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Agenda item 6

Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bhutan

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments
and replies presented by the State under review

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



1. A total of 203 recommendations were received by Bhutan during the interactive dialogue held on 6 November 2024. The Royal Government of Bhutan has examined all recommendations made, in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 27 and 32 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 16 of annex to Council resolution 16/21.

2. The Royal Government of Bhutan has decided to accept **124** recommendations in full, partially accept **11** recommendations and takes note of **68** recommendations as follows:

(a) Accepted- 124 recommendations:

129.2, 129.19, 129.20, 129.21, 129.27, 129.28, 129.36, 129.38, 129.39, 129.41, 129.42, 129.43, 129.46, 129.47, 129.48, 129.57, 129.58, 129.65, 129.66, 129.67, 129.68, 129.69, 129.70, 129.71, 129.72, 129.73, 129.74, 129.75, 129.76, 129.77, 129.78, 129.79, 129.80, 129.81, 129.82, 129.83, 129.84, 129.85, 129.86, 129.87, 129.88, 129.89, 129.90, 129.91, 129.92, 129.93, 129.94, 129.97, 129.98, 129.99, 129.100, 129.101, 129.102, 129.103, 129.104, 129.105, 129.108, 129.109, 129.110, 129.111, 129.112, 129.113, 129.114, 129.115, 129.116, 129.117, 129.118, 129.119, 129.122, 129.123, 129.124, 129.125, 129.126, 129.127, 129.128, 129.129, 129.132, 129.133, 129.135, 129.136, 129.137, 129.139, 129.140, 129.141, 129.142, 129.143, 129.144, 129.145, 129.146, 129.147, 129.149, 129.150, 129.151, 129.152, 129.153, 129.154, 129.155, 129.157, 129.158, 129.159, 129.160, 129.169, 129.170, 129.171, 129.172, 129.173, 129.174, 129.175, 129.176, 129.177, 129.178, 129.179, 129.180, 129.181, 129.182, 129.183, 129.184, 129.185, 129.186, 129.187, 129.188, 129.189, 129.190, 129.196.

(b) Partially Accepted- 11 recommendations:

129.7, 129.8, 129.10, 129.18, 129.29: Accepted recommendation to ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as follows:

129.7.

Accepted: Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Noted: Ratify core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, most notably the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

129.8.

Accepted: Ratify the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Noted: Ratify the remaining core international human rights treaties, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

129.10

Accepted: Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Noted: Ratify human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

129.18

Accepted: Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Noted: Undertake reviews of prison conditions.

129.29.

Accepted: Ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Noted: Continue efforts to build a legal framework for the protection of human rights, by ratifying the main international conventions.

129.54.

Accepted: Foster a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations to organize freely.

Noted: To work on any issue they choose

The mandates and area of work of CSOs are established at the time of registration.

129.56.

Accepted: Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society. Ensure that adequate support and funding opportunities are made available to civil society.

Noted: including by lifting onerous restrictions to the registration and activities of civil society organizations under the amended Civil Society Organizations Act.

As clarified during the interactive dialogue, the Royal Government of Bhutan is dedicated to expanding the role of CSOs in the country and has in place clear simplified procedures for registration. The onerous restrictions refer mainly to the requirement for establishing an endowment fund that is intended to ensure long term sustainability. The proposal by CSOs to raise the required fund over a period of time has been accepted by the Royal Government.

129.130.

Accepted: Promote greater gender equality and participation of women in public life

Noted: including in decision-making and political processes as well as increase women's representation in civil service.

Bhutan remains committed to promotion of gender equality and participation of women in public life and will continue to pursue policies and initiatives that enable achievement of gender equality while adhering to meritocratic principles. Entry into the civil service and progression to leadership positions in Bhutan is on the basis of individual merit.

129.148.

Accepted: Support women's empowerment and gender inclusivity.

Noted: by increasing women's representation at all levels of public office.

Refer 129.130.

129.166.

Accepted: Take appropriate measures to ensure that the rights of children are respected. Improving conditions of access to education.

Noted: Including by prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment.

As existing laws and policies such as the Bhutan's Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan 2011, the Penal Code (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2021 and the School Discipline Policy, provide the required framework to prohibit corporal punishment, additional legislative measures will not be initiated at the moment.

129.191.

Accepted: Guarantee the necessary resources for the effective implementation of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

Noted: Ensure the secret and effective vote of persons with disabilities, with access to adapted forms under the same conditions as the rest of the population.

(c) Noted- 68 recommendations:

129.1, 129.3, 129.4, 129.5, 129.6, 129.9, 129.11, 129.12, 129.13, 129.14, 129.15, 129.16, 129.17, 129.22, 129.23, 129.24, 129.25, 129.26, 129.30, 129.31, 129.32, 129.33, 129.34, 129.35, 129.37, 129.40, 129.44, 129.45, 129.49, 129.50, 129.51, 129.52, 129.53, 129.55, 129.59, 129.60, 129.61, 129.62, 129.63, 129.64, 129.95, 129.96, 129.106, 129.107, 129.120, 129.121, 129.131, 129.134, 129.138, 129.156, 129.161, 129.162, 129.163, 129.164, 129.165, 129.167, 129.168, 129.192, 129.193, 129.194, 129.195, 129.197, 129.198, 129.199, 129.200, 129.201, 129.202, 129.203.
