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Universal periodic review

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

### Albania

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



## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-seventh session from 4 to 15 November 2024. The review of Albania was held at the 2nd meeting, on 4 November 2024. The delegation of Albania was headed by the Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Megi Fino. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on Albania.

2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Albania: Bulgaria, Ghana and Japan.

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 Albania:

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

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, 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 Albania 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 of Albania highlighted the country's reform of its judicial system to achieve more efficient, independent, effective and accountable judicial institutions to strengthen the rule of law, human rights and consolidate democracy. She underlined the approval of the new judicial map in 2022 to enhance efficiency and accessibility of the judicial system, the constitutional amendments made to extend the operational time frame of the vetting bodies and the appointment of prosecutors and judges, including in the Constitutional Court. She stressed the approval of the guidelines for the new case management system to streamline case handling. She underscored the approval of the Cross-Sector Juvenile Justice Strategy in 2022 to create a child-friendly justice system and several national plans to increase child protection.

6. The head of the delegation highlighted the various strategic measures taken to improve the mental health of the population and, in particular, the Mental Health Action Plan.

7. The head of the delegation underlined the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021–2030 to harmonize domestic laws with international standards, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention). In addition, the Law on Gender Equality in Society was being revised to strengthen it and ensure its implementation. She highlighted the role of gender

<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/47/ALB/1](#) and [A/HRC/WG.6/47/ALB/1/Corr.1](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/47/ALB/2](#).

<sup>3</sup> [A/HRC/WG.6/47/ALB/3](#).

officers in ministries, the State police and local administrations, as well as the role of officers tasked to tackle domestic violence in 61 municipalities.

8. The head of the delegation underscored the National Referral Mechanism as a coordinated network of institutions to prevent domestic violence, facilitate reporting and ensure effective referrals. The Law on Social Care Services guaranteed access to social services for women and girls, improving specialized services for victims of domestic violence and trafficking and those facing various forms of abuse. Those services included: a national reception centre for victims of domestic violence, emergency community-based services, a day centre, shelters, helplines, emergency response centres for child victims/survivors and a shelter for LGBTIQ+ individuals.

9. The head of the delegation underlined the Law on the Rights and Protection of the Child and the National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection (2021–2026) developed in consultation with children. In addition, the new National Child Guarantee Plan was being developed to help children at risk of poverty and social exclusion. She also underscored the steady decrease in the number of children in residential facilities. Regarding education, the pre-university law had been aligned with international standards on inclusive education and special schools were being transformed into resource centres. The head of the delegation underscored the increase in the number of qualified assistant teachers for children with disabilities.

10. The head of the delegation highlighted the network of child protection workers operating in every municipality to manage cases of violence against children, the establishment of two service centres for child victims of sexual violence and the increase in the number of security officers on school premises. However, the Government recognized the need to increase the financial and human resources allocated to the protection of the child, including online protection.

11. Regarding persons with disabilities, the head of the delegation highlighted the alignment of its national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the approval of the Law on Inclusion and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities, the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2021–2025) and the establishment of the National Council on Disability to advise on social inclusion and accessibility issues. Albania intended to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by 2027.

12. Age discrimination was addressed in the Labour Code, the amended Law on Protection from Discrimination and the Law on Measures against Violence in Family Relations, which provided protection against abuse, focusing on vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

13. The head of the delegation pointed at the implementation of the Action Plan on LGBTIQ+ Persons (2021–2027) to raise awareness on equality, inclusion and non-discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons. She highlighted the “Shelter-Streheza” in providing safe housing, psychosocial and legal assistance, and referrals to additional specialized services for LGBTIQ+ individuals facing family exclusion or abuse. In addition, a medical protocol for transgender persons had been outlined in April 2024.

14. The head of the delegation highlighted the adoption of the National Action Plan for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians (2021–2025) and the amendment of the Anti-Discrimination Act in 2020 to strengthen existing protections. In addition, quotas for food in canteens and dormitories, as well as scholarships for children from Roma and Egyptian backgrounds, had been implemented. Local education offices prioritized the education of children from minority backgrounds and organized activities to promote their languages, cultures and traditions. Additional initiatives had been taken regarding housing to include Roma families in social programmes.

15. The head of the delegation underlined government actions to combat trafficking in persons with the adoption of the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking (2024–2025).

16. The head of the delegation highlighted the adoption of the National Energy and Climate Plan, the national monitoring, reporting and verification system to ensure

transparency and accountability in emission reductions and the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (2023–2030).

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

17. During the interactive dialogue, 79 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
18. Armenia welcomed the initiatives taken to harmonize the national regulatory framework with international obligations, in particular the legislative changes to enhance the participation of women in public life.
19. Australia acknowledged efforts to address issues such as gender equality and the rights of minorities and LGBTQIA+ persons. It expressed concern about alleged ongoing political corruption and bribery.
20. Austria welcomed legislative reforms regarding domestic violence and combating corruption in public administration.
21. Azerbaijan recognized measures taken towards good governance and combating corruption and organized crime.
22. Belarus made recommendations.
23. Belgium welcomed progress made on gender equality and the participation of women in public affairs. It raised concerns regarding gender-based violence, discrimination of minorities and protection of journalists.
24. Bhutan welcomed the adoption of the Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2021–2025), as well as progress made on women’s participation in governing and decision-making bodies and addressing domestic violence.
25. Brazil welcomed initiatives to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and encouraged Albania to improve access to education, health and social services for minorities.
26. Bulgaria appreciated the efforts made by Albania to realize and protect the rights of national minorities.
27. Canada welcomed progress on reducing poverty and promoting non-discrimination and gender equality. It expressed concern regarding conditions of detention.
28. Chile applauded national strategies on gender equality, children’s rights and LGBTI persons.
29. China expressed concern about trafficking in persons and the rise in the number of refugees and migrants.
30. Colombia congratulated Albania for its efforts to promote the well-being of its citizens.
31. Costa Rica congratulated progress made in relation to the Office of the People’s Advocate (Ombudsperson) and statelessness.
32. Côte d’Ivoire welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for Development and European Integration (2022–2030) and the actions taken to combat corruption in the public sector.
33. Croatia commended Albania for adopting the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking and improvements made to legislation on discrimination and gender-based violence.
34. Cuba recognized the implementation of the National Action Plan for LGBTI Persons (2021–2027).
35. Cyprus welcomed the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), the adoption of the National Strategy

for Development and European Integration (2022–2030) and the establishment of a one-stop centre for the victims of sexual violence.

36. Czechia commended Albania for constructively engaging in the European Union accession process and the strengthening of human rights through the adoption of policies and programmes.

37. Denmark welcomed the National Action Plan for LGBTI+ Persons, although it stressed that the right to same-sex marriage continued to be prohibited.

38. The Dominican Republic congratulated Albania on the launch of the National Strategy for Development and European Integration and on its fight against corruption.

39. Egypt welcomed the efforts made to combat corruption and organized crime.

40. Estonia commended Albania for taking measures against organized crime and corruption, as well as against gender-based violence and domestic violence. It encouraged further efforts to protect children from violence.

41. France welcomed the measures taken to fight discrimination and corruption.

42. The Gambia commended Albania for its anti-corruption efforts, as well as those made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It expressed concern about the human rights implications for migrants deported from third countries to Albania.

43. Georgia commended Albania for taking measures on anti-discrimination, gender equality, juvenile justice, minority rights and the rights of persons with disabilities.

44. Germany welcomed the efforts taken in favour of victims of domestic violence. It encouraged Albania to improve the human rights situation of persons in detention undergoing compulsory psychiatric treatment.

45. Ghana welcomed the commitment of Albania to reform criminal justice and to ensure citizens had access to clean water and sanitation. It commended Albania for approving the National Strategy of the Water Supply and Sewerage Sector (2023–2030).

46. Greece welcomed the new National Strategy for Development and European Integration, the full implementation of which would contribute to promoting fundamental rights and freedoms.

47. Iceland made recommendations.

48. India appreciated the measures taken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, strengthen the national human rights institution, combat corruption and increase the participation of women in governing and decision-making bodies.

49. Indonesia expressed concern about the cases of hate speech and hate crimes and highlighted the importance of addressing those in line with the obligations of Albania under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

50. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its deep concerns about the human rights situation in Albania.

51. Iraq made recommendations.

52. Ireland welcomed the creation of referral systems at the municipal level for cases of sexual and gender-based violence and the opening of new emergency shelters. It expressed concern about persistent corruption.

53. Israel commended Albania for making progress since its last universal periodic review.

54. Italy welcomed the reform of the judicial system and the creation of the online portal (eAlbania) to fight corruption and improve the public sector.

55. Japan welcomed the initiatives taken to strengthen gender equality, including through improvements to legislation on anti-discrimination and gender-based violence.

56. Jordan expressed appreciation for the commitments made to the promotion of human rights.

57. Kazakhstan commended Albania for adopting legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
58. The delegation of Albania indicated that the country's Parliament was in the process of establishing an inter-institutional platform to facilitate communication and coordination among the Parliament, independent institutions and the executive. That platform would serve as a tool to significantly strengthen the national human rights institutions, in particular the People's Advocate, and to give more force to its recommendations and the need for the executive to implement them.
59. Each year, Parliament had supported requests for increases in the budgets of institutions to ensure the protection and respect of human rights. Regarding judicial institutions, Parliament had supported measures aimed at ensuring the transition of its functions to the permanent bodies that would continue the periodic control of judges and prosecutors.
60. The new Audiovisual Media Broadcasting Code had been adopted in 2023, providing a special section on the prevention of gender discrimination and on gender equality. To coordinate and supervise all institutional actions to combat disinformation, Parliament had established an ad hoc parliamentary committee.
61. Over the previous five years, several important reforms had been implemented to strengthen the rule of law and the protection of human rights, specifically the adoption of the Strategy for the Protection of Crime Victims and the Juvenile Justice Strategy.
62. The delegation highlighted that the vetting process was a significant step in the fight against corruption. The new judicial map of Albania was the result of an in-depth analysis, based on Council of Europe standards and best practices, to ensure a fair balance between the efficiency of the courts and access to justice. The legal aid scheme guaranteed the provision of legal aid throughout the country.
63. Following the law on minors, in 2021, the Prosecutor General had approved a guide to increase the effectiveness of investigations into criminal offences committed against and by minors. Special sections had been established to improve the quality of investigations, psychological support and the provision of friendly justice to minors.
64. To increase the effectiveness of the fight against trafficking in persons, the Prosecutor General had approved, in 2024, a general instruction on the promotion of proactive investigations and financial investigations, strengthening inter-institutional and international cooperation.
65. Prosecutors relied on two guidelines that clearly expressed their commitment to a robust criminal policy to address any form of violence against women, hate-motivated violence and domestic violence, while ensuring that victims of crime had a strong voice and full support during investigations. Cooperation with civil society and other institutions remained one of the pillars of that policy.
66. In recent years, participation in the labour market had shown a steady upward trend. The National Strategy for Employment and Skills (2023–2030) was being implemented.
67. The promotion of youth employment was one of the priorities of the Government. In that context, the youth guarantee programme and its action plan were an integral part of the National Strategy for Employment and Skills (2023–2030).
68. Within the framework of the implementation of Law No. 96/2017 on the protection of national minorities, Albania was engaged in the development of two projects that focused, in the main, on the definition of measures and policies necessary to ensure the participation of national minorities in the public, cultural, social and economic life of the country and on the drafting of the definition of strategies, programmes and action plans to create the necessary conditions for national minorities to preserve and develop their distinct identities. Currently, 9 out of 12 regulations had been adopted within the framework of the implementation of Law No. 96/2017.
69. On social housing, special attention was paid to the Roma and Egyptian minorities to ensure their full inclusion in social housing programmes. Women heads of household, victims

of domestic violence, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons were also priority categories in housing law.

70. Regarding achievements in financing gender issues, all institutions at local and central levels prepared budget documents and medium-term budget programmes based on a gender analysis.

71. Regarding the environment, Albania had taken measures on: energy efficiency in public buildings with the renovation of schools and hospitals; air quality by incentivizing tax reductions and promoting electric vehicles; and sustainable urban mobility plans in cooperation with local institutions to improve public transport and expand bicycle paths. Albania had launched awareness-raising campaigns on climate change and environmental issues in schools in cooperation with the National Agency for Protected Areas, as part of an initiative to reduce plastic pollution and promote recycling.

72. Regarding stateless persons, the delegation highlighted the implementation of a module within the National Civil Registry, with special functions to predict all cases of stateless persons.

73. In the field of asylum-seekers and migration policy, the delegation underscored the adoption of laws and their harmonization with international regulations. The Albanian authorities had improved the reception infrastructure for asylum-seekers and strengthened their cooperation with international organizations for the protection of their rights. Harmonization with the common European asylum system, as part of efforts aimed at European Union integration, was highlighted in a new road map (2024–2027) developed with the European Union Agency for Asylum. In addition, training was conducted on building the capacity of border officials on rights and implementing standard procedures for irregular migrants, the treatment of victims or potential victims of trafficking and management of the migration phenomenon.

74. Persons in custody were treated by the State police in accordance with the law. Such persons had the right to know the reason for their pretrial detention and to communicate immediately with a trusted person or a lawyer. Steps had been taken to implement the recommendations of the People's Advocate and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the United Nations. The delegation stressed the adoption of cooperation agreements with civil society organizations for the protection of human rights.

75. Regarding the penitentiary system, the delegation highlighted the improvement of prison conditions, the fight against overcrowding and some aspects of rehabilitation and the prevention of torture. Of the 20 prisons in the country, 13 had been built after 2000 and met all standards in relation to security, rehabilitation and humane treatment. In 2024, a facility for female prisoners had been opened, ensuring and strengthening the standards of treatment of women in detention.

76. In the 2023/24 school year, significant steps had been taken to integrate students with disabilities into mainstream and inclusive schools. The number of students with disabilities attending mainstream schools had increased by 9 per cent, while the number of students in special schools had decreased by 10 per cent. The training of auxiliary teachers was followed by financial support from the budget dedicated to teachers for inclusive education.

77. As part of the Cross-Sectoral Strategy for the Prevention of Violent Extremism and the Fight against Terrorism and the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking, a network of 1,200 coordinators for the prevention of extremism in schools and other educational institutions had been established in Albania.

78. As part of the national strategy for equality between women and men (2021–2030), a coordination mechanism had been established in 61 municipalities authorized to support and refer victims of violence. Albania had also invested in social protection programmes, including by: providing monthly economic assistance to victims of domestic violence and trafficking; supporting integration services for women and girls who were victims of violence and sexual abuse, as well as persons with disabilities; and establishing two one-stop centres for child victims of sexual abuse and other forms of abuse and a centre for LGBTI persons.

79. On issues related to Roma and Egyptian minorities, the delegation reported an improvement in monitoring based on the Romalb system. It had increased awareness in the community about physical health, mental health, reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, vaccination and medical mobility services.
80. Within the framework of the legislation on social services, the delegation reported on the implementation of the National Plan for Persons with Disabilities (2021–2025). That reform had continued with the implementation of the biopsychosocial assessment in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization.
81. Regarding the elderly and within the framework of the social fund, the delegation reported on the establishment of 18 services for the elderly, including nine day centres, three family support services and six multifunctional community services. The State contributed financially to the proper functioning of those centres.
82. To successfully carry out the population and housing census in 2023, the Institute of Statistics had cooperated closely with various representatives of minorities and vulnerable groups through consultations. The law granted individuals the right to self-determination on questions of ethnicity, religion and language. The results of the census had been published in 2024.
83. The delegation underlined that Albania had succeeded in contributing to the sustainable development of rural areas, notably by improving the living and working conditions of farmers, supporting rural women and promoting gender equality in the agricultural sector. Those achievements were part of its overall efforts to promote human rights and improve well-being in rural areas, with a view to more sustainable and inclusive development.
84. Liechtenstein made recommendations.
85. Lithuania noted the actions taken to improve the protection of the rights of the child.
86. Luxembourg congratulated Albania on its recent reforms as part of the European Union accession process.
87. Malawi made recommendations.
88. Malaysia underlined the key legislative measures taken by Albania to reform its judicial system, improve the welfare of persons with disabilities and to combat trafficking in persons.
89. Maldives commended Albania for making efforts to improve the services offered to persons with disabilities.
90. Malta positively noted progress made on the cross-sectoral justice and juvenile justice strategies, children's rights, gender equality and the action plan for LGBTI persons.
91. Mauritius commended Albania for ratifying the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190).
92. Mexico recognized the efforts made to promote gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities and children, as well as the fight against corruption and discrimination.
93. Montenegro welcomed the legislative framework against discrimination and gender-based violence, as well as the adoption of the National Strategy for Gender Equality (2021–2030), the National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection (2021–2026) and the Juvenile Justice Strategy (2022–2026). It encouraged Albania to continue advancing the representation of women at all levels of public administration and addressing negative gender stereotypes in the political discourse and media.
94. Morocco welcomed the ratification of international instruments, the promotion of human rights in public policies and programmes, and the adoption of legislative and regulatory frameworks on those issues. It also commended Albania for adopting a national strategy to promote respect for human rights (2022–2030).



95. Nepal took positive note of the National Strategy for European Development and Integration (2022–2030) and the strategic document and national plans for mitigation of greenhouse gases emissions.
96. The Kingdom of the Netherlands noted that true progress had been achieved through the Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
97. North Macedonia applauded the creation of the new position of Minister of State for Public Administration and Anti-Corruption and the special parliamentary committee for the deepening of reforms for good governance, the rule of law and anti-corruption.
98. Oman commended Albania for making efforts to promote children’s rights and to address climate change.
99. Pakistan appreciated policy and legislative measures taken to strengthen human rights mechanisms in the country.
100. Panama made recommendations.
101. Paraguay urged Albania to strengthen measures to address trafficking in persons, universal access to public services, social protection and domestic violence.
102. The Philippines acknowledged the efforts made to align domestic laws with international human rights instruments.
103. Poland praised the adoption of the Law on the Execution of Criminal Decisions and the Law on the Rights and Treatment of Prisoners and Detainees.
104. Portugal commended Albania for adopting the National Strategy for Gender Equality (2021–2030).
105. The Republic of Moldova commended Albania for applying gender-responsive budgeting and ensuring women’s participation in decision-making.
106. Romania welcomed progress made in good governance, anti-corruption reforms, social inclusion and gender equality.
107. The Russian Federation expressed concerns about repressive methods to combat political opponents and the cleansing of information spaces by the authorities.
108. Slovakia expressed appreciation for the adoption of the National Agenda for Child Rights (2021–2026) and advances made so far in the field of child protection. It shared its readiness to share its experience of empowering children.
109. Slovenia highlighted the progress made in women’s participation in governance and decision-making bodies.
110. Spain congratulated Albania for its National Action Plan for LGBTI Persons and for the legal, political and institutional improvements in the protection of women against domestic violence.
111. Sri Lanka noted measures taken to strengthen the human rights framework, including cross-sectoral strategies.
112. Sweden welcomed anti-corruption improvements, while it expressed concern about freedom of expression, the independence of the media and constraints faced by civil society.
113. Switzerland welcomed the progress made in applying the law on national minorities.
114. The Syrian Arab Republic expressed concern about the wide-ranging forms of discrimination and about the participation of ethnic minorities in the representative institutions.
115. Togo noted progress in the institutionalization of women’s participation in decision-making bodies and in the provision of free legal aid.
116. Türkiye welcomed the measures taken to combat trafficking in persons and violence against women through the adoption of laws and a national strategy.

117. Ukraine commended Albania for making efforts to protect children's rights and to combat trafficking in persons through legislative reforms and strategic frameworks.

118. The United Kingdom welcomed the establishment of the special structure against corruption and organized crime, as well as the National Strategy for Gender Equality. It urged Albania to make further efforts to address those issues.

119. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the actions taken to adapt to climate change, prevent gender-based violence and domestic violence and to improve services for persons with disabilities and access to drinking water and hygiene.

120. The United States commended Albania for addressing high-level crime and corruption, for increasing funding for shelters for victims of trafficking and for re-establishing the anti-trafficking hotline.

121. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the Law on Protection from Discrimination, the Law on Citizenship, the Law on Civil Protection and the Law on Foreigners. It noted with concern the existence of corruption, intimidation against journalists, trafficking in persons and the lack of institutional authorities such as the People's Advocate and the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination.

122. Viet Nam commended Albania for adopting the National Strategy for Development and European Integration (2022–2030) and the enhanced measures taken to ensure gender equality and anti-discrimination.

123. In conclusion, the delegation of Albania expressed gratitude for the participation, insightful comments and constructive recommendations from Member States and underlined the country's commitment to review each recommendation as it moved forward. It reiterated the unwavering commitment of Albania to human rights.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

124.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

124.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

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

124.4 **Expedite and accomplish the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Montenegro);**

124.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and repeal legislation allowing for the deprivation of liberty, forced hospitalization and forced treatment of persons with disabilities (Spain);**

124.6 **Consider ratifying the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Malawi);**

124.7 **Consider acceding to the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries (Armenia);**

124.8 **Ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);**

124.9 **Fully implement the reform of the judicial system, also in the context of the Albanian accession to the European Union (Italy);**

- 124.10 Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession (Republic of Moldova);
- 124.11 Strengthen human rights commitments and align domestic laws and procedures with international law (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.12 Refrain from initiating or joining unilateral coercive measures that have a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights (Belarus);
- 124.13 Appoint a new Ombudsperson and a new Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination as soon as possible, taking into account the end of previous mandates (Chile);
- 124.14 Initiate the corresponding actions for the appointment of the Ombudsperson and the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination, while guaranteeing the independence of their functions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 124.15 Fill the positions of People's Advocate and Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination (Luxembourg);
- 124.16 Appoint the head of the national human rights institution without delay and strengthen its oversight role, including by ensuring adequate human and financial resources and the implementation of the institution's recommendations (Liechtenstein);
- 124.17 Provide adequate human and financial resources to strengthen the capacity of the national human rights institution and ensure effective implementation of its recommendations (Kazakhstan);
- 124.18 Guarantee the independence of the national human rights institution and allocate sufficient human and financial resources to strengthen its capacity and to ensure the effective implementation of its recommendations (Switzerland);
- 124.19 Continue strengthening the national human rights institution – People's Advocate – in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Nepal);
- 124.20 Increase the budgetary resources allocated to the Ombudsman to enable it to carry out its mission in good conditions (Morocco);
- 124.21 Empower the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination to promote the full implementation of the anti-discrimination and the anti-hate speech legislation, and ensure effective legal remedies for victims (Gambia);
- 124.22 Establish a permanent national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights recommendations and consider the possibility of receiving cooperation assistance for this purpose (Paraguay);
- 124.23 Fully implement anti-discrimination and anti-hate speech legislation, ensuring that all incidents of hate speech are prosecuted (Brazil);
- 124.24 Continue to fully implement national anti-discrimination and anti-hate speech legislation and ensure that all incidents are investigated and prosecuted (Romania);
- 124.25 Adopt stronger measures to implement the Law on Protection from Discrimination to prevent, deter and punish all forms of racism, including racist hate speech and hate crimes, online and offline (Indonesia);
- 124.26 Develop legal provisions to prosecute hate crimes, both physical and online (Spain);
- 124.27 Strongly combat racism and hate speech, improve and implement relevant legislation and ensure effective remedies and legal aid for victims (China);

- 124.28 **Strengthen enforcement mechanisms for the prevention of hate speech (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 124.29 **Pay additional attention to and take appropriate measures in connection with the persistent problem of racist hate speech, and combat manifestations of racism in all its manifestations (Belarus);**
- 124.30 **Ensure the full enforcement of laws, including the new broadcasting code for audiovisual media to combat hate speech and all forms of discrimination affecting minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, especially women and children (Philippines);**
- 124.31 **Protect media freedom and fully implement anti-discrimination and anti-hate speech legislation (Greece);**
- 124.32 **Cooperate with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to ensure that effective investigations are conducted into all incidents involving hate speech and that those responsible are prosecuted (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 124.33 **Strive for the full implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and combat hate acts and speech, including against LGBT+ people, with the reinforcement of the resources allocated to the 2021–2027 action plan (France);**
- 124.34 **Criminalize hate speech and hate crimes against persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Iceland);**
- 124.35 **Improve enforcement of and responsiveness to complaints under existing anti-discrimination laws, including for LGBTQI+ persons and persons with disabilities (United States of America);**
- 124.36 **Ensure full and effective implementation of anti-discriminatory laws, particularly for marginalized groups like the Roma community (Malaysia);**
- 124.37 **Enhance the public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about existing anti-discrimination laws and mechanisms, including the role of the Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination (North Macedonia);**
- 124.38 **Review the legal procedures related to discrimination cases in order to prevent them effectively (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 124.39 **Continue advancing measures to ensure comprehensive support and integration for vulnerable groups, particularly women victims of gender-based violence, children in need of protection and persons with disabilities (Georgia);**
- 124.40 **Take effective measures to combat blood feuds and eradicate the social, cultural and economic factors fuelling them (Russian Federation);**
- 124.41 **Continue efforts to ensure the conditions of prisons and detentions in conformity with international standards (Indonesia);**
- 124.42 **Improve prison and detention system infrastructure to reduce overcrowding and ensure access by detainees to adequate healthcare (Australia);**
- 124.43 **Reform the penitentiary system in order to address the problem of prison overcrowding and ensure that detention conditions are in line with international standards (Russian Federation);**
- 124.44 **Allocate sufficient resources to address overcrowding and poor physical conditions in prisons (United States of America);**
- 124.45 **Address prison overcrowding and infrastructure problems in order to prevent cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and to ensure suitable living conditions to convicts and pretrial detainees, as well as establish a special medical institution to accommodate and treat individuals subjected to measures of compulsory treatment (Poland);**

124.46 **Cooperate with the Sub-committee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to take effective steps to combat prison overcrowding and prevent detention without trial (Syrian Arab Republic);**

124.47 **Strengthen existing measures, such as building new prisons, to tackle prison overcrowding in a sustainable manner (Republic of Moldova);**

124.48 **Redouble efforts to limit the use of pretrial detention measures and shorten the length of detention before trial (Côte d'Ivoire);**

124.49 **Continue efforts to improve the situation of detained persons, in particular by establishing an institution for forensic psychiatric patients under the Ministry of Health, and by improving psychiatric and psychosocial services in other places of detention (Germany);**

124.50 **End the activities of Mojahedin Khalgh terrorist organization currently sheltered in Albania (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

124.51 **Continue to implement actions arising from the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania with the aim of preventing and combating radicalism and violent extremism (Cuba);**

124.52 **Intensify measures to address and prevent corruption at all levels (Cyprus);**

124.53 **Intensify measures to address and prevent corruption at all levels, putting an end to impunity, and raise awareness of the direct impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights (Liechtenstein);**

124.54 **Strengthen measures taken to combat and prevent corruption at all levels, namely by ending impunity (Luxembourg);**

124.55 **Implement effective measures to combat widespread corruption (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

124.56 **Continue efforts to proactively fight corruption in public administration, inter alia, by ensuring the timely conclusion of the vetting of judges and prosecutors, and the full-staffing and adequate financial resources of anti-corruption institutions (Austria);**

124.57 **Strengthen efforts to effectively implement the vetting process for judges and legal prosecutors (Egypt);**

124.58 **Take concrete action to combat existing corruption in public administration (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

124.59 **Continue its efforts to fight against corruption by finalizing and adopting the new draft strategy (Türkiye);**

124.60 **Continue implementing the Strategy against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes and its Action Plan, and swiftly adopt the new draft 2024–2030 Strategy for the Fight against Corruption (Estonia);**

124.61 **Address corruption within the State police through the Police Oversight Agency's inspections, investigations and police vetting (United States of America);**

124.62 **Take effective measures to ensure accountability for public officials and to combat corruption, including the proper implementation of Constitutional Court judgments (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

124.63 **Intensify measures to address and prevent corruption and bring the electoral processes into line with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe commitments and international standards (Greece);**

- 124.64 **Address corruption through a multifaceted and inclusive approach, including further legal reforms, and by increasing the budgets for responsible institutions and actors (North Macedonia);**
- 124.65 **Ensure that the judicial system is equipped with sufficient financial and human resources, including magistrates, to enable the judiciary to function efficiently and independently (Sweden);**
- 124.66 **Implement reforms aimed at strengthening the rule of law, emphasizing the combat of corruption, which is the basic condition for successful implementation of all human rights policies (Czechia);**
- 124.67 **Further enhance the transparency and efficiency of public services by expanding initiatives such as e-governance and digital inclusion, building on Albania's efforts under the Digital Agenda of Albania 2022–2026 (Viet Nam);**
- 124.68 **Continue efforts to promote good governance through effective implementation of cross-sectoral strategies (India);**
- 124.69 **Pursue the implementation of the Intersectoral Strategy for Justice 2021–2025 and its action plan (Morocco);**
- 124.70 **Strengthen the independence of its judicial authorities to operate without undue interference or political oversight (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 124.71 **Develop mediation in the judicial field in order to allow better access to justice for vulnerable people, by integrating mediation into the free legal aid system (France);**
- 124.72 **Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to ensure the sustainability of free legal aid services and to build the capacity of lawyers (Togo);**
- 124.73 **Strengthen efforts to safeguard freedom of expression and independence of the media, to ensure a safe environment for investigative journalists and their protection from intimidation and attacks (Austria);**
- 124.74 **Take effective measures to strengthen freedom of expression and independence of the media by ensuring a safe environment for investigative journalists, their protection from intimidation and attacks, as well as by improving their working conditions (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**
- 124.75 **Fulfil its obligations to protect freedom of expression, media freedom and the independence of journalists (Canada);**
- 124.76 **Implement effective measures to promote media plurality and to safeguard freedom of expression and independent reporting, particularly by ensuring the protection of journalists against intimidation and harassment (Germany);**
- 124.77 **Continue the efforts to implement the legal framework to protect freedom of expression and shield journalists against intimidation, death threats and attacks, as well as investigate and punish these attacks against journalists (Czechia);**
- 124.78 **Enhance efforts to ensure secure working conditions for journalists and other media workers, in collaboration with journalists' organizations (Lithuania);**
- 124.79 **Align Albanian legislation with the recently adopted European Union anti-strategic lawsuits against public participation directive and ensure that journalists are protected from intimidation and harassment, and that incidents are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted, and victims receive proper compensation (Belgium);**

- 124.80 **Continue guaranteeing fundamental freedoms and rights, including freedom of expression and the media, as enshrined in the country's Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Japan);**
- 124.81 **Promote and protect independent media, eliminating all forms of intimidation against journalists (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 124.82 **Promote and protect independent media and eliminate all forms of discrimination against journalists, including women journalists (Togo);**
- 124.83 **Create a safe and supportive environment for the activities of independent media and civil society (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 124.84 **Continue to reform the legal and regulatory framework, in accordance with Albania's international obligations, concerning the right to freedom of expression and media, particularly by ensuring the safety of journalists and the transparency of media ownership (Sweden);**
- 124.85 **Take measures to protect human rights defenders from threats and attacks, especially those working to protect the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community, victims of trafficking and domestic violence, as well as investigative journalists (Chile);**
- 124.86 **Ensure that the current legal framework concerning civil society is fully implemented, in particular regarding the registration procedures, as well as consultation processes for civil society organizations (Sweden);**
- 124.87 **Revise the regime for the establishment of civil society organizations to make it easy, fast and inexpensive, so that underrepresented communities in particular can be better represented in various consultation processes, including those essential to Albania's European Union accession process (Ireland);**
- 124.88 **Amend the framework governing the creation of civil society organizations so that it is quicker and less costly, in order to increase the representation of communities in consultation processes (Switzerland);**
- 124.89 **Establish conscientious objection to military service for professional soldiers and reservists in accordance with international human rights standards (Costa Rica);**
- 124.90 **Take effective measures to prevent vote-buying in elections, as well as to ensure the secrecy of the vote and protect the editorial freedom of the media (Russian Federation);**
- 124.91 **Implement all outstanding recommendations of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for improving the conduct of elections in Albania (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 124.92 **Continue efforts on implementation of legislation on property rights and registration, inter alia, by digitalization and publication of cadastre maps, as well as implementing decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (Austria);**
- 124.93 **Consider adopting legislative measures to reduce evasion of child support and alimony payments (Chile);**
- 124.94 **Provide protection and support to the family as the natural and fundamental unit of society (Egypt);**
- 124.95 **Support, through economic and social policies, the institution of the family and the preservation of family values, in line with provisions of international human rights covenants (Pakistan);**
- 124.96 **Intensify its focus on combating human trafficking within the framework of its National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking and the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration (Brazil);**

- 124.97 Strengthen the efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, especially women and children, for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation (Croatia);
- 124.98 Strengthen law enforcement actions to effectively combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including through increased budget allocation for prevention and prosecution (Indonesia);
- 124.99 Strengthen mechanisms to prevent, combat and punish human trafficking and to intensify awareness-raising and sensitization measures, as well as victims' access to justice and support services (Paraguay);
- 124.100 Ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of those involved in human trafficking, including officials who aid and abet the perpetration of human trafficking offences (Russian Federation);
- 124.101 Vigorously investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes and convict traffickers, including complicit officials, under article 110(a) and 128(b) of the Criminal Code rather than under lesser offences (United States of America);
- 124.102 Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly allocating the required resources and training of relevant public officials (Sri Lanka);
- 124.103 Ensure the full implementation of the National Action Plan for the Fight against Human Trafficking, with a focus on protecting children (Ukraine);
- 124.104 Intensify measures to combat human trafficking, as well as to increase victim support services and to ensure adequate medical care and psychosocial counselling (Armenia);
- 124.105 Take more effective measures to combat human trafficking and provide assistance to victims of this crime (Belarus);
- 124.106 Increase the number and funding of inclusive and accessible shelters for victims of trafficking (Dominican Republic);
- 124.107 Intensify measures to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons, creating support programmes for victims, especially women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 124.108 Further reinforce measures for the enhancement of people's right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work, especially for the most vulnerable groups (Pakistan);
- 124.109 Adopt an adequate legal framework to regulate unpaid and care work (Panama);
- 124.110 Promote economic and social development, improve the social security system and effectively protect the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities (China);
- 124.111 Continue efforts to support the promotion of the well-being of individuals in need of social care and their families and their social integration (Iraq);
- 124.112 Implement a comprehensive social protection system that articulates existing plans, programmes and strategies with a systemic approach and addresses the root causes of poverty and social exclusion to ensure an adequate standard of living for all without discrimination (Paraguay);
- 124.113 Continue to promote national programmes to reduce poverty and ensure the implementation of the Law on Social Security (Cuba);
- 124.114 Introduce financial assistance programmes to alleviate the economic burden on vulnerable families, ensuring that all children and youth, including those living in poverty, have access to educational resources and opportunities (Panama);



- 124.115 **Address all existing gaps and challenges in providing equal access to health, education, adequate housing and improving the living conditions of the minority communities (Sri Lanka);**
- 124.116 **Pursue its efforts to ensure access to universal health care (Mauritius);**
- 124.117 **Redouble efforts to address, as appropriate, obstacles to access to universal and free healthcare, in particular for Albanian children and youth and migrants (Paraguay);**
- 124.118 **Establish more specialized centres for the treatment of people with mental health problems to ensure that more people in need receive assistance (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 124.119 **Implement comprehensive policies and a national plan of action to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and provide access to quality health services for women, children and families, particularly the minority groups such as the Roma community (Malaysia);**
- 124.120 **Continue efforts to effectively implement laws prohibiting prenatal selection based on the sex of the foetus (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 124.121 **Strengthen and ensure the effective enforcement of laws prohibiting prenatal sex selection, including amending Law No. 8876 on Reproductive Health and developing programmes that raise awareness of the value of the girl child (Gambia);**
- 124.122 **Consider creating conditions for at least one year of free pre-school education and free secondary education (Bulgaria);**
- 124.123 **Increase investment in education, through large-scale reforms in preschool education (Dominican Republic);**
- 124.124 **Intensify the reforms of pre-primary education, increase investments in education and ensure the inclusion of young people in educational and vocational opportunities (Switzerland);**
- 124.125 **Adopt comprehensive measures to respect, protect and fulfil the right to education for all, including by ensuring that Roma and Egyptian children have access to equal and inclusive quality education (Portugal);**
- 124.126 **Undertake all necessary measures to provide good quality and affordable education to all (Mauritius);**
- 124.127 **Further strengthen education against hate speech and discrimination by adopting human rights-based national curricula for pre-university education for the majority of the population (Israel);**
- 124.128 **Continue measures to further improve the political and legal framework in the field of climate change to reach its objectives (Azerbaijan);**
- 124.129 **Continue to encourage media and awareness campaigns on climate change (Oman);**
- 124.130 **Increase investment to harmonize school and extracurricular activity programmes for the local implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including the construction and updating of recreational, sports and green space facilities in schools (Costa Rica);**
- 124.131 **Ensure effective implementation of climate change and disaster risk reduction normative frameworks and adopt specific mitigation measures for children, rural women and vulnerable groups (Maldives);**
- 124.132 **Continue to innovate in the fields of renewable energy (Oman);**
- 124.133 **Continue to strive to achieve the goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Oman);**

- 124.134 **Maintain its attention on strengthening woman's rights, equality and non-discrimination (Türkiye);**
- 124.135 **Continue its efforts in order to accelerate the implementation of its legal and policy framework for the advancement of women (Azerbaijan);**
- 124.136 **Implement fully its National Gender Equality Strategy 2021–2030, including revising relevant legislation, such as Law No. 9970/2008 on Gender Equality in Society (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 124.137 **Continue promoting increased women's representation at all levels of public administration and their participation in the private sector (Bhutan);**
- 124.138 **Continue to promote increased representation of women at all levels of public administration and to encourage their representation in management positions in the private sector (Togo);**
- 124.139 **Continue to promote and introduce positive measures regarding equal participation of women, including gender equality in public and political life (Cuba);**
- 124.140 **Continue with the progress made to guarantee and mainstream the participation of women in government and decision-making bodies (Dominican Republic);**
- 124.141 **Continue its efforts to allocate public funds towards gender-focused policies aimed at reducing gender gaps (Bhutan);**
- 124.142 **Increase the employment rate for women (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 124.143 **Implement comprehensive programmes to promote gender sensitivity in educational institutions and address societal norms that contribute to gender inequalities (Cyprus);**
- 124.144 **Address harmful gender stereotypes in political discourse and in the media (Dominican Republic);**
- 124.145 **Continue to address gender inequality and violence against women, particularly by enhancing the application of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2021–2030 and by allocating the necessary resources for its implementation (Romania);**
- 124.146 **Improve coordination between national entities responsible for the protection of women's rights and strengthen policies to address the stigmatization of survivors of domestic violence (Spain);**
- 124.147 **Strengthen specialized gender-based violence units in the courts, the Office of the Public Prosecutor and the police (Australia);**
- 124.148 **Invest in building the capacity of first responders to complaints of domestic violence and encourage reporting of domestic violence against women and girls by raising awareness among women and men about the criminal nature of gender-based violence against women (Maldives);**
- 124.149 **Take further measures to combat domestic violence, including by fully implementing the existing legislation and by guaranteeing that women victims of violence can access legal aid and social services (Italy);**
- 124.150 **Take legislative and institutional measures to comprehensively address all forms of violence against women, particularly femicide (Austria);**
- 124.151 **Take legislative and institutional measures to comprehensively address all forms of violence against women and particularly femicide (Cyprus);**
- 124.152 **Take legislative and institutional measures to address comprehensively all forms of violence against women and particularly femicide (Liechtenstein);**

- 124.153 **Take legislative and institutional measures to comprehensively address all forms of violence against women, including femicide (North Macedonia);**
- 124.154 **Implement the 25th International Conference on Population and Development commitment aiming to strengthen and operationalize the multisectoral response and referral mechanism for gender-based violence in the 61 municipalities and adopt the law on gender-based violence (Luxembourg);**
- 124.155 **Continue taking legislative and institutional measures to comprehensively address all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Nepal);**
- 124.156 **Continue national efforts to address gender-based violence and discrimination in all its forms and manifestations (Cuba);**
- 124.157 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence and discrimination (India);**
- 124.158 **Strengthen further efforts to address harmful gender stereotypes and to improve reporting, investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Slovenia);**
- 124.159 **Implement comprehensive programmes for State institutions to address forms of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, and combat the prevalence of stereotypical gender norms in men and boys based on traditional and patriarchal customs (Costa Rica);**
- 124.160 **Intensify education and awareness programmes to address patriarchal norms and customs that perpetuate gender inequalities and violence against women and girls (Philippines);**
- 124.161 **Encourage reporting on violence against women and girls by raising awareness about the criminal nature of gender-based violence (Croatia);**
- 124.162 **Amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a definition of rape based on lack of consent (Ireland);**
- 124.163 **Amend the definition of rape for it to be based on lack of consent, instead of force or threat, in line with international standards and further strengthen the fight against gender-based and domestic violence, including prevention and protection measures for survivors (Belgium);**
- 124.164 **Amend the Criminal Code with a view to incorporating a definition of rape based on lack of consent, in line with article 36 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Denmark);**
- 124.165 **Incorporate a definition of rape based on lack of consent into the Criminal Code and ensure that criminal legislation is wholly aligned with international standards (Iceland);**
- 124.166 **Amend the Criminal Code to specifically criminalize femicide and cyberviolence and to incorporate a definition of rape based on lack of consent (Spain);**
- 124.167 **Adopt comprehensive legislation criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence, including femicide and cyberviolence (Iceland);**
- 124.168 **Adopt legislative measures to combat all forms of violence against women, with a particular focus on domestic violence (Chile);**
- 124.169 **Close gaps in the implementation of laws on violence against women, domestic violence, child poverty, child sexual violence and abuse, and promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights (France);**
- 124.170 **Ensure adequate training of police and other relevant actors in order to increase their capacity to deal with domestic violence cases, and take further**

steps to raise public awareness of domestic violence as a criminal offence (Czechia);

124.171 Provide training to law enforcement and the judiciary on violence against women, intimate partner violence and the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons (Canada);

124.172 Improve the infrastructure and financial and human resources to combat cases of domestic violence against women and promote training for law enforcement and justice operators to be able to recognize situations of risk (Paraguay);

124.173 Strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, by ensuring the effective enforcement of relevant laws and enhancing support services for survivors (Gambia);

124.174 Improve infrastructure and human and financial resources allocated to referral mechanisms for cases of violence against women and girls (Morocco);

124.175 Increase the availability of legal aid, shelter and counselling services for victims of domestic violence, and ensure that all regions have access to at least one specialized centre (Estonia);

124.176 Reform the legal framework in order to prevent, investigate and sanction political gender violence, and adopt the necessary measures to guarantee that victims and survivors of trafficking and sexual and gender violence have access to shelters and to legal, medical and psychosocial assistance free of charge (Mexico);

124.177 Increase the number of shelters for women and girls who are victims of domestic violence, especially in rural areas (Malta);

124.178 Consider providing inclusive and accessible shelters for victims of domestic violence with expertise in treatment and rehabilitation (Sri Lanka);

124.179 Expand the availability and accessibility of shelters and support services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, particularly in rural areas (Malaysia);

124.180 Expand assistance and protection programmes for the victims of trafficking and domestic violence (Ukraine);

124.181 Establish more shelters and specialized centres for prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation for victims of domestic violence (Costa Rica);

124.182 Collect and analyse detailed data on the types and use of weapons in incidents of femicide, domestic violence and gender-based violence in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking and improve prevention mechanisms (Panama);

124.183 Improve the implementation of measures to combat domestic violence, particularly in the care of victims, and apply appropriate sanctions to the perpetrators of these crimes (Switzerland);

124.184 Conduct a full review of the Family Code and enact legislation to prohibit child, early and forced marriage, ensuring that exceptions to the minimum marriage age of 18 are eliminated (Austria);

124.185 Revise the Family Code to repeal provisions allowing marriage before the minimum legal age and to introduce a legal prohibition of forced marriages and prosecute those responsible for its violation (Russian Federation);

124.186 Adopt legislative measures to exclude any possibility of exception to the minimum age of 18 for marriage and prohibit forced marriages (Costa Rica);

124.187 Enact legislation to prohibit child, early and forced marriage, ensuring that the minimum age for marriage is set at 18 years (Estonia);

- 124.188 Take legal measures to end child marriage by removing any exception to the minimum legal age of 18 and to prohibit forced marriage (Liechtenstein);
- 124.189 Amend existing laws to remove all exceptions that allow marriage for children under the age of 18 and prohibit forced marriage (Philippines);
- 124.190 Remove all exceptions that allow marriage for children under the age of 18 (Cyprus);
- 124.191 Step up efforts to fully implement the legal and policy framework regarding child protection, namely child marriages, child abuse and child trafficking (Slovakia);
- 124.192 Further enhance efforts to prevent and combat early and forced marriages (Georgia);
- 124.193 Strengthen efforts to implement the national agenda for the rights and protection of the child (Kazakhstan);
- 124.194 Redouble its efforts to protect the rights of the child, including by improving access to education and implementing the National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection and the justice for children strategy 2022–2026 (Japan);
- 124.195 Fully implement the current National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection and the legal provisions prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings (Estonia);
- 124.196 Consider fully implementing the National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection (Malawi);
- 124.197 Ensure the effective implementation of the National Agenda for Child Rights and Protection 2021–2026 with further efforts to tackle early marriages, including by developing relevant awareness-raising campaigns and programmes and establishing protection schemes for victims of child marriage who file complaints (Republic of Moldova);
- 124.198 Take further measures to implement legal provisions prohibiting corporal punishment in all settings and provide adequate resources for their implementation (Liechtenstein);
- 124.199 Continue implementing comprehensive measures to promote and protect the rights of the child and ensure the safety of children in schools (Lithuania);
- 124.200 Take further measures to prevent abuse and violence against children (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.201 Introduce effective procedures to protect children from all forms of violence both in schools and the family environment, informing both institutions and citizens about the legal obligation to report and respond to cases of violence against minors, as well as the legal prohibition of corporal punishment (Poland);
- 124.202 Strengthen the enforcement of child protection laws and anti-violence measures to safeguard vulnerable children (Ukraine);
- 124.203 Ensure the effective and full implementation of court decisions in cases of international child abductions and ensure compliance with its international commitments (Belgium);
- 124.204 Consider applying new models of administration, restorative justice and diversion measures in the new Juvenile Justice Code and the Law on the Rights of the Child (Malawi);
- 124.205 Reduce further the number of children deprived of liberty and shorten the length of detention and make the most of diversion measures and restorative justice for children as part of the juvenile justice reform (Luxembourg);
- 124.206 Provide adequate financing for juvenile justice reform (Montenegro);

- 124.207 Devote further attention in order to guarantee the full enjoyment of the rights of children, including by granting access to education and health, especially in rural and remote areas (Italy);
- 124.208 Strengthen the prevention of child pregnancies through educational initiatives on sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as promote the continuous training of educational personnel (Mexico);
- 124.209 Protect children from all forms of economic exploitation, including child labour, through necessary legislative, policy and other interventions (Sri Lanka);
- 124.210 Increase education campaigns to combat instances of child labour and other forms of exploitation of minors (Malta);
- 124.211 Continue advancing accessibility and inclusion in education, ensuring equal opportunities for all, especially for marginalized communities, as well as people with disabilities (Viet Nam);
- 124.212 Continue its efforts to ensure inclusive education and increase the number of children with disabilities in public and private educational institutions (Bhutan);
- 124.213 Continue to implement the Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, thus ensuring the right to inclusive education and public spaces for all children with disabilities (Italy);
- 124.214 Continue efforts towards fully integrating persons with disabilities by improving accessibility to public spaces, including schools (Lithuania);
- 124.215 Continue to implement measures to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities, through the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (India);
- 124.216 Further increase the number of assistant teachers for students with disabilities (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 124.217 Take further steps to protect the rights of the persons with disabilities (Pakistan);
- 124.218 Pursue efforts to strengthen the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);
- 124.219 Improve care centres for persons with disabilities and enhance the infrastructure of these centres (Jordan);
- 124.220 Take concrete steps to ensure that all public buildings are accessible to persons with disabilities, allowing for independent and equal access to essential services, in line with the promotion of accessibility enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and furthermore ratify its Optional Protocol (Portugal);
- 124.221 Expressly criminalize the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability (Chile);
- 124.222 Review legislation to incorporate a clear prohibition against disability-based discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.223 Strengthen endeavours to protect individuals with disabilities by improving legal protection against discrimination, safeguarding their autonomy, legal capacity and access to justice (Armenia);
- 124.224 Repeal current legislation that allows for the forced deprivation of liberty, hospitalization and forced treatment of persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities (Colombia);

- 124.225 Repeal regulations that allow the deprivation of liberty, hospitalization and forced treatment of persons with psychosocial disabilities and establish independent mechanisms to monitor internment centres (Costa Rica);
- 124.226 Implement in full the National Action Plan for the Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma and Egyptians to reduce these communities' out-of-school rates (Australia);
- 124.227 Combat discrimination and violence against Roma and Egyptian minorities (Chile);
- 124.228 Eliminate any form of discrimination that persists in relation to ethnic minorities, particularly in the case of boys and girls, and ensure inclusive preschool education that includes all children without discrimination, in particular Roma children (Colombia);
- 124.229 Take additional measures to eliminate discrimination against national minorities, including Roma (Belarus);
- 124.230 Implement the necessary reforms to eliminate all forms of discrimination against the Roma community and the ethnic minorities (Sri Lanka);
- 124.231 Develop the necessary administrative and legislative measures to end discrimination against minorities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 124.232 Establish policies that enhance public services for minorities and support cultural diversity (Jordan);
- 124.233 Step up efforts to resolve civil registration issues faced by minority populations in the interests of inclusion and equality (Philippines);
- 124.234 Take concrete measures to ensure the swift adoption and implementation of by-laws relating to the 2017 framework Law on the Protection of National Minorities, including in particular the right to self-identification and the use of minority languages in the administration (Greece);
- 124.235 Expedite the adoption of the three remaining by-laws that ensure the full and effective implementation of the framework Law on the Protection of National Minorities (Romania);
- 124.236 Continue the adoption of the remaining by-laws to ensure the full and effective implementation of Law No. 96/2017 on the Protection of National Minorities (Bulgaria);
- 124.237 Ensure access to public education in minority languages, by applying the 20 per cent threshold requirement to local communities (Greece);
- 124.238 Establish transparent and fair legal processes for registration of property titles of the rightful owners belonging to national minorities and ensure that expropriation procedures for commercial purposes in the name of "public interest", undertaken with compensation far below the actual market price, cease infringing on the property rights of minority owners (Greece);
- 124.239 Legally recognize same-sex marriages, civil unions and domestic partnerships (Canada);
- 124.240 Amend the Family Code to provide legal recognition for same-sex partnerships and marriages (Denmark);
- 124.241 Recognize same-sex unions, marriages and registered unions (Ireland);
- 124.242 Consider enacting legislation to legally recognize same-sex partnerships. (Malta);
- 124.243 Guarantee equal rights for same-sex partnerships through legislative measures (Iceland);

124.244 Legally recognize same-sex unions or marriages, as well as gender identity on the basis of the principle of self-determination, and strengthen independent monitoring mechanisms and accountability measures of the National Action Plan for LGBTI Persons (2021–2027) (Mexico);

124.245 Ensure legal recognition of gender identity based on the self-determination principle and allow individuals to update their official documents to reflect their gender identity without necessary medical or legal barriers (Iceland);

124.246 Redouble efforts to implement the national action plans on LGBTIQ+ persons, with adequate resources and a timeline that includes specific actions and time frames to facilitate their monitoring (Colombia);

124.247 Continue progress in the fight against discrimination against the LGBTI community and increase the capacity of the authorities and the relevant budget to ensure the implementation of the plan of action for LGBTI persons (Spain);

124.248 Ban all non-consensual and non-therapeutic surgeries on intersex children and ensure their rights to bodily autonomy and integrity (Iceland);

124.249 Implement national strategies and action plans to protect the rights of refugees and migrants effectively and ensure their integration into society without discrimination (China);

124.250 Strengthen the measures to ensure that the rights of migrants and asylum-seekers are protected in accordance with international obligations (Egypt);

124.251 Take concrete and effective measures to safeguard the rights of migrants (Islamic Republic of Iran);

124.252 Take the necessary measures to ensure respect for the human rights of all migrants and those transiting through Albanian territory (Syrian Arab Republic);

124.253 Develop and implement measurable and targeted support programmes to address specific barriers faced by vulnerable groups, particularly migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, including by ensuring that their treatment meets international human rights standards (Ghana).

125. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting States 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 Albania was headed by the Deputy Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Ms. Megi FINO, and composed of the following members:

- Mme. Vasilika HYSI, Ambassadeur de l'Albanie auprès UNOG;
- M. Tedi DOBI, Vice – Ministre de la Justice;
- Mme. Ira SALATAJ, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Etrangères, Responsable de la Section des Droits de l'Homme, Direction des Organisations Internationales;
- M. Ilir NEZAJ, Conseiller en charge des Droits de l'Homme près de la Mission de l'Albanie auprès UNOG;
- Mme. Jona DERVISHALIAJ, DG, Direction générale du développement de la protection sociale, Ministère de la Santé et de la Protection sociale;
- Mme. Eni DICI, Conseillère, Ministère de la Santé et de la Protection sociale;
- Mme. Evis FICO, Chef du Cabinet de la Présidente du Parlement albanais;
- Mme Mimoza ARBI, Directrice du service juridique, Parlement albanais;
- Mme. Sonila KADAREJA, Conseillère au service juridique, Parlement albanais;
- Mme. Anisa POLLO, DG commandée, Direction général des politiques du développement culturelles, Ministère de l'Economie, de la Culture et de l'innovation;
- M. Bledar TAUSHANI, Directeur, la Direction des politiques de l'emploi et de la migration, Ministère de l'Economie, de la Culture et de l'innovation;
- Mme. Kejn BERLIKU, Responsable du secteur des relations de travail, Ministère de l'Economie, de la Culture et de l'innovation;
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- Mme. Mimoza KONDILLI, Responsable du secteur du suivi et de la mise en œuvre des projets, Direction du logement, Ministère de l'Economie, de la Culture et de l'innovation;
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- Mme. Zamira GJINI, Directrice générale, Direction générale des politiques et du développement de l'éducation, des sports et de la jeunesse, Ministère de l'Education et des Sports;
- M. Ilirjan TAVANXHIU, Spécialiste, Secteur de la gestion du personnel militaire et civil, Direction de la gestion des ressources humaines et des services, Ministère de la Défense;
- Mme. Elda OKETA, Spécialiste, Secteur du développement du personnel, de l'éducation et de la qualification, Direction de l'administration des ressources humaines et des services, Ministère de la Défense;
- Mme. Mariana SHEHI, Directrice, Direction de l'intégration, de la coordination, des accords et de l'assistance technique, Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural;
- M. Shpetim ÇOKAJ, Directeur, La Direction de l'administration des archives, La Direction générale de l'état civil, Ministère de l'Intérieur;
- Mme. Dorina META, Responsable du secteur de l'asile et des étrangers, Ministère de l'Intérieur;

- M. Lavdim DURBAKU, Responsable du secteur de l'ordre public, Direction de l'ordre public, Direction générale de la police d'État;
  - Mme. Ornela XHEMBULLA, Officier de police judiciaire, Direction de la coordination institutionnelle, Bureau du Procureur général;
  - M. Femi SUFA, Directeur général adjoint, Direction générale des prisons;
  - Mme. Klotilda KAREÇI, Directrice, Direction des affaires sociales, Direction générale des prisons;
  - M. Ergys SHEHU, Responsable, Secteur du support sous la direction générale, Direction générale des prisons;
  - M. Eljo MUÇAJ, Inspecteur en chef, Inspection nationale du travail;
  - M. Hasimin KEÇI, Membre de la commission des minorités nationales, Commission pour les minorités nationales;
  - M. Maldi DEMA, Directeur, Direction de la coordination du système des statistiques nationales, de l'alignement et des projets, Institut des statistiques d'Albanie (INSTAT);
  - Mme. Anisa MUCA, Directrice, Direction des statistiques sociales, Institut des statistiques d'Albanie (INSTAT);
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  - Mme. Uendi BUSHATI, Responsable de secteur, Direction de la bonne administration des ressources humaines, des biens et des services, Ministère du Tourisme et de l'Environnement,
  - Mme. Alda NDOJ, Spécialiste, Ministère du Tourisme et de l'Environnement,
  - Mme. Elidona DURMISHI, Responsable de secteur, Section des relations fiscales intergouvernementales, Ministère des Finances ;
  - M. Ergys BEZHANI, Traducteur/Interprète;
  - M. Ermal COMO, Traducteur/Interprète.
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