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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Democratic Republic of the Congo

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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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo was held at the 3rd meeting, on 5 November 2024. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was headed by the Minister of Human Rights, Chantal Chambu Mwavita. At its 10th meeting, held on 8 November 2024, the Working Group adopted the report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. On 10 January 2024, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Burundi, China and Dominican Republic.

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 the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

(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, 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, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo noted that during the third cycle of the universal periodic review, held in 2019, 267 recommendations had been addressed to the country, of which 239, or over 80 per cent, had been duly accepted by the Government and followed up with implementation measures.

6. Upon the incentive of the President of the Republic, several measures were thus taken to improve human rights.

7. The national report had been prepared in an inclusive and participatory process in order to better integrate the data and concerns of the various departments, both in Kinshasa and elsewhere in the country. A workshop to validate the report had been held in Kinshasa, bringing together representatives of public institutions, the National Human Rights Commission, civil society organizations, the diplomatic corps and United Nations agencies.

8. The national report highlighted a number of achievements, both in terms of standards and institutions. Important laws had been passed and promulgated in a variety of areas, including the protection of human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples, people living with disabilities and several other categories of vulnerable people.

[1] A/HRC/WG.6/47/COD/1.
[2] A/HRC/WG.6/47/COD/2.
[3] A/HRC/WG.6/47/COD/3.

9. Particular emphasis had been placed on setting up the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Other Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Special Fund to Compensate Victims of Illicit Acts Carried Out by Uganda.

10. International judicial cooperation continued, alongside the consolidation of domestic efforts in the areas of justice reform, human rights awareness and the prevention of torture and violence of all kinds.

11. Several measures addressed access to both education and healthcare, ranging from the provision of education free of charge to universal healthcare coverage.

12. The appointment of Judith Suminwa Tuluka as Prime Minister and Head of Government, the first woman to hold that position in the country's history, and whose team had been invested in Parliament in June 2024, had been a significant step towards gender equality and the elimination of gender discrimination advocated by the Head of State.

13. In implementing the recommendations of the universal periodic review, the Democratic Republic of the Congo also faced a number of challenges and obstacles which the international community had a duty to condemn, discourage and sanction.

14. They included the recurrence of armed conflicts imposed by certain rebel and terrorist groups, unfortunately supported by the armed forces of foreign States, particularly Rwanda, with complete impunity. That was also the case with the plundering of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in complicity with well-known multinationals.

15. Such obstacles led to the destruction of infrastructure and increasing numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons. The Government was counting heavily on technical assistance and multifaceted support from the international community to improve security conditions for civilians in conflict zones.

16. After each cycle of the universal periodic review, an interministerial human rights committee drew up a national implementation plan for the recommendations accepted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, enabling it to better ensure their application by the relevant technical departments.

17. With regard to the impact on the ground of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Other Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that structure had already provided some victims with emergency medical care. As part of collective reparations, a number of memorial sites would be established in the near future in Kasika, Kaniola, Mwenga, Bukavu, Goma, Songololo and Tshimbulu.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 98 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Ukraine commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its efforts to reinforce the legal and institutional frameworks.

20. The United Kingdom stated that decades of progress risked being undone following the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty.

21. The United Republic of Tanzania welcomed the progress achieved despite the political, economic and security challenges in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

22. The United States called for concentrated efforts to improve the situation of imprisoned persons, including through access to family and legal assistance.

23. Vanuatu commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the strengthening of the social security system and the development of health insurance.

24. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the enactment of legal instruments to promote human rights and the implementation of social programmes.

25. Zambia made recommendations.

26. Zimbabwe made recommendations.

27. Armenia recognized efforts to ensure the right to health through the establishment of universal health coverage.

28. Australia expressed concern about the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty, the extensive gender-based violence, torture and extrajudicial killings.

29. Belgium expressed regret that little progress had been made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in recent years. It welcomed the adoption of Act No. 23/027 of 15 June 2023 on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders.

30. Botswana expressed concern about acts of reprisal against human rights defenders and journalists.

31. Brazil welcomed the creation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Other Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

32. Bulgaria stressed the need to increase women's participation in public and social life and to address gender-based violence.

33. Burkina Faso welcomed legal reforms to protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

34. Burundi welcomed the creation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

35. Cabo Verde expressed concern about the increase in ethnic hate speech and incitement to violence.

36. Cameroon welcomed the strengthening of cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

37. Canada welcomed the adoption of the Act on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders.

38. Chile welcomed the adoption of the Act on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders.

39. China expressed appreciation for the protection by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the rights of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women, children and Indigenous Peoples.

40. Colombia welcomed the willingness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to contribute to the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review.

41. The Congo encouraged the Government to pay particular attention to food insecurity.

42. Costa Rica welcomed efforts to ensure accountability and justice.

43. Côte d'Ivoire commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the adoption of legislation on the protection of and reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

44. Cuba welcomed the legislative advances aimed at protecting human rights.

45. Cyprus noted the adoption of legal and regulatory policies to protect human rights.

46. Denmark expressed concern about cases of sexual and gender-based violence and the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services.

47. Responding to comments and the questions raised by States, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stressed that freedom of the press was a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution and several international instruments ratified by the country. A new law, Ordinance-Law No. 23/009 of 13 March 2023, had been drafted and promulgated to replace a law dating back 27 years. It lay down the conditions for the exercise of freedom

of the press, information and broadcasting by radio and television, the written press or any other means of communication. It enshrined, among other things, the right of access to all public and private sources of information of public interest, as well as penalties for any unjustified withholding of such access.

48. Those freedoms were also guaranteed for the political opposition, whose rights were enshrined in the Constitution and various laws of the land. The opposition was thus well represented in the parliamentary chambers, and the President of the Republic had on several occasions reiterated his commitment to seeing the Parliament ensure that the opposition played an effective role, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

49. With regard to the security situation in the east of the country, which was the epicentre of serious human rights violations targeting children, women and journalists, the Government had defined a clear strategy to respond effectively to that crisis, which had lasted for over 30 years, particularly on the military, economic and media fronts.

50. Foreigners legally residing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo did not face problems in integrating or in accessing basic social services. Xenophobia and discrimination had always been banned in the country, which was proof of the guaranteed protection of foreigners and the hospitality of the country's people. The country continued to attract investors in several sectors. The protection of foreigners remained a strategic lever for development, creating a safe and favourable environment.

51. With regard to the right to peace and territorial integrity, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had suffered for decades from unjust foreign interventions that had undermined its stability. The right to peace was a fundamental right, essential to sustainable development and the security of the people.

52. Regarding the protection of LGBT communities, the delegation pointed out that it was not part of the country's values and traditions. However, the intangible core of human rights still applied to those communities, including the principle of non-discrimination, the right to life and the prohibition of torture.

53. To remedy prison conditions and overcrowding, the law provided for measures such as parole, amnesties and presidential pardons. Nonetheless, to relieve prison overcrowding, the Government had received instructions to facilitate the transfer of convicts to other prisons in the interior of the country.

54. With regard to the independence of the judiciary and the strengthening of judicial institutions, article 149 of the Constitution set out the principle of the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary.

55. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had put in place a transitional justice process to improve the effectiveness of the fight against impunity for international crimes, build the capacity of the judicial system and increase public confidence in the justice system and security services.

56. The commitment to protecting human rights was reflected in the establishment of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Other Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the creation of the Interministerial Commission for Victim Assistance, support for the reparation programmes and reforms linked to transitional justice and the launch of commemorations of the Congolese genocide driven by economic gain, "Genocost".

57. The Dominican Republic welcomed the commitment by the Head of State to strengthening civilian protection with a national army that respected human rights.

58. Egypt welcomed action on commitments to protect women and promote transitional justice.

59. Eritrea welcomed efforts to realize the right to development.

60. Estonia welcomed the adoption of legislation on the protection of and reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence.

61. France noted positive measures taken in economic and social areas.

62. The Gambia commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its efforts to establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture.

63. Georgia welcomed the ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

64. Germany commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the adoption of the Act on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders and called for the removal of restrictive provisions from it.

65. Ghana encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to redouble efforts to decongest overcrowded prisons.

66. The Holy See made recommendations.

67. Iceland made recommendations.

68. India welcomed changes in the Criminal Code to address trafficking in persons.

69. Indonesia welcomed the creation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

70. Iraq welcomed the determination of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to respect human rights obligations and commitments.

71. Ireland welcomed the adoption of the Act on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders.

72. Israel encouraged the Government to continue to fight the mpox epidemic.

73. Italy welcomed the creation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

74. Japan expressed concern regarding the human rights situation in the regions affected by armed conflict.

75. Jordan welcomed the adoption of legislation on the protection of persons with disabilities.

76. Kenya welcomed significant progress in strengthening the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

77. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

78. Latvia encouraged the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to fulfil its human rights commitments.

79. Lebanon welcomed awareness-raising on the promotion of human rights.

80. Lesotho commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for human rights training modules at military and national police academies.

81. Liechtenstein made recommendations.

82. Lithuania expressed concern regarding the human rights and security situation in the country.

83. Luxembourg welcomed the adoption of the Act on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders.

84. Madagascar commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the creation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

85. Malawi commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the steps taken for the protection of human rights, despite the challenges.

86. Malaysia commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its commitment to human rights and socioeconomic development.

87. Maldives welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

88. Mali welcomed the implementation of a universal healthcare system.

89. Malta expressed regret over the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty and the reduction of civic space.

90. Mauritania welcomed legislative reforms and constructive cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

91. Mauritius welcomed the establishment of universal health coverage.

92. Responding to the comments made by States, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo emphasized, with regard to the abolition of the death penalty, that the country was essentially an abolitionist State. The death penalty had not been applied for nearly 50 years, even though it figured in the national criminal legislation, with the exception of a few cases carried out by Rwandan troops during their governance in the 1997 rebellion. The lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty was an administrative measure that did not change the course of action. It was justified in a context of pervasive crime, and more specifically, widespread impunity in areas of conflict and urban violence. Since the moratorium had been lifted no executions had been recorded, and the Parliament was working on measures to prevent any kinds of abuse in that area.

93. The Government continued to take the necessary initiatives to combat all forms of discrimination. An accelerated programme to combat poverty and inequality had been put in place. The country had submitted an exceptional report on its implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

94. Mexico acknowledged the adoption of legislation on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

95. Montenegro expressed concern about children's rights and the human rights situation in the east of the country.

96. Morocco commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the promotion of human rights in public policies and programmes.

97. Mozambique commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for progress in implementing the recommendations from the previous review cycle.

98. Namibia commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the adoption of legislation on the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

99. Nepal welcomed efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous review cycle.

100. The Niger welcomed the strengthening of civic space and the establishment of universal health coverage.

101. Norway welcomed the adoption of legislation on Indigenous Peoples, human rights defenders and reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

102. Panama made recommendations.

103. Paraguay welcomed legislative progress on violence against women and girls.

104. The Philippines noted progress in addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

105. Poland encouraged further decisive action to improve the human rights situation.

106. Portugal welcomed the strengthening of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights.

107. The Republic of Korea welcomed the implementation of the national policy on transitional justice.

108. Romania welcomed measures to improve the normative and institutional framework for human rights.

109. The Russian Federation expressed regret about the considerable impact of the conflict in the east of the country.

110. Saudi Arabia welcomed measures to implement legislation on persons with disabilities.

111. Senegal commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its efforts to combat sexual violence and discrimination against Indigenous Peoples.

112. Sierra Leone commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its efforts to strengthen the legal framework for human rights and for the creation of the compensation and reparations funds.

113. Singapore welcomed the National Children's Council and the measures taken to address gender-based violence.

114. Slovenia expressed concern about reports of serious human rights violations, including conflict-related sexual violence.

115. South Africa welcomed the commitment to a victim-centred approach to transitional justice.

116. South Sudan commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the steps taken to improve the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

117. Spain welcomed efforts to ensure accountability and to end impunity.

118. The Sudan commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for its progress in the field of legislative reform related to human rights.

119. Sweden expressed concern about the security and humanitarian situation in the east of the country.

120. Switzerland made recommendations.

121. Togo commended the Head of State for having actively supported the revitalization of the Human Rights Liaison Unit.

122. Tunisia commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for efforts made to promote the normative and institutional framework for human rights.

123. Türkiye commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for efforts to maintain commitment to the Luanda peace process.

124. Angola commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the creation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

125. Algeria commended the Democratic Republic of the Congo for efforts to criminalize hate speech and to protect persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples.

126. Ethiopia welcomed measures to improve cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

127. The Kingdom of the Netherlands welcomed the adoption of the Act on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders, but expressed concern about certain provisions.

128. Viet Nam recognized the establishment of the National Solidarity and Humanitarian Disaster Management Fund.

129. Responding to the comments made by States, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stressed that the crisis in the east of the country was the epicentre of the violence, resulting in a wave of human rights violations. Children were the main victims, as schools in the area were targeted by the Rwandan army and terrorist groups supporting the March 23 Movement (M23).

130. Rwanda raised a point of order, stating that it refuted the accusations made by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in attempting to portray Rwanda as responsible for the instability in the east of the country. Rwanda recalled that the universal periodic review should be a cooperative mechanism, based on objective and reliable information and conducted in a transparent, constructive and non-confrontational manner.

131. Rwanda stated that the manipulation of the identity of Congolese and Rwandan communities had led to persecution and political exploitation by successive Governments of

the Democratic Republic of the Congo for political gain as it sought to exclude them, especially ethnic Tutsis. Rwanda was seriously concerned about widespread hate speech against and associated targeted killings of Tutsis.

132. The Vice-President of the Human Rights Council reminded delegates that the subject of a point of order should be procedural issues and not the substance of the matter under discussion, and stressed that the present process was multilateral, and not bilateral, in nature.

133. Responding to the point of order raised by Rwanda, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo asserted that the issues in question concerned human rights, and that it could not present the facts without specifying their causes and origins. The facts alleged by Rwanda were but misleading rhetoric. It was well known that respect for human rights was not always a subject closely monitored by Rwanda.

134. Turning to the issue of child soldiers, the delegation recalled that the Government of the United States had in September 2023 sanctioned the Rwandan Government for the use and recruitment of child soldiers in the M23 proxy troops operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

135. Rwanda raised a point of order, stating that the Democratic Republic of the Congo was the sole subject of the present review, and not Rwanda.

136. The Vice-President recalled that the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review process did not constitute an appropriate forum in which to raise bilateral issues of a purely political and territorial nature.

137. Reacting to the point of order raised by Rwanda, the delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stressed that things would have been simpler if Rwandan troops had withdrawn from the country. Women and children were the main victims of the lack of security, with over 2 million internally displaced people living in subhuman conditions. The delegation felt that the right solution would be for them all to return to their home areas.

138. On the subject of hate speech, the delegation pointed out that the Democratic Republic of the Congo had a population of 100 million, and 450 tribes, with potential sources of tension owing to land conflicts or other issues arising between communities. The President of the Republic had himself pledged to combat all forms of hate speech and stigmatization.

139. Another major challenge on which the Government was working concerned extractive resources. Mineral exploitation was one of the reasons for the ongoing war in the east of the country. The authorities were working with organizations in the subregion to set up a traceability process and had taken action against Apple, for example, because some of the products used in the manufacture of portable telephones and computers had been taken in the context of the conflict and violence in the east of the country.

140. In its concluding remarks, the delegation reaffirmed the willingness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to respect its human rights commitments and to implement the recommendations issued by the universal periodic review mechanism. It requested technical and financial partners to continue to support the Government in developing and building its capacities in the field of human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

141.1 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia) (Malta) (Niger) (Ukraine);**

141.2 **Proceed with the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);**

141.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Cabo**

Verde) (Cyprus) (Estonia) (Luxembourg) (Poland) (Portugal) (Switzerland) (Ukraine);

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

141.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and reinstate a moratorium until such ratification (Germany);**

141.6 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Namibia);**

141.7 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

141.8 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Colombia);**

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

141.10 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, deposit its instrument of ratification for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and deposit instruments of accession for the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Paraguay);**

141.11 **Redouble efforts to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Niger);**

141.12 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and take measures to prevent extrajudicial executions (Portugal);**

141.13 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Mexico);**

141.14 **Accelerate the process of ratifying the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Togo);**

141.15 **Consider ratifying the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention against Discrimination in Education (Madagascar) (Togo);**

141.16 **Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, as recommended by UNESCO (Mauritius);**

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

141.18 **Continue to cooperate with United Nations and African Union human rights mechanisms (Malawi);**

141.19 **Continue and strengthen collaboration with national and international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Senegal);**

141.20 **Continue cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms on human rights education, training and capacity-building (Philippines);**

141.21 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and respond positively to pending visit requests by mandate holders (Latvia);**

141.22 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Luxembourg);**

141.23 **Extend an open and standing invitation for special procedure mandate holders to visit the country (Paraguay);**

141.24 **Further cooperate with the international community and with the support of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continuously enhance human rights capacity-building (China);**

141.25 **Continue to implement the voluntary commitments announced on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Japan);**

141.26 **Continue its tireless efforts to strengthen the country's legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights and bring it further into line with its international obligations (South Sudan);**

141.27 **Strengthen the country's legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights, in line with commitments already made under regional and international instruments (Zimbabwe);**

141.28 **Fully implement the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) in national law (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

141.29 **Harmonize domestic legislation with the Maputo Protocol, which allows for abortion in specific cases (Colombia);**

141.30 **Continue the implementation of the national transitional justice policy (Burundi);**

141.31 **Accelerate the implementation of the national transitional justice policy (Kenya);**

141.32 **Continue to promote the national policy on transitional justice, in order to protect human rights for all (Cuba);**

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

141.34 **Continue efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for the protection of human rights (Türkiye);**

141.35 **Further strengthen institutional legal and policy framework for the protection and promotion of human rights (India);**

141.36 **Strengthen implementation mechanisms for recently enacted laws (Kenya);**

141.37 **Allocate financial resources for capacity-building for civilian and military personnel on the protection of and respect for human rights (Costa Rica);**

141.38 **Strengthen the national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Nepal);**

141.39 **Strengthen its national human rights institutions (Ethiopia);**

141.40 **Reform the framework of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Latvia);**

141.41 **Ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission and provide it with adequate resources (South Africa);**

141.42 **Strengthen the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights as the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up with regard to human rights recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**

141.43 **Consider disseminating recommendations through media outlets (Senegal);**

141.44 **Ensure the effective implementation of laws related to the elimination of discrimination against women (Jordan);**

141.45 **Continue efforts to promote gender issues and eliminate all forms of gender-based discrimination (Mozambique);**

141.46 **Strengthen the enforcement of laws relating to gender equality and sexual violence (Lebanon);**

141.47 **Expedite the adoption of legislation to prevent and counter hate speech and incitement to hostility, violence and discrimination (South Africa);**

141.48 **Continue to ensure, at the legislative level and within the framework of law enforcement practice, the protection of the rights of socially vulnerable groups of the population, in particular women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and members of ethnic minorities (Russian Federation);**

141.49 **Take concrete measures to combat stigmatization and discrimination against people affected by leprosy (Portugal);**

141.50 **Continue to combat all forms of discrimination, particularly in the management of poverty reduction programmes (Lebanon);**

141.51 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Panama);**

141.52 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Lithuania);**

141.53 **Restore the moratorium on the death penalty (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

141.54 **Restore the moratorium on the death penalty (Latvia);**

141.55 **Restore the moratorium on the death penalty (Switzerland);**

141.56 **Reimpose as a matter of urgency the moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Australia);**

141.57 **Reinstate the legal moratorium on the death penalty, and take steps towards its abolition (Malta);**

141.58 **Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty and commute existing death sentences to prison sentences (Mexico);**

141.59 **Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty, work towards its total abolition and commute the sentences of those on death row (Holy See);**

141.60 **Reintroduce the de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

141.61 **Restore the de facto moratorium on executions and move towards a legal moratorium as a preliminary step towards the total and complete abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**

141.62 **Reinstate a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Costa Rica);**

141.63 **Redouble efforts to re-establish the moratorium on the death penalty (Madagascar);**

141.64 **Reconsider the decision to lift the moratorium on the use of the death penalty (France);**

141.65 **Reverse the decision to lift the moratorium on the death penalty (Sweden);**

141.66 **Reconsider the recent decision to revoke the moratorium on the death penalty, in place since 2003, and consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**

141.67 **Establish a de jure moratorium on the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**

141.68 **Ensure that the moratorium on the death penalty is maintained, and take legislative measures for its future abolition (Chile);**

141.69 **Reverse the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);**

141.70 **Reinstate the moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty (Denmark);**

141.71 **Abolish the death penalty (Canada);**

141.72 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**

141.73 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);**

141.74 **Take steps towards the full and legal abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein);**

141.75 **Take appropriate steps to abolish the death penalty in national legislation (Bulgaria);**

141.76 **Establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Mexico);**

141.77 **Finalize the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Switzerland);**

141.78 **Comply with its obligations under the Convention against Torture (Canada);**

141.79 **Adopt the draft law on establishing the national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Morocco);**

141.80 **Establish a national preventive Mechanism against torture (Armenia);**

141.81 **Create a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Latvia);**

141.82 **Continue efforts aimed at preventing torture and combating impunity in this area (Lebanon);**

141.83 **Reform the prison system and security services, notably the National Intelligence Agency and military intelligence, by closing or placing under the control of judicial authorities all places of detention and explicitly safeguarding the rights of detainees to visits and to legal counsel (Germany);**

141.84 **Accelerate efforts to mitigate incidents of excessive use of force and ill-treatment of detainees (Lesotho);**

141.85 **Undertake measures to curb overcrowding in detention centres by offering alternative sentences for minor offences (Lesotho);**

141.86 **Protect civilians by strengthening national security capacities in areas from which the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has withdrawn (Luxembourg);**

141.87 **Accelerate security sector reform and strengthen protection of civilians (Japan);**

141.88 **Enhance efforts to protect civilians in conflict-affected regions, by strengthening the presence and training of professional security forces and collaborating with international peacekeeping forces (Mozambique);**

141.89 **Enhance protection mechanisms for civilians, particularly in conflict-affected areas, by strengthening accountability mechanisms within security forces (Kenya);**

141.90 **Ensure that the military operations of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo against armed groups are conducted in compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights standards (Dominican Republic);**

141.91 **Ensure the protection of civilians during military operations in conflict zones, in compliance with international humanitarian law, as well as unfettered access for humanitarian aid, journalists and international human rights observers (Spain);**

141.92 **Uphold its primary obligation to protect civilians, including in conflict zones, and prevent further serious human rights violations and abuses of international humanitarian law from occurring, especially in the context of the ongoing withdrawal of MONUSCO (Montenegro);**

141.93 **Adopt a national plan of action to prevent attacks against schools and hospitals and the use of such facilities for military purposes, and ensure that the civilian nature of schools is respected, in accordance with international humanitarian law and the Safe Schools Declaration (Panama);**

141.94 **Take concrete steps to provide security for civilians across the country with a focus on the east (United States of America);**

141.95 **Implement measures to fully comply with the Convention against Torture, especially by holding criminally responsible senior officials who condone acts of torture or ill-treatment committed by their subordinates (Ghana);**

141.96 **Find the necessary means, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other partners, to create an international criminal court or special criminal tribunal for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to enable it to effectively combat serious crimes and massive violations of human rights throughout its territory (South Sudan);**[4]

141.97 **Expeditiously, independently and transparently investigate the recent incident at Makala prison and prison conditions in general across the country (United States of America);**

[4] On 8 November 2024, at the time of adoption of the draft document during the 10th meeting of the Working Group, this recommendation was withdrawn at the request of South Sudan, which had been transmitted to the troika.

141.98 **Promptly investigate all human rights violations and abuses by members of the security forces and armed militias and ensure accountability for victims and survivors (Ireland);**

141.99 **Effectively combat impunity by promoting prompt and thorough investigations of violations of the rights of women and girls, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, and ensure that victims and their family members have access to justice and remedies (Slovenia);**

141.100 **Effectively combat impunity for violence against women, in particular conflict-related violence, provide access to justice and ensure protection from reprisals for victims and witnesses (Liechtenstein);**

141.101 **Continue efforts to strengthen accountability measures to ensure prompt investigations and prosecutions for all alleged human rights abuses, particularly in conflict areas (Republic of Korea);**

141.102 **Hold superior officers criminally responsible for acts of torture committed by their subordinates to effectively combat impunity and ensure accountability (Gambia);**

141.103 **Continue to make progress in the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations, including those committed by members of the security forces, and facilitate victims' access to justice (Italy);**

141.104 **Continue to promote access to justice and the fight against impunity by strengthening the capacity of the judicial system to address serious crimes, including human rights violations committed by armed actors (Cameroon);**

141.105 **Alleviate inhumane prison conditions, including overcrowding, and serious ill-treatment of prisoners, avoid pre-emptive detention and fully respect the rights to be brought promptly before a judge and to a trial within a reasonable time or to release (Holy See);**

141.106 **Develop a State policy to investigate and resolve complaints of hate speech and incitement to violence, and facilitate access to justice, truth and reparations for victims (Costa Rica);**

141.107 **Continue efforts to ensure effective access to justice for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and other crimes, including women and children (Indonesia);**

141.108 **Ensure access to justice for all, fair trials and compliance with international obligations on the treatment of prisoners (Norway);**

141.109 **Improve the work of the judicial and penitentiary systems (Russian Federation);**

141.110 **Strengthen the independence of the judiciary in line with international standards, in order to address impunity for acts committed by State security and intelligence agents, including acts of sexual and gender-based violence (Costa Rica);**

141.111 **Ensure the independence of the judiciary and protect lawyers from intimidation and harassment, guaranteeing fair and transparent disciplinary processes free from political influence (Gambia);**

141.112 **Adopt a regulatory text guaranteeing the independence of the Bar of the Democratic Republic of the Congo from the public authorities (Luxembourg);**

141.113 **Strengthen mechanisms to combat impunity, including by strengthening the capacity and independence of the judicial system to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence and violations of international humanitarian law (Switzerland);**

141.114 **Implement the necessary measures to combat arbitrary detention and ensure respect for the right to a fair trial (France);**

141.115 **Strengthen accountability and put an end to impunity to ensure transitional justice (South Africa);**

141.116 **Continue efforts to combat impunity and operationalize transitional justice mechanisms (Egypt);**

141.117 **Continue to strengthen and implement national transitional justice initiatives by actively involving communities in the process to ensure redress for victims and promote reconciliation (Ethiopia);**

141.118 **Continue efforts to promote transitional justice and work to reactivate the Human Rights Liaison Unit (Iraq);**

141.119 **Ensure any constitutional revisions protect and uphold fundamental human rights, civic freedoms and political pluralism (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

141.120 **Amend articles 7 and 11 of Act No. 23/027, of 15 June 2023, on the protection and responsibility of human rights defenders, in order to remove the requirements that human rights defenders must register as such and must report annually on their work (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

141.121 **Strengthen legislation on the rights to freedom of expression and association and the right of peaceful assembly to improve protection of public figures, human rights defenders and journalists (Bulgaria);**

141.122 **Establish mechanisms and campaigns to raise public awareness of Act No. 23/027 on the protection of human rights defenders, in all four national languages, and consider amending the act, in particular the articles relating to the obligations and sanctioning of defenders, in consultation with civil society (Belgium);**

141.123 **Develop more robust platforms to encourage permanent meaningful dialogue with civil society, like the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights initiative (United States of America);**

141.124 **Establish a mechanism, with a strict timetable, for consultation between the authorities responsible for implementing Act No. 23/027 and civil society (Canada);**

141.125 **Take all necessary measures to ensure a safe working space and protection for human rights defenders and journalists (Botswana);**

141.126 **Ensure a safe working space and protection for human rights defenders and journalists and investigate all incidents of intimidation, threats of physical violence, attacks and acts of reprisal (Liechtenstein);**

141.127 **Increase efforts to improve the situation of human rights defenders and ensure a safe and enabling environment for their work, in line with its international commitments (Cameroon);**

141.128 **Take all measures necessary to ensure a safe working space and protection for human rights defenders and journalists, and prosecute perpetrators (Lithuania);**

141.129 **Guarantee the exercise of human rights defenders' rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (Botswana);**

141.130 **Increase efforts to end the targeted killings of Christians in the east of the country (Holy See);**

141.131 **Ensure the full exercise of the freedom of the press and the right to information in line with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Indonesia);**

141.132 **Provide the necessary support and protection for civil society organizations and actors, as they are essential to the development of a democratic society, ensuring that they can function without constraints (Israel);**

141.133 **Enhance initiatives, including those aimed at strengthening civic space, to guarantee the fundamental freedoms and rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Japan);**

141.134 **Respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and ensure that the law on the protection of human rights defenders complies with international human rights standards (Norway);**

141.135 **Beef up measures to safeguard freedom of expression and opinion, by all and at all material times (Lesotho);**

141.136 **Ensure the full exercise of freedom of expression and opinion, in particular for journalists and in the political sphere (Holy See);**

141.137 **Ensure a safe and enabling environment for opponents, journalists and human rights defenders, and amend the 2023 press law and Digital Code in line with international standards (Spain);**

141.138 **Promote initiatives against hate speech and incitement to violence and to work for national reconciliation and unity on the basis of international human rights law (Brazil);**

141.139 **Take concrete measures to ensure zero tolerance for incitement to violence and hate speech (Sweden);**

141.140 **Resource and implement the revised action plan to end child marriage (Iceland);**

141.141 **Continue the efforts already under way to prevent and punish trafficking in persons (Burundi);**

141.142 **Continue to take all further measures necessary to combat trafficking in persons (Georgia);**

141.143 **Accelerate the adoption of the draft law on combating trafficking in persons, and develop and implement a new national action plan with all stakeholders (Mali);**

141.144 **Investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of trafficking in and exploitation and forced prostitution of women and girls, including in artisanal mines and conflict zones, and ensure that victims of trafficking and forced prostitution are exempt from any criminal liability (Mali);**

141.145 **Continue the human rights priorities set since the last review, including the goal of creating over 6.4 million jobs by 2028 and ensuring access to essential social services through universal health coverage and free primary education (Eritrea);**

141.146 **Further strengthen efforts to reduce unemployment, especially among young people (India);**

141.147 **Strengthen the social security system so that it guarantees universal coverage and provides sufficient benefits for everyone, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups, in order to guarantee them a decent standard of living (India);**

141.148 **Continue efforts to establish a social security system that guarantees universal social coverage and provides adequate benefits to all (Côte d'Ivoire);**

141.149 **Provide legal protection for workers employed in the informal economy and ensure that they have access to social security benefits (Zambia);**

141.150 **Develop social protection programmes for informal workers to ensure their access to services, such as healthcare and social benefits (Malaysia);**

141.151 **Accelerate as a priority the implementation of the national plan to combat poverty and inequality, and the financing of measures included therein (Romania);**

141.152 **Increase access to drinking water in rural areas (Vanuatu);**

141.153 **Pay greater attention to and increase investment in rural and remote areas with a goal of continuously narrowing the wealth gap (China);**

141.154 **Move forward with efforts to enable rural populations to benefit more from essential infrastructure and social and economic services (Saudi Arabia);**

141.155 **Continue efforts to improve access to basic social services for all (Türkiye);**

141.156 **Continue the implementation of social programmes to address existing national needs (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

141.157 **Step up initiatives to tackle the issues of poverty and food insecurity that target the most affected vulnerable groups, such as women, children and Indigenous Peoples (Malaysia);**

141.158 **Enhance financial support for the effective roll-out of the national strategic plan for universal health coverage (Zimbabwe);**

141.159 **Strengthen the implementation of national plan for universal health coverage to guarantee access to healthcare services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

141.160 **Continue the implementation of programmes related to universal health coverage (Morocco);**

141.161 **Increase access to primary healthcare for the general population and for internally displaced persons in particular (Dominican Republic);**

141.162 **Expedite efforts to ensure access to basic services nationwide, including universal health coverage (Sierra Leone);**

141.163 **Amend the relevant national legislation to decriminalize termination of pregnancy and legalize it in cases of risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman, rape, incest and severe fetal impairment, in line with the Maputo Protocol (Denmark);**

141.164 **Ensure the full implementation of the road map for the fight against maternal and child mortality in alignment with the recommendations and commitment of the high-level forum on maternal mortality and women's empowerment held in March 2024 (Estonia);**

141.165 **Expand the provision of free maternity care, especially in remote areas (Sierra Leone);**

141.166 **Redouble its efforts to effectively ensure free primary education (Congo);**

141.167 **Continue efforts to ensure access to free primary education for all children, especially those living in rural areas (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

141.168 **Continue measures aimed at providing free basic education and reintegrating children into the educational system (Saudi Arabia);**

141.169 **Continue efforts to universalize free education and reintegrate children who have dropped out into the educational system (Tunisia);**

141.170 **Continue to develop policies and programmes aimed at ensuring free basic education, guaranteeing the reintegration into school of a large number of children (Cuba);**

141.171 **Consider providing free education from the pre-primary level through to secondary education (Sierra Leone);**

141.172 **Increase access to primary education so that children have access to improved learning environments (Vanuatu);**

141.173 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee access to education for all children, notably internally displaced children (Congo);**

141.174 **Make efforts to guarantee access to education for all children, especially for girls, and improve the quality of education in all areas of the country (Lithuania);**

141.175 **Ensure safe access to education in emergency areas, especially for children and adolescents affected by internal displacement (Colombia);**

141.176 **Ensure that boys and girls living in areas where conflict persists have access to education (Dominican Republic);**

141.177 **Enhance provision for the right to education for all children, especially in the conflict-affected areas in the eastern region (Indonesia);**

141.178 **Continue efforts to raise citizens' awareness on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

141.179 **Increase efforts to improve the quality of education and technical and vocational training to help address youth unemployment (Jordan);**

141.180 **Take steps to improve the quality of education, including providing training to teachers through collaboration with international partners (Malaysia);**

141.181 **Enhance efforts to improve enrolment, retention and completion rates for women and girls at all levels of education (Maldives);**

141.182 **Continue ongoing efforts to improve the allocation of human resources within the education system (Mauritius);**

141.183 **Implement the Safe Schools Declaration (Luxembourg);**

141.184 **Expand public awareness campaigns and educational programmes on human rights to further promote social cohesion and foster an inclusive society (Viet Nam);**

141.185 **Continue to prioritize the realization of the right to development by enacting and enforcing policies that promote sustainable development across various sectors (Ethiopia);**

141.186 **Promote legislative initiatives through the creation of public policies to realize the right to development (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

141.187 **Take all the measures that it deems necessary to ensure the sustainable and lasting exploitation of the country's natural resources, prioritizing their use for the development and well-being of the population (Cabo Verde);**

141.188 **Adopt immediate measures to ensure that the exploitation of natural resources is sustainable and benefits the local population and to strengthen, through a human rights approach, the regulation of private companies in the extractive industry (Costa Rica);**

141.189 **Implement the provisions of the mining code, the environmental code and the mining regulations, and eliminate all forms of child labour in the mines, while continuing progress in the implementation of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (Switzerland);**

141.190 **Continue efforts aimed at achieving peace and stability and implementing transitional justice programmes (Sudan);**

141.191 **Maintain its efforts to establish lasting peace across the country, particularly in conflict-affected areas (Sierra Leone);**

141.192 **Continue to cooperate with partners to ensure lasting peace in the country and the region (United Republic of Tanzania);**

141.193 **Further promote transitional justice programmes, an area in which Colombia could participate in joint cooperation initiatives (Colombia);**

141.194 **Adopt the national strategy for women's political participation in democratic governance (United Republic of Tanzania);**

141.195 **Adopt the national strategy to promote women's political participation (Morocco);**

141.196 **Ensure access for women and girls with disabilities to health services, education and employment without discrimination (Zambia);**

141.197 **Take steps to eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities and protect their rights in conflict areas (Lithuania);**

141.198 **Take more active and meaningful measures in promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls (Armenia);**

141.199 **Continue measures to ensure women's rights, including by addressing gender-based violence, expanding access to education for women and girls and revoking discriminatory provisions in civil legislation (Brazil);**

141.200 **Strengthen measures to protect and defend the rights of women, girls and children, including combating discrimination, the promotion of gender equality, access for girls to education at all levels and the effective implementation of free primary education (Cabo Verde);**

141.201 **Promote girls' access to education at all levels and intensify action to increase enrolment, retention and completion rates among women and girls at all levels of education (Romania);**

141.202 **Intensify efforts to increase the rates of enrolment, retention and completion among women and girls at all levels of education (South Sudan);**

141.203 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of women and children, particularly in conflict zones, by ensuring better implementation of existing laws against gender-based violence (Cameroon);**

141.204 **Enhance women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels of government and society, including by ensuring equal representation in leadership roles and public offices (Gambia);**

141.205 **Consider making it compulsory for political parties to take gender parity into account in their electoral lists (South Africa);**

141.206 **Ensure better implementation of legislation relating to the rights of women and girls in order to eliminate legal and institutional lacunae throughout all regions of the country (Malta);**

141.207 **Continue measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Mauritania);**

141.208 **Strengthen the protection and support mechanisms for women and children affected by conflict, especially in regions with high levels of insecurity (Viet Nam);**

141.209 **Strengthen measures aimed at the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls (Ukraine);**

141.210 **Sustain efforts to reduce cases of violence against women and girls (Cuba);**

141.211 **Take additional measures to reduce cases of violence, especially against women and girls (Japan);**

141.212 **Complete the approval of a law to protect victims of domestic violence, especially women and children (Algeria);**

141.213 **Institute a legal framework to prevent, prosecute and eliminate domestic violence, including marital rape (Australia);**

141.214 **Adopt legislation to protect victims of domestic violence (Ireland);**

141.215 **Adopt a specific law to protect victims of domestic violence, and establish a mechanism for reintegration and psychological, legal and judicial assistance for survivors of gender-based violence (Belgium);**

141.216 **Implement draft legislation to combat gender-based violence, as well as policies to support and protect victims of sexual violence (Cyprus);**

141.217 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the legal framework to combat and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices that constitute discrimination against women (Burkina Faso);**

141.218 **Continue to step up efforts to support victims of gender-based violence and to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women (Singapore);**

141.219 **Implement effective measures to prevent and combat sexual violence against women and girls, and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such violations (Spain);**

141.220 **Strengthen the implementation of legal frameworks seeking to end impunity for gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

141.221 **Strive to combat gender-based violence and increase women's participation in decision-making systems (Nepal);**

141.222 **Take concrete measures to ensure accountability for human rights violations, particularly sexual and gender-based violence and abuse of children (Sweden);**

141.223 **Effectively enforce all laws and plans of action to prevent and prosecute cases of sexual and gender-based violence, especially in conflict zones (Philippines);**

141.224 **Continue efforts to combat violence against women (Tunisia);**

141.225 **Redouble efforts to eradicate and prevent conflict-related sexual violence, especially against children and women, and establish an effective justice mechanism to put an end to impunity (Chile);**

141.226 **Extend the implementation of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Other Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to all provinces of the country and strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence (Canada);**

141.227 **Continue efforts to enhance the protection of women and combat violence against them (Egypt);**

141.228 **Continue all efforts to combat violence against women and girls (Malawi);**

141.229 **Consider implementing concrete measures to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, provide victim-oriented support mechanisms and ensure accountability of perpetrators (Lithuania);**

141.230 **Take all necessary measures to prevent sexual violence and, when such violence occurs, bring the perpetrators to justice, provide victims with comprehensive care and facilitate victims' access to remedies (Luxembourg);**

141.231 **Take urgent measures to prevent, address and ensure accountability for sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls, including in conflict situations (Iceland);**

141.232 **Intensify efforts against gender-based violence, including domestic, sexual and conflict-affected violence and early and forced marriage, in particular by providing training for police officers and prosecutors (Italy);**

141.233 **Continue to strictly prohibit and punish recourse to sexual violence as an instrument of war by both rebel groups and regular forces, and provide appropriate assistance to victims (Holy See);**

141.234 **Continue and accelerate the establishment of decentralized offices of the National Reparations Fund for Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Other Crimes against the Peace and Security of Humanity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, combat violence against women and gender-based violence, and impunity for such violence, and promote access to justice for LGBT+ persons (France);**

141.235 **Reinforce the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence by introducing a framework of information and mandatory education on sexual and reproductive rights (Germany);**

141.236 **Take proactive steps to investigate and prosecute conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (Gambia);**

141.237 **Ensure that women victims of sexual and gender-based violence have access to comprehensive medical care (Dominican Republic);**

141.238 **Collaborate with women's organizations and the relevant United Nations entities to strengthen oversight mechanisms to prevent sexual violence and address risk factors in camps, such as shortages of food and other humanitarian supplies (Panama);**

141.239 **Ensure the full implementation of the action plan to halt and prevent the recruitment and use of children by government forces (Estonia);**

141.240 **Accelerate the implementation of the 2012 action plan to end the recruitment and use of children by armed groups and prevent sexual violence against women and children (Republic of Korea);**

141.241 **Ensure the full implementation of the action plan adopted by the Government and the United Nations in 2012 to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children and sexual violence by government armed forces (Liechtenstein);**

141.242 **Prioritize the abolition of child military recruitment and child labour by expanding access to free education and focusing on the reintegration of children in the implementation of the programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (Bulgaria);**

141.243 **Continue efforts to protect children and combat their military recruitment in accordance with the action plan for the prohibition of recruiting children into armed groups and their rehabilitation (Tunisia);**

141.244 **Take measures to end the enlistment of children in armed groups and establish a framework that will allow and encourage their rehabilitation and integration into society (Cyprus);**

141.245 **Implement stricter measures to prevent the recruitment of children by armed groups and increase rehabilitation support for former child soldiers, including psychological and educational assistance (Mozambique);**

141.246 **Immediately end the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict, take the necessary steps to prevent conflict-related sexual violence and implement the national action plan on women, peace and security (Norway);**

141.247 **Put an end to the recruitment and use of children by armed groups (France);**

141.248 **Enhance efforts to stop the recruitment and use of children by armed groups (Philippines);**

141.249 **Take measures to protect children from falling victim to armed conflict or participating in armed hostilities and to punish those involved in killing, maiming and recruiting children (Namibia);**

141.250 **Combat all forms of violence and discrimination against children (Italy);**

141.251 **Uphold the responsibility to protect civilians, especially to protect children from recruitment and use in armed conflict, and women and girls from sexual violence (Poland);**

141.252 **Consider increasing efforts to combat child labour in mines (United Republic of Tanzania);**

141.253 **Strengthen measures to end child marriage (Zambia);**

141.254 **Redouble measures to prevent child marriage (United Republic of Tanzania);**

141.255 **Implement reforms to end child labour, in compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Australia);**

141.256 **Prevent, combat and punish the recruitment of children in armed conflict and ensure their demobilization and reintegration into civilian life (Spain);**

141.257 **Promptly investigate and address violations of women's and children's rights in conflict areas, and provide adequate protection for victims and witnesses who seek the support of the justice system (Zimbabwe);**

141.258 **Continue to step up efforts to promote and protect the rights of the child, including combating child labour and improving access to education (Singapore);**

141.259 **Further enhance its progress towards guaranteeing free access for children to health and education (Georgia);**

141.260 **Reinforce disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts, particularly with regard to child soldiers and children associated with armed groups (Germany);**

141.261 **Fully implement its obligations under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Holy See);**

141.262 **Take all the necessary preventive measures to avoid harm to and to protect children during hostilities (Dominican Republic);**

141.263 **Take all the preventive measures necessary to protect children from the risks of hostilities and war (Lithuania);**

141.264 **Continue efforts to protect and promote children's rights (Egypt);**

141.265 **Intensify efforts to protect the rights of all children without discrimination (Mauritania);**

141.266 **Eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities and protect their rights in conflict areas, and ensure their access to health services and education without discrimination (Namibia);**

141.267 **Work further to ensure access for women and girls with disabilities to health services, education and employment without discrimination (Burkina Faso);**

141.268 **Ensure that women and girls with disabilities have access to health services, education and employment without discrimination (Maldives);**

141.269 **Continue to strengthen the development of an accessible environment to better protect the human rights of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities (China);**

141.270 **Redouble efforts to ensure compliance with Act No. 22/030 of 15 July 2022 on the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples, in order to facilitate their education (Côte d'Ivoire);**

141.271 **Guarantee the effective implementation of the law for the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular Indigenous children's access to education, health services and civil registration (Paraguay);**

141.272 **Ensure a fair and equitable use of natural resources in consultation with the Indigenous Peoples involved (Colombia);**

141.273 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and achieve equality, especially by taking measures to implement the provisions of Act No. 22/030 on the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples (Algeria);**

141.274 **Ensure that no one is prosecuted by reason of sexual orientation or gender identity, including under article 176 of the Criminal Code (Iceland);**

141.275 **Abolish articles 175 and 176 of the Criminal Code, which discriminate against LGBTI+ persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression (Chile);**

141.276 **Establish national policies to protect persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identities, gender expressions and sexual characteristics from discrimination and repeal all discriminatory legislation that infringes upon their human rights (Iceland);**

141.277 **Develop and implement policies that explicitly protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons from discrimination and violence, in keeping with international human rights standards (Chile);**

141.278 **Protect the fundamental rights of LGBTQI+ persons by explicitly safeguarding these rights in a dedicated legal framework (Germany);**

141.279 **Enact and enforce legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (Malta);**

141.280 **Step up efforts to restore peace in refugee-hosting areas, where insecurity remains a major challenge (Ghana);**

141.281 **Enhance efforts to protect civilians, including internally displaced persons, by improving access to shelter, healthcare and education in line with international human rights standards (Republic of Korea);**

141.282 **Continue to strengthen measures to address issues related to birth certificates for children, especially returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons (Angola);**

141.283 **Promote a law, within the framework of the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), to protect the rights of displaced persons and provide them with assistance (Colombia);**

141.284 **Promptly address the issue of statelessness in refugee camps (Holy See);**

141.285 **Continue to improve civil registration processes and the issuance of identity documents in order to address statelessness (Philippines).**

142. **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

La délégation de la République démocratique du Congo était conduite par la Ministre des droits humains, S.E. M. Chantal Chambu MWAVITA et composée des membres suivants:

- S.EM. Patrick Muyaya KATEMBWE, Ministre de la Communication et des média;
- S.E. Mme Gracia Yamba KAZADI, Vice-Ministre des Affaires Etrangères;
- S.E.M. Paul Empole Losoko EFAMBE, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la République Démocratique du Congo auprès des Nations Unies à Genève;
- Isaac-Jean-Claude Tshilumbayi MUSAWU, Premier Président de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Patrick MENDE OLENGA, Conseiller du Chef de l'État au Collège Juridique et Administratif ;
- Jean-Marie AKANDABO IMBAY, Député National ;
- André MUSHONGO MASHARA, Député National ;
- Clotilde MUTIKA KALUNGA, Député National ;
- Ida KAMONJI NASSERWA SABANGA, Député National ;
- John BANZA LUNDA, Député National ;
- Tobie NKONGOLO KAYUMBI, Député National ;
- Alphonse ASSANI KABINA, Député National ;
- Olivier KABEYAS OMBAMANYA, Député National ;
- Nene KASHINDE AVODJOA, Député National ;
- Alain BIAYI MBUYI, Député National ;
- Enock BATSOSTI NYAMWISI, Député National ;
- Marie-France LEMA DANDA, Député National ;
- George MBABUNYI MABU, Député National Expert ;
- Paul NSADI TSHILUMBAYI, Chef de Cabinet du 1er Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale ;
- Cédric KABANANGI BILELA, Conseiller, Vice-Primature de l'Intérieur ;
- John KAPAMBU NTAMBWE, Conseiller, Vice-Primature de l'Intérieur ;
- NDOMBE Blaise, Conseiller, Vice-Primature du Plan ;
- KAPINGA Fidèle, Chargé d'Études, Vice-Primature du Plan ;
- KIAMESO MAMBU Virginie, Conseillère, Ministère de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux ;
- MBULA MUSASA Serge Caleb, Conseiller, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères ;
- KIAMBA KANZA Jemima, Secretaire particulière, Ministère des Affaires Étrangères ;
- MADRAGULE Roger, Secrétaire Général, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- MANUNGA MUENYI Augustin, Directeur de Cabinet, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- KASHIKISHA NGALAMULUME André Hilaire, Directeur de Cabinet Adjoint, Ministère des Droits Humains ;

- MONGUNGU Jules, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- BADIBANGA KAPAJIKA Franck, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- MATERANIA KARAGI Romeo, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- HAMULI Yves, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- SAMBA TELE Jean-Pierre, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- MUHINDO Christian, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- KHUTY DIKIESE Arly, Conseiller, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- MBAZI BINEGURO Landry, Chargé d'Études, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- BWINO IRAGI Landry, Chargé d'Études, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- MUTOMBO NGAMBUA Danny, Secrétaire Particulier, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- MUPENDA Chancel, Assistante, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- BINDU BALINDA Lina, Assistante, Ministère des Droits Humains ;
- KASHALA NSATA Jean-Bosco, Conseiller Juridique, Ministère de la Santé et Prévoyance Sociale ;
- UTSHUDI SHUNGU Benjamin, Conseiller Juridique, Ministère du Genre ;
- MATENGO EDAMELIA Arthur, Directeur Chef de Service, Ministère du Genre ;
- BISIMWA Irène, Conseillère, Ministère des Mines ;
- MUPEMBA NGANDU Beau Paul, Conseiller, Ministère des Mines ;
- KABUNDI TSHIBANGU Frederic, Ministère En Charge Personnes Vivant avec handicap et autres Personnes vulnérables ;
- KALAY KISALA Path, ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et Universitaire ;
- NDARABU INGULU Adolph, Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et Universitaire ;
- KALENGA MALOBA Aida, Secrétaire Permanente, Comité Interministériel des Droits de l'Homme ;
- NZONGELE KALE Maurice, Conseiller, Ministère du Travail ;
- BADADA NZINAZUANZA Innocent, Ministère du Travail ;
- MALANGU KONGOLO Emmanuel, Ministère de la Défense Nationale ;
- KAYEMBE MUBIAYI Joseph, FONAREV;
- NZONGELE KALE Maurice, FONAREV ;
- IKABU MUJINGA Bebia, Magistrate, Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature ;
- KANDALOKO OMANIONGO Léopold, Conseil Supérieur de la Magistrature ;
- LUKUNDA Richard, Chargé des Missions, Conseil National de Sécurité ;
- KABINANGA KAKUBI Sandrine, Auditorat Général des FARDC ;
- LOMANGE BAKOTO Yannick, Conseiller, Conseiller Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel et de la Communication ;
- BUNKAKALA MADIMU Samuel, Inspection Générale de la Police Nationale Congolaise ;
- MANGOMBE KISAKA Guy, Chef de Bureau, Fonds National PSS ;
- NDAIE MUSENGE Serge, Ministre Conseiller, Mission Permanente de la RDC auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des Institutions Spécialisées à Genève ;

- MUNUNGI LEKI Alexis, Mission Permanente de la RDC auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des Institutions Spécialisées à Genève ;
- MIKOBI MIKOBI Arthur, Premier Conseiller, Mission Permanente de la RDC auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des Institutions Spécialisées à Genève ;
- AKAKE LUMBADISHA Chantal, Deuxième Conseillère, Mission Permanente de la RDC auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des Institutions Spécialisées à Genève ;
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- BANZA NGOY Serge, Ministre Conseiller, Mission Permanente de la RDC auprès des Nations Unies à New-York ;
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- TSHIKUMA Cédrick, Conseiller, Ministère de la communication et médias ;
- KABANDANYI Fabrice, Chef Protocole, Ministère de la Communication et médias ;
- NZINGA Jack, Chargé d'études, Ministère de la Communication et médias ;
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- MAGALANO Gaétan, Journaliste à la RTNC ;
- MUTOMBO Gédéon, Preneur de vue RTNC ;
- BAKUMANYA Bienvenue, Journaliste et DG l'Agence Congolaise de Presse ;
- LUSAKWENO Christian, Journaliste et DG de la Top Congo ;
- KADIMA Achille, Journaliste et DG d'Africa News ;
- KALENGAY Willy, Journaliste et DG de Géopolis Magazine ;
- ABDALLAH MAKANGA YVES, Journaliste ;
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