.137 **Continue strengthening efforts to broaden access to education, in accordance with the education for all national policy (Pakistan);**
- 127.138 **Increase financing to education and access to teacher training, in order to improve the quality of education and learning outcomes, and thereby complement the commendable introduction of free education up to grade 12 (Finland);**
- 127.139 **Improve access to and strengthen the quality of education through sustained investment in the education sector (Malaysia);**
- 127.140 **Further strengthen technical education and vocational training (Burundi);**
- 127.141 **Further strengthen efforts to broaden access to education in accordance with the revised education for all national policy (Türkiye);**
- 127.142 **Expedite the comprehensive sexuality education review and ensure that it incorporates sexual and reproductive health education and life skills in the curricula (Iceland);**
- 127.143 **Continue efforts to reduce the teacher-pupil ratio in schools as well as increase infrastructure to cater to increased school enrolments (Lesotho);**
- 127.144 **Promote the participation of girls in all levels of education, especially in rural areas, including by making schools more accessible and ensuring that schools are a safe space for girls (Latvia);**

- 127.145 **Take integrated measures to address the root causes of school dropout for girls, including child marriage (Angola);**
- 127.146 **Take additional measures to fight against dropping out of school, especially by young girls, particularly in rural areas, and promote strategies for reintegration into the school system (Djibouti);**
- 127.147 **Continue to implement the eighth national development plan (Saudi Arabia);**
- 127.148 **Take further efforts in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including by expanding access to health, education and drinking water (Sudan);**
- 127.149 **Continue to bolster its policies to promote economic and social sustainable development, laying down a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights of its people (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 127.150 **Continue efforts to achieve development and implement the National Human Rights Commission's action plan (Yemen);**
- 127.151 **Continue imposing measures to ensure that mining operations meet safety and environmental protection standards (Azerbaijan);**
- 127.152 **Strengthen the institutional framework on the environment and resource management to conserve natural resources and reduce the risks of food insecurity and hunger, as well as ensure sustainable development (Malaysia);**
- 127.153 **Redouble efforts to strengthen the effective management of natural resources (Saudi Arabia);**
- 127.154 **Continue efforts in strengthening the legal, regulatory and compliance framework to implement environmental protection and conservation measures, such as protecting watersheds, improving soil and waste management, to reduce pollution, as well as enhancing safety measures to protect citizens from lead poisoning (Armenia);**
- 127.155 **Put in place additional measures to protect the environment in accordance with global objectives (Burundi);**
- 127.156 **Strengthen the efforts of establishing integrity committees in public and private institutions in order to enhance transparency and accountability (Ethiopia);**
- 127.157 **Pursue the efforts to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women (Egypt);**
- 127.158 **Redouble its efforts towards combating gender-based violence and discrimination, including by criminalizing child marriage (India);**
- 127.159 **Enhance efforts to effectively eradicate gender-based violence (Indonesia);**
- 127.160 **Continue to strengthen efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and children, including by preventing and combating all forms of violence and abuse against them (Italy);**
- 127.161 **Undertake effective measures to combat violence against women (Montenegro);**
- 127.162 **Strengthen the legal protection of individuals belonging to the most vulnerable groups, among whom are women and girls, and ensure the prevention and investigation of all forms of violence, including domestic and sexual violence (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 127.163 **Redouble efforts to prevent and combat gender-based violence and increase the representation of women in decision-making positions (Paraguay);**
- 127.164 **Intensify efforts to criminalize and reduce all forms of violence against women, especially domestic violence (Algeria);**

- 127.165 Step up legislative measures to combat trafficking in persons and prevent all sorts of gender-based violence (Bangladesh);
- 127.166 Prioritize efforts aimed at raising awareness about gender-based violence against women and girls, including violence perpetrated in a domestic setting (Botswana);
- 127.167 Improve the enforcement of the Anti-Gender-based Violence Act, which criminalizes rape, by thoroughly investigating and prosecuting all acts of sexual violence against women and girls (Canada);
- 127.168 Strengthen measures to protect children's rights and the equal participation of women in political, economic and public life (Burundi);
- 127.169 Intensify the efforts aimed at the promotion of children's rights and protect them from all forms of exploitation (Egypt);
- 127.170 Harmonize all the laws relating to children, including the development of a successor strategy regarding behavioural change towards child marriage (Bahamas);
- 127.171 Continue addressing all incidences of child labour and define, prohibit and eliminate hazardous labour practice for child workers (Croatia);
- 127.172 Take further measures for the protection of the rights of the child and to eradicate child labour (Sri Lanka);
- 127.173 Assess the impact of the national strategy on ending child marriage in Zambia, 2016–2021, and undertake follow-up measures and increase its efforts to address the root causes of early marriage and to maintain girls in the education system (South Africa);
- 127.174 Renew the national strategy to end child marriage for the period 2023–2026 and provide sufficient funding and human and technical resources for its systematic and comprehensive implementation (Burkina Faso);
- 127.175 Strengthen measures to eradicate all forms of violence against children, ensure that all cases were promptly reported, investigated and prosecuted, that remedies and support were provided to victims and that the perpetrators were sanctioned and conduct awareness-raising to combat the stigmatization of children victims of sexual abuse (Romania);
- 127.176 Take further measures to eradicate all forms of violence against children (Timor-Leste);
- 127.177 Strengthen measures to eradicate all forms of violence against children, in particular child sexual abuse, including the investigation of all reports so as to bring perpetrators to justice (Botswana);
- 127.178 Reinforce measures aimed at eradicating all forms of violence against children and renewing the national policy for children and the corresponding action plan (Dominican Republic);
- 127.179 Take further measures for safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 127.180 Implement recommendations made in the mission report to Zambia by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (Somalia);
- 127.181 Strengthen the capacity of the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (Somalia);
- 127.182 Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and update the national legal framework to bring it into line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Algeria);
- 127.183 Continue to adopt measures to facilitate the registration of all births and increase the rate of issuance of birth certificates (Türkiye).

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

- 128.1 Progressively ratify outstanding international human rights instruments (Malawi);
- 128.2 Ratify the three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Panama);
- 128.3 Move towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);
- 128.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Togo);
- 128.5 Initiate the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chad);
- 128.6 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);
- 128.7 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo);
- 128.8 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 128.9 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Paraguay);
- 128.10 Consider the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco);
- 128.11 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);
- 128.12 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Colombia) (Rwanda) (Sierra Leone) (Timor-Leste);
- 128.13 Move towards the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families (Togo);
- 128.14 Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in follow-up to the recommendation in paragraph 131.19 of the report of the Working Group from the third cycle<sup>4</sup> (Burkina Faso);
- 128.15 Develop a road map for public consultations on amending the Bill of Rights to include economic, social and cultural rights, environmental rights, the specific rights of persons with disabilities, older persons and other marginalized and vulnerable groups and the explicit prohibition of the death penalty (Panama);

<sup>4</sup> [A/HRC/37/14](#).

- 128.16 Take measures to amend the Constitution in order to include economic, social and cultural rights (Poland);
- 128.17 Criminalize marital rape (Iceland) (Latvia);
- 128.18 Undertake the necessary reforms to ensure the inclusion in the Bill of Rights of economic, social and cultural rights, environmental rights, specific rights for persons with disabilities, older persons and other marginalized and vulnerable groups and an explicit prohibition of the death penalty (Romania);
- 128.19 In connection with the forthcoming enactment of the political parties bill, take steps to ensure the effective representation of women in politics (Sweden);
- 128.20 Ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is in full conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), provide the Commission with adequate resources and ensure that members serve on a full-time basis to avoid conflicts of interest (Latvia);
- 128.21 Develop strategies to promote the equal rights of women and girls, for instance, by finalizing the review of the Anti-Gender-based Violence Act and by adopting the Electoral Act (Germany);
- 128.22 Ensure timely provision of information on the detention of foreign nationals to the consular posts of their sending States, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 (Croatia);
- 128.23 Increase efforts to guarantee equal access to education, health and employment (Dominican Republic);
- 128.24 Swiftly finalize the revision of the Criminal Code, including criminal proceedings law, and thereby improve the living conditions in prisons in Zambia (Germany);
- 128.25 Continue its efforts to implement the national strategy on financial education to improve its population's knowledge and skills for having secure positive financial outcomes for themselves and their families (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 128.26 Explicitly recognize the right to adequate food in national legislation and adopt a human rights-based framework law on the right to food, with benchmarks and implementation plans and a special focus on supporting women farmers with additional incentives, access to credit and other agricultural resources (Romania);
- 128.27 Continue efforts to consolidate the health facilities (Mauritania);
- 128.28 Strengthen measures to reduce mortality rates and identify the root causes of neonatal mortality and stillbirth and design programmes for newborn health interventions (Sierra Leone);
- 128.29 Continue to make efforts to improve the health system and address the root causes of neonatal mortality and stillbirth (Bangladesh);
- 128.30 Ensure that all children, especially persons with disabilities continue to enjoy the same privileges in schools (Brunei Darussalam);
- 128.31 Extend the home-grown school feeding programme to cover the entire school population, including schools in remote areas and in refugee settlements (Portugal);
- 128.32 Guarantee adequate resources to the national education system (Sweden);
- 128.33 Continue to enhance technical education and vocational and entrepreneurship development as a means for job and wealth creation (Ethiopia);

128.34 Promote further economic and social sustainable development to improve people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights (Viet Nam);

128.35 Continue to promote economic and social development to raise the standard of living of the population (Burundi);

128.36 Continue the progress achieved regarding social, economic and cultural rights through the enforcement of the eighth national development plan, 2022 (Cameroon);

128.37 Continue to promote socioeconomic sustainable development, to narrow the income disparities and to eliminate inequality (China);

128.38 Reinforce the legislative and regulatory framework applicable to mining companies and ensure the strengthening and protection of the rights of people working in the mining sector (Senegal);

128.39 Take all necessary measures to combat and prevent gender-based violence, including through the effective application of the 2009 law against gender-based violence, by allocating sufficient economic resources to implement it and through the establishment of shelters in all provinces of the country (Costa Rica);

128.40 Strengthen measures to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence, including by implementing in full the provisions of the Anti-Gender-based Violence Act (2011) and the Gender Equity and Equality Act (2015) (Ireland);

128.41 Develop or strengthen existing parenting programmes with messages and actions aimed at engaging parents in reducing child labour and prioritize children's education (South Africa);

128.42 Consider establishing a standard data collection system on forced labour to control and eliminate child forced labour, particularly in the mining, construction and agricultural sectors (Armenia);

128.43 Develop a national strategy for the inclusion of children with disabilities, as well as operationalize the Persons with Disabilities Act, by finalizing and implementing the statutory instruments on education, health, labour and transportation (Poland);

128.44 Promote more effectively the protection of migrants and refugees (Cameroon).

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

129.1 Take concrete measures to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination and stigma in all settings, in particular against persons living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and persons with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities (Portugal);

129.2 Ensure that social support is given to children and adolescents living or working on the street in order to address their immediate needs, including food insecurity, health care access and school enrolment (Gambia);

129.3 Decriminalize abortion and take measures to ensure that all women have access to legal abortion and high-quality post-abortion services (Israel);

129.4 Recognize the existence of Indigenous Peoples in its territory and ensure their access to their rights (Paraguay);

129.5 Recognize the existence of Indigenous Peoples in Zambia and the right to access to their ancestral lands (Colombia);

129.6 Continue national efforts to protect ethnic and religious minorities as a way to eliminate manifestations of discrimination (Cuba);

- 129.7 Decriminalize and legalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);
- 129.8 Decriminalize same-sex relationships and guarantee respect for human rights for all Zambians, including persons identifying as LGBTIQ persons (Finland);
- 129.9 Repeal all laws that criminalise same-sex relations between consenting adults (Latvia);
- 129.10 Repeal provisions criminalizing consensual same-sex relations (Mexico);
- 129.11 Decriminalize same-sex consensual sexual relations between adult persons and revise all the laws, policies and programmes to promote equality and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly on access to employment, education and health services (Spain);
- 129.12 End the criminalization of same-sex relations (Israel);
- 129.13 Repeal laws that criminalize consensual sexual conduct between adults and ensure that all persons in Zambia are treated equally under the law (United States of America);
- 129.14 Repeal the regulatory framework and administrative acts that penalize, restrict and stigmatize relationships between people of the same sex and/or gender (Argentina);
- 129.15 Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct and pass laws to address discrimination and inequality based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);
- 129.16 Repeal laws criminalizing consensual same-sex conduct between adults and review all legislation to foster equality and prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Belgium);
- 129.17 Repeal laws and review legislation and policies that explicitly or implicitly criminalize same-sex relations among consenting adults and review municipal by-laws used to harass and detain individuals based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);
- 129.18 Repeal laws that criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults and review all laws, policies and programmes to promote equality and prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Dominican Republic);
- 129.19 Eliminate any type of criminal or punitive classification of consensual relationships between adults of the same sex (Colombia);
- 129.20 Allow trans persons to change their legal name and gender identity through self-identification (Iceland);
- 129.21 Take measures to end discrimination, violence and harassment against LGBTIQ persons (Sweden);
- 129.22 Intensify efforts to combat inequality and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Colombia);
- 129.23 Step up efforts to secure the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including to ensure that these persons have access to safe working environments free from harassment and stigma (Uruguay).
130. 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 Zambia was headed by the Honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Mulambo Haimbe, SC., and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Mwenya Kaela Bwalya, Permanent Secretary (Legal), Ministry of Justice;
  - Ambassador Eunice M.T. Luambia, Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
  - Ms. Lydia K. Matapo, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
  - Ms. Hope Mukatimui Ndhlovu Chanda, Director and Commission Secretary, Zambia Law Development Commission;
  - Mr. Vanny Hampondela, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (UPR National Secretariat), Ministry for Justice;
  - Ms. Sambwa Simbyakula-Chilembo, Principal Counsel (UPR National Secretariat), Ministry of Justice;
  - Mr. Inyambo Liboma, Counsellor (Legal), Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
  - Mr. Stephen Chiwele, Social Cash Transfer National Coordinator, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services;
  - Ms. Rosemary Masilani, Chief Communications Officer – Social Development, Ministry of Health;
  - Mr. Tom Ngululu, Assistant Superintendent, Victim Support Unit, Zambia Police;
  - Mr. Joseph M. Chifulo, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance and National Planning;
  - Ms. Besnart Simunchembu, Principal Planning Officer, Ministry of Education;
  - Mr. Benny Matandiko, Legal Officer, Zambia Environmental Management Agency;  
and
  - Ms. Bwalya Salamu, Acting Senior Counsel, Ministry of Justice.
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