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National report submitted in accordance with Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Jordan

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Introduction

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan submits its national human rights report in accordance with its commitment to the universal periodic review procedure and its willingness to cooperate constructively with all mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.
2. The Standing Committee on Human Rights is responsible for preparing and submitting reports and for overseeing the implementation of recommendations concerning human rights. The Committee prepared this report for the period from 2018 to 2023. It describes the most important measures taken by the Kingdom in terms of legislation, practices and policies based on the recommendations emanating from the previous review cycle and from diverse international human rights bodies.
3. Jordan interacts with various international human rights bodies and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Kingdom received a visit from the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities in 2022 and expects to receive visits from the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in 2024, based on the open invitation to special procedures issued by the Kingdom in 2006.

Methodology for preparing the report

4. The Standing Committee on Human Rights, which is composed of representatives of ministries and national institutions and serves as the national mechanism for reviewing human rights issues in general and for preparing responses to international reports that address the human rights situation in the Kingdom, has developed a participatory methodology for the preparation of reports, which is guided by international principles and based on dialogue and consultation and on openness to various governmental and national agencies and stakeholders at all stages of preparation of the report. Information on legislation, policies, strategies, plans and practice was collected from governmental and national agencies for inclusion in the report.

National consultations

5. The Human Rights Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister held a series of comprehensive national consultations by organizing meetings involving interactive dialogues in various regions of the Kingdom. They were attended by the National Centre for Human Rights, national institutions, civil society organizations and their alliances, and other stakeholders, including academics, parliamentarians, trade union representatives, media professionals, young people and representatives of international organizations. In addition, more than 1,700 individuals and civil society institutions participated in 13 consultative rounds, during which their comments and recommendations on the human rights system and related practices in Jordan were heard and taken into account (annex 1).

Implementation of the recommendations

6. In the interests of participatory action and with a view to promoting the genuine and effective participation of civil society organizations in the preparation of the national report, local experts and civil society organizations assessed the implementation of the 149 recommendations from the universal periodic review as part of a transparent methodology (annex 2).

I. The legal, institutional and strategic framework for the protection and promotion of human rights

A. The legislative framework and the appropriateness of laws (136.2, 136.4, 136.6, 136.7, 136.17, 136.18, 136.19, 135.6, 135.10, 135.13, 135.16, 135.18, 135.22, 135.27, 135.70, 135.109, 135.112)

1. Enactment of human rights legislation

7. The legal system in the Kingdom was strengthened through the enactment of a set of laws that respond to the recommendations emanating from the review of the third comprehensive periodic report in the following areas: cybersecurity, personal status, local administration, combating of money laundering and financing of terrorism, legislation on elections, legislation on political parties, legislation on children's rights and legislation on cybercrime (annex 3).

2. Amendments to existing legislation with a view to promoting human rights

8. A number of laws were amended in response to the recommendations. They dealt with labour issues, prevention of human trafficking, the Criminal Code, social security and the Independent Electoral Commission Act (annex 4).

3. Establishment of committees for the harmonization of legal texts

9. A Committee was established in 2019 for the alignment of national legislation with international treaties ratified by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. A Royal Commission was established to modernize the Kingdom's political system with a view to achieving a comprehensive democratic transformation, strengthening democracy, encouraging the participation of young people and women in political life, promoting national unity and enhancing the national identity of Jordan. The Committee's most important achievements have been amendments to the Constitution, the new Electoral Act and the new Political Parties Act, and recommendations on the development of legislation regulating local administration and on expansion of the base for popular participation in decision-making.

B. The institutional framework (135.5, 135.17, 135.20, 135.21, 135.35)

10. In line with the recommendations, a number of units and directorates were established in ministries and governmental institutions for the purpose of promoting human rights. The Ministry of the Interior established human rights branches in all governorates in 2020. A Division for the Empowerment of Women was established in 2021 in the Youth Communication Directorate to deal with women's affairs in the Ministry of Youth and the Ministry of Social Development. The organizational structure of the Ministry of Local Administration also includes specialized units aimed at empowering women in each municipality. In addition, a Gender Office and offices for the promotion of transparency and human rights were established in the Public Security Directorate.

11. With regard to interaction with international mechanisms, the Standing Committee on Human Rights is the body responsible for dealing with human rights reports and for interacting with all international mechanisms.

12. The Committee for the Implementation of Recommendations is tasked with monitoring the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations and with linking them to the Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights (2016–2025) and the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

13. The Kingdom also fulfils its obligations to submit reports to the international human rights treaty bodies, to interact with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to respond to the inquiries of special rapporteurs and to receive visits from them to the Kingdom.

14. With a view to strengthening institutional mechanisms, a platform for complaints concerning human rights violations has been established.

15. All national plans, programmes and strategies are regularly reviewed and developed with a view to enhancing their quality and incorporating recommendations issued by human rights institutions.

C. The strategic framework and national plans (135.1, 135.2, 135.3, 135.4, 135.11, 135.24, 135.31, 135.38, 135.39, 135.41, 136.11, 137.41)

1. Adoption of human rights strategies and plans

16. During the period under review in the report, a number of national human rights plans and strategies were adopted. They address matters relating to women, juvenile justice, care for older persons, children, elimination of child labour, the rights of persons with disabilities, the media, communication with the judiciary, health, school health, youth, prevention of human trafficking, social development and employment (annex 5).

17. The Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights (2016–2025) was adopted for implementation by all official bodies in partnership with national institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It demonstrates the political will to establish the legislative and procedural prerequisites for an improvement in the human rights system.

18. The Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights addresses civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the rights of specific groups. Subsidiary goals have been established for each component and a plan of action has been devised to monitor their achievement, which has been assessed twice to date by civil society institutions.

19. A matrix has been prepared on human rights topics, which is consistent with the Comprehensive National Plan for Human Rights, the universal periodic review recommendations, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the recommendations of the National Centre for Human Rights.

2. The Economic Modernization Vision (2022–2033)

20. The Kingdom’s Economic Modernization Vision is based on two main pillars. The aim of the first pillar is to achieve accelerated economic growth and to generate an increase in employment opportunities during the coming decade. Provision is made for the launching of 344 important initiatives during the first phase (2022–2025). The aim of the second pillar is to achieve a significant improvement in the quality of life. The Economic Modernization Vision (2022–2033) has been updated with a view to increasing employment opportunities from 1.6 million to 2.6 million during the coming decade.

3. The Public Sector Modernization Vision (2022–2033)

21. The Government has established a Public Sector Modernization Committee, which is composed of an elite group of experts and leaders from the public and private sectors and civil society. The Committee focuses on three areas: Government services, the institutional framework and legislation. The roadmap for public-sector development is consistent with the vision for political and economic modernization.

II. Cross-cutting issues

A. Discrimination against women (135.24, 135.31, 135.33, 135.42, 135.44, 135.94)

22. The constitutional amendments adopted in 2022 include provisions aimed at strengthening the national legal system, consolidating the rights of persons with disabilities, and enabling women to enjoy their constitutional right to participation and integration and to enjoy all their rights on a basis of equality. The title of Chapter 2 of the Constitution was amended to read “Rights and Duties of Jordanian Men and Women”, and three paragraphs were added to article 6 concerning the integration of persons with disabilities, the

empowerment of women and their protection from all forms of violence, and the empowerment of youth.

23. In 2020, the Jordanian Government launched the National Strategy for Women (2020–2025), which constitutes the national framework for action aimed at developing programmes and policies that enhance women’s rights and promote their effective participation, in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. An implementation plan for the National Strategy for Women (2023–2025) has also been produced.

24. Following the full implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent Human Trafficking (2019–2022), which achieved enhanced integration and partnership, a strategy was prepared for the period from 2023 to 2026, which adopted the same approach to the combating of human trafficking. In addition, a Fund for Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking was established, and 19 social service offices had been established by 2022.

25. National awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted to alter the stereotypical image of women within the family. The campaigns have helped to reduce women’s burden and to promote their participation in the labour market.

26. The Child Rights Act was promulgated in 2022.

27. A National Policy to Guarantee the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2020–2030) has been adopted.

28. The Justice Sector Strategy (2022–2026) provides for a review of the Code of Criminal Procedure with a view to facilitating access to justice, including for specific groups such as persons with disabilities.

B. Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (135.10, 135.27, 135.43, 135.92, 135.93, 135.98, 137.62) based on Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals

29. Article 72 of the Labour Code was amended in 2019 in order to require employers with a certain number of staff to provide a nursery for the children of male and female employees.

30. The Labour Code has been amended in order to enshrine the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and to prescribe a penalty for gender wage disparity. In addition, the concept of flexible work arrangements has been introduced and paternity leave has been approved.

31. The social protection system associated with maternity insurance in 2023 provides working women with social protection, including the payment of a childcare allowance.

32. The 2023 instructions for alternatives to institutional nurseries include flexible options for workers in the event that a nursery cannot be established in their workplace.

33. A Women’s Empowerment Strategy was launched as part of the Economic Modernization Vision (2022–2033). In addition, the National Strategy for Women includes a goal relating to women’s free access to economic rights, participation and leadership, and a legal team has been established to review legislation concerning women.

34. A decision adopted in 2018 requires the private education sector to provide for the electronic payment of the wages of male and female teachers. The Labour Code contains a definition of wage discrimination and prescribes a penalty for employers who discriminate between men and women for work of equal value. The Wages Authority in the Ministry of Labour, which is tasked with handling discrimination claims, is required to investigate cases concerning discrimination, wages and illegal deductions.

35. The Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women, which was included among the standing committees of the Office of the Prime Minister in 2020, takes steps to promote the empowerment of women, to include relevant issues among the priorities of the Jordanian Government, and to ensure coordination and cooperation between various national bodies.

36. The Companies Act has been amended to take into account women's representation on the boards of directors of public joint-stock companies. The Central Bank issued Corporate Governance Instructions in 2023 requiring banks to take into account women's representation as members of corporate boards and of senior executive management.

37. Women's empowerment units led by women have been established in the organizational structures of all municipalities. Administrative units to promote women's empowerment have also been established in 14 ministries, and 85 gender liaison officers have been appointed in ministries and governmental institutions.

38. In line with the recommendations contained in the plan to implement the conclusions of the Royal Commission for the Modernization of the Political System (2021–2023), steps are being taken to establish a women's observatory on policies and legislation, to compile relevant data and indicators on discrimination and the gender gap in all sectors, and to prepare periodic reports.

39. A policy to integrate gender into the public sector has been adopted by the Government and the resulting implementation plan includes capacity-building for all persons concerned in the various ministries, depending on their needs. Its implementation will be monitored in due course with all relevant ministries.

C. The environment and climate change (135.47) based on Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13

40. Climate Change Regulation No. 79 of 2019 was issued with a view to coordinating national action aimed at reducing the negative impact of climate change, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and launching the National Climate Change Policy (2022–2050) to contribute to the achievement of carbon neutrality.

41. The National Solid Waste Management Strategy (2015–2025) was launched together with a National Information Management System. Steps were taken to build and operate sustainable solid waste management facilities, to create environmentally safe engineering waste cells, and to establish libraries and conversion stations with specific instructions aimed at guaranteeing environmental sustainability and the preservation of public health.

42. The Fourth National Communication Report was issued in 2023 to highlight future climate projections. The National Climate Investment Plan, which was launched in 2022, contained 10 projects aimed at adaptation to climate conditions, nine of which were included in the Economic Modernization Vision.

43. The Kingdom endorsed 17 initiatives launched at the twenty-seventh Climate Change Conference of Parties on adaptation and climate change, which promote the participation of young people and women in climate-related action and in supporting the economy.

44. Joint committees were established to inspect and monitor companies that use hazardous materials as well as high-risk facilities involved in the development, production, use or storage of chemical materials, in implementation of the decisions of the National Committee for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in the Kingdom.

D. Sustainable development (135.46, 135.49)

45. Stakeholders participated in the preparation of the Second Voluntary National Review on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

46. A participatory approach is continuously adopted with various sectors in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Continuous action is also taken to promote partnership projects between the public and private sectors and to facilitate the participation of the private sector in project management and implementation. A number of focused discussion sessions were held in which representatives of civil society participated and contributed to the identification of needs and priorities.

47. Agreements were signed with some municipalities on the establishment of workshops or development projects aimed at the employment of a number of needy families.

48. The Economic Modernization Vision helped to raise the ranking of Jordan in the Global Sustainability Competitiveness Index to the top 40 per cent for the year 2033. The Vision is being implemented in three stages through programmes covering the period until 2033.

E. Combating terrorism (136.13)

49. The goal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act is to protect the human right to life and security, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The measures taken under the Act are required to protect national security and to maintain law and order. They are taken in response to judicial decisions against which an appeal may be lodged. Any person suspected of having committed a terrorist crime enjoys all the guarantees of a fair trial, just like other suspects.

III. Civil and political rights

A. Combating torture (135.8, 135.52, 135.53, 135.62, 135.63, 136.1, 136.8, 136.12)

50. The Jordanian Constitution prohibits all forms and manifestations of torture, and it is criminalized in domestic legislation. The definition of torture in the Criminal Code is the same as that contained in the Convention against Torture.

51. The guidelines for public prosecutors on the investigation of crimes of torture have been amended.

52. Special training courses on procedures for investigating and prosecuting crimes of torture are continuously organized for judges, public prosecutors, public security personnel and law enforcement officers. A total of 898 judges attended training courses during the period from 2018 to 2022.

B. Freedom of opinion and expression (135.5, 135.9, 135.26, 135.69, 135.71, 135.72, 136.2, 136.5, 136.6, 136.14, 136.18)

53. Article 15 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of opinion and expression. The Press and Publications Act guarantees the possibility for journalists to practise their profession without being subjected to arbitrary conditions, and article 8 thereof prohibits the imposition of restrictions that impede journalists' work and freedom of the press.

54. The legislation in force grants journalists the right to criticize the performance of public employees pursuant to articles 192 and 198 of the Criminal Code.

55. Article 7 of the Press and Publications Act specifies the ethics and morals of the profession of journalism. It calls for respect for the freedoms of others and recognizes freedom of opinion and expression as a right for the press and citizens alike. Article 5 is consistent with international norms pertaining to freedom of expression. It stipulates that persons should refrain from publishing any material that contravenes the principles of freedom, national responsibility, human rights, and the values of the Arab and Islamic nation. Publication shall be prohibited solely pursuant to a judicial decision.

56. A bill amending the Guarantee of Access to Information Act has been drafted.

57. The Judicial Council has held workshops on the Cybercrime Act of 2023 to ensure that its implementation is consistent with international human rights norms and does not undermine the right of Jordanians to express their opinion or to criticize public policies.

58. In the event that a criminal act is not defined in the legislation in force, the judiciary is required to interpret the act in accordance with established legal standards.

59. The Economic and Social Council, as a neutral body, held a series of national dialogues with stakeholders and specialists on the general media and governmental communication policy.

60. The Council of Ministers approved the grounds for a bill amending the system of radio and television broadcasting and rebroadcasting licences and the fees collected for them pursuant to Act No. 163 of 2003 with a view to reducing the fees by up to 50 per cent.

61. Article 4 of the Political Parties Act prohibits direct or indirect attacks on any Jordanians, including any violation of their constitutional or legal rights or their prosecution. It also prohibits the exposure of students of higher education institutions to attacks on account of their party and political affiliations and activities. It thus grants any person who has been exposed to an attack the right to bring a case before the competent court and to demand compensation for any material and moral damages.

C. Combating human trafficking (135.3, 135.18, 135.19, 135.73, 135.77, 135.79, 135.80, 135.81, 135.82, 135.84)

62. The National Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent Human Trafficking (2023–2026) will be launched in order to supplement the implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent Human Trafficking (2019–2022).

63. The penalty prescribed for perpetrators of the crime of trafficking in human beings has been increased under article 9 of the Act amending the Human Trafficking Prevention Act No. 10 of 2021.

64. A protective platform has been established to receive labour complaints through the submission of forms that include questions concerning indicators of exploitation that constitute the crime of human trafficking.

65. The legal protection afforded for workers' rights under the Labour Code does not discriminate in terms of gender, nationality or age. Visits conducted by labour inspectors to verify employers' compliance with the provisions of the Labour Code cover the rights of both Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers.

66. The National Referral Mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures, which were launched in 2022, are designed to protect victims of human trafficking. They are circulated to labour inspectors together with indicators of forced domestic labour and indicators of other forms of forced labour in order to ensure that such cases are monitored.

67. The Assistance Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking was established pursuant to Regulation No. 6 of 2023. In addition, the amended Shelter for Victims of Human Trafficking Act No. 46 of 2023 was promulgated, and a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Jordan Bar Association to provide legal assistance to victims of human trafficking.

68. The Anti-Human-Trafficking Unit in the Public Security Directorate has signed memorandums of understanding with the Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission in order to combat the crime of human trafficking in airports. The clinic of the Anti-Human-Trafficking Unit has been reinforced through the appointment of a specialist in family medicine from the Ministry of Health.

69. The National Strategy to Combat Child Labour (2022–2030) and the Implementation Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour were adopted in cooperation with the competent authorities and civil society institutions with a view to eliminating all forms of human trafficking and child exploitation in the labour market.

70. A regulation aimed at protecting juveniles working in contravention of the law in force has been drafted. The 2020 National Framework to Combat Child Labour and Child Begging has been updated, and the 2020 Guidelines for Dealing with Child Workers and Child Beggars have been completed.

71. In line with the Justice Sector Strategy (2022–2026) and the principle of specialized action by judges to combat human trafficking, the Judicial Council designated 75 judges and members of the Public Prosecution Service to investigate human trafficking crimes in 2022 in court chambers and departments of the Public Prosecution Service that specialize in investigating such crimes.

72. A total of 16 training courses were held during 2022 on behalf of 127 judges and prosecutors in order to enhance their capacity to detect and investigate the crime of human trafficking and to guarantee the quality of the judgments handed down. The training courses also addressed other issues related to the aforementioned crime.

73. Training courses for law enforcement bodies on human trafficking issues, indicators of forced labour, and procedures for detecting potential victims in the workplace were organized by the Anti-Human-Trafficking Unit in cooperation with the Unit's Labour Inspection Division.

74. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Tourist Hotels Association on cooperation in combating human trafficking, on acquainting workers and employers with human trafficking crimes, and on the organization of awareness-raising courses involving the Unit's Labour Inspection Division.

75. A set of facilities and temporary residency benefits have been granted to victims of human trafficking in the Kingdom until the completion of legal proceedings and the removal of obstacles to victims' return, such as fines for overstaying their residence permit and lack of travel documents.

76. Regulations governing offices involved in the recruitment of domestic workers and instructions regarding their implementation were issued in 2020.

77. The Judicial Council produced a guidebook for judges and prosecutors in 2022, in collaboration with a number of partners, on the crime of human trafficking entitled "Components of the Crime of Human Trafficking and Procedures for the Protection and Assistance of Victims". The aim of the guidebook is to build the capacities of competent authorities to detect the crime of human trafficking.

D. Freedom of association (136.17)

78. Article 15 of the Jordanian Constitution guarantees the right to establish associations provided that their purpose is legitimate. The legislation also guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and expression. A Committee composed of experts operating in partnership with civil society organizations was established to review the Associations Act and ensure its consistency with international norms.

79. The Constitution guarantees the right of Jordanians to peaceful assembly within the limits of the law. Public security units are responsible for providing protection and security for participants in peaceful events and gatherings and for preventing any attacks on public and private funds. A total of 15,541 peaceful gatherings were held during the period from 2018 to 2022.

E. The National Centre for Human Rights and civil society (136.3)

80. The funds allocated to the National Centre for Human Rights under the General Budget Act was increased by 100,000 dinars (JD) during 2022 and 2023 and currently totals JD 850,000. The Government seeks to guarantee the independence of the Centre as a national institution tasked with monitoring human rights cases and as a national mechanism for receiving complaints. It should be noted that the National Centre, which was established in accordance with the Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions, has been granted "A status".

F. Hate speech/tolerance (135.67)

81. Article 6 of the Constitution stipulates that: “Jordanians shall be equal before the law and there shall be no discrimination between them in terms of rights and duties on grounds of race, language or religion.” With a view to promoting legislation that prohibits all forms of incitement to violence and encouraging a stable approach to tolerance, a number of initiatives were launched with the aim of providing a clear vision of religious coexistence and cultural pluralism. They include the Amman Message, which highlights the importance of tolerance and unity in the Islamic world, and which has led to the development of scientific courses and programmes designed to promote such values. They also include the Common Word document, which establishes the foundations and common ground for dialogue, understanding, religious coexistence and cultural diversity. In addition, the World Interfaith Harmony Week is held in Jordan in the month of February each year. The Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies publishes numerous magazines and publications that call for tolerance, coexistence and dialogue among persons of different religions. Furthermore, the Jordanian Interfaith Coexistence Research Centre holds conferences designed to promote the principle of tolerance, to reject bigotry and to ensure respect for beliefs.

82. The Kingdom promotes the celebration of Christian religious events in order to underscore the unity of Jordanian society. In addition, the State recognizes Christian religious holidays as official holidays.

G. Fair trial (135.7, 135.13, 135.29, 135.59, 135.60, 135.61)

83. Nine strategic projects have been implemented with a view to raising citizens’ awareness through the media of the role of the judiciary in protecting rights and freedoms and institutionalizing the judiciary’s relations with local and international partners. In addition, 14 training courses have been organized through the Communication and Media Unit of the General Secretariat of the Judicial Council, which also provides for interaction with the media, awareness-raising and educational campaigns, and public relations management.

84. A Committee to review the Code of Criminal Procedure was established with a view to strengthening fair trial guarantees and envisaging a mechanism for restorative justice.

85. The Criminal Code has been amended to render the system of alternatives to penalties of deprivation of liberty more consistent with international norms by expanding the use of such alternatives as well as the powers of the penalty execution judge.

86. Regulations concerning means and procedures for implementing alternative to penalties of deprivation of liberty were issued in 2022.

87. The strategy of the justice sector for the years 2022 to 2026 includes provisions for enhancement of the efficiency and effectiveness of the imposition of community sanctions in the component aimed at promoting access to justice.

88. A total of 4,193 judgments imposing alternatives to custodial sentences were handed down in 2022, which represents an increase of 128 per cent and thus exceeds the target set when the amendments to the Criminal Code began to be implemented.

89. The legal aid regulations were amended in 2022 pursuant to article 208 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with a view to expanding the scope of the legal aid system. The criterion for the provision of aid is based on the total monthly income of the applicant for legal aid and not on that of his or her family. The entitlement criterion related to repetition has been abolished, and the provision of legal aid to owners of movable or immovable property has been authorized.

90. The number of cases in which legal aid was provided pursuant to legal rulings increased by 10 per cent in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

91. There are more than 100 areas of special legal jurisdiction, and 94 per cent of judges had jurisdiction in specialized divisions in 2022. The areas of special jurisdiction in courts and public prosecution departments have also been computerized.

92. The Office for International Cooperation was established in the Public Prosecutor's Department in Amman to promote the principle of judicial specialization and to improve the procedures for dealing with requests for legal aid.

93. As part of the institutionalization of areas of specialization in judicial bodies at the Court of Cassation, chambers have been allocated for the separate consideration of appeals against criminal judgments, appeals against labour, rent-related, civil, economic and commercial rulings, and appeals against customs and taxation rulings. In addition, specialized criminal chambers have been established in the courts to consider economic and corruption-related crimes, stadium riots and electronic crimes.

94. New instructions have been produced in the judicial inspection system to promote objectivity and transparency in assessing the performance of judges. In addition, the procedures of the Judicial Inspection Directorate have been institutionalized and implementation plans as well as progress indicators have been developed.

95. Court inspectors conducted 530 unannounced, planned and special visits in 2021 and 2022. A total of 332 complaints were referred to the Judicial Inspection Service in 2021 and 2022. The number of inspections and unannounced visits to the courts increased by 10 per cent in 2020.

96. The bill amending the Sharia Court Establishment Act broadens the role of judicial inspections by adding mechanisms and procedures for their development.

97. A number of regulations have been issued, including Regulation No. 49 of 2022 amending the regulations governing the General Secretariat of the Judicial Council. It also guarantees the protection of judges' independence, since it has abolished the provision permitting the Judicial Council to terminate a judge's services prior to the completion of the retirement or placement period.

H. Training and capacity-building (135.23, 135.37, 135.54, 135.55, 135.57, 135.58, 135.65, 135.66)

98. The Human Rights Training Centre in the Public Security Directorate held 119 special human rights training courses during the period from 2019 to 2023, which were attended by 1,587 officers. In addition, continuous cooperation was ensured through the signing of memorandums of understanding aimed at building participants' capacities in interaction with international human rights bodies.

99. Training courses were held for judges and members of the Public Prosecution Service on effective criminal justice responses to cases of violence against women and domestic violence during the period from 2018 to 2022. The courses were attended by 558 judges.

100. Female judges accounted for 31 per cent of the participants in the training programmes in 2022, and it should be noted that the specialized training programme for judges is continuing. A total of 123 training courses were held in 2020 and were attended by 2,489 judges, of whom 1,648 were men and 841 were women. In addition, 39 training courses for judges organized by other bodies were attended by 36 male and 3 female judges.

101. Remote communication technology was used in 113 training programmes and the use of modern technology in training courses is being expanded.

102. Remote training technology has been used in 10 training programmes, and the number of cases in which modern technology has been used to hear juvenile witnesses has increased by 10 per cent.

103. The courses of the Public Security Judiciary Directorate include topics concerning human rights guarantees at the investigation stages and during a fair trial. Administrative arbitrators and law enforcement officers have also received training on various concepts and the legal framework related to human rights and the Ministry's work with a view to disseminating a culture of human rights. Training has been provided on topics such as protection from domestic violence, the rule of law, and prevention of human trafficking in cooperation with local and international partners.

104. The Reform and Rehabilitation Centres Training Institute, which was established in the Reform and Rehabilitation Centres Administration, provides training for employees on international standards governing reform and rehabilitation centres.

I. Arrest, detention and the Crime Prevention Act (135.15, 135.22, 135.51, 135.56, 135.64, 135.100, 135.110, 136.10, 136.11)

105. The Public Security Directorate has placed notice boards in detention centres that specify rights and duties during the detention period.

106. Manuals have been issued in all detention centres and distributed to all public security units. Surveillance cameras have been installed in the centres and units, and the rights of detainees are respected by maintaining telephone records.

107. The Public Security Directorate undertakes a medical examination when it notices that a detainee requires health care. Persons are not admitted to detention centres until their health condition has been confirmed and a medical report indicating their condition has been issued.

108. Detention centres and reform and rehabilitation centres are regularly inspected to ensure that transparency standards based on the Code of Criminal Procedure are complied with. In addition, the Reform and Rehabilitation Centres Act entitles the Public Prosecution Service to conduct inspection visits to reform and rehabilitation centres, and entitles the Ministry of Justice, the National Centre for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross to conduct unannounced visits to the centres.

109. The following steps have been taken: amplification of inmate inspections; an increase in private visits; an increase in the hours spent outdoors; establishment of mental health programmes; provision of religious guidance; establishment of health centres, pharmacies and medical laboratories in all reform and rehabilitation centres; provision of vocational and handicraft training; and introduction of cultural and sports programmes.

110. The Justice Sector Strategy (2022–2026) and the Criminal Justice Strategy provide for increased implementation of alternatives to detention and non-custodial measures.

111. The Code of Criminal Procedure authorizes judges or public prosecutors to provide for alternatives to detention in cases involving minor offences. Rulings providing for alternatives to detention have been handed down in 322 cases.

112. Lawyers may be present when the persons whom they represent appear before an administrative arbitrator. All cases involving administrative detainees are periodically reviewed. Persons whose risk of detention has ceased to exist are released. It should be noted that the number of administrative detention rulings declined from 37,853 in 2019 to 2,199 in 2022.

113. Instructions on the implementation of the aftercare system for juveniles were issued in 2021. They laid the foundations for its implementation. In addition, aftercare services continue to be provided for persons over the age of 18 years in cooperation with partner institutions. They include integration into the local community, provision of psychological and social counselling services, and participation in the provision of employment opportunities in cooperation with official and private entities.

J. The right to privacy (135.68)

114. Personal Data Protection Act No. 24 of 2023 was promulgated with a view to protecting personal data and the right to privacy.

K. Combating violence and early marriage (135.34, 135.113, 135.114)

115. The third objective of the National Strategy for Women (2020–2025) endorses the Strategy's vision of "women and girls enjoying a life free from all forms of gender-based violence". This component includes an outcome aimed at addressing the issue of ensuring

effective prevention, protection and response to gender-based violence and measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls:

- The National Commission is implementing a project aimed at improving the status of women.
- Several laws have been amended to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women. They include an amendment to the 2023 Labour Code, which provides for the punishment of sexual harassment and includes a definition of such harassment. A policy to prevent violence and harassment in the workplace and a code of conduct were adopted, and a guide aimed at combating violence and sexual harassment in the workplace was issued in 2019. It is consistent with the code of conduct and the duties and ethics of the civil service based on the 2020 Civil Service Regulations.

116. The National Strategy to Reduce the Marriage of Persons under the Age of 18 in Jordan (2018–2022) was adopted. It establishes a general framework based on a supportive environment (policies, services and data) aimed at reducing the marriage of persons under the age of 18 through the preparation of a national action plan with partners and stakeholders.

117. Article 10 of the Jordanian Personal Status Act No. 15 of 2019 stipulates that: “To be eligible for marriage, the bride and groom shall be of sound mind, and each of them shall have attained the age of 18 years.” However, due to special and exceptional circumstances and cases involving the marriage of persons in the 16 to 18 age group, paragraph (b) of the Act stipulates that: “The judge may, with the approval of the Chief Justice and after verifying the existence of consent and free choice, authorize the marriage, in special cases, of a person who has reached sixteen years of age, in accordance with the instructions issued for the purpose, if the marriage is a necessity imposed by the said person’s interests.”

118. The instructions for authorizing the marriage of persons between 16 and 18 years of age are continuously reviewed, and they have been amended more than once in order to impose tighter restrictions, controls and standards on the marriage of persons belonging to this age group.

119. The Institute of Sharia Law has prepared special training materials for persons who are about to enter marriage contracts, and they will soon be applicable in all sharia courts.

120. A number of training courses have been held for sharia judges on the legislation governing matrimonial issues. They must verify and confirm that the marriage was contracted with consent and complete freedom of choice, and that the will of the two parties to the contract is devoid of any defects or flaws. Training workshops have been held for sharia judges and members of the Family Reform, Mediation and Reconciliation offices, and a training course was held on the aforementioned exceptions and instructions, and action has been taken through the Department of Family Reform, Mediation and Reconciliation to develop data models for “case studies”.

121. The Personal Status Act provides effective protection for persons wishing to marry, since the Act requires full and valid consent to the marriage contract through the expression by the parties of their will in a free and sound manner that is devoid of flaws. The lawmakers have underscored the importance of granting each party to the marriage contract absolute freedom to choose the other party without being subjected to pressure or coercion.

122. The legislation permits both parties or the Sharia Public Prosecution Service to request the termination of the marriage contract if the will of either party is flawed. Thus, forced marriage does not exist in legal terms. On the contrary, all legal texts combine to prevent it. If the marriage falls outside the official framework, the Personal Status Act permits the imposition of judicial control over the contract in order to protect the rights of the parties and the freedom of each party to contract a valid marriage based on freedom of choice and free will.

123. Forced marriage cannot exist under the Personal Status Act, since marriage can only be performed with the woman’s consent and freedom of choice. Any flaw or defect in the will of either party constitutes a ground for the marriage to be rendered invalid and to be denied the impact of a valid contract.

IV. Economic, social and cultural rights

A. The right to health (135.85, 135.86, 135.87) in line with Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals

124. The National Reproductive Health Strategy was launched in 2021.

125. A guidebook on early childhood development in health centres has been used to train a group of health personnel and service providers. A national guidebook for early detection of developmental hip dysplasia and cerebral palsy in children has been developed, and the guidebook on integrated child and neonatal health care has been updated.

126. Training and awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health have been held for care providers.

127. An awareness-raising campaign was launched on the importance of vaccination against the coronavirus for all workers in the Kingdom, and posters were distributed in five of the most commonly used languages among non-Jordanian workers. They were printed in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to encourage vaccination by means of registration on the relevant site (<https://vaccine.jo>).

128. A draft set of national indicators for early childhood development was developed under the auspices of the National Council for Family Affairs and with the participation of all sectors and ministries throughout the Kingdom.

129. Steps are being taken to develop the content of the file used to monitor children's medical growth and development in health centres so that it includes all services provided to children in an integrated manner. In addition, a training kit is being developed for the early detection of developmental delays in children under five years of age, which will serve as a reference for health personnel on how to provide early screening services.

130. Instructions were issued on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the 2023 health insurance system.

131. Insurance policy instructions were issued on behalf of non-Jordanian domestic workers in 2021.

132. Health insurance coverage has been provided for persons over 60 years of age, and the services provided to children under six years of age have been expanded.

133. The Civil Health Insurance Regulations for subscribers have been amended, new categories have been added and the number of beneficiaries has increased. All uninsured Jordanian cancer patients now have insurance coverage. In addition, draft amendments to the Social Health Insurance instructions have been prepared, in accordance with article 30, with a view to integrating all groups (those receiving national aid, poor families, the social safety net, persons over 60 years of age) into the Social Health Insurance system. The draft is currently being reviewed and approved.

134. The development of an insurance procedure for social security subscribers working in the private sector by amending the instructions under article 30 is currently being studied. In addition, a project aimed at studying the costs of benefit packages and comprehensive health coverage was launched in June 2023.

135. In early 2023, the number of insured children under six years of age totalled 650,000 and the number of persons over 60 years of age who were insured under article 30 totalled 134,081. The number of persons benefiting from civil health insurance totalled 3,540,409. The rate of easy access to treatment stood at 78 per cent and the number of insured cancer patients totalled 2,586.

136. Jordan took vigorous action to address residence permit violations by non-Jordanian workers and to facilitate their voluntary departure during the COVID-19 pandemic, in coordination with embassies and airlines, with a view to guaranteeing safe travel procedures, in accordance with the highest standards. Preventive and precautionary measures were taken in order to protect them from infection by the new coronavirus. They were also permanently

exempted from all work permit fees and residency fines. The number of migrant workers who registered for return to their countries of origin totalled 25,243 in 2020.

B. The right to work (135.12, 135.14, 135.16, 135.48, 135.83, 135.111, 135.112)

137. A number of amendments to Labour Code No. 8 of 1996 have been adopted, the most recent of which was Amendment Act No. 14 of 2023. Articles 72 and 69 were amended in order to prohibit all forms of gender-based discrimination against workers that would undermine equality of opportunity, and to provide protection for pregnant and breastfeeding women, for persons with disabilities and for night workers with a view to creating a safe working environment based on instructions that are about to be issued. The amendments to the Code also include respect for the principle of fair wages, provision for paternity leave, inclusion of a definition of flexible work, issuance of instructions on flexible work, instructions on alternatives to institutional day care, guidelines on occupational safety and health conditions in agricultural work sites, implementation of the 2018 decision requiring the private education sector to provide for the electronic payment of salaries of male and female teachers, launching of the “Stand with the Teacher” campaign and continuously supporting it as a community-based campaign aimed at raising the awareness of private-sector female teachers of their labour rights.

138. An awareness-raising campaign on women’s labour rights was launched in partnership with the ILO and the National Commission for Women’s Affairs, and draft guidelines and instructions for the private sector on how to implement the flexible working system were approved and published following the amendment of the flexible working regulations. Guidelines on wage discrimination were also prepared in cooperation with the ILO and the German Foundation for International Cooperation. Jordan joined the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) as the first Arab country to play a pioneering role in that area. The gender perspective has also been institutionalized and mainstreamed in the Ministry’s work.

139. The Government promulgated the Agricultural Workers Act No. 19 of 2021. It also issued instructions concerning procedures for agricultural work inspections in 2021, as well as instructions concerning conditions and measures for occupational safety and health in agricultural work sites in 2021.

140. A guiding model on institutions’ rules of procedure, which includes special provisions regulating the employment of minors, has been developed. It was published on the Ministry of Labour’s website on 23 August 2022.

141. A bill has been drafted on the protection of juveniles who are employed in contravention of the law in force. A special section has been established in the Juvenile Department of the Ministry of Social Development to monitor and take action on issues relating to working minors, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour.

142. The Government continues to take effective and time-bound preventive measures to protect children from the worst forms of child labour, and to provide all necessary and appropriate support for their removal from employment and their rehabilitation and reintegration into society through effective legislation, in particular: the Jordanian Labour Code No. 8 of 1996, as amended; the Human Trafficking Prevention Act No. 9 of 2019, as amended; the Agricultural Workers Act No. 19 of 2021; the Instructions concerning procedures for agricultural work inspections of 2021; and the Instructions concerning conditions and measures for occupational safety and health in agricultural work sites of 2021. In addition, it adopted a number of national strategies and plans aimed at reducing child labour, in particular: the National Strategy to Combat Child Labour (2022–2030) and the Implementation Plan for 2023; the 2020 National Framework to Combat Child Labour and Child Begging; the Guide to Practical Procedures for Implementing the 2020 National Framework to Combat Child Labour and Child Begging; and the Guide to Internal Procedures of the Ministry of Social Development and the Family Protection Department. The regulatory frameworks were prepared by the National Council for Family Affairs in

coordination and close cooperation with all competent governmental bodies and relevant national and international institutions.

143. The Labour Inspector conducts on-site inspection visits to detect cases of child labour that contravene the provisions of the Labour Code. The number of visits undertaken in 2022 totalled 15,706.

144. The Labour Inspector informs the Inspection Department on Combating Child Labour of any detected case of child labour and publishes it on the national child labour website (<http://childlabor.mol.gov.jo>). If the case involves any type of exploitation that coincides with the indicators of human trafficking that are punishable under the Human Trafficking Prevention Act, it is referred to the Human Trafficking Unit and a warning to cease such offences is issued to the employer.

145. The Ministry of Labour supervises and participates in many projects aimed at eliminating child labour, such as the project to combat the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural sector, the project to protect children from child labour and to raise family awareness, the project for case management services on child protection in host communities, and the project to reduce and combat forms of child labour in hazardous sectors.

146. A total of 156 awareness-raising activities on combating child labour were undertaken during the period from 2021 to 2023.

147. A Coordinating Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Child Labour.

148. Inspection visits are regularly conducted to detect cases of child labour, and legal action is taken against employers who breach the regulations. The Ministry also inspects agencies that recruit non-Jordanian domestic workers in order to verify their compliance with the laws, regulations, instructions and decisions concerning their work. It also inspects workers' employment contracts and conducts regular interviews with domestic workers. Regulation No. 63 of 2020 regulates agencies engaged in the recruitment of non-Jordanian domestic workers.

149. A National Coordinating Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Child Labour and to promote united national action to eliminate the phenomenon. Three workshops on "Child labour issues and reduction of school dropout" were held for educational counsellors.

150. The Ministry of Labour has implemented a number of training programmes that eventually lead to employment or result in direct employment by means of the following programmes and projects: the National Employment Programme; the Productive Branches Initiative; guidance and counselling services; and marketing of skills outside the Kingdom.

C. Right to education (135.88, 135.89, 135.90, 135.107) based on the sixth target of Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Strategy

151. The Ministry of Education aspires to provide all Jordanian and non-Jordanian citizens (both juveniles and adults), without exception, with basic reading, writing and mathematical skills.

152. The Ministry of Education launched the Strategy for the Mainstreaming of Gender Equality Issues (2018–2022) and established a single framework for the performance of the sectors involved in vocational and technical education with a view to achieving the objectives of the National Strategy for Human Resources Development (2016–2025), pursuant to which the Vocational and Technical Skills Development Act of 2019 was promulgated.

153. The Ministry of Education opened education and literacy centres throughout the Kingdom between 2021 and 2022, creating 144 centres for males and females. As a result, the illiteracy rate declined from 88 per cent in 1952 to 4.9 per cent in 2021.

154. Article 190 of the Personal Status Act requires fathers who are solvent to support their children's education at all levels, from the preparatory year prior to the first grade of basic education until students obtain their first university degree.

155. Educational services are provided to children who drop out of school and are active in the labour market through non-formal education programmes (the Cultural Enhancement Programme for Dropouts and the Home Studies Programme).

156. The curricula incorporate the concepts of human rights, gender and the Gender Equality Strategy among the activities of the Strategic Plan (2018–2022). In addition, textbooks on social education, the Arabic language, Islamic education and vocational training for the first to the tenth grades are analysed in order to detect any gender gaps in the texts.

V. Rights of specific persons or groups

A. Women

1. Violence against women (135.6, 135.25, 135.28, 135.30, 135.35, 135.78, 135.91, 135.95, 135.101, 135.103, 135.104, 135.105, 135.108, 136.9)

157. The plan for implementation of the Matrix of National Priorities for Strengthening the System for Protection against Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence and for the Protection of Children (2021–2023) was adopted.

158. The National Commission for Women's Affairs organizes a national campaign each year in all governorates, in cooperation with its partners, on action to combat all forms of violence against women (the 16-day Campaign to Combat Violence against Women), during which many activities are undertaken and many relevant awareness-raising publications and videos are produced.

159. The Regulations governing family protection shelters were promulgated pursuant to the Protection against Domestic Violence Act.

160. A Guide for Ministry of the Interior Employees on Handling Cases of Gender-based Violence, Domestic Violence and Child Protection was produced as part of the National Protection Framework. In addition, steps were taken to build the capacities of administrative governors and Ministry employees to implement the National Framework for Protection against Domestic Violence and the Procedures Manual.

161. Family protection divisions have been established in the governorates, and an electronic version of the Guide for Ministry of the Interior Employees on Handling Cases of Gender-based Violence, Domestic Violence and Child Protection has been produced.

162. Many laws have been amended with a view to preventing and combating all forms of violence against women. They include an amendment to the Labour Code of 2023, which provides for the prosecution of sexual harassment, includes a definition of sexual harassment, and guarantees a safe environment for all workers without discrimination.

163. A guide on combating violence and sexual harassment in the workplace was issued in 2019. It is consistent with the norms applicable to professional conduct, and with the duties and code of ethics applicable to public service positions. Accordingly, it guarantees a safe and harassment-free work environment.

164. One of the goals of the National Strategy for Women (2020–2025) in Jordan is to ensure that women and girls enjoy a life free from all forms of gender-based violence and to adopt effective mechanisms for prevention, protection and response to gender-based violence in the private, public and digital environments.

165. Steps are being taken to establish an observatory on cases of femicide and on the measures taken in such cases under the leadership of the Ministerial Committee for the Empowerment of Women.

166. Awareness-raising workshops on the role of the law in addressing sexual harassment were held with the Association for Feminist Economics. The workshops were attended by 120 participants and were held in Zarqa and Ruseifa. In addition, 10 awareness-raising workshops on domestic violence were held as part of the annual campaign to combat gender-based violence.

167. Judges have been designated and mandated to consider cases of domestic violence based on the provisions of the Protection against Domestic Violence Act No. 15 of 2017.

168. A procedural guidebook has been produced on the judiciary's role in handling cases involving women victims of violence, and judges have been trained to use the guidebook.

169. The Judicial Council has developed guidelines for the settlement of disputes in cases of domestic violence. They include the following: a statement of settlement as an alternative method for resolving disputes; the requirements for referral of a dispute for settlement; the confidentiality of the procedures; and the role of psychologists and social workers in such procedures. Guidelines have also been developed for the implementation of alternative measures in cases of domestic violence.

170. Steps are being taken to update the Matrix of National Priorities for Strengthening the System for Protection against Gender-based Violence and Domestic Violence and for the Protection of Children (2021–2023).

171. A new shelter was established in the South Region in 2022, so that there are now a total of seven shelters for victims of gender-based violence in the regions.

172. Steps are being taken to promote the provision of police services and the receipt of cases, and to monitor the submission of cases to partners who collaborate with the Family Protection Department in providing the necessary support to victims of domestic violence.

173. Budgetary funds have been allocated to the Ministry of Justice for the organization of training courses in the three regions on women's empowerment and on protection against violence.

2. Political reform and the role of women in political life (135.32, 135.96, 135.102)

174. A Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System was established in 2021. As a result, the title of Chapter II of the Constitution was amended to read "The Rights and Duties of Jordanian Men and Women". Article 6 was amended to include provisions concerning persons with disabilities and their integration, the empowerment of women and their protection from all forms of violence, and the empowerment of young people.

175. Electoral Act No. 4 of 2022 stipulates that each national party list shall include at least one woman among the first three and second three candidates, and shall include at least one young man or woman of less than 35 years of age among the first five candidates. With regard to local constituencies, a minimum of 18 of the 97 local seats are reserved for women, which corresponds to a representation rate of 18.5 per cent at the local level. Women running for election in local constituencies must specify the status of their candidacy (seats reserved for women or competitive seats) when they apply for candidacy. Women who are candidates for competitive seats are not entitled to compete for seats allocated to women should they fail to win.

176. Political Parties Act No. 7 of 2022 requires, with respect to founding members, that the rate of representation of women should be no less than 20 per cent. The same applies to the percentage of young people between 18 and 35 years of age.

177. The Financial Contribution Regulation No. 15 of 2023 was promulgated in order to enable licensed political parties to perform their role on the basis of citizenship, equality and commitment to democracy and political pluralism. A party is entitled to a financial contribution of JD 30,000 if it achieves a percentage equivalent to 50 per cent or more of the eligibility percentage (the threshold) stipulated in the Electoral Act for the House of Representatives in terms of the number of votes cast in the general electoral district, and JD 10,000 for every seat that it wins. Furthermore, 20 per cent of this amount is added for each seat won by candidates who are women, persons aged between 25 and 35 years, or persons with disabilities.

3. Awareness-raising and education concerning women's rights (135.97, 135.99, 135.106)

178. The implementation plan for the National Strategy for Women (2023–2025) includes initiatives and projects aimed at providing training programmes to build the capacity of women and girls to increase their employment opportunities in different sectors, including

training and employment programmes for female graduates from agricultural and tourism faculties.

179. A 16-day Campaign to Combat Violence against Women is held each year. The social media are used during the campaign to garner support and to coordinate women's issues by raising public awareness of their economic, political or social rights, particularly the prevention of gender-based violence.

180. Campaigns are being conducted to raise female workers' awareness of their legal rights in the workplace so that they may benefit from protection measures against potential violations and take informed decisions. A Legal Awareness Centre has also been established in the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.

B. The rights of persons with disabilities based on Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals

1. Implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (135.50, 135.118)

181. The provisions of article 8 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 20 of 2017 specify the tasks and fields of competence of the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, including the provision of technical support to ministries, governmental bodies and national institutions for the development of strategies, plans and programmes that incorporate the rights of persons with disabilities, coordination of action to determine their roles and fields of competence in the area of disability, and procedures for exchanging information and experience in order to promote integrated action and the allocation of budgetary funds for the purpose. A field operations working group has been established for monitoring purposes and to ensure that funds are allocated in the annual budgets to guarantee compliance with their obligations pursuant to the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

2. Independent living for persons with disabilities (135.117, 135.119, 135.120, 135.122, 135.124, 135.125, 135.126)

182. The 2022 amendments to the Jordanian Constitution include a provision according to which "the law shall protect the rights of persons with disabilities and promote their participation and integration into diverse spheres of life", which is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

183. A national plan was developed with a view to reforming buildings, facilities, places of worship and tourist sites providing services to the public that were established prior to the entry into force of the Act in order to promote their accessibility. The implementation of the plan was to begin within a period of not more than one year from the date of entry into effect of the Act and the planned reforms were to be completed within 10 years.

184. Instructions No. 3 of 2022 were issued on the identity card for persons with disabilities, and Instructions were also issued regarding the conditions and procedures for recommending that persons with severe disabilities should be exempted from payment of work permit fees for non-Jordanian workers as from 2022.

185. The published list of reasonable adjustments that are exempt from fees and taxes includes devices that are directly exempted without formalities and devices that may be exempted on the basis of a technical report from the Council.

186. Instructions regarding protection of the financial status of clients with disabilities were issued in 2018.

187. The National Strategy for Alternatives to Public and Private Shelters for Persons with Disabilities (2019–2029) aims to improve the situation of persons with disabilities by converting the organization of shelters in Jordan into an inclusive daytime system with a view to guaranteeing respect for the best interests of all persons with disabilities.

188. Guidelines were produced on how to address gender-based violence against persons with disabilities in Jordan, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

189. Inclusive (comprehensive) community development programmes were developed for independent living purposes by means of 20 field visits by the Committee for the licensing of early intervention centres and units and of shelters for persons with disabilities.

190. Provision has been made for coordination with international support organizations in order to develop early intervention services and programmes in their inclusive day centres, since such programmes play an extremely important role in supporting persons with disabilities in the case of children under six years of age.

191. Steps are being taken to build the capacities of caregivers in early childhood nurseries. A total of 34 nurseries have been selected with 58 participants. Training courses have been provided for 24 directors of inclusive day care centres affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development and 25 persons working in the centres have been trained in early intervention.

192. Persons with disabilities have been offered the opportunity to be appointed to municipal employee posts at a rate of at least 4 per cent.

193. A total of 197 field visits were conducted to inspect various public and private facilities and buildings in order to verify their compliance with accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities and to prepare reports on technical support, including key recommendations on procedures for ensuring that the facilities and buildings are accessible for persons with disabilities.

194. A school building code and a building guidance code specifying requirements for persons with disabilities have been produced. Steps have been taken, in the area of inclusive tourism, to review engineering plans in order to devise procedures for rendering a number of tourist and archaeological sites accessible for persons with disabilities. A number of public transport routes have also been adapted to serve persons with disabilities.

195. An Award was launched for Buildings Accessible for Persons with Disabilities with a view to encouraging employers and institutions to adjust buildings and facilities to meet accessibility requirements for persons with disabilities.

196. An emergency call application for persons with hearing disabilities (114) was launched for the Android and iPhone operating systems with a view to expanding the 114 contact number service in the command and control centre so that it incorporates all telecommunication companies.

197. Funds have been allocated in the budgets of ministries and institutions for the purpose of facilitating the access of persons with disabilities to services in all areas.

3. The right to education and employment for persons with disabilities (135.121, 135.123, 135.127, 135.128)

198. A Ten-Year Strategy for Inclusive Education was launched as well as an implementation plan for the first three years of the Strategy, which aims to increase, by 2031, the percentage of school-age children with disabilities enrolled in ordinary schools to 10 per cent of the total number of school-age children with disabilities, and to provide them with all requirements for inclusive education. A total of 57 support teachers were appointed to provide additional educational services, so that each of the selected schools had three support teachers.

199. The age of enrolment of students with disabilities in the first grade of basic education has been increased from a maximum age of 9 years to 11 years. Pupils with disabilities who have dropped out of ordinary schools are permitted to return to the schools provided that their age does not exceed the average age of their classmates by four years rather than three years, which was the previous requirement.

200. A total of 30 schools have been established under the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) project in three governorates of the Kingdom (Ajloun, Amman and Karak), and 60 schools have been established throughout the Kingdom under the Accelerating Access to Education Initiative (AAI). Action to establish such schools included the development of infrastructure aimed at achieving Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

201. Awareness-raising campaigns have been conducted to garner support for the right to inclusive education in the Kingdom's regions, in line with the second component of the 10-Year Strategy for Inclusive Education, namely the need to raise awareness of the right to inclusive education among local communities and partners.

202. Regulation No. 35 of 2021 on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities was issued pursuant to articles 13 and 140 of Labour Code No. 8 of 1996 with a view to determining whether the employment rates of persons with disabilities comply with the law in force, investigating the existence of reasonable adjustments and workplace accessibility, and ensuring the non-existence of any form of discrimination based on disability in the institution.

203. Regulation No. 6 of 2022 on the Civil Service was amended to abolish the requirement to be free of disabilities upon appointment, and to mandate the Equal Opportunity Commission of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to issue technical reports on the appointment of persons with disabilities in the public sector with a view to promoting a working environment free of physical obstacles and behavioural barriers.

204. A total of 476 persons with disabilities were employed in the private sector during 2021 and 2022 from among job-seekers and persons registered on the electronic employment platform (Sajil).

205. The Equal Opportunity Commission, which was established pursuant to the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, received 33 complaints in 2022 which were investigated and resolved with the competent authorities. They included 18 complaints concerning persons with motor disabilities, of whom 12 were men and 6 were women; 7 complaints concerning persons with visual disabilities, of whom 3 were men and 4 were women; 3 complaints concerning persons with mental disabilities, of whom 2 were men and 1 was a woman; 4 complaints concerning persons with hearing disabilities, of whom 3 were men and one was a woman; and one complaint concerning a person with a psychological disability. The complaints were varied and referred, albeit non-exhaustively, to an assignment to work that was incompatible with a particular type of disability, a transfer from the workplace, an objection to the appointment, a modification of the job title, and other grounds for complaint.

C. Rights of the child (135.36, 135.39, 135.40, 135.41)

206. Child Rights Act No. 17 of 2022 was promulgated to guarantee the provision of all services to children in social service offices and protection homes. It should be noted that the Kingdom's sixth periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols was discussed in May 2023, a date that coincides with the entry into force of the Child Rights Act.

207. An implementing regulation was issued in connection with Decision No. 100 of 2019 on the settlement of disputes in cases concerning domestic violence.

208. The National Strategy to Combat Child Labour (2022–2030) was launched together with its Implementation Plan for 2022.

209. The National Framework to Combat Child Labour and Child Begging was updated in 2020 and Guidelines for Dealing with Child Workers and Child Beggars were produced in 2020.

210. A number of national projects were launched, including the National Strategy for Juvenile Justice (2017–2019).

211. The analytical study of juvenile justice undertaken in 2018 identified national requirements for juveniles, including the provision of comprehensive national guidelines on procedures from the time of their inauguration in branches of the Juvenile Police Department.

212. Procedural guidelines for professionals working with juveniles were prepared in conjunction with national partner agencies in 2020.

213. A bill amending the Juveniles Act has been drafted with a view to promoting the rule of law, developing criminal justice in line with relevant international instruments, replacing

punitive justice with the concept of restorative justice, compensating victims and facilitating their reintegration into society.

214. There is no discrimination against children belonging to any category within the territory of Jordan. Article 3 of the Child Rights Act of 2022 stipulates that: “Children have the right to enjoy all the rights and freedoms enshrined in this Act without any type of discrimination.”

D. The rights of migrant workers (135.17, 135.45, 135.74, 135.76, 135.116, 135.129, 135.130, 135.131, 136.20, 137.21)

215. A web platform (Hemayeh) for labour complaints (<https://complaint.hemayeh.jo/>) was launched in Arabic and English in mid-2020 for all workers (Jordanian and non-Jordanian). The platform includes complaints from domestic workers, which are translated into eight different languages. Embassies and diplomatic missions are entitled to file complaints on behalf of domestic workers who are nationals of their countries.

216. Indicators of forced labour have been listed on the web platform for labour complaints (Hemayeh) in the form of questions to be answered by the worker. If there is a positive response to more than one indicator, the complaint is referred to the Anti-Human-Trafficking Unit.

217. The definition of a worker in the Jordanian Labour Code makes no distinction between Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers. It also contains a definition of wage discrimination between workers of different nationalities. An employer who pays less than the minimum wage or who is guilty of gender-based wage discrimination for work of equal value is liable to prosecution. The Labour Code Amendment Act No. 10 of 2023 also prohibits any gender-based discrimination between workers that undermines equality of opportunity.

218. The Labour Code Amendment Act No. 10 of 2023 provides for a procedure for regulating the functioning of private agencies involved in the employment and recruitment of non-Jordanian workers in different sectors. It regulates all matters pertaining to the employment and recruitment of workers.

219. Regulation No. 63 of 2020 regulates agencies engaged in the recruitment of non-Jordanian domestic workers. In addition, Regulation No. 64 of 2020 amended the regulations governing domestic workers, cooks, gardeners and other employees. Instructions on insurance policies for non-Jordanian domestic workers were issued in 2021.

220. The Central Inspection Directorate and the Occupational Safety and Health Directorate of the Ministry of Labour are responsible for guaranteeing a safe and healthy working environment in order to preserve labour rights and occupational safety and in order to meet health requirements. They monitor the degree of compliance with the Labour Code and investigate complaints by employees. A total of 46,648 inspection visits were conducted in 2022 in order to ensure that the rights of all workers were guaranteed without discrimination.

221. Article 29 of the amended Labour Code defines sexual harassment, and article 77 (b) provides for the prosecution of any employer who hires workers by means of force, threats, fraud or coercion, including the confiscation of travel documents.

222. The number of complaints from workers concerning forced labour totalled 65 in 2022 and they were all resolved. The number of complaints concerning confiscation of passports totalled 48 in 2022 and they were all resolved. A total of 60 inspection visits to 27 establishments were conducted in 2022 to investigate cases of forced labour.

223. In accordance with article 11 of Regulation No. 90 of 2009 concerning Domestic Workers, Cooks, Gardeners and Similar Categories, as amended, complaints or reports of violations of the rights of domestic workers are investigated and legal proceedings are instituted against the householder. In addition, workers are granted the right to terminate their employment (if the violation committed by the householder constitutes a sexual or physical assault or a serious violation of any of the worker’s basic rights). The number of complaints

received from domestic workers totalled 499 in 2022 and 2023, and 496 of them were resolved.

224. Guarantees of access to legal proceedings and to justice are provided to foreigners and residents on an equal footing. In addition, special judicial police are tasked with investigating any complaints, and protection and shelter facilities are provided pending the completion of all investigation and prosecution procedures.

225. The Kingdom is committed to the principle of non-refoulement or non-expulsion of refugees, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998 with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

E. Refugees (135.75, 135.115)

226. The Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Education (2018–2022) provides refuge for citizens of other countries and offers opportunities for all children to access education at different levels.

227. The gross enrolment rate for Syrian girls was 38.1 per cent in basic education and 12.2 per cent in secondary education. Jordanian children and Syrian refugee children have access to free and compulsory education.

228. Students of all nationalities can enrol in public and private schools, regardless of whether they possess the required documents. Special oversight units have been established in Syrian refugee camps to monitor Syrian schools and student enrolment in order to guarantee access to education and to protect refugee children from labour exploitation.

229. All means and facilities are provided for the admission of Syrian students and their enrolment, even if they lack documentation, in all the Kingdom's schools, both within and outside the camps, in a manner consistent with their age.

230. Schools for refugee students have been opened in the camps (Zaatari, Mrajeeb al-Fhood and Azraq) in order to guarantee their right to education. A total of 52 schools have been opened in the camps of Zaatari and Mrajeeb al-Fhood.

231. The basic needs of refugee students (schoolbags, school uniforms, stationery, textbooks, exemption of Syrian students from payment of school fees) are provided through cooperation with international and local organizations and associations.

232. Teachers in secondary schools for Syrians and in camp schools receive training on in how to look after students in crisis and emergency situations through a psychological support programme.

233. It should be noted that there are currently about 1,373,000 Syrian refugees on the Kingdom's territory, including about 130,000 refugees who reside in the camps. The Kingdom is committed to the principle of non-refoulement or non-expulsion of refugees, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1998 with UNHCR.

234. Syrian refugees receive health-care services in facilities run by the Ministry of Health, such as primary health-care facilities, secondary and specialized health-care facilities, which include outpatient consultations, emergency services and hospital admissions, including surgical operations.

235. The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation is preparing a Response Plan for the Syrian Crisis (2024–2026) in collaboration with United Nations organizations and donors. The Plan will encompass key priorities aimed at alleviating the impact of asylum and meeting the basic needs of refugees and host communities. It should be noted that the Government has been preparing Jordanian response plans for the Syrian crisis since 2015.

236. Sharia courts have been established in the refugee camps to register marriage contracts. An office of the Family and Juvenile Protection Department has been established in the refugee camps with jurisdiction to investigate domestic violence issues. Civil status offices have also been established in the refugee camps.

237. Non-Jordanian workers who are Syrian citizens have been exempted from payment of fees for work permits that have been issued periodically since 2016 pursuant to decisions by the Prime Minister. The number of work permits issued to Syrian refugee workers during the period from 2016 until September 2023 totalled 400,000.

238. Comprehensive instructions have been issued concerning employment conditions and procedures for non-Jordanian workers of Syrian nationality that are applicable to the following types of work permits:

- A regular work permit, a temporary work permit and a flexible work permit. All such permits are issued under the auspices of any of the cooperative societies authorized by the Ministry or the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.
- A special labour office has been established to issue work permits for non-Jordanian workers of Syrian nationality. It is located in the building of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions.
- Service cards have been authorized for the Syrian community as an alternative to passports for the purpose of issuing work permits.
- It is permissible to issue work permits for Syrian refugees living in the camps so that they can leave the camps and enter the labour market.

VI. Best practices and challenges

A. Best practices

239. Guidelines on procedures for the staff of the Ministry of the Interior are included in the 2023 Digital Transformation Plan for the Ministry of the Interior and its administrative centres. Work has begun on the first experimental phase.

240. Family protection divisions have been established in the organizational structure of the governorates with a view to enhancing protection and expediting the resolution of domestic violence cases and handling such cases in a fully confidential manner. A guide for the staff of the Ministry of the Interior on handling cases of domestic violence and child protection has also been prepared.

241. An initiative on behalf of schoolchildren has been implemented in order to disseminate the concepts of media and information literacy with a view to addressing hate speech, extremism, fake news and the impact of rumours, and teaching students how to think critically and engage in a constructive dialogue.

242. Modern technologies have been used to promote access to justice, including the remote conduct of legal proceedings and the use of courtrooms with closed-circuit television, which alleviate the possible negative impact of investigation and prosecution procedures on child and women victims. Such procedures were used to guarantee access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic.

243. The use of alternatives to custodial sentences, alternatives to detention and electronic surveillance has a positive impact.

244. The National Centre for Human Rights conducts unannounced visits to detention centres.

245. The dispute settlement system and alternatives to custodial sentences have been used in domestic violence cases (1,120 cases have been referred for approval).

246. Expatriate workers whose work permits expired abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic have been permitted to return and renew their permits without incurring additional costs.

247. Electronic learning (e-learning) is used in the Jordanian Judicial Institute, and human rights issues are incorporated into academic training courses and in-service training programmes.

248. Women's representation in the judiciary has increased. They currently account for more than 30 per cent of judges and for a particularly high percentage of supervisory positions.

249. National response mechanisms have been established to combat human trafficking by legislative and procedural means.

250. Gender offices have been established in the Public Security Directorate, and transparency and human rights offices have been established in all directorates and in reform and rehabilitation centres.

251. A visual communication service has been provided for persons with disabilities, and emergency line interpreters are available for the operations of the Public Security Directorate.

252. Provision has been made for oversight of the Matrix of National Priorities for protection against gender-based violence.

253. The Human Rights Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister provides for coordination and consultations between national institutions and civil society organizations on the preparation of international reports and Universal Periodic Review reports.

254. The scope of social protection for the most vulnerable groups has been expanded by providing shelters for women at risk, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic violence, marginalized children and older persons.

255. A committee has been established to align national legislation with international human rights treaties that the Kingdom has ratified.

256. A command and control room has been established in the Ministry of Labour to produce audiovisual recordings of inspection visits in order to protect all parties involved in the inspection procedure.

257. The Jordanian Government adopted a series of measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, including measures to improve access to health care and its quality. It also provided social protection and support for employment, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, and provided protection for the poor and most needy groups. The Government also established the Himmat Watan Fund to support action in the health sector, and to contribute to measures aimed at alleviating the impact of the virus on vulnerable and disadvantaged local communities. With a view to guaranteeing the right of access to education, distance e-learning services were provided and an emergency education plan (2020–2023) was launched in order to provide a sustainable, interactive and responsive learning environment. The Public Security Directorate also produced a number of plans, security instructions and operational directives with a view to combating the COVID-19 pandemic and preserving the security and safety of citizens and all persons present on the territory of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan without discrimination. In addition, awareness-raising brochures were produced, a series was broadcast on the Public Security Radio Amen FM, and awareness-raising and educational videos targeting all segments of society were issued in order to limit the spread of the virus (annex 6).

B. Challenges

258. The country's limited financial resources impede the achievement of aspirations to provide comprehensive services in the health, social and educational fields.

259. Technical capacity-building is necessary in national partner institutions in order to guarantee the rights of the most vulnerable groups.

260. It is necessary to develop a database that includes statistics and analysis of human rights issues and improved capacity-building.

261. The country must assume the burdens associated with asylum, namely the pressure imposed on the Kingdom's infrastructure by the hosting of refugees, both in terms of the economic burden in the areas of health, education and employment, and the burden stemming from law enforcement and social costs.

262. Other challenges include action to address climate change and food security.

263. It is necessary to boost the social protection system and to provide support for aftercare programmes.

264. The failure to find a solution to the Palestinian issue increases its adverse economic, social and security-related impact on the Kingdom. The international community must therefore continue to take action to resolve the Palestinian issue.
