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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Brunei Darussalam

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



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-seventh session from 4 to 15 November 2024. The review of Brunei Darussalam was held at the 9th meeting, on 8 November 2024. The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Erywan Pehin Yusof. At its 16th meeting, held on 13 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Brunei Darussalam.
2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Brunei Darussalam: Honduras, Kyrgyzstan and Malawi.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Brunei Darussalam:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹
 - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), Germany, Liechtenstein, Panama, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Brunei Darussalam through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation presented the national report for the fourth universal periodic review cycle on 8 November 2024 and expressed the deepest gratitude of the delegation to the members of the troika, comprised of Honduras, Kyrgyzstan and Malawi. Brunei Darussalam had received 220 recommendations in the previous review cycle, 108 of which had been accepted and 7 partially accepted. He stated that Brunei Darussalam had either implemented or was in the process of implementing all the accepted recommendations. The report was based on consultations with relevant agencies, stakeholders and non-governmental organizations, involving all segments of society in a “whole of nation” approach, to ensure inclusivity and transparency. The report also reflected the country’s commitment to human rights, and the progress made, to reaffirm its dedication to advancing these values.
6. The head of the delegation indicated that Brunei Darussalam, as a small State on the northern coast of Borneo with a population of approximately 450,500 people and a per capita gross domestic product of B\$45,102.10 (in 2023), offered a high standard of living, with benefits such as tax-free income, high-quality healthcare, education, infrastructure, and a generous welfare system. Known as the “Abode of Peace”, the country had a peaceful society rooted in mutual respect and strong family values, which contributed to its low crime rate and the harmonious co-existence of diverse races and religions. Although it had existed as a

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/47/BRN/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/47/BRN/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/47/BRN/3](#).

State for centuries before its full independence, it had achieved complete autonomy just 40 years ago.

7. As a small, coastal, maritime nation, Brunei Darussalam faced significant challenges due to climate change, which had resulted in the country taking various measures as part of its international efforts. These had included establishing the Brunei Climate Change Office to develop climate policies and actions, introducing the Brunei National Climate Change Policy, and proposing, during its chairing in 2021 of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, in Brunei Darussalam, to enhance regional cooperation on climate change issues. Domestic assistance measures were also provided to combat the impacts of climate change, which included financial assistance, in-kind support and temporary housing or repairs.

8. The head of the delegation emphasized that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic was another challenge that had highlighted the country's resilience and commitment to protecting its people. Brunei Darussalam had swiftly implemented stringent mandatory public health measures, including quarantine, social distancing, and contact tracing using the BruHealth mobile application, and had rolled out a national vaccination strategy for all people without discrimination, free of charge, with contingencies in place to reach vulnerable and at-risk communities, as well as establishing national isolation centres. The Government had provided information to the public daily and had established national committees to monitor the situation and implement the strategies needed. These had included providing financial assistance to the private sector to support the economy and transitioning to online education to ensure continuity of learning. In addition, at least 10,000 youth volunteers had worked with the Government to deliver aid to those affected.

9. The country's long-term national vision, *Wawasan Brunei 2035*, aspired to make Brunei Darussalam a nation widely recognized for its educated, highly skilled, accomplished people, with a high quality of life, and a dynamic and sustainable economy, by 2035. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, a national coordination committee had been set up to monitor its implementation and harmonization. Brunei Darussalam had submitted two voluntary national reviews to track its progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighted the country's strong focus on youth engagement and innovative solutions for sustainable development.

10. Brunei Darussalam continued to prioritize social welfare through programmes such as the National Welfare System (launched in 2020) and the *Skim Persaraan Kebangsaan* retirement scheme (launched in 2023). These initiatives were aimed at providing better financial assistance, for both the formal and the informal sector, and enhancing the country's social security system. *Zakat* (alms) had been integrated into the welfare system, reflecting beliefs fundamental to Islam, the country's national religion.

11. Brunei Darussalam stated that it had made significant strides in elevating and empowering women, and that women had an increasing presence in leadership positions in government, the private sector and civil society. In 2023, Brunei Darussalam had appointed its first ethnic Chinese woman to the Legislative Council.

12. Brunei Darussalam supported women's entrepreneurship, including through prize-winning initiatives, assisted homemakers and underprivileged mothers by means of collaborations with the private sector, and actively led in regional (ASEAN) and global gender equality initiatives. Brunei Darussalam also reported that guidelines for childcare centres in government buildings were being drafted, in an effort to encourage women's participation in the public sector.

13. Furthermore, Bruneian peacekeepers, including women, continued to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping missions, embodying the country's commitment to the women and peace and security agenda.

14. Brunei Darussalam reiterated its commitment to the elimination of violence against women through legislation to ensure the safety of victims of domestic violence. Preventive measures had also been put in place, including awareness-raising activities by the Government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to advocate for and

encourage the reporting of such incidents, while stressing the importance of women's health, welfare and safety.

15. Brunei Darussalam continued to prioritize the well-being of children, who made up 20 per cent of the population, with the introduction of the National Framework on Child Protection, including a Sector Assessment Protocol in 2020 and a Register of Children and Young Persons in Need of Protection in 2022. Guidelines for alternative care options, such as foster care, were in development, and various hotlines had been set up to support the welfare of children, including students. Student welfare sections had been set up in schools and progress meetings were held on a monthly basis between relevant agencies to support the learning needs of students suffering abuse, or from dysfunctional homes.

16. During its chairing of ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam had championed initiatives to combat bullying and enhance cooperation on mental health, including with China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, as well as Australia. Brunei Darussalam stated that since the amendment to the Education (School Discipline) Regulations in 2018, corporal punishment had been prohibited in schools, with penalties for non-compliance.

17. The country's long-standing policy guaranteed free, universal access to education, and provided opportunities for education at all levels, regardless of race, religion or gender. In 2024, the minimum age for attending school had been lowered to 5 years, and in the same year the country had established its first special school for students with severe learning difficulties, and had set up a special education allowance, among other initiatives.

18. Brunei Darussalam was maintaining its focus on empowering youth through its national youth policy, which addressed key issues regarding the economy, the environment and social welfare. Brunei Darussalam had become a founding member of the Global Network for Youth Competitiveness, known as the Hope Network, launched by Bahrain, in November 2024. The network facilitated exchanges of best practices and knowledge among countries, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

19. The Government had created various opportunities for youth employment, including through the establishment of the Manpower Planning and Employment Council in 2019 to combat unemployment, develop the workforce and promote lifelong learning. Over 60,000 individuals had been recruited in the public and private sectors between 2019 and 2023.

20. To ensure fair wages, Brunei Darussalam had introduced the Employment (Minimum Wage) Order, 2023, which established a minimum wage for selected sectors, with plans to expand coverage. A salary guideline for the private sector had also been introduced to support competitive salary packages and enable meaningful and long-term employment.

21. Brunei Darussalam remained dedicated to ensuring equal rights for persons with disabilities, in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2021, the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act had been amended to introduce a care provider allowance to support persons with disabilities. Additionally, the Persons with Disabilities Act had been introduced to establish a national definition of persons with disabilities, a national register for persons with disabilities and a system of disability cards. The Act also provided for penalties for abuse and neglect. Brunei Darussalam collaborated with non-governmental organizations to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce and other economic activities. National news broadcasts included sign language interpreters, who received continuous training. Efforts were also under way to draft the country's first national report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

22. Brunei Darussalam had taken significant steps to address statelessness, by making efforts to expedite the process of reviewing applications for citizenship, with 4,634 people being granted citizenship from 2019 to 2024 including 2,177 stateless individuals. This marked an increase from the 1,275 stateless persons granted citizenship from 2013 to 2018. Additionally, Brunei Darussalam had participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultations on Statelessness, exchanging best practices with the United Nations and South-East Asian countries.

23. Brunei Darussalam underlined its approach to combating trafficking in persons, which prioritized the safety of victims by law regardless of race, colour, gender, belief or nationality.

Notable initiatives had included the introduction of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Prevention of People Smuggling Act in 2019, which had replaced the Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons Order, 2004; the establishment of a trafficking in persons assessment team to coordinate investigations; the establishment of the Task Force of Awareness Programme to raise public awareness; providing and upgrading dedicated shelters for trafficking victims; signing the International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); and ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2020. Brunei Darussalam had also operationalized several action plans on trafficking in persons.

24. Brunei Darussalam also emphasized that its trafficking laws were consistent with the above-mentioned Trafficking In Persons Protocol, which set out the elements of human trafficking, and that cases that had insufficient evidence to satisfy those elements could be prosecuted under other laws as appropriate. The country also engaged in bilateral, regional and international partnerships for continued international collaboration.

25. Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to upholding its international obligations under the various conventions that it was party to, and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations in maintaining the rule of law and upholding every nation's sovereignty to ensure global peace and stability.

26. Brunei Darussalam sought to continue and deepen collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies in support of national efforts to strengthen human rights protections and to fulfil its commitments effectively.

27. The head of the delegation expressed appreciation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Brunei Darussalam expressed its honour at participating in this collective endeavour and thanked Member States for their engagement and invited them to visit Brunei Darussalam to foster deeper understanding. Brunei Darussalam remained committed to creating a future where the rights of all individuals were respected and protected.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

28. During the interactive dialogue, 86 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

29. Djibouti welcomed the commitment of the authorities of Brunei Darussalam to promote an economic and social development policy through the Wawasan Brunei 2035 programme.

30. Egypt welcomed the efforts of Brunei Darussalam to implement its vision for sustainable development by 2035, and programmes to enhance the economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens.

31. Estonia commended the release of the first National Action Plan on Women and the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to delivering climate change goals, but remained concerned at the corporal punishment of children still being lawful.

32. France congratulated Brunei Darussalam on its ratification in 2023 of the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29). It noted the positive measures taken by Brunei Darussalam since the last universal periodic review.

33. The Gambia commended the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to advancing the social welfare of its people, particularly by amending the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act and establishing the Special Committee on the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.

34. Georgia welcomed measures in the areas of economic diversification, climate transition goals, achieving net zero emissions by 2050, improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities and preventing crimes of trafficking in persons.

35. Germany commended the ratification by Brunei Darussalam of the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and its continued observance of the moratorium on the

carrying out of the death penalty, however it shared concerns about the Syariah Penal Code imposing the death penalty and corporal punishments.

36. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Brunei Darussalam and its national report.

37. India noted efforts by Brunei Darussalam to fulfil its commitments to the recommendations of the last universal periodic review and to uphold human rights obligations. It also noted initiatives by Brunei Darussalam in the areas of health, education, women's empowerment and social welfare.

38. Indonesia appreciated the commitment that Brunei Darussalam had shown by operationalizing Wawasan Brunei 2035 to advance human rights. It commended the country's commitment to protecting the institution of the family, and also to advancing gender equality and empowering women.

39. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended efforts made by Brunei Darussalam, which included a zakat-funded housing project, reviewing the efficiency of the National Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication, and the endeavour to secure clean, safe and affordable water meeting World Health Organization standards.

40. Iraq noted the establishment of the Special Committee for National Coordination of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the adoption of various programmes and plans, and encouraged Brunei Darussalam to make further efforts to promote human rights.

41. Ireland welcomed the de facto moratorium on executions and urged Brunei Darussalam to fully abolish death penalty. It was concerned that the Syariah Penal Code was inconsistent with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other international human rights standards.

42. Italy welcomed the human rights initiatives taken, particularly the first National Action Plan on Women, of 2023, the National Framework on Child Protection, and the specific law that had been instituted for persons with disabilities.

43. Japan welcomed steps taken to advance gender equality and to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities, notably the amendment of the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act.

44. Jordan appreciated the efforts by Brunei Darussalam to promote human rights, especially in the areas of sustainable development and environmental protection, and its commitment to relevant international treaties.

45. Kazakhstan welcomed the efforts made by Brunei Darussalam in the area of human rights. It commended the country's cooperation with the World Health Organization in 2021, the Mental Health Action Plan 2022–2025, the pension amendments of 2021, and the legislation against trafficking and human smuggling, of 2021.

46. Kuwait commended Wawasan Vision 2035 as an ambitious plan that would lead to prosperity with the aim of strengthening national capacities and achieving comprehensive transformation by 2035.

47. Kyrgyzstan commended the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to women's empowerment, and the dedication that it had shown to gender equality initiatives, such as the national action plan to enhance women's rights, as well as to health care, economic empowerment and work-life balance.

48. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended Brunei Darussalam for the progress made in the areas of education, health and social welfare, including advancements in the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

49. Lebanon commended the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to the well-being of its population, its promotion of human rights, and its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, to mitigating the effects of climate change and to preventing trafficking in persons.

50. Luxembourg thanked Brunei Darussalam for the presentation of its national report and congratulated the country on the progress made since the previous universal periodic review cycle.

51. Malawi commended the good practices in the promotion of the right to education, notably the integration of Melayu Islam Beraja into the curriculum with the aim of teaching students good values such as compassion, respect and anti-bullying.
52. Malaysia commended the commitment to the development of policies, community programmes and social services focusing on women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and the progress made in healthcare, environmental protection, education and employment.
53. Maldives commended Brunei Darussalam for taking significant climate initiatives, particularly for the establishment of the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat in 2018 and the launch of the climate change policy in 2020 to implement low-carbon and climate-resilient pathways.
54. Malta noted the appointment of women in leadership roles and the adoption of laws to protect persons with disabilities. It welcomed the moratorium and encouraged the abolishment of the death penalty.
55. Mauritania commended the country's vision of developing healthcare and education, raising the quality of life and working to build a dynamic and sustainable economy, as well as efforts to achieve sustainable production and consumption through green initiatives.
56. Mauritius welcomed Wawasan Brunei 2035 and the harmonization of it with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and commended new policies supporting students with special education needs and promoting women to leadership positions.
57. Mexico acknowledged the ratification of the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and progress made towards inclusive education through the strategic plan for 2023–2027.
58. Montenegro commended the efforts to promote gender equality. It encouraged Brunei Darussalam to foster a society that valued diversity, social cohesion, and multilateral dialogue and tolerance, ensuring equal opportunities and rights. It urged revision of the death penalty legislation.
59. Morocco commended Brunei Darussalam on Wawasan Brunei 2035, which represented the vision of the future given that it defined the long-term goals and framework for national development plans and implementation strategies.
60. Namibia commended Brunei Darussalam for its commitment to improve the quality of life of all persons, notably older persons and persons with disabilities, and to eliminate violence against women.
61. Nepal took positive note of Wawasan Brunei 2035, the establishment of the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Unit, and the National Plan of Action on Poverty Eradication 2020–2024.
62. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Brunei Darussalam for abolishing the death penalty in practice, hoping that it would maintain its de facto moratorium. It expressed concern about freedom of expression and discrimination against women and minorities.
63. The Niger welcomed the commitments of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to empower the family, to strengthen the contribution of the family to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, to prioritize family-based care in humanitarian contexts and to support the family in the digital environment.
64. Oman commended the efforts by Brunei Darussalam to protect the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities through various mechanisms such as the new Plan of Action for Senior Citizens 2023–2030 and amendments made to the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act.
65. Pakistan praised Brunei Darussalam for ongoing initiatives and progress in promoting and protecting human rights and advancing the socioeconomic prosperity of its people, including by integrating the 2030 Agenda into its development vision and by promoting self-reliance among those in need.

66. Panama thanked Brunei Darussalam for presenting its national report.
67. Paraguay welcomed the adoption of Wawasan Brunei 2035 and encouraged its effective implementation with a human rights approach in order to address the persisting challenges.
68. The Philippines commended the wide-ranging initiatives and outcomes since the last review, including the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the areas of education and health. It welcomed the issuance of the Employment Order, 2023, to promote fair employment practices for both local and foreign workers.
69. Qatar encouraged Brunei Darussalam to continue implementing Wawasan Brunei 2035, which would contribute to improving the country's living, social and economic conditions and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
70. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts of Brunei Darussalam to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, commended its legal measures for human rights protection, and praised efforts to improve the quality of life and access to healthcare.
71. Saudi Arabia welcomed the launch by the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam of its strategic plan for 2023–2027, which was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the education system.
72. Senegal congratulated Brunei Darussalam on the measures taken in vital sectors included in the Wawasan Brunei 2035 action plan, which were aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting health and education.
73. Serbia noted with appreciation the progress made in advancing gender equality, and in the empowerment of women and girls, and welcomed the establishment in 2023 of the first National Action Plan on Women.
74. Singapore commended the actions taken to protect children with special needs, which included guaranteeing access to education by establishing a special education school. It also lauded the initiatives to support those who had suffered abuse, and the efforts to advance gender equality.
75. Slovenia welcomed efforts to address gender disparities in education and employment. It remained concerned about the low rate of ratification of international human rights treaties, the persistence of the death penalty, restrictions on freedom of expression and reports of female genital mutilation.
76. Spain congratulated Brunei Darussalam on the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act and the moratorium on the death penalty. It expressed concerns about the maintenance of the state of emergency, which had been decreed in 1962, and about the amendments to the Penal Code in 2019.
77. Sri Lanka noted with appreciation the measures taken to promote the enjoyment of human rights, notably Wawasan Brunei 2035 and the Mental Health Action Plan 2022–2025.
78. The State of Palestine welcomed the commitments and efforts by Brunei Darussalam to promote and protect human rights.
79. The Sudan commended the progress made by Brunei Darussalam in legislative and institutional reform related to human rights, represented by the establishment of the National Coordination Committee on the Sustainable Development Agenda and the adoption of a number of national action plans.
80. Switzerland thanked the delegation of Brunei Darussalam for its presentation.
81. Thailand took note of Wawasan Brunei 2035, which had aligned the country's development strategy with the Sustainable Development Goals, and of the adoption by Brunei Darussalam of the principle of universal health coverage in its healthcare system. It welcomed the continued participation of women in politics.
82. Timor-Leste commended the advancements made by Brunei Darussalam in human rights, including efforts to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, and welcomed the adoption of the 2020 national climate change policy.

83. Togo welcomed measures taken by Brunei Darussalam to promote the rights to health and education, social harmony and human-centred economic development. It appreciated the actions taken to encourage women's leadership, as well as the emancipation of young people, persons with disabilities and children.
84. Tunisia commended the measures taken by Brunei Darussalam to promote economic and social development, education, health and poverty reduction, to empower youth and women, to care for and integrate older persons and persons with disabilities and to prevent trafficking.
85. Türkiye commended Brunei Darussalam for enhancing its social welfare and healthcare systems, for its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, and for improving access to education, support for vulnerable populations, and the protection of women and children.
86. Ukraine commended the efforts of Brunei Darussalam in advancing social and economic development as outlined in Wawasan Brunei 2035 to improve the quality of life and promote human rights through equitable access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.
87. The United Arab Emirates appreciated the progress achieved by Brunei Darussalam in fields related to economic and social rights, and commended the country's efforts to achieve the vision contained in Wawasan Brunei 2035.
88. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the steps taken by Brunei Darussalam to promote social welfare, including education and healthcare, and the progress made in reducing statelessness. It urged Brunei Darussalam to ensure that its legislation protected all fundamental rights and freedoms for every individual.
89. The United Republic of Tanzania applauded measures taken by Brunei Darussalam to improve living standards, which included sustainable housing and access to clean water, and commended efforts to strengthen the healthcare system.
90. The United States of America noted improvements made by Brunei Darussalam in addressing labour abuses towards foreign workers but remained deeply concerned by continued discrimination against members of marginalized groups.
91. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela valued the cooperation of Brunei Darussalam with the universal periodic review, and considered that voluntary mechanisms, rather than imposed ones, would bring greater results for human rights. It highlighted the implementation of the Wawasan Brunei 2035 programme, which comprehensively addressed issues related to social plans and economic plans, as well as the value of human resources, in order to guarantee the right to development.
92. Viet Nam commended the dedication of Brunei Darussalam to sustainable development through Wawasan Brunei 2035, efforts in advancing social security with a new retirement scheme, and proactive public health initiatives.
93. Algeria commended Wawasan Brunei 2035, which aimed to align the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with social welfare.
94. Armenia appreciated the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular through legislation and policies to ensure equal opportunities in education, employment and public life.
95. Australia welcomed the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and praised the increase in female representation in government, and the granting of citizenship to more than 4,500 stateless residents.
96. Azerbaijan appreciated the measures taken by Brunei Darussalam to protect human rights and valued its efforts to achieve economic diversification and climate transition goals through policy reforms and the implementation of Wawasan Brunei 2035.
97. Bahrain commended the efforts by Brunei Darussalam to promote human rights and noted ongoing efforts to accelerate progress achieved in various domains.

98. Bangladesh commended Brunei Darussalam on its progress in the areas of healthcare, housing, water and sanitation, and improving social protection, and appreciated efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and children.
99. Belgium was concerned about the legislative framework, particularly about its use of the Syariah Penal Code, which prescribed the use of the death penalty, severe corporal punishments and harsh sentences for a great number of offences, with an adverse impact on women and on the freedoms of expression and of religion or belief.
100. Bhutan commended the measures taken by Brunei Darussalam to successfully navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, and the continued commitment to strengthening the healthcare system through the principles of universal health coverage.
101. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the efforts of Brunei Darussalam to implement previous review recommendations – in particular ensuring access to education, improving the quality of life, and development, for the population, and the progress made towards gender parity in government decision-making spaces.
102. Brazil commended the moratorium on the death penalty, and acknowledged the efforts of Brunei Darussalam to combat human trafficking, which included providing migrant workers with access to public services.
103. Bulgaria noted the efforts in advancing women’s rights, and women’s active participation in economic and social life, and thanked Brunei Darussalam for the positive amendments to the Compulsory Education Act, the Persons with Disabilities Order and the Old Age and Disability Pensions Act.
104. Cambodia commended the efforts of Brunei Darussalam to strengthen national human rights protection systems and promote the rights of citizens and supported the country’s ongoing commitment to promoting socioeconomic development and combating trafficking in persons and migrant workers.
105. Canada welcomed the ratification by Brunei Darussalam of the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) in June 2023.
106. Chile congratulated Brunei Darussalam on integrating the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 into the country’s national vision and the Wawasan Brunei 2035 programme.
107. China welcomed Wawasan Brunei 2035 and noted the efforts to protect the human rights of persons with disabilities and older persons, to combat trafficking and to protect the rights to health and education.
108. Costa Rica congratulated Brunei Darussalam on its moratorium on the death penalty and on ratifying the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29).
109. Côte d’Ivoire commended Brunei Darussalam for legislative provisions and measures supporting and protecting the family and vulnerable persons, including the adoption of the multidimensional strategy to ensure the well-being and dignity of the elderly.
110. Cuba highlighted continued efforts by Brunei Darussalam in relation to the objectives, goals and integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
111. Cyprus appreciated the progress made by Brunei Darussalam, including with regard to women and increased female leadership, and its focus on promoting the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities.
112. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea commended the efforts and progress of Brunei Darussalam in promoting and protecting human rights through the implementation of Wawasan Brunei 2035.
113. Portugal commended Brunei Darussalam on the adoption of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Order of 2019, as well as on the ratification of the ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and encouraged further efforts for its full implementation.
114. Colombia welcomed the presentation and the commitment of Brunei Darussalam to the fourth universal periodic review cycle and made recommendations.

115. Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation for Member States' participation in its review process, acknowledging their interest in its national report and their support for the progress made on human rights issues. Brunei Darussalam assured them that the recommendations made would be studied closely.

116. Brunei Darussalam addressed a key point raised in the recommendations, namely its ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. It reported that it had established an inter-agency working group, led by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which was studying the Convention to build a deeper understanding of the obligations and definitions contained in it and to consider its alignment with and implications on the country's existing laws and regulations. Brunei Darussalam stressed that there was no universal approach to ratification and implementation of the Convention, as each nation must carefully consider its own circumstances, in order to ensure acceptance domestically, and added that while ratifying expeditiously was ideal, it should not be a superficial action but must lead to meaningful and practical changes.

117. The delegation also referenced an address made by the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam some years ago which had decreed a de facto moratorium on the death penalty and reinforced the right to privacy. The delegation emphasized that the country's laws were aimed at protecting all individuals while ensuring the moral harmony of the country, its peoples, and societies within it.

118. The delegation also reiterated that the people of Brunei had long enjoyed a high standard of living, coexisting in peace, security and harmony, despite diverse beliefs and ethnic backgrounds.

119. Brunei Darussalam reiterated its invitation to visit the country and experience its beauty first-hand, and to meet its people to truly understand the country and its people's priorities.

120. However, the delegation also highlighted the serious global concern at the ongoing human rights and humanitarian law violations being suffered by the people of the State of Palestine, especially those in Gaza, and at the suffering of the people of Lebanon, where the acts of aggression had now spread. Brunei Darussalam called upon all States Members of the United Nations, especially the members of the Human Rights Council, to take action against the violence and violations of international law in those regions, and urged the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to exert pressure for the implementation of General Assembly resolution ES-10/24, concerning the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

121. Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to the core principles of the United Nations and expressed concern over the actions of States that violated international law with impunity, adding that this undermined trust in multilateral institutions such as the United Nations and the Human Rights Council.

122. The head of the delegation also reflected on the Summit of the Future, in New York, where the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam had emphasized the resilience of the United Nations and highlighted its core humanitarian principles as a guide for addressing global challenges, and where Brunei Darussalam had advocated for multilateralism, recognizing the interconnectedness of nations and the need for global solutions to global challenges.

123. Brunei Darussalam ended by stressing the importance of protecting the human rights of all people equally, regardless of nationality, and of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations being relied upon to uphold those rights, as the key to creating a better world for current and future generations.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

- 124.1 Consider ratifying the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Cyprus);
- 124.2 Consider studying the feasibility of ratifying any of the core human rights treaties which Brunei is not party to yet (Morocco);
- 124.3 Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 124.4 Take steps to ratify and implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 124.5 Expedite its consideration of acceding to unratified international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which it signed in 2015 (Japan);
- 124.6 Ratify and implement the core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);
- 124.7 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and their respective Optional Protocols (Malta);
- 124.8 Move towards ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chile);
- 124.9 Sign and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as their Optional Protocols (Luxembourg);
- 124.10 Accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Australia) (Belgium) (Colombia) (Mexico);
- 124.11 Become a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (United States of America);
- 124.12 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia) (Switzerland);
- 124.13 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);
- 124.14 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland) (Spain);
- 124.15 Amend the provisions of the Penal Code that provide for torture, and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Spain);
- 124.16 Continue progressive steps towards ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);
- 124.17 Redouble efforts aimed at ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);

- 124.18 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Italy);**
- 124.19 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Estonia);**
- 124.20 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Gambia);**
- 124.21 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Belgium);**
- 124.22 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (France);**
- 124.23 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**
- 124.24 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Namibia);**
- 124.25 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 124.26 **Ratify the core international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Gambia);**
- 124.27 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Belgium);**
- 124.28 **Ratify the core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Paraguay);**
- 124.29 **Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto (Colombia) (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 124.30 **Consider the possibilities of acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto (Niger);**
- 124.31 **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Colombia);**
- 124.32 **Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 124.33 **Consider the possibilities of acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Niger);**
- 124.34 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**
- 124.35 **Consider acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Malawi);**
- 124.36 **Accede to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, and to the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Ukraine);**
- 124.37 **Sign the Declaration on the Use of Explosive Weapons in Densely Populated Areas (Costa Rica);**
- 124.38 **Take effective measures to prevent and prohibit discrimination against women and minorities, starting with the ratification of the International**

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Kingdom of the Netherlands);

124.39 **Consider withdrawing the reservation to article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia) (Namibia);**

124.40 **Withdraws its reservation to article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Withdraw its reservation to article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Costa Rica);**

124.41 **Withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women with a view to ensuring gender equality (Chile);**

124.42 **Publish its National Plan of Action on Women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

124.43 **Continue discussions on the withdrawal of the reservation to article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding equal rights of men and women with respect to the nationality of their children and make amendments to its national legislation accordingly (Serbia);**

124.44 **Consider increasing and expanding technical cooperation and capacity-building with the assistance of United Nations bodies, in order to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights (Cyprus);**

124.45 **Intensify efforts to implement the pledges made on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Qatar);**

124.46 **Explain the conditions that must be met to lift the state of emergency, which has restricted fundamental freedoms since 1962 (France);**

124.47 **Repeal the Emergency Powers Act and the Sedition Act (United States of America);**

124.48 **Repeal provisions in its legal system that are not compliant with international human rights norms, for example by repealing corporal punishment and decriminalizing consensual same-sex conduct (Germany);**

124.49 **Revise the amendment to the Penal Code of 3 April 2019 to bring it into line with international human rights standards (Switzerland);**

124.50 **Repeal certain criminal penalties under the Sharia Penal Code of 2013 and 2019 that are in contravention of the international human rights commitments of Brunei (United States of America);**

124.51 **Continue to strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Sudan);**

124.52 **Promote joint work and synergy between the respective national institutions to continue guaranteeing the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

124.53 **Continue efforts towards promoting a resilient society (Pakistan);**

124.54 **Consider the establishment of an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);**

124.55 **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in conformity with the Paris Principles (Chile) (Costa Rica) (Gambia) (Togo) (Ukraine);**

- 124.56 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**
- 124.57 **Work on the development of regulations against racism and all forms of discrimination (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 124.58 **Improve gender equality, particularly in terms of access to civil service posts (Luxembourg);**
- 124.59 **Continue efforts to further enhance gender equality (Nepal);**
- 124.60 **Eliminate discrimination on any grounds, including against women and LGBTI persons (Estonia);**
- 124.61 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada) (Iceland) (Spain);**
- 124.62 **Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty (France);**
- 124.63 **Adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty (Italy); Implement an official moratorium on the death penalty (Australia); Formalize the de facto moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to a total abolition (Portugal);**
- 124.64 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**
- 124.65 **Strengthen its legislation to progressively move towards the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica);**
- 124.66 **Develop, in consultation with civil society and relevant regional bodies, a comprehensive plan of action to work towards a de jure moratorium, with a view to abolishing the death penalty over the next four years (Panama);**
- 124.67 **Restrict the use of the death penalty only to crimes that meet the threshold of most serious crimes under international human rights law and suppress the mandatory use of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 124.68 **Review laws permitting detention without trial, such as the “Internal Security Act”, in accordance with international human rights standards (Brazil);**
- 124.69 **Continue the implementation of Wawasan Brunei 2035 towards the betterment of human rights (Lao People’s Democratic Republic);**
- 124.70 **Ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief, as enshrined in the Constitution, is implemented, and that religious minorities are allowed to practise freely – which includes being able to maintain their places of worship and being allocated sufficient space to bury their dead (Germany);**
- 124.71 **Amend existing laws to ensure freedom of religion and belief, including by abolishing disproportionate sentences such as the death penalty, corporal punishment and extensive prison terms for acts of apostasy and blasphemy (Ireland);**
- 124.72 **Uphold its obligation to ensure freedom of religion and belief by removing restrictions on religious literature, places of worship and religious gatherings for non-Muslims and non-Shafi’i Muslim residents of Brunei Darussalam (Canada);**
- 124.73 **Revoke the restrictions on freedom of expression of private and public faith, including the open, public celebration of religious and cultural festivals and weddings, the singing and playing of religious and cultural songs and music and the public display of religious and cultural decorations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 124.74 **Ensure the full exercise of the freedoms of association, assembly, demonstration, expression and belief, as well as amending the Sedition Act, the Harmful Publications Act and the Local Press Ordinance in accordance with its international human rights commitments (Spain);**

- 124.75 **Amend existing legislation to better guarantee press freedom, freedom of expression and access to information (Luxembourg);**
- 124.76 **Adopt legislation to ensure the full exercise of freedom of opinion and expression and of assembly and association, including online (Costa Rica);**
- 124.77 **Adopt a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 124.78 **Revise the existing legislation concerning freedom of expression to bring it fully in line with international human rights law (Estonia);**
- 124.79 **Review current legislation that could restrict freedom of expression and of the press in a manner incompatible with international human rights law (Paraguay);**
- 124.80 **Guarantee all fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression (Italy);**
- 124.81 **Guarantee freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, inter alia by ending the state of emergency and repealing the Sedition Act (Germany);**
- 124.82 **Develop a timeline for concluding the state of emergency and the restrictions it imposes on freedom of expression and association (Australia);**
- 124.83 **Introduce a freedom of information law in accordance with international standards and establish an independent oversight institution with the capacity to implement the law on access to information (Ukraine);**
- 124.84 **Ensure equal and adequate attention to both collective and individual rights in a way that realization of the latter doesn't happen at the cost of the former (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 124.85 **Continue engagement with relevant stakeholders, including youth, in the implementation of Wawasan Brunei 2035 (Azerbaijan);**
- 124.86 **Fulfil commitments in the Sultan's 2019 Royal Decree on the implementation of the Syariah Penal Code in a manner consistent with international human rights standards, including ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and respecting individuals' right to privacy (Australia);**
- 124.87 **Ensure that the right to privacy applies to all sexual activity between consenting adults (Australia);**
- 124.88 **Continue to promote social values related to the role of the family and provide the necessary support to it as the basic unit for building society (Egypt);**
- 124.89 **Continue to support the family as the foundational social unit in society (Morocco);**
- 124.90 **Ensure the preservation and promotion of traditional family values (Qatar);**
- 124.91 **Continue in the efforts of supporting and protecting the family as provided in international human rights law (Malawi);**
- 124.92 **Continue its commendable efforts in implementing its policies to support and safeguard the rights of all the members of the family, in alignment with the provisions of international human rights law (State of Palestine);**
- 124.93 **Ensure the preservation and strengthening of traditional family values, parental rights and related social heritage including supporting the historical family institution (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 124.94 **Continue its efforts in combating trafficking in persons (Bhutan);**

- 124.95 **Strengthen legislation on combating trafficking in persons, and the law on the prevention of trafficking in human beings (Senegal);**
- 124.96 **Continue to increase efforts to ensure proper investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in cases related to trafficking in persons (Cyprus);**
- 124.97 **Continue steps aimed at ensuring proper investigation and prosecution in all cases of human trafficking (Georgia);**
- 124.98 **Continue to combat human trafficking and other crimes and improve the level of judicial protection of human rights (China);**
- 124.99 **Strengthen mechanisms to prevent, combat and punish trafficking in persons and intensify awareness-raising and sensitization measures, as well as victims' access to justice and support services (Paraguay);**
- 124.100 **Further enhance capacity-building programmes for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges on effective approaches to combating trafficking in persons (Philippines);**
- 124.101 **Establish comprehensive training programmes for law enforcement agents, prosecutors and social service personnel to effectively identify human trafficking cases and provide the necessary support for victims and survivors (Portugal);**
- 124.102 **Ensure full and effective implementation of the measures contained in the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Prevention of Smuggling of Persons Act, and ensure the rights of victims and provide them with protection and assistance (Qatar);**
- 124.103 **Take further steps to promote decent work for all (Nepal);**
- 124.104 **Continue to increase opportunities for women's participation in the labour force, addressing gender disparity (Sri Lanka);**
- 124.105 **Continue to enhance its initiatives supporting the participation of women in the workforce (Singapore);**
- 124.106 **Continue to strengthen the protection of workers' rights, especially social security for vulnerable groups such as migrant workers (China);**
- 124.107 **Implement the next phase of the minimum wage to cover all sectors of the economy (Thailand);**
- 124.108 **Ensure holistic protection of the rights of migrant workers and their family members to guarantee their working and living conditions (Indonesia);**
- 124.109 **Ensure a robust system on sustainable and affordable housing for those in need and towards contributing to their social security (India);**
- 124.110 **Continue to enhance community support networks to strengthen social welfare initiatives and provide assistance (Oman);**
- 124.111 **Continue the review of national policies on poverty eradication to raise the standard of living in Brunei Darussalam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**
- 124.112 **Continue to review national policies to eradicate poverty and raise the standard of living in Brunei Darussalam (Tunisia);**
- 124.113 **Continue the review of national policies on poverty eradication to raise the standard of living of all its citizens in the country (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 124.114 **Continue efforts to combat poverty and improve the living standards of vulnerable populations in line with the revised National Poverty Eradication Plan 2020–2024 (Djibouti);**

- 124.115 Continue to implement Vision 2035 and continuously improve the living standards of its people (China);
- 124.116 Further strengthen existing systems to alleviate poverty (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.117 Implement fully the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Poverty 2020–2024 and engage relevant stakeholders in this endeavour (Bahrain);
- 124.118 Ensure the efficacy of the National Welfare System in meeting the needs of the people (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea);
- 124.119 Strengthen the National Welfare System to meet the needs of the population in line with the national vision and the Sustainable Development Goals (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 124.120 Ensure a robust system on sustainable and affordable housing for those in need and towards contributing to their social security (Kazakhstan);
- 124.121 Continue the ongoing work to improve the quality of life, including through initiatives aimed at providing sustainable and affordable housing (Pakistan);
- 124.122 Improve the water supply system to ensure access to clean, safe and affordable water, especially for the rural population (Kuwait);
- 124.123 Improve the water supply system to ensure access to clean, safe and affordable water, especially for rural residents (Cuba);
- 124.124 Continue its commendable efforts in ensuring access to clean, safe and affordable water through the enhancement of the sanitation systems (State of Palestine);
- 124.125 Continue efforts to ensure access to basic services, particularly affordable drinking water for those living in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 124.126 Continue efforts to strengthen the healthcare system and ensure the provision of fair and accessible services for all (Iraq);
- 124.127 Continue its efforts in achieving safe and trustable telehealth and telemedicine services (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.128 Continue allocating enough resources towards strengthening the public health sector, including by giving mental health issues the importance they deserve (Lebanon);
- 124.129 Continue the positive work of implementing programmes aimed at improving the quality of life and ensuring access to healthcare services (Russian Federation);
- 124.130 Ensure the right to education by legislating on the issue (Luxembourg);
- 124.131 Promote the legislative and constitutional adjustments necessary to guarantee the right of all people to education, without discrimination of any kind, ensuring free education at least in the first 12 years of school life (Paraguay);
- 124.132 Ensure that the rights to education are guaranteed to all children without any discrimination based on the origin of the children or the parents (Italy);
- 124.133 Guarantee by law at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education and one year of free preschool education (Panama);
- 124.134 Consider codifying free secondary education and at least one year of free pre-primary education (Bulgaria);

- 124.135 **Ensure that all children with disabilities have access to education and allocate adequate human and financial resources to schools to promote their inclusive education (Kuwait);**
- 124.136 **Continue its efforts to ensure access and inclusivity of children with special needs in the education system (Singapore);**
- 124.137 **Continue advancing inclusive education for children with special needs (Viet Nam);**
- 124.138 **Enhance efforts to improve access to and inclusivity within the education system (Timor-Leste);**
- 124.139 **Strengthen and improve the capacities of children who face difficulties in accessing educational institutions (United Arab Emirates);**
- 124.140 **Continue to expand resources for early childhood education to support inclusive education from an early age (Oman);**
- 124.141 **Continue with the ongoing reforms to ensure that the educational system is inclusive, progressive and rights-oriented (Serbia);**
- 124.142 **Pursue efforts aiming at promoting cultural and religious harmony among the population (Lebanon);**
- 124.143 **Continue to promote cultural understanding and social harmony to advance the enjoyment of human rights by its people (Cambodia);**
- 124.144 **Strengthen the legislative frameworks to address the impacts of climate change (Nepal);**
- 124.145 **Strengthen its legislative framework to address environmental challenges, including climate change (Viet Nam);**
- 124.146 **Intensify national efforts to strengthen the legislative framework necessary to address cross-sectoral environmental challenges, including climate change mitigation and adaptation (Cuba);**
- 124.147 **Continue national policies and programmes aimed at protecting the environment and addressing the risks and consequences of climate change (Sudan);**
- 124.148 **Continue to promote policies related to environmental protection and climate change mitigation, while involving youth in these efforts (Jordan);**
- 124.149 **Maintain and scale up its initiatives in climate change, particularly by involving all sectors of society in the achievement of its climate goals (Armenia);**
- 124.150 **Remain committed to concerted efforts to address climate change (Azerbaijan);**
- 124.151 **Implement fully the strategies outlined in the Brunei Darussalam national climate change policy to pave low-carbon and climate-resilient pathways (Bangladesh);**
- 124.152 **Enhance institutional capacity, data collection and knowledge to better incorporate environmental and climate considerations into the national regulatory framework (Timor-Leste);**
- 124.153 **Incorporate into its legislation the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, preferably at the constitutional level (Costa Rica);**
- 124.154 **Continue to work on achieving the sustainable development goals formulated in the Millennium Declaration (Russian Federation);**
- 124.155 **Pursue its efforts and collaboration with various United Nations agencies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Mauritius);**
- 124.156 **Strengthen its collaboration with relevant United Nations bodies to further advance the Sustainable Development Goals (Türkiye);**

- 124.157 Continue national policies and programmes aimed at implementing the sustainable development agenda (Sudan);
- 124.158 Actively participate in mechanisms and international meetings related to the right to development (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.159 Ensure synergy between the national vision and the 2030 sustainable development plan (Kuwait);
- 124.160 Strengthen current and develop future policies in line with the national vision and the Sustainable Development Goals (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 124.161 Ensure that development policies are aligned with the promotion and protection of human rights (Bahrain);
- 124.162 Take action to align development policies with the promotion and protection of human rights (Cuba);
- 124.163 Strengthen youth participation in entrepreneurship by providing strong infrastructure and supporting regulations (Bangladesh);
- 124.164 Continue to implement and strengthen the Wawasan Brunei 2035 national programme (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 124.165 Take further measures to ensure the full enjoyment by women of their human rights (Bulgaria);
- 124.166 Review its nationality law, in order to guarantee equal protection under the law for women and for their children (Brazil);
- 124.167 Accelerate the revision of its national action plan on women and ensure its effective implementation to promote gender equality and women's empowerment (Thailand);
- 124.168 Amend national laws to reflect its obligations under international law, including through ensuring the protection of human rights for women and girls and LGBTIQ+ persons (Canada);
- 124.169 Continue the national action plan dedicated to women's issues and consider the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 124.170 Continue its efforts to formulate and implement focused strategies to improve the rights of women and children (Bangladesh);
- 124.171 Strengthen further the policies aimed at promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Cambodia);
- 124.172 Continue the policy of eliminating gender inequalities by strengthening mechanisms to increase women's participation in political and public life as well as the empowerment and economic inclusion of women and girls (Djibouti);
- 124.173 Continue implementing national programmes to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, and promote gender equality (Egypt);
- 124.174 Strengthen effective mechanisms to promote women's development towards advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Malaysia);
- 124.175 Continue strengthening its policies and mechanisms to ensure that women participate equally in the socioeconomic development of the country (Mauritius);
- 124.176 Pursue the policy for the elimination of inequalities between men and women by taking measures to increase the participation of women in the workforce (Kazakhstan);

- 124.177 **Strengthen effective mechanisms to promote women's development towards advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Kazakhstan);**
- 124.178 **Expand the scope of the plan to further support women's political and public sector representation, aligning with the best practices observed internationally (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 124.179 **Intensify efforts to formulate comprehensive policies that address gaps in women's development and enhance economic empowerment initiatives for women to ensure equal opportunities (Maldives);**
- 124.180 **Continue to enhance its programmes on the economic participation of women (India);**
- 124.181 **Improve and reinforce mechanisms that support women's development aiming to further advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (Timor-Leste);**
- 124.182 **Continue efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women (Tunisia);**
- 124.183 **Accelerate efforts on the new national action plan for women to promote equality, capacity-building and personal development (Türkiye);**
- 124.184 **Continue its commendable efforts and initiatives towards women's empowerment and development (State of Palestine);**
- 124.185 **Continue efforts to promote the empowerment of women (Mauritania);**
- 124.186 **Further promote gender equality and women's empowerment (Viet Nam);**
- 124.187 **Decriminalize abortion under all circumstances (Iceland);**
- 124.188 **Continue to strengthen mechanisms on the promotion of women's empowerment and the elimination of all forms of violence against women including migrants (Philippines);**
- 124.189 **Continue efforts to optimize women's rights, especially by using all means aimed at protecting them against domestic violence (Lebanon);**
- 124.190 **Publish and implement the recommendations of the report on women's rights and combat violence against women (France);**
- 124.191 **Redouble its efforts to further improve the human rights situation of women and girls and to eliminate violence against women (Japan);**
- 124.192 **Enhance efforts as regards the protection of women and the elimination of violence against women (Cyprus);**
- 124.193 **Adopt a comprehensive law that criminalizes all forms of domestic violence, ensuring clear protection for victims, including access to justice and support services (Iceland);**
- 124.194 **Continue to strengthen legal frameworks to better address the issue of domestic violence and protect all of the victims (Indonesia);**
- 124.195 **Continue addressing domestic violence, including improving access to justice for victims and survivors of domestic violence (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 124.196 **Strengthen gender protection by enacting laws to address gender-based violence, including a domestic violence law for the protection of women and children (Gambia);**
- 124.197 **Take measures to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence (Estonia);**

- 124.198 Enshrine equal rights and protections for women and girls in law, including by criminalizing domestic violence and marital rape (Ireland);
- 124.199 Ensure robust protections in the definition of rape and criminalize all non-consensual acts, including those involving authority figures (Iceland);
- 124.200 Raise the minimum age for marriage to 18 years, without exceptions (Ireland);
- 124.201 Amend the existing legislation so that the minimum age for marriage is set at 18 years of age, without exceptions (Slovenia);
- 124.202 Advance efforts to protect and uphold the rights of children (Georgia);
- 124.203 Strengthen efforts to develop the child protection system (Mauritania);
- 124.204 Amend legislation, including article 5 of the Education Regulations, to prohibit corporal punishment of children, and raise awareness of its negative effects (Mexico);
- 124.205 Consider banning corporal punishment of boys in educational institutions (Chile);
- 124.206 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment against children in all settings (Estonia); Prohibit explicitly corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);
- 124.207 Encourage the abolition of corporal punishment (Italy);
- 124.208 Review national legislation to ensure that corporal punishment of children is prohibited in all settings (Colombia);
- 124.209 Promote the rights of the child, including taking further measures to prevent child abuse (Sri Lanka);
- 124.210 Continue its efforts to explore ways to protect the rights of children, especially in the digital domain (Bhutan);
- 124.211 Continue to improve the equity and inclusivity of children with special needs in the education system (India);
- 124.212 Continue enforcing measures to ensure quality education, especially for children with special needs (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 124.213 Promote and improve the capacity for children who have difficulty accessing educational institutions (Morocco);
- 124.214 Continue developing and implementing targeted strategies and activities to expand the rights of the elderly (Malaysia);
- 124.215 Continue the effective implementation of the Plan of Action for Senior Citizens to develop comprehensive strategies for the elderly (United Arab Emirates);
- 124.216 Continue to provide facilities for the elderly, including health promotion and education programmes for them (Saudi Arabia);
- 124.217 Strengthen care services with a human rights approach in the implementation of the Action Plan for Older Persons, to ensure dignified support for healthy ageing and fair working conditions for caregivers (Mexico);
- 124.218 Continue efforts to improve the quality of life of vulnerable people, ensuring the inclusiveness and equality of persons with disabilities, the advancement of women, and the well-being and dignity of older persons (Senegal);
- 124.219 Continue ongoing efforts regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, as well as the efforts aimed at improving healthcare in general, and mental health in particular (Algeria);

- 124.220 Continue to prioritize the well-being of the elderly and persons with disabilities (Oman);
- 124.221 Promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities to ensure their full inclusion and participation in society, in accordance with the obligations set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Egypt);
- 124.222 Continue the efforts towards enhancing social inclusion and accessibility, simultaneously strengthening support services for persons with disabilities and their families (Armenia);
- 124.223 Continue efforts to integrate persons with disabilities, build their capacities and ensure their access to all services (Tunisia);
- 124.224 Consider plans and policies for an all-inclusive approach to enhance the independence of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);
- 124.225 Promote the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure their better inclusion in all aspects of life (Jordan);
- 124.226 Continue to strengthen the measures to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities, ensuring inclusivity and equality (Maldives);
- 124.227 Continue to work with civil society organizations and persons with disabilities or their representative organizations to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Japan);
- 124.228 Continue efforts and measures related to promoting awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities (Mauritania);
- 124.229 Continue improving infrastructure to enable access for persons with disabilities and the elderly (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 124.230 Continue efforts to ensure that all children with disabilities have access to education, and allocate adequate human and financial resources to schools to promote inclusive education (Saudi Arabia);
- 124.231 Revise its nationality law in order to remove discriminatory provisions that deny specific ethnic groups access to citizenship (Switzerland);
- 124.232 Take proactive measures to ensure full compliance with its commitments to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief by revising existing laws that discriminate against religious minorities (Portugal);
- 124.233 Repeal all discriminatory laws toward, and end all forms of discriminatory treatment of, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, women, and members of religious and ethnic minorities (United States of America);
- 124.234 Decriminalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);
Decriminalize same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adults (Belgium);
- 124.235 Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual relations and ensure respect for the human rights of the LGBTQI+ population (Chile);
- 124.236 Eliminate legislation criminalizing same-sex sexual relations, and formally recognize the right to non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);
- 124.237 Repeal all laws that discriminate against persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);
- 124.238 Establish procedures in line with international standards for determining refugee status and the need for international protection, including for victims of trafficking (Luxembourg);
- 124.239 Develop policies for access to nationality (France);

124.240 **Join the UNHCR initiative “Global Alliance to End Statelessness” and improve international cooperation in this field (Montenegro);**

124.241 **Put in place legal safeguards against statelessness and provide equitable pathways to citizenship, especially for children born and raised in the country (Gambia);**

124.242 **Consider amending the Brunei Nationality Act to ensure that women have equal nationality rights as men, in particular in relation to the acquisition and retention of their own nationality, and the conferral of their nationality on their children and non-national spouses (Malta);**

124.243 **Amend Brunei Darussalam’s Nationality Act to ensure that Bruneian women have the same right as men to automatically confer nationality of Brunei Darussalam on their children (Costa Rica);**

124.244 **Amend the Nationality Law to ensure that women have the same nationality rights as men, in particular in relation to the acquisition and retention of their own nationality, and the transmission of their nationality to their non-national children and spouses (Panama);**

124.245 **Review the Nationality Law to allow women to transfer nationality to their children under the same conditions as men, in order to remove legal barriers to gender equality and reduce statelessness (Mexico);**

124.246 **Allow women to transmit citizenship to their descendants to avoid statelessness (Spain);**

124.247 **Ensure that the rights to a nationality are guaranteed to all children without any discrimination based on the origin of the children or the parents (Italy);**

124.248 **Consider introducing measures to further strengthen support and assistance to stateless persons (Thailand).**

125. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Brunei Darussalam was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs II, the Honourable Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof and composed of the following members:

- Her Excellency Dk Mazlizah PG HJ MAHALEE, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;
- Mr. Zulhusam HJ ABDUL SAMAD, Acting Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office;
- Mr. Hj Mohd Yusra HJ MOHD SALLEH, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Pg Hj Siti Rahmah PG HJ MOHAMMAD, Assistant Solicitor General, International Affairs Division and Communication and Strategy Division, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Ms. Fauziah ABDUL HAMID, Director, Research, Development and International Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;
- Ms. Dk Nooraslena PG DATO PADUKA HJ SALLEHUDDIN, Acting Director, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mrs. Hj Noridah ABDUL HAMID, Acting Director, Social Services Division, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports;
- Ms. PA Mansurah Izzul BOLKIAH, Assistant Director, Department of Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Dk Hj Ena Suraya PG HJ MOHAMMAD, Deputy Senior Counsel, Security and Law Division, Prime Minister's Office;
- Mr. Pg Hj Liyan PG HJ MOHAMMAD, Head of Legal, International and Research Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Ms. Hj Fauziah HJ SULAIMAN, Deputy Senior Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney General's Chambers;
- Ms. CHAN Chee Leong, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;
- Mr. Abhar Munawar AHMAD, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;
- Mrs. Muna Masera MASRI, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva;
- Mrs. Hj Norhartijah HJ PUTEH, Syariah Legal Officer, Islamic Legal Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs;
- Ms. Dk Nor Zaidah Hayati PG HJ SHAHMINAN, Research Officer, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. LIM Kim Suan, Second Secretary, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Illyana Nadhirah MD WAFIUDDIN WA'IE, Trade Officer, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.