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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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

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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-eighth session from 20 to 31 January 2025. The review of Bosnia and Herzegovina was held at the 15th meeting, on 29 January 2025. The delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was headed by the Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sevlid Hurtić. At its 17th meeting, held on 31 January 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Germany, Malawi and Republic of Korea.

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 Bosnia and Herzegovina:

(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, 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, 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that the national report for the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review had been prepared in accordance with Human Rights Council guidelines, with the involvement of representatives of relevant bodies at the State and entity levels and in the Brčko District. In addition, consultations with representatives of civil society had been held through the e-consultation system.

6. Within the framework of the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, information had been compiled on the progress that had been achieved within Bosnia and Herzegovina, primarily on the activities that had been carried out to implement recommendations.

7. Bosnia and Herzegovina was strongly committed to freedom of speech and freedom of access to information, as protected under article 10 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights), which was a part of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and which had priority in application over positive legal regulations. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina had adopted a document entitled “Mapping hate speech in Bosnia and Herzegovina: a situational analysis”.

8. The institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina was a central independent human rights institution, with a key role in discrimination prevention and the protection of human rights. Amendments to the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman

[1] A/HRC/WG.6/48/BIH/1.
[2] A/HRC/WG.6/48/BIH/2.
[3] A/HRC/WG.6/48/BIH/3.

had been adopted, ensuring the financial independence of the ombudsman institution and the adequate application of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

9. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees was a coordinating line ministry that had a mandate for reporting and following up on and monitoring human rights. Most of its reporting activities had been implemented in cooperation with other actors, including civil society organizations and international organizations.

10. Bosnia and Herzegovina had made plans to develop a midterm programme for combating discrimination. Extensive work had been carried out on the establishment of an information system for collecting data for the purpose of making more efficient the preparation of reports in the area of human rights.

11. Bosnia and Herzegovina had reached a certain level of preparedness for the implementation of European legal standards in key areas of human rights, although there were still challenges related to the harmonization of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and electoral legislation.

12. Amendments to the law on the prohibition of discrimination had improved the anti-discrimination framework. Some progress had also been achieved in the judiciary. The High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council had adopted a detailed action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the European Commission.

13. Particularly important had been amendments to criminal procedure law, which were in line with international standards, to increase the capacity of institutions to solve cases of serious organized crime, corruption and other challenges related to the rule of law. A certain level of preparedness had been reached in institutions in terms of combating corruption and organized crime.

14. Bosnia and Herzegovina had appointed a contact point for the “Journalists Matter” campaign of the Council of Europe.

15. Legislation on gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence, had been improved. A third action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security had been adopted, for the period 2018–2022.

16. The adoption of a law providing for free legal aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina had ensured that victims of domestic or gender-based violence received support.

17. Strategic documents such as the Gender Action Plan for 2018–2022, the action plan for Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the action plan for the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) had been implemented, alongside activities provided for in the previous gender action plan. The governments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska and the Brčko District had adopted and implemented numerous strategies and plans aimed at improving the rights of women and protecting vulnerable groups.

18. Progress had also been made with regard to the human rights of minorities, in particular through the adoption of the action plan for the social inclusion of Roma and Roma women (2021–2025) and the framework plan on the educational needs of Roma (2018–2022).

19. Regrettably, no new action plan for children had been adopted. However, in cooperation with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Council of Children of Bosnia and Herzegovina was involved in the process of adopting a new action plan for children.

20. Bosnia and Herzegovina was committed to improving environmental protection and sustainable development. The country’s strategy in that regard was focused on aligning environmental regulations with European Union standards, involving sectors such as water management, waste management, air quality, climate change, industrial pollution, chemicals, nature protection and environmental noise. The United Nations Development Programme had supported Bosnia and Herzegovina in preparing its fourth national communication on

climate change and its third biennial update report on greenhouse gas emissions in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

21. In addition, Bosnia and Herzegovina had submitted follow-up information to the Human Rights Council following the review of the country as part of the third cycle of the universal periodic review. Bosnia and Herzegovina fully supported the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and had begun activities to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Bosnia and Herzegovina also planned to develop a road map for the Sustainable Development Goals, with the active engagement of business, academia and civil society.

22. Bosnia and Herzegovina had adopted guidelines on business and human rights in 2022, which showed that it remained strongly committed to respecting and promoting human rights, as guaranteed by the international treaties that it had ratified, in its pursuit of a democratic society and European integration.

23. The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina had passed a law on the prevention of conflicts of interest and a law on the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

24. Despite the legacy of the wars of the 1990s, which had created unique difficulties, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had passed a new law in 2023, recognizing victims of sexual abuse and children conceived through wartime sexual violence as categories protected by law, offering them legal rights and subsidies. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina had also tackled inequality in disability funding by increasing financial support for persons with disabilities, war victims and veterans.

25. Labour law had been amended in 2024, giving students the right to work and earn income, which had previously not been possible. For the first time, direct financial support for mothers of newborns had been secured, and it had been stipulated that 20 per cent of the funds allocated to lower administrative units must be implemented for demographic measures.

26. Due to the war and its aftermath, several population groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular returnees, still faced challenges in securing full integration and access to public services. The government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed those challenges by providing additional support for returnees, including job opportunities in local administration and public companies, as well as legal assistance for their status and rights.

27. The Republika Srpska had made significant progress in combating corruption, trafficking in persons and discrimination. A strategy to combat corruption, including an action plan and a reporting channel, had been adopted, and a referral mechanism for trafficking in persons had been implemented. The abolition of the death penalty had represented a significant milestone, and efforts had been made to eliminate ethnic discrimination, in particular in relation to wartime crimes and the status of victims of wartime torture. In April 2023, the government of the Republika Srpska had adopted an action plan to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of children. It had also adopted an employment strategy and a youth strategy.

28. In the Brčko District, the assembly had taken steps to strengthen the protection of human rights, including civil rights. The law on peaceful assembly had been adopted, and a council of national minorities had been established. The Brčko District had enacted a law focused on preventing corruption and coordinating efforts to combat it. It had also passed a declaration, in 2019, to fight hate speech and had demonstrated a commitment to tightening criminal law provisions against hate-motivated crimes. The provision of legal support in the Brčko District had been enhanced through the creation of an office providing free legal aid to those in need.

29. The Brčko District youth strategy for the period 2022–2026 covered education, including the education of students with disabilities.

30. The commitment of the Brčko District to inclusivity was also evident in its handling of issues relating to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, with

several claims filed in the period 2020–2022, reflecting ongoing attention to that important area.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

31. During the interactive dialogue, 65 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

32. The Niger commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its cooperation with the United Nations system and its human rights mechanisms and noted with satisfaction the country's efforts in strengthening its own human rights legislative framework.

33. Norway welcomed the adoption of the action plan for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons but expressed some concerns.

34. Oman commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and their effective integration into society, in particular through employment initiatives implemented between 2021 and 2023 through the Fund for Professional Rehabilitation, Training and Employment.

35. Pakistan noted with appreciation the positive engagement of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the universal periodic review mechanism and its continued efforts to strengthen the institutional and legislative framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.

36. The Philippines welcomed the continuing efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina to harmonize domestic frameworks with international human rights obligations, as evidenced by its adoption of the Migration and Asylum Strategy, the fourth comprehensive strategy on gender equality and the General Protocol on Dealing with Domestic Violence Cases.

37. Portugal commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons and the adoption of the Strategy on Domestic Violence for the period 2020–2024.

38. Qatar commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts in implementing previous universal periodic review recommendations, expressed appreciation for its actions against corruption and trafficking in persons and welcomed its measures to enhance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

39. The Republic of Moldova appreciated the efforts made by Bosnia and Herzegovina to tackle hate speech, improve gender equality in the judiciary and protect victims of trafficking in persons. It commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the legislative amendments aimed at establishing the national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment and acknowledged its efforts to harmonize regulations with European Union legislation.

40. The Russian Federation expressed concern about the worsening human rights situation, asserting that foreign interference undermined self-governance and that the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, lacking United Nations legitimacy, imposed decisions unilaterally. The Russian Federation further stated that neocolonial control violated sovereignty and urged an end to external rule to restore democratic self-determination.

41. Senegal commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of the Strategy for Improving the Social Position of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It welcomed the actions taken to consolidate the legislative and institutional framework for combating social inequalities.

42. Slovakia took positive note of the efforts made to bring legislation closer into line with European standards, including those in the area of non-discrimination, but noted with regret that judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina had not been implemented, preventing members of minorities or constituent peoples from standing as candidates on an equal footing in electoral processes.

43. Slovenia commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of the fourth national Gender Action Plan for the period 2023–2027 and for the adoption, by the High Judicial and

Prosecutorial Council, of the Strategy for the Improvement of Gender Equality in the Judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

44. Spain welcomed the adoption of the Gender Action Plan for the period 2023–2027, the amendments to the Criminal Code harmonizing national legislation with the Istanbul Convention and the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGTBI Persons. It suggested that sufficient funding should be provided for their implementation.

45. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

46. Togo congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina on the presentation of its national report and on the progress made, in particular the Government's commitment to quality education at all levels.

47. Tunisia commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts to strengthen human rights and improve its legislative framework. It also welcomed the progress made in economic, social and cultural rights, along with advancements in health, education and social care, and legislation on gender equality, anti-discrimination and trafficking in persons.

48. Türkiye supported the efforts made to strengthen democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, it remained concerned about secessionist and divisive narratives in the country's domestic politics. Despite all such difficulties, Türkiye considered that Bosnia and Herzegovina had the potential to set a unique example of the peaceful coexistence of different ethnic and religious groups and would continue to support the country's efforts to that end.

49. Ukraine commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress made in the field of human rights, particularly the ratification of the Istanbul Convention, and its continued efforts to improve the rights of vulnerable groups. It also noted the progress made in implementing inclusive education and the emphasis on combating discrimination through national strategies.

50. The United Kingdom welcomed the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to human rights and its engagement with the universal periodic review process. It praised the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina had accepted the majority of the recommendations from 2018. However, urgent action was required to deliver meaningful progress in implementation. It encouraged the prioritization of reforms strengthening legislation and institutions to protect LGBT+ communities and victims of gender-based violence.

51. Uruguay welcomed the presentation of the national report of Bosnia and Herzegovina and praised the efforts made by the country.

52. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela took note of the progress made in promoting, protecting and ensuring the enjoyment of human rights and urged Bosnia and Herzegovina to intensify efforts in areas such as the elimination of discrimination in all its forms, housing and the right to education.

53. Viet Nam commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its continued commitment to human rights, including the progress made in combating discrimination, promoting gender equality and supporting vulnerable groups.

54. Armenia expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Bosnia and Herzegovina through the establishment of the Council for Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of strategies and action plans to improve the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Armenia attached particular importance to actions in the area of the harmonization of anti-discrimination legislation, the efforts made to address segregation in the education system and the measures taken to improve the situation of minority groups.

55. Australia acknowledged the introduction by Bosnia and Herzegovina of national action plans to promote and protect the rights of women, Roma and LGBTQIA+ persons but expressed concern at the decline of Bosnia and Herzegovina in global rankings relating to corruption and media and civil society freedoms.

56. Austria commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress achieved since the previous cycle, notably for the adoption of the 2023–2027 Gender Action Plan and the 2021–

2024 Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons. However, Austria noted with concern the shrinking space for civil society actors and that legislative action was needed to address discriminatory provisions.

57. Belgium welcomed the efforts made and positive steps taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina since the previous cycle of the universal periodic review but noted that, notwithstanding those efforts, there remained room for progress, in particular regarding gender-based violence, ethnic discrimination and LGBTQI+ rights.

58. Brazil acknowledged the progress made in combating gender-based violence, including the establishment of crisis centres for rape victims in Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo. It also commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the efforts made to improve health coverage. Brazil encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure that immigration detention was applied only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time.

59. Bulgaria encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue its efforts to strengthen its legislative, institutional and policy framework in the field of human rights protection. It noted positively the measures adopted to fight hate speech and welcomed the establishment of the Council for Persons with Disabilities.

60. Canada welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in the Republika Srpska and the establishment of focal points for hate crimes against LGBTQI+ persons in cantonal prosecutors' offices in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

61. Chile congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons, approved in 2022, and highlighted the adoption of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, aimed at guaranteeing an independent, impartial and professional judiciary.

62. China expressed appreciation for the country's progress in promoting and protecting human rights and noted its commitment to sustainable economic and social development, including fighting corruption, promoting gender equality, combating trafficking in persons, enhancing social protection and protecting the rights of groups, such as women, children and people with disabilities.

63. Colombia welcomed the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and wished the country success for the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review.

64. Costa Rica congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina for establishing the Council for Persons with Disabilities and mechanisms for cooperating with civil society.

65. Croatia noted the adoption of amendments to the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had provided for the establishment of a national preventive mechanism as part of the institution's mandate, but was concerned that the mechanism had not been fully operationalized.

66. The delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina noted that the country had made efforts to combat organized crime and corruption and strengthen the rule of law. In September 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina had adopted amendments to the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina had passed laws aimed at preventing conflicts of interest in State-level institutions and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

67. The new law on preventing conflicts of interest was designed to ensure that public duties were carried out without personal interference or private influence. The law was aimed at enhancing integrity, transparency and the public's trust in government institutions, in response to the need for judicial reforms.

68. In addition to those efforts, Bosnia and Herzegovina was working on a draft law concerning the confiscation of criminal assets, aimed at establishing a special procedure for asset seizures when criminal charges could not be pursued.

69. Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to address war crimes from the 1992–1995 conflict, revising its national war crime strategy and setting up a supervisory body. It had also signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, allowing the country to incorporate final convictions imposed by the

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina into its domestic criminal records.

70. Bosnia and Herzegovina remained committed to human rights protections within its prison system and took steps to implement recommendations from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The new law of Bosnia and Herzegovina on access to information further promoted transparency.

71. The communications regulatory agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina had acted to curb hate speech, imposing fines on and issuing warnings to broadcasters for violations. The regulatory agency for communications had been continuously conducting activities related to overseeing and implementing rules and regulations in the field of broadcasting, which prohibited content containing hate speech. New regulations had been adopted to increase accessibility for people with disabilities in the media, and a working group had been formed to draft laws on media ownership transparency.

72. On the topic of migration and refugee protection, Bosnia and Herzegovina had harmonized its legislative framework with European Union standards. The amendments to the law on aliens had brought the regulations of Bosnia and Herzegovina into line with European Union directives, ensuring better protection for migrants and refugees.

73. The Migration and Asylum Strategy for the period 2021–2025 was aimed at introducing a comprehensive approach, with clearly defined measures and activities. In line with the Strategy, the Council of Ministers had adopted a rulebook to set standards for the operation of reception centres, ensuring humane and lawful conditions for housing asylum-seekers and migrants.

74. According to the most recent update, four reception centres were operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a total capacity of 4,600 places. Those centres were specifically designed to accommodate vulnerable groups, including families, women and children.

75. Special attention was given to the rights of foreign children, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Unaccompanied minors were housed in centres designated for vulnerable individuals, with temporary guardians appointed to ensure their rights and welfare. The use of those centres for minors was considered a measure of last resort, to be taken for the shortest period necessary.

76. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees had increased its staff to focus on individual cases and maintain a presence in the field, ensuring direct contact with refugees.

77. In the education sector, Bosnia and Herzegovina ensured the right to education and equal access for all individuals, regardless of sex, race, religion, political opinion or national origin. The legal and strategic frameworks of Bosnia and Herzegovina promoted a tolerant, multi-ethnic environment in schools. The implementation of those frameworks was aimed at improving the position of socially vulnerable groups and fostering inclusive education policies.

78. In October 2019, the Council of Ministers had adopted recommendations for inclusive education, which had been made publicly available online. Bosnia and Herzegovina had also carried out several programmes and projects to enhance social inclusion for vulnerable groups and protect families, such as the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance project of 2020 focused on strengthening social, child protection and educational systems and another project aimed at enhancing the human potential of centres for social work.

79. In 2023, Bosnia and Herzegovina had launched a UNICEF programme focused on the transformation of childcare institutions and the prevention of family separation.

80. Regarding statelessness, Bosnia and Herzegovina had made efforts to address that issue through regular cooperation with various ministries and authorities. The Law on Citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina allowed stateless individuals or those with refugee status to acquire citizenship of Bosnia and Herzegovina if they had lived in the country for at least five years.

81. As highlighted by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, efforts had also been made by Bosnia and Herzegovina, in cooperation with international organizations, to prevent statelessness

and ensure that individuals had access to legal recognition and protection under the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

82. Cuba recognized the commitment made by Bosnia and Herzegovina to the universal periodic review mechanism. It took positive note of the establishment of the Council for Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of a national strategy to improve the social conditions of persons with disabilities.

83. Cyprus welcomed the adoption of numerous measures to promote and protect human rights, including the establishment of the Council for Persons with Disabilities, the adoption of the Gender Action Plan and amendments to the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman.

84. Czechia commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the ongoing process of harmonizing legislation with international human rights standards. It appreciated the continued determination of Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons and Roma communities.

85. Egypt commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress that it had made by establishing the Council for Persons with Disabilities and adopting a national strategy in that regard. Egypt welcomed amendments to the anti-discrimination law, the adoption of the Strategy for the Fight against Corruption, and efforts to promote minority rights.

86. Eritrea commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for adopting the Migration and Asylum Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2021–2025, which demonstrated its strong commitment to improving migration and asylum management. It also welcomed the adoption of the Development Strategy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2021–2027.

87. Estonia welcomed the improvements made to the legislative and institutional framework to enhance the protection of human rights. It was concerned about reported attempts to restrict freedom of expression and media freedom and about restrictions imposed on civil society.

88. Finland commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for adopting the Gender Action Plan and for its commitment to addressing gender-based violence. It noted with concern the deteriorating environment for civil society in the country.

89. France commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the establishment of a national torture prevention mechanism in 2023. It encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen the human rights system.

90. The Gambia commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts to strengthen the human rights framework, including the abolition of the death penalty.

91. Georgia commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the efforts made to implement the recommendations from the previous review. It welcomed the steps taken to strengthen the national human rights protection framework, including through the adoption of relevant legal and policy documents. Georgia took positive note of the measures taken to improve the quality of education and ensure equal access to education.

92. Germany welcomed the recent steps taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular the draft laws on reparation for civilian victims of the 1992–1995 war, including the recognition of the rights of children born as a result of conflict-related sexual violence. However, it noted the lack of implementation of legislation to protect the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups. Germany was particularly concerned that LGBTQ+ persons lacked legal protection and continued to face discrimination and violence and that journalists faced violence and other forms of pressure limiting their independence.

93. Iceland welcomed the delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and took positive note of the presentation its national report.

94. India acknowledged the initiatives undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina to protect and promote human rights and commended the country for the adoption of the Law on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest and the amendments to the Law on the Human Rights Ombudsman.

95. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the unwavering commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to improving the protection of human rights in the country. It acknowledged the progress made in several areas, including in strengthening the rule of law and combating hate speech, but noted that significant challenges remained.

96. The Islamic Republic of Iran took positive note of the significant steps taken by Bosnia and Herzegovina since its previous review and the country's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights.

97. Iraq welcomed the progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the area of legislative development to promote human rights and commended the country for its efforts to eliminate discrimination against minorities.

98. Ireland encouraged the establishment of a national preventive mechanism and expressed regret over challenges to civic space, including threats and intimidation against journalists and human rights defenders, in particular women.

99. Italy welcomed the amendments to the law on the prohibition of discrimination, the adoption of the law making possible the registration of migrant and asylum-seeking children and the decision to establish the Council for Persons with Disabilities, further strengthening the anti-discrimination framework.

100. Jordan commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts in implementing universal periodic review recommendations, including amending the anti-discrimination law in 2006 and 2023, updating the judicial information system and establishing the Council for Persons with Disabilities.

101. Lithuania commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its progress in the area of human rights, based on previous universal periodic review recommendations, including with regard to children's rights and the safety of journalists. It acknowledged the establishment of focal points for the safety of journalists and encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to take further measures in line with international standards.

102. Luxembourg thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts to implement the recommendations from the third cycle of the universal periodic review, including the inclusion of sexual orientation among the grounds of discrimination in the anti-discrimination law.

103. Malawi commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its progress on human rights since the previous review, including the adoption of the Law on Peaceful Assembly and guidelines to prevent workplace harassment and sexual harassment.

104. Malaysia recognized the progress of Bosnia and Herzegovina in promoting gender equality, combating trafficking in persons and improving education. It commended the country for its efforts to integrate all children into the education system and eliminate practices that could lead to segregation.

105. Maldives commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the legislative changes in support of gender equality, the action plan for combating domestic violence and the establishment of three crisis centres for rape victims in medical institutions, with trained staff.

106. Mauritania expressed appreciation for the Strategy for Cultural Development for the period 2023–2030 and the provision of funding for cultural creativity projects. It commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the cultural creativity festival, welcomed the national strategy to combat climate change and acknowledged the efforts made to align environmental laws with international agreements.

107. Mexico acknowledged the progress made with regard to protection against domestic violence and violence against women, as shown by draft laws and amendments to the Criminal Code.

108. Montenegro noted that the education system remained segregated, with most schools being monoethnic. It commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts to strengthen human rights institutions and welcomed the adoption of key legislation, updates to the Ombudsman's mandate and the judicial system, and the initiatives undertaken for inclusive education and combating discrimination.

109. Morocco commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for its efforts to strengthen its legal arsenal for promoting human rights, particularly through the adoption of strong legislative measures against discrimination.

110. Nepal noted the establishment of institutions and policies on gender equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion. It commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the adoption of the Environmental Protection Strategy to address climate change and appreciated its efforts to address unemployment and enhance social protection.

111. Sweden welcomed the abolition of the death penalty in the Republika Srpska and the establishment of a new mechanism for the prevention of torture. However, it noted that concerns remained regarding electoral rights, the right to freedom of expression, the ability of journalists and civil society to function efficiently and the lack of efforts to combat high-level corruption.

112. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended Bosnia and Herzegovina for the abolition of the death penalty within Bosnia and Herzegovina but noted that its Constitution remained discriminatory in character in terms of political rights.

113. The delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina thanked the Vice-President of the Human Rights Council and thanked States for their contributions and their knowledge of the situation in the country and its complexity.

114. The delegation was pleased to note that Bosnia and Herzegovina had a broad circle of friends around the world. The concerns that they had expressed were aimed at ensuring that Bosnia and Herzegovina remained among those States that promoted human rights and freedoms, holding itself to the highest democratic standards.

115. Bosnia and Herzegovina had a complex structure, as defined by its Constitution, but was committed to implementing recommendations and meeting its obligations and commitments under the international treaties that it had ratified or to which it had acceded.

116. Bosnia and Herzegovina had set up mechanisms, and they were working. It planned to continue its work with the support of other States. The recommendations made at the current session of the Human Rights Council had contributed to raising awareness about the need to uphold human rights as an integral element of the rule of law and a democratic society and further influence positive changes in creating accountability at all levels of government.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

117. **The following recommendations will be examined by Bosnia and Herzegovina, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the fifty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

117.1 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Gambia);**

117.2 **Continue efforts to finalize comprehensive legislation and an integrated strategy to combat cybercrime (Iraq);**

117.3 **Adopt a comprehensive policy framework on transitional justice to address the legacy of the past, foster reconciliation, and promote inclusivity and understanding (Slovakia);**

117.4 **Continue social dialogue and transitional justice efforts that contribute to creating a culture of peace and violence prevention (Costa Rica);**

117.5 **Ensure the full implementation of the rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina (France);**

117.6 **Continue concrete measures aimed at fully implementing the judgments of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Court of Human Rights (Republic of Moldova);**

117.7 **Undertake constitutional and electoral reforms in line with the *Sejdić and Finci* judgment and related case law of the European Court of Human Rights (Czechia);**

117.8 **Adopt further changes to electoral processes to bring them closer to international standards and implement rulings of the European Court of Human Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

117.9 **Revise, on the basis of inclusive consultations, the Constitution and the electoral law, in accordance with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina, so as to ensure the equality of all citizens in the exercise of their political rights (Switzerland);**

117.10 **Engage in a meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders to implement reforms to ensure the equality of all citizens in exercising their electoral rights, in accordance with the associated European Court of Human Rights judgments (Sweden);**

117.11 **Undertake necessary revisions of the Constitution and the Election Law, inter alia, by removing discriminatory provisions and by implementing judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, notably the *Sejdić and Finci* judgment (Austria);**

117.12 **Ensure free and fair elections by providing sufficient and timely financing and implementation of measures improving their integrity (Norway);**

117.13 **Strengthen the independence, resources and effectiveness of the institution of the Human Rights Ombudsman, enabling it to fulfil its mandate and have its recommendations systematically implemented by the authorities, especially in addressing the concerns of marginalized groups (Armenia);**

117.14 **Strengthen the independence of the Human Rights Ombudsman through impartiality in selection and appointment, and increase the financial autonomy of the institution (Chile);**

117.15 **Ensure the impartiality of the selection and appointment of the Ombudsman, the financial autonomy of the office and systematic and timely enforcement of its recommendations (Czechia);**

117.16 **Create a national mechanism to follow up on recommendations from the universal human rights system that includes ongoing consultation with civil society (Uruguay);**

117.17 **Further bolster the implementation of the legislation prohibiting discrimination (Philippines);**

117.18 **Take measures to combat discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation or disability (France);**

117.19 **Implement fully national action plans to address inequalities faced by women, Roma and LGBTQIA+ persons (Australia);**

117.20 **Continue the efforts already initiated to harmonize the legal framework relating to the prohibition of racial discrimination (Senegal);**

117.21 **Intensify efforts to harmonize the national legal framework on racial discrimination with international standards, in order to ensure that all persons enjoy the same level of protection and enjoyment of rights, regardless of their ethnic origin, place of residence and other factors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

117.22 **Ensure the harmonization of the legal framework prohibiting racial discrimination at the State and entity levels by including all prohibited grounds for racial discrimination and addressing discrimination in access to sustainable formal employment, particularly for Roma and persons with disabilities (Brazil);**

117.23 **Intensify efforts to harmonize the legal framework against racial discrimination in order to ensure that all persons enjoy the same level of protection and enjoyment of rights (Colombia);**

117.24 **Take the necessary steps to prevent hate crimes committed against returnees, religious institutions and cemeteries throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina (Türkiye);**

117.25 **Ensure that the judiciary and law enforcement agencies systematically, swiftly and adequately respond to incidents of discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech on all grounds, in accordance with international human rights standards (Montenegro);**

117.26 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and address discrimination and hate speech in all their forms by enforcing comprehensive legislation that explicitly prohibits hate speech and aligns with international human rights standards (Indonesia);**

117.27 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and hate speech (Tunisia);**

117.28 **Continue efforts to combat intolerance, hate speech and all forms of discrimination (Egypt);**

117.29 **Continue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, inequality and violence (Bulgaria);**

117.30 **Prevent and address discrimination and hate speech on all grounds, at all levels of governance and across the public sector, with special attention to an inclusion-oriented reform of the education system, including the abolishment of the so called "two schools under one roof" phenomenon, and strengthen anti-discrimination laws with regard to intersectional discrimination, while supporting the participation and representation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in political and public life (Czechia);**

117.31 **Implement measures to end ethnic discrimination within political and societal structures (Germany);**

117.32 **Amend without further delay the Constitution so as to eliminate discrimination based on belonging to an ethnic group in public political life and in terms of access to employment in the public sector, in accordance with the relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (Belgium);**

117.33 **Ensure the right to equality and non-discrimination for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular through the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights decision in the *Sejdić and Finci* case and other related rulings (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

117.34 **Take all necessary measures to foster intercultural dialogue, tolerance, and understanding among communities, to promote reconciliation and to protect vulnerable groups, by avoiding divisive rhetoric, removing discriminatory laws, and implementing European Court of Human Rights judgments (Italy);**

117.35 **Prevent practices that exclude, stigmatize, or discriminate against minority students and their communities (Senegal);**

117.36 **Continue efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination in education, ensuring equal access and opportunities for all (India);**

117.37 **Strengthen efforts for the search for and identification of missing persons without discrimination, while ensuring complete access to information for the families (Republic of Moldova);**

117.38 **Expedite the search for and identification of missing persons, based on objective and transparent criteria, and regardless of the circumstances in which the victims disappeared (Colombia);**

117.39 **Accelerate the operationalization of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture based on the amendments adopted in 2023, and in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Costa Rica);**

117.40 **Provide the necessary human and financial resources to the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment (Morocco);**

117.41 **Pursue efforts to adopt the Strategy for the Fight against Corruption and its Action Plan (Morocco);**

117.42 **Strengthen the national strategy for fighting against corruption to reduce such acts (Cuba);**

117.43 **Establish a harmonized legal framework, concerning both preventive measures and law enforcement, on the fight against corruption (Sweden);**

117.44 **Adopt or amend legislation at the federal level to provide for judicial protection for individuals reporting corruption (Slovenia);**

117.45 **Ensure that access to justice is guaranteed to every citizen, and further strengthen the independence and efficiency of the judiciary and the implementation of anti-corruption policies (Italy);**

117.46 **Repeal legal provisions that allow the granting of pardons or amnesties for international crimes (Colombia);**

117.47 **Ensure the implementation of laws regarding protection for victims of war and combat hate speech, negationism, revisionism and the glorification of war criminals (France);**

117.48 **Fully implement its laws and regulations against the glorification of war criminals and genocide perpetrators (Türkiye);**

117.49 **Address the genocide legacy by countering the manipulation of past grievances, denial of past atrocity crimes and glorification of convicted war criminals, by establishing a State-level reparation system for all victims of war, and by supporting social ties between ethnic groups (Czechia);**

117.50 **Renew efforts to deal with the past by prioritizing justice and reconciliation through a victim-centred approach, including through the acceleration of the prosecution of war crimes, the establishment of a comprehensive State-level reparation system, and the implementation of criminal law provisions related to genocide and war crimes denial (Austria);**

117.51 **Complete prosecutions for war crimes and establish a system of reparations accessible to all victims, alongside reconciliation efforts (Luxembourg);**

117.52 **Establish a comprehensive State-level reparation system easily accessible to all victims of war without any discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

117.53 **Strengthen the enforcement of international and European standards in the prosecution of war crimes, while ensuring the independence of the judiciary (Croatia);**

117.54 **Ensure financial, material and human resources for the judiciary in order to facilitate effective, timely and adequate investigations and prosecutions in cases of war crimes (Chile);**

117.55 **Strengthen access to, as well as the impartiality and independence of, the justice system, particularly with regard to hate and war crimes, and corruption (Luxembourg);**

117.56 **Implement the August 2019 decision of the Committee against Torture to ensure access to rights and services for survivors of sexual violence in conflicts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

117.57 **Adopt, in consultation with civil society, including victims' associations, a comprehensive, human rights- and victim-centred approach to the search for truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-repetition (Colombia);**

117.58 **Abandon restrictive laws and measures targeting civil society, such as the criminalization of defamation and "foreign agent" legislation (Norway);**

117.59 **Enhance the protection of civil society actors, journalists and human rights defenders and uphold their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly and participation (Czechia);**

117.60 **Take all necessary measures to protect and promote civic space, online and offline, and ensure a safe and enabling environment free from political pressure, threats and intimidation for journalists, activists, human rights defenders and civil society (Estonia);**

117.61 **Respect the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, and whistle-blowers from intimidation, harassment and attacks (Norway);**

117.62 **Repeal amendments to the Republika Srpska Criminal Code that criminalize defamation and adopt measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for independent journalists and human rights defenders (Portugal);**

117.63 **Take measures to ensure in all circumstances respect for freedom of expression and press freedom and to combat acts of intimidation or pressure exerted upon journalists (France);**

117.64 **Respect European standards regarding freedom of assembly and association and ensuring a favourable environment for civil society (France);**

117.65 **Guarantee freedom of association and peaceful assembly, including by ensuring that legislation does not impose discriminatory regulatory requirements and excessive administrative obligations on media and civil society organizations (Switzerland);**

117.66 **Guarantee freedom of the press by strengthening the protection of journalists against violence, harassment and the misuse of defamation lawsuits, while ensuring effective and impartial investigations into these offences (Switzerland);**

117.67 **Establish mechanisms to ensure the prompt and systematic investigation of intimidation and threats against human rights defenders, and develop legislation to strengthen their protection (Spain);**

117.68 **Establish mechanisms to strengthen the protection of human rights defenders and journalists (Uruguay);**

117.69 **Set up mechanisms to strengthen the protection of women, journalists and human rights defenders from violence and intimidation, including through financial support (Austria);**

117.70 **Improve enforcement of legal protections for media freedom by investigating and prosecuting any attacks or other criminal acts against journalists (Canada);**

117.71 **Adopt comprehensive legislation to protect journalists and ensure accountability for any acts of intimidation or violence against media workers, both offline and online (Germany);**

117.72 **Align laws protecting freedom of expression with international standards (Estonia);**

117.73 **Refrain from imposing "foreign agent"-style legislation and other measures that will hinder or obstruct the work of independent civil society organizations, activists and media (Lithuania);**

117.74 **Ensure an enabling environment for civil society, including through an inclusive policy dialogue, and transparent funding (Finland);**

117.75 **Create more inclusive platforms for civic engagement, with a focus on youth, to strengthen democratic processes, ensure that their voices shape the country's future, and help to counter the rising trend of emigration (Slovakia);**

117.76 **Take effective measures to protect media freedom and guarantee the independence of media organizations and the safety of journalists, in particular by adopting a law on transparency of media ownership in line with international human rights standards (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

117.77 **Bring national legislation into line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly in relation to the rights to freedom of assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression, to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society, human rights defenders and journalists (Ireland);**

117.78 **Repeal legislation, including the new law on defamation, that restricts the right to freedom of expression and assembly for civil society, journalists and human rights defenders (Sweden);**

117.79 **Provide protection and support to the family as the natural and basic unit of society (Egypt);**

117.80 **Work on adopting the draft proposal for the strategy to combat human trafficking (Jordan);**

117.81 **Continue efforts to adopt the strategy for combating human trafficking (Malaysia);**

117.82 **Adopt the proposed national strategy to combat human trafficking and ensure its implementation (Gambia);**

117.83 **Further strengthen its efforts in capacity-building to detect and investigate the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings (India);**

117.84 **Implement further action to combat trafficking in persons, particularly children and women (Italy);**

117.85 **Continue improving economic and social conditions for vulnerable groups, ensuring their full access to essential services (Ukraine);**

117.86 **Continue efforts aimed at reducing poverty (Mauritania);**

117.87 **Increase investment in education, health and other public sectors to better protect the people's right to life and development (China);**

117.88 **Continue to take measures to enhance access to housing, education and healthcare for families, particularly those with multiple children (Pakistan);**

117.89 **Redouble efforts to provide affordable and adequate housing, especially for disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

117.90 **Intensify efforts to provide affordable and adequate housing, especially to disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups (Maldives);**

117.91 **Continue efforts to improve the housing sector with the aim of providing adequate housing (Iraq);**

117.92 **Continue to strengthen the capabilities of the healthcare system and develop medical infrastructure throughout the country (Oman);**

117.93 **Continue its work on enhancing access to healthcare and social protection services, including through the effective implementation of the Development Strategy for 2021–2027 (Georgia);**

117.94 **Take additional measures to ensure equitable access to healthcare, including immunization services, for all communities, with particular attention to accessibility, non-discriminatory practices, and cultural considerations (Eritrea);**

117.95 **Ensure access to quality universal healthcare for all, including immunization, and particularly access to health services for persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

117.96 **Ensure access to quality universal physical and mental health services, particularly for persons with psychosocial disabilities (Portugal);**

117.97 **Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services for all at all levels of governance (Estonia);**

117.98 **Ensure safe and legal access to abortion services across the country (Iceland);**

117.99 **Continue to improve and support special health programmes (Mauritania);**

117.100 **Scale up measures to ensure access to quality education for all (Nepal);**

117.101 **Continue efforts in improving the inclusivity of education (Republic of Moldova);**

117.102 **Continue to ensure adequate resources for the effective implementation of the 2020 Policy Recommendations with a Road Map for Improving Inclusive Education, with a particular focus on Roma children, children with disabilities, and other children from disadvantaged groups (Philippines);**

117.103 **Adopt measures to strengthen the inclusiveness of the education system, by facilitating access to education for Roma and migrant children as well as children with disabilities (Italy);**

117.104 **Take further steps to end segregation and discrimination in education, by ensuring access to quality education for children from all ethnic backgrounds, including Roma children and those with disabilities (Indonesia);**

117.105 **Strengthen access to quality education at all levels, especially for children with disabilities, Roma, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, and prevent school dropout (Niger);**

117.106 **Continue to strengthen educational measures dedicated to children and enhancing their social inclusion (Oman);**

117.107 **Increase efforts to end all forms of discrimination and segregation in education (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

117.108 **End divided education systems (Slovakia);**

117.109 **Provide access to education while respecting the right to education in the mother tongue and respecting constitutional competences regarding education, in a tolerant and inclusive education system (Croatia);**

117.110 **Continue efforts to achieve inclusive and equitable education, with a focus on cultural and linguistic diversity in curricula and ensuring access to a discrimination-free school environment (Qatar);**

117.111 **Continue to improve the educational system at all levels (Cuba);**

117.112 **Incorporate mandatory comprehensive sexuality education into public school curricula (Estonia);**

117.113 **Ensure the provision of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school settings (Iceland);**

117.114 **Continue efforts aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to its repercussions (Oman);**

117.115 **Strengthen environmental protection initiatives by implementing measures under the Environmental Protection Strategy to reduce the impacts of climate change on local communities (Viet Nam);**

117.116 **Promote and respect the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by reducing air pollution levels in cities, regularly informing citizens about air quality, and preparing action plans and enforcing air quality standards (Costa Rica);**

117.117 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, so as to provide a solid foundation for the better enjoyment of human rights by the people (China);**

117.118 **Guarantee access to drinking water for all and strengthen waste management systems (Togo);**

117.119 **Increase the employability of women through adequate labour market policies, improved parental leave schemes and concrete measures to close the gender wage gap (Portugal);**

117.120 **Increase the employability of women through comprehensive labour market policies, targeted training programmes, and the development of accessible, quality social and healthcare services (India);**

117.121 **Increase the employability of women through adequate labour market policies, training and the development of accessible, quality social and healthcare services (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

117.122 **Improve the employability of women through the adoption of appropriate labour market policies, the use of training and the provision of accessible and quality social and healthcare services (Togo);**

117.123 **Enhance women's employability through effective labour market policies while addressing the gender wage gap (Ukraine);**

117.124 **Take measures to close the gender gap, including by encouraging women's employment (Republic of Moldova);**

117.125 **Promote gender equality in the workforce by formulating and implementing national strategies aimed at closing the gender pay gap and increasing women's participation (Indonesia);**

117.126 **Further strengthen measures for the economic empowerment of women, including through support for women entrepreneurs and enhanced access to education and skills development (Pakistan);**

117.127 **Strengthen campaigns for women's political participation and encourage parties to prioritize gender parity (Cyprus);**

117.128 **Further promote women's participation in the economic and political spheres by ensuring equal leadership opportunities and expanding training and support initiatives, among other measures (Philippines);**

117.129 **Continue with efforts to increase female representation in the legislative and executive arms of government and in local self-government units (Malawi);**

117.130 **Take concrete steps to ensure stronger participation of women in executive positions (Slovenia);**

117.131 **Implement targeted measures to increase women's representation in leadership roles across all sectors (Malaysia);**

117.132 **Take all necessary measures, including at the legislative level, to sustain public policies with a human rights-based approach in favour of equality between women and men, and that effectively combat gender-based violence, discrimination and gender stereotypes (Costa Rica);**

117.133 **Allocate adequate resources for the implementation of the Strategy for the Improvement of Gender Equality in the Judiciary (Morocco);**

117.134 **Strengthen women's rights and combat domestic violence by ensuring full alignment with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Norway);**

117.135 **Ensure that domestic legislation is in conformity with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Estonia);**

117.136 **Harmonize and strengthen laws across both entities and at the State level to ensure uniform, effective protection against gender-based violence, aligned with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Germany);**

117.137 **Fully align criminal codes and laws against domestic violence and violence against women with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) across the country (Cyprus);**

117.138 **Harmonize all criminal legislation with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) to comprehensively address all forms of gender-based violence (Iceland);**

117.139 **Bring legislation and national policies on gender-based violence into line with international obligations under the Istanbul Convention (Switzerland);**

117.140 **Harmonize, across all levels of government, criminal legislation with the Istanbul Convention and develop a new action plan on women and peace and security (Spain);**

117.141 **Fully harmonize laws and policies on gender-based violence, including domestic violence (Armenia);**

117.142 **Strengthen the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) to ensure comprehensive measures to combat violence against women and domestic violence (Ukraine);**

117.143 **Ensure that the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) is fully implemented across the country (Ireland);**

117.144 **Introduce stricter sanctions for perpetrators of domestic violence and improve support services for victim-survivors of domestic violence (Australia);**

117.145 **Continue its efforts to strengthen laws, policies, and measures to sanction violence against women, and ensure comprehensive support and protection for survivors of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as recommended by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) (Belgium);**

117.146 **Continue to develop government policies and programmes to prevent and fight against domestic violence and violence against women (Cuba);**

117.147 **Harmonize and fully implement the laws related to wartime victims of rape and sexual violence, including by accelerating the prosecution of crimes of**

sexual violence and ensuring the rights of victims and adequate reparations (Finland);

117.148 **Proceed with measures aimed at combating and preventing gender-based and domestic violence (Georgia);**

117.149 **Strengthen and expand access to adequately funded support services for gender-based violence survivors (Iceland);**

117.150 **Advance the fight against sexual and gender-based violence and provide reparations to all survivors, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation (Luxembourg);**

117.151 **Classify femicide as a specific crime and harmonize national legislation, including laws at the entity and canton levels, with 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 (Istanbul Convention) (Mexico);**

117.152 **Continue working on strengthening measures to prevent and combat domestic violence and violence against women (Jordan);**

117.153 **Step up efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls (Nepal);**

117.154 **Harmonize laws and policies related to gender-based violence with international standards, strengthening access to justice and prevention measures, and taking specific measures to ensure the protection of Roma women (Chile);**

117.155 **Advance the prevention of violence against children, including sexual abuse, early marriage and corporal punishment, and ensure justice for children (Luxembourg);**

117.156 **Increase efforts to stop all forms of violence against children, such as child marriage, corporal punishment and sexual abuse (Maldives);**

117.157 **Take measures to prohibit all forms of violence against children, including sexual abuse, child marriage and corporal punishment (Cyprus);**

117.158 **Strengthen measures for the protection of children, the rights of the child, and the prevention of violence against minors (Cuba);**

117.159 **Strengthen efforts to develop the Children's Action Plan for the period 2025–2029, with a focus on preventing violence against children and providing social support for child victims and their families (Qatar);**

117.160 **Continue efforts to promote children's rights and protect them from violence, neglect and exploitation (Tunisia);**

117.161 **Continue strengthening child protection services, ensuring an effective response to acts of violence against children (Lithuania);**

117.162 **Adopt legislative measures to prohibit the corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the family (Costa Rica);**

117.163 **Consider adopting and implementing a comprehensive national strategy for children's rights (Malawi);**

117.164 **Adopt concrete measures to protect the right of persons with disabilities to information and inclusive participation in political, economic and cultural life, and develop a deinstitutionalization strategy to advance their inclusion (Spain);**

117.165 **Take further measures to guarantee the meaningful inclusive participation of persons with disabilities in political, economic and cultural life (Bulgaria);**

117.166 **Take concrete measures to ensure access to information and meaningful inclusive participation of persons with disabilities in political, economic and cultural life (Cyprus);**

117.167 **Continue efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (Tunisia);**

117.168 **Continue efforts to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities (Nepal);**

117.169 **Strengthen the capacity of public officials to effectively implement laws and policies relating to people with disabilities (Australia);**

117.170 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including through financial support and by developing an action plan, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and with the participation of persons with disabilities (Austria);**

117.171 **Strengthen efforts aimed at protecting persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities, through the effective implementation of the relevant strategy (Egypt);**

117.172 **Take further steps to ensure equal treatment of persons with disabilities, including in access to justice, education, healthcare, employment and social assistance, through dedicated budgetary measures (Finland);**

117.173 **Reinforce measures to ensure the special needs of persons with disabilities, to provide better access to education, healthcare, employment and information (Lithuania);**

117.174 **Incorporate a comprehensive, rights-based approach into disability provisions, including a definition of disability harmonized with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as reasonable accommodation in all areas of life, ensuring that health services are tailored to the specific needs of women and girls (Mexico);**

117.175 **Adopt constitutional and electoral reforms to align with European Court of Human Rights and Constitutional Court judgments, ensuring political equality and non-discrimination for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly addressing the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and constituent peoples and their equal access to public office and full democratic participation (Slovakia);**

117.176 **Amend the Election Law in accordance with the relevant ruling of the Constitutional Court to ensure full equality of the constituent peoples and the rights of all citizens, and ensure the principle of legitimate political representation at all levels of government (Croatia);**

117.177 **Promote reforms to the Election Law that guarantee full equality of constituent peoples and other national minorities at all levels (Chile);**

117.178 **Increase efforts to combat discrimination based on ethnicity, including and in particular against ethnic minorities such as Roma, by strengthening the capacities of the judiciary and legal professionals to interpret and apply the Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination, and increase awareness-raising activities (Belgium);**

117.179 **Intensify efforts to promote social inclusion by developing programmes that support the integration of minority groups into education, employment and healthcare systems, ensuring equal opportunities for all (Viet Nam);**

117.180 **Combat ethnic divisions, including by condemning political rhetoric that accentuates them (Canada);**

117.181 **Fully implement the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons (Uruguay);**

117.182 **Fully implement the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons (Ireland);**

117.183 **Fully implement the Gender Action Plan and the Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons, including by allocating sufficient funding and establishing robust monitoring mechanisms (Austria);**

117.184 **Further improve legislation and make operational the national protective mechanisms for better protection and inclusion of the LGBT+ community (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

117.185 **Take further steps to implement the plan of action for the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Brazil);**

117.186 **Protect the rights of LGBT+ persons, including from hate crimes, by fully implementing the 2021–2024 Action Plan for the Promotion of the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of LGBTI Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina and recognizing same-sex marriage (Norway);**

117.187 **Legalize same-sex marriage and amend family law provisions to guarantee equal rights for all couples (Iceland);**

117.188 **Legalize same-sex unions (Estonia);**

117.189 **Guarantee the enjoyment of economic and social rights by same-sex couples in order to avoid any discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Spain);**

117.190 **Increase training for the judiciary, police and prosecutors on hate crimes against LGBTQI+ people, including incitement to hatred and violence (Canada);**

117.191 **Introduce a transparent administrative self-identification process for legal gender recognition free from intrusive requirements (Iceland);**

117.192 **Ensure the humane and lawful treatment of migrants and refugees, with special attention to ending the immigration detention of children and improving conditions in border areas (Gambia);**

117.193 **Strengthen and improve mechanisms for identification, protection and assistance to migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, including by training officials on identifying possible cases of human trafficking, adopting a rights-based approach, focused on victims, and guaranteeing the best interests of children (Mexico);**

117.194 **Make further efforts to address the remaining gaps in the implementation of best interest determination procedures (Eritrea);**

117.195 **Ensure that applicants for refugee status are able to register a claim, and that those who qualify are granted refugee status allowing them to gain access to travel documents, family reunification and local integration pathways (Uruguay);**

117.196 **Expedite the closure of the remaining collective centres and the provision of adequate housing to returnees and internally displaced persons (Montenegro).**

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

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was headed by H.E Sevlid HURTIĆ, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and composed of the following members:

- Jasmin Handžić, Head of Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Rejhana Dervišević, Member of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Joint Committee on Human Rights of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Aida Kreho-Vrhovčić, Secretary, Joint Commission for Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Kemo Sarač, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Željka Marković-Sekulić, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees;
- Vanja Vujadin, Expert Advisor, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Amina Malićbegović, Expert Advisor, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Nina Šantić, Head of the Department, Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Darko Vidović, Minister-Counselor, Head of the Human Rights Department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Danijela Babić, Minister-Counselor, Human Rights Department at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Ljiljana Jurak, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Dino Borovina, Expert Advisor, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Nerin Dizdar, Minister, Federal Ministry of Displaced Persons and Refugees;
- Azra Maslo, Head of Sector, Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Miroslav Geljić, Head of Department, Department for European Integration and International Cooperation of the BD Government;
- Nataša Slagalo, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Aleksandra Jošilo, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Novak Vukajlović, Chief of Cabinet of the Minister, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Bojan Vujić, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Lucija Ljubić, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.