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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Lao People's Democratic Republic

* 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-ninth session from 28 April to 9 May 2025. The review of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was held at the 4th meeting, on 29 April 2025. The delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on Human Rights, Thongphane Savanphet. At its 10th meeting, held on 2 May 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Lao People's Democratic Republic: Burundi, Chile and the Marshall Islands.

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 Lao People's Democratic Republic:

(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, on behalf of the 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, Panama, on behalf of the members of the core group of sponsors of the resolution on the open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the rights to early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education (Armenia, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Romania and Sierra Leone), Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to the Lao People's Democratic Republic 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 noted that 2025 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the final year of the ninth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, with preparations under way for the tenth such plan for 2026 to 2030. It recalled the historical denial of rights under foreign rule and emphasized that, since 1975, the Lao people had regained control over their nation, with progress made in advancing human rights, peace and development. The delegation emphasized that the concepts of human rights, peace and development were interconnected and reinforced one another, and noted achievements in improving living standards and realizing fundamental freedoms in line with the Constitution and international obligations.

6. The delegation stressed that significant progress had been made in the Government's efforts towards graduation from least developed country status, along with raising people's

[1] A/HRC/WG.6/49/LAO/1.
[2] A/HRC/WG.6/49/LAO/2.
[3] A/HRC/WG.6/49/LAO/3.

living standards, and guaranteeing fundamental freedoms in accordance with the Constitution and the laws and international obligations of the country.

7. In the third cycle of the universal periodic review, the Lao People's Democratic Republic had supported 160 out of 226 recommendations and had developed a national plan of action for their implementation – which served as a reference for assigning responsibilities to relevant government ministries and agencies. A series of consultations with central and local authorities, educational and research institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders had been conducted in the process of preparing the national report for the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review.

8. The amendment of the country's Constitution in 2025 had been a milestone in the political life of the country, enhancing people's democracy, the rule of law and national ownership. The delegation stated that 73 laws had been adopted and amended, and highlighted the amendment of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children, which prohibited all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment in all circumstances.

9. The State had adopted two national agendas to handle drugs issues and economic and financial difficulties, as well as national strategies and action plans to reduce child and maternal mortality, and had set a target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, and tackled other pressing issues.

10. On international and regional cooperation, the State had made an effort to fulfil its reporting obligations, including by providing reports to human rights treaty bodies, responding to the list of issues and participating in interactive dialogues. With regard to cooperation with the Human Rights Council, the delegation stated that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had visited the Lao People's Democratic Republic and had conducted meetings with the country's high-level officials. The State also attached importance to cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and had cooperated constructively with the Working Group on Situations.

11. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the rules-based international order, the promotion of multilateralism and the denouncement of unilateral acts inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with international law. It was also stressed that national conditions and circumstances played an important role in the effective implementation of international human rights obligations and commitments, including the universal periodic review recommendations.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 90 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

13. Spain congratulated the Lao People's Democratic Republic on adopting its national plan to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

14. Sri Lanka noted positively actions taken to improve good governance and public administration by advancing digital systems and enhancing transparency.

15. Switzerland made recommendations.

16. Thailand commended the Lao People's Democratic Republic on its efforts to improve maternal, child and reproductive health.

17. Timor-Leste welcomed the National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water Management, and noted the progress made in promoting women's leadership.

18. Togo welcomed actions taken to improve justice for all and to strengthen the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups.

19. Türkiye welcomed progress in socioeconomic development, governance, and poverty reduction, and praised efforts to promote children's rights, expand access to healthcare, and integrate the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. Ukraine acknowledged efforts made but remained concerned about ongoing reports of restrictions on freedom of expression, arbitrary detentions, and shortcomings in fair trial guarantees.

21. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the engagement of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with United Nations human rights mechanisms, while expressing concerns about restrictions on freedoms, limited land rights and human trafficking.

22. Uruguay thanked the delegation for its national report and welcomed the efforts made to protect human rights.

23. Uzbekistan welcomed the strategies on disaster risk reduction and youth development, and the legislative amendment prohibiting all forms of violence against children.

24. Vanuatu welcomed the disaster risk reduction strategy, and the adoption of laws for the protection of women's and children's rights.

25. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the adoption of 73 human rights-related laws, and national plans on reproductive health, education and gender equality.

26. Viet Nam highlighted the continued commitment to sustainable development and human rights through legislative reforms, strategic planning and regional cooperation.

27. Zimbabwe recognized efforts made since the last review, including enacting legislation and strengthening institutions and mechanisms to safeguard human rights.

28. Argentina commended the acceptance of 160 out of 226 recommendations during the third cycle and the ratification of key anti-trafficking treaties.

29. Armenia commended efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional human rights framework and the Government's commitment to advancing gender equality.

30. Australia noted increased engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and the adoption of 82 laws to align with international obligations.

31. Azerbaijan highlighted the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the ninth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, along with progress in poverty reduction and health service expansion.

32. Bangladesh appreciated efforts to strengthen judicial independence and improve access to healthcare and quality education.

33. Belarus noted progress in developing the national system for protecting human rights, despite challenges from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), economic pressures, and natural disasters.

34. Belgium commended government initiatives in social protection, awareness-raising on human trafficking, and the promotion of women's leadership.

35. Bhutan acknowledged legal measures to promote human rights, noted progress in poverty reduction and living standards, and commended efforts towards economic integration and graduation from least developed country status.

36. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the development of plans and strategies promoting and protecting human rights for vulnerable people.

37. Brazil commended the legal prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings and progress in maternal and child health. It encouraged the Lao People's Democratic Republic to establish poverty reduction initiatives for vulnerable populations.

38. Brunei Darussalam commended the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the National Socioeconomic Development Plan and efforts towards graduation from least developed country status.

39. Bulgaria acknowledged the better environment for civil society organizations, and encouraged the Lao People's Democratic Republic to implement the Penal Code and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children.

40. Burundi welcomed measures taken against human trafficking, the Poverty Reduction Fund, and laws protecting women and punishing violence against women.

41. Cambodia welcomed reforms in the areas of good governance and socioeconomic development.

42. Canada commended the country's engagement with United Nations mechanisms.

43. Chile welcomed the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children, prohibiting corporal punishment of children.

44. China commended progress regarding natural disasters, economic growth, food production, the rule of law, digital public services, vulnerable groups and human trafficking.

45. Colombia made recommendations.

46. Costa Rica appreciated the implementation of the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking 2021–2025.

47. Côte d'Ivoire commended progress regarding persons with disabilities, education and health, encouraging further efforts to eradicate child marriage and violence against women.

48. Cuba welcomed the adoption of national plans, laws and other measures on human rights and the positive evolution of the economy.

49. Cyprus noted challenges regarding gender equality, discrimination and marginalized groups, requesting the Lao People's Democratic Republic to address domestic violence and support victims, including those at risk of trafficking.

50. Czechia commended efforts made to combat human trafficking.

51. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the five-year National Socioeconomic Development Plan and other national strategies enhancing the people's well-being.

52. Denmark was concerned about the regression of civil liberties and civic space.

53. Egypt noted the efforts to promote and protect human rights, including the ninth National Socioeconomic Development Plan (2021–2025).

54. Eritrea appreciated the Government's commitment to reducing poverty and addressing development disparities.

55. Estonia expressed concern about the very high rate of child marriage and the prevalence of violence against women.

56. Ethiopia commended efforts made to implement recommendations received during previous cycles in an inclusive and constructive manner.

57. Equatorial Guinea valued the effort made to prioritize access to justice for all, by offering free legal assistance to vulnerable people.

58. The delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic noted that the State had implemented capacity-building initiatives for human rights focal points to strengthen their capacity for implementing human rights obligations, which had included streamlining supported recommendations from the universal periodic review in the relevant action plans and strategies.

59. At the regional level, the State had been actively involved in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, chairing its Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights in 2024, organizing special and regular meetings, and workshops, and taking part in other initiatives.

60. There had been substantive progress on access to justice, with an increased number of clinics and service points, lawyers, people who benefited from legal aid services, and village mediation units. The State acknowledged that abolition of the death penalty remained a

challenge due to prevailing social and cultural contexts, however the number of offences punishable by death had been reduced from 22 to 12.

61. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had integrated gender perspectives in its development agenda and strengthened the legal framework to ensure gender equality. The national mechanism for combating gender-based violence had been strengthened, including by ensuring access to essential services and developing standard operating procedures.

62. The delegation highlighted women's representation in public life and presence in high-level positions. Women accounted for 48 per cent of civil servants and 22 per cent of seats in the National Assembly. Women-owned businesses were also prominent, comprising 48 per cent of the total. Measures had been taken to combat human trafficking and child marriage, including prohibiting marriage under the age of 18 for women and supporting the reintegration into society of children who had been affected.

63. On the question of safeguarding the right to work, the delegation noted that the State was party to twelve International Labour Organization conventions, and that the Government had set up the labour inspection unit to monitor compliance with the labour standards, provide technical advice to employers and workers in special economic zones and investigate complaints. Despite adopting national strategies and programmes aimed at enhancing social protection, challenges persisted, including those related to financial limitations, infrastructure disparity, and the need for an enhanced data collection mechanism. The delegation noted that the State was a party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and had integrated its principles into the domestic legal framework.

64. Land in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was considered the property of the national community, whereby all citizens collectively held ownership, and the State was responsible for its centralized management and allocation. Individuals, groups and organizations could be granted long-term land use rights, and the State recognized customary land rights in certain cases, particularly where land had been continuously used and developed for over 20 years, subject to verification by local authorities.

65. The Government attached importance to environmental matters through various means, including adjusting the curriculum in educational institutions, and using social media, and had organized workshops in collaboration with OHCHR and the United Nations Environment Programme. For development projects, it was a requirement to conduct an environmental impact assessment, which involved a detailed collection of physical, biological and socioeconomic data both in the project area and in the adjacent areas. Assessments also included field data collection, public consultations, and meetings with the public and the organizational stakeholders. A specialized committee also evaluated losses and damage to land property and determined land values.

66. Freedom of expression was guaranteed by the Constitution and national laws, which were in line with international human rights law and article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The delegation highlighted a variety of media and publishing sources in the country. The Lao People's Democratic Republic reported that there was an expanded digital infrastructure, with widespread 2G, 3G and 4G coverage and more than 4.9 million mobile phone subscriptions. The State addressed cybercrime through the Law on Preventing and Combating Cybercrime and the establishment of the Lao Computer Emergency Response Team. The State affirmed that its legal framework on freedom of expression was in conformity with the legitimate limitations permitted under article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and noted that measures were taken against those who abused the law through misuse of that right.

67. France thanked the delegation for its national report.

68. The Gambia commended the efforts to advance socioeconomic development and the progress in strengthening the national framework for child protection.

69. Georgia assessed positively measures taken to combat trafficking, including the introduction of the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children.

70. Germany remained gravely concerned about the continued occurrences of enforced disappearance and human trafficking, especially affecting vulnerable groups such as women, children and ethnic minorities.

71. Iceland welcomed the national report.

72. India appreciated the progress made towards poverty alleviation and sustainable economic development under the National Green Growth Strategy.

73. Indonesia welcomed the efforts in advancing economic growth and development, which had led to a reduction in the poverty rate and improvements in social welfare.

74. The Islamic Republic of Iran highly valued the national efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights, inter alia the adoption or amendment of 73 laws by the National Assembly.

75. Iraq welcomed the commitment by the Lao People's Democratic Republic to developing national plans and programmes within the framework of strengthening the rule of law.

76. Ireland remained concerned by the limited civil society space and the lack of progress on the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly.

77. Japan noted that the Lao People's Democratic Republic had not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

78. Jordan congratulated the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the progress made and appreciated the Government's work to amend the Constitution of 2015.

79. Kuwait commended the steps taken since the previous cycle, including the adoption of new laws and strategies for social and economic development.

80. Latvia encouraged the Lao People's Democratic Republic to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

81. Lebanon appreciated the efforts by the Lao People's Democratic Republic to combat human trafficking and address issues related to global warming and the right to development.

82. Lesotho recognized the commitment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to implementing its national agendas, which had achieved a significant growth in gross domestic product and reduction of inflation.

83. Luxembourg congratulated the Lao People's Democratic Republic on its rights-based bilateral cooperation, including in relation to the right to health and combating human trafficking.

84. Malawi commended the prioritization of access to justice for all, through the offering of free legal aid to vulnerable people.

85. Malaysia commended progress in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in line with international obligations.

86. Maldives welcomed the policies and legal frameworks to advance the rights of women and children.

87. Malta urged the Lao People's Democratic Republic to boost vaccination rates among children, and ensure equal access to education for all.

88. The Marshall Islands commended the efforts towards graduating from least developed country status and ensuring successful realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

89. Mauritius congratulated the Lao People's Democratic Republic on its economic progress – graduating into a middle-income country, and on its strategy to alleviate poverty.

90. Mexico acknowledged the ban on corporal punishment, plans promoting violence-free school environments, and improvements in legislative transparency.

91. Mongolia commended the positive steps taken in areas such as poverty reduction and social welfare.

92. Montenegro noted that the Lao People's Democratic Republic still retained the death penalty in its legislation for a wide range of offences, including drug-related offences.

93. Morocco welcomed the implementation of the ninth five-year National Socioeconomic Development Plan (2021–2025).

94. Namibia commended the Lao People's Democratic Republic for accepting 160 of the 226 recommendations received during the third cycle.

95. Nepal noted the progress achieved in the area of socioeconomic development and the efforts made to graduate from least developed country status.

96. The Kingdom of the Netherlands commended the Lao People's Democratic Republic for encouraging gender diversity.

97. New Zealand acknowledged the engagement of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with United Nations mechanisms, including the universal periodic review.

98. Oman commended the efforts in the field of education, including the implementation of the Education and Sports Sector Development Plan 2021–2025.

99. Pakistan appreciated the efforts towards sustainable socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation.

100. Panama thanked the Lao People's Democratic Republic for its national report.

101. Paraguay commended the efforts to eliminate forced and child marriage. It remained concerned about reports of arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances.

102. The Philippines commended the progress achieved in poverty reduction and welcomed the efforts to strengthen the protection of women and children.

103. Portugal commended the ongoing revision of the 2015 Constitution and the implementation of the ninth National Socioeconomic Development Plan.

104. Qatar welcomed the measures taken by the Lao People's Democratic Republic in several areas, including combating human trafficking, reducing poverty and promoting the right to education.

105. The Republic of Korea commended the implementation of the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking for the period 2021–2025.

106. Romania commended the improvement of the human rights legislative and institutional framework and the adoption of specific strategies in several areas.

107. The Russian Federation noted the efforts in the field of education, healthcare and combating poverty.

108. Serbia commended the adoption of Vision 2040 and the National Strategy on Water Management and Use and Water Resources for 2030.

109. Singapore commended the efforts by the Lao People's Democratic Republic to reduce its maternal and infant mortality rates and to improve women's rights.

110. Slovenia encouraged the Lao People's Democratic Republic to abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

111. Italy commended the 2023 amendments to the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children.

112. The delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic stated that the country had made efforts to improve detention conditions by allocating funds for the construction of additional detention facilities. The delegation underscored the commitment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to combating human trafficking through its Anti-Human Trafficking Law, the revised Law on Employment and the Law on the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Children, and through the implementation of the third phase of the National Plan. Efforts had been intensified in the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone, where authorities had taken coordinated action to dismantle illegal operations. In 2022, nearly

2,900 victims and potential victims, including 251 women from 30 countries, had been rescued and repatriated. A task force remained active to monitor and prevent fraudulent activities, with a call for cooperation from countries of origin.

113. The delegation stated that the decree on international non-governmental organizations' work was under revision and was expected to be concluded in June 2025. For associations and foundations directly related to the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – particularly in cooperation with international non-governmental organizations and foreign entities – the Government had not restricted the acceptance of funds or created any obstacles in that regard. Approval for any memorandum of understanding was considered within 15 working days, provided that the organization had submitted all the required documents in accordance with the relevant regulations.

114. Regarding the graduation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic from least developed country status, anticipated for 2026, the Government had adopted the National Smooth Transition Strategy to ensure that the country would maintain development progress and avoid potential negative impacts associated with loss of the specific international support measures for the least developed countries, in line with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the periodic National Socioeconomic Development Plan.

115. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had established laws, policies and measures to ensure freedom of religious belief or non-belief. Equal rights and responsibilities of all ethnic groups were guaranteed by the Constitution, as well as the right to take part in government policies and public affairs. Representatives of ethnic groups occupied roles at different levels of government. Since 2020, the Government had implemented Decree No. 207 on Ethnic Affairs, promoting participation in ethnic affairs across sectors and aiming to strengthen equality, preserve cultural traditions, reduce disparities and enhance the capacities of all ethnic groups.

116. The purpose of amending the Constitution was to improve the efficiency of the State power system, to create a new momentum for the preservation and development of the nation and to promote regional and international economic integration. In the process of revising the Constitution, a consultation meeting was held, allowing for the incorporation of inputs from central and local public authorities, representatives from educational and research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. Additionally, citizens were given the opportunity to share their opinions through various channels, including relevant websites and by email. The National Assembly, as the highest body of State power, had reinforced its constitutional role, which included oversight of local authorities and the justice system. It received and reviewed petitions from individuals and entities concerning violations of laws or citizens' rights. Between 2023 and March 2025, 943 petitions had been submitted, with 640 resolved and 303 pending.

117. The delegation acknowledged the importance and the role of national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights and stated that it just had established a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles. The State was a party to seven core United Nations human rights treaties and two optional protocols. Commitments resulting from the participation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Charter-based mechanisms were coordinated by national bodies such as the National Human Rights Committee, the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children and the National Committee for the Rights of Persons with the Disabilities. The country continued to strengthen existing internal human rights mechanisms, rather than creating new ones, which would require time, human and financial resources. The State was exploring the use of the National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, developed by OHCHR and applied successfully in a number of cases.

118. The delegation noted that the Lao People's Democratic Republic had signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2008 and required additional time to study its provisions, ensure alignment with domestic laws, raise awareness among officials and assess the reporting obligations. The Government also indicated that it was reviewing the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, as well as several optional protocols.

119. The Lao People's Democratic Republic prioritized education, health and poverty reduction as keys to its socioeconomic and cultural development. The State was continuing its efforts to implement poverty alleviation measures, improve living standards, reduce poverty and invest in the health and education sectors. The educational sector had been strengthened by the adoption and amendment of new laws, projects and development plans. The Government had allocated funds for the educational projects and had received financial support from international non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations. Free education was provided in primary and secondary schools, with a focus on the part of the Government on the provision of scholarships, allowances and accommodation for students in special education schools, including students from different ethnic groups and students with disabilities. The Government was continuing efforts to improve the quality of education in rural areas and had integrated comprehensive sex education into school curricula, addressing issues such as early pregnancy and child marriage, as well as sexual health, gender equality, and safe use of information and communication technologies.

120. In closing, the delegation expressed its appreciation for the constructive engagement of Member States during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review. It emphasized the value of the universal periodic review as a platform for dialogue and exchange of good practices and reaffirmed its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in line with its Constitution, national legislation and international obligations, taking into account national circumstances.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

121. **The following recommendations will be examined by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the sixtieth session of the Human Rights Council:**

121.1 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile) (France) (Germany) (Malta) (Ukraine) (Uruguay);**

121.2 **Ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Czechia);**

121.3 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and take further measures to align national legislation with the Convention (Gambia);**

121.4 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and criminalize enforced disappearance, in accordance with international standards (Colombia);**

121.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ensure impartial and thorough investigations into this matter (Costa Rica);**

121.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ensure full and impartial investigations into allegations of enforced disappearance (Italy);**

121.7 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and continue to make efforts to address the case of the missing human rights defender, referred to in the document prepared by OHCHR (Japan);**

121.8 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without delay, conduct investigations in an impartial, independent, prompt and effective manner, and ensure regular and transparent communication with the families concerned (Switzerland);**

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

121.10 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia) (Malawi) (Mongolia) (Namibia);**

121.11 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Paraguay);**

121.12 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Côte d'Ivoire) (Togo);**

121.13 **Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Malta);**

121.14 **Ratify the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including the protocol to abolish the death penalty (Togo);**

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

121.16 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**

121.17 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**

121.18 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Arms Trade Treaty (Panama);**

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

121.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Togo);**

121.21 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cyprus);**

121.22 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Namibia);**

121.23 **Continue to advance the rights of women, including by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Marshall Islands);**

121.24 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Namibia);**

121.25 **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Serbia);**

121.26 **Ensure that its courts effectively apply international human rights instruments in individual cases (Mongolia);**

121.27 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**

121.28 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders of the United Nations to visit the country (Chile);**

121.29 **Issue a standing invitation to all special procedures and respond to unanswered visit requests (Luxembourg);**

121.30 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedure mandate holders, ensuring they have unhindered access to all areas of the country (Malawi);**

121.31 **Make further efforts to implement the pledges made during the high-level event commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Bulgaria);**

121.32 **Integrate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and of universal periodic review recommendations into the upcoming tenth National Socioeconomic Development Plan, and strengthen regional and international human rights cooperation (Viet Nam);**

121.33 **Continue consolidating regional and international cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights (Cuba);**

121.34 **Continue efforts with the international community's support and assistance in promoting and protecting human rights, particularly the economic, social and cultural rights of the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Bangladesh);**

121.35 **Continue to constructively cooperate with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms to promote and protect human rights in the country and abroad (Azerbaijan);**

121.36 **Allow United Nations access to Xaisomboun, and guarantee economic, social and cultural rights to the Khmu and Hmong, including Hmong ChaoFa, ensuring that development projects respect constitutional obligations of equality, non-discrimination, freedom of movement, and the provisions of free, prior and informed consent, as well as fair compensation for resettlement (Mexico);**

121.37 **Ensure that the constitutional amendment process remains transparent, inclusive and participatory across all segments of society (Malaysia);**

121.38 **Continue to strengthen the rule of law and further develop the domestic legal framework to promote and protect human rights, including the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment (Cambodia);**

121.39 **Adopt a law on administrative procedures that provides for the establishment of an administrative jurisdiction (Germany);**

121.40 **Continue to endeavour to align the domestic legal and policy frameworks with international human rights standards and obligations, including by establishing an independent national human rights institution (Philippines);**

121.41 **Institutionalize meaningful engagement with civil society organizations and other civic stakeholders in decision-making procedures at all levels (Ukraine);**

121.42 **Continue legislative reforms and enhance civil society engagement (Türkiye);**

121.43 **Continue strengthening human rights training for public officials (Cuba);**

121.44 **Enhance the capacity of government officials in human rights promotion, and mainstream inclusive policies that support poverty eradication, healthcare access, gender equality, and protection of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Viet Nam);**

121.45 **Step up efforts to improve the understanding and knowledge of human rights among law enforcement officials, including judges, prosecutors and lawyers, and conduct regular training in this field (Mongolia);**

121.46 **Promote human rights awareness, especially the rights of vulnerable groups (Zimbabwe);**

121.47 **Consider incorporating the accepted recommendations into the tenth National Socioeconomic Development Plan 2026–2030 and other national strategies and plans (Cuba);**

121.48 **Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Chile) (Colombia) (Qatar) (Ukraine);**

121.49 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Latvia);**

121.50 **Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Gambia) (Togo);**

121.51 **Establish a national human rights institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**

121.52 **Establish a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles (Côte d'Ivoire);**

121.53 **Establish a national human rights institution with an explicit mandate and the necessary means, in line with the Paris Principles (Morocco);**

121.54 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution (Bangladesh);**

121.55 **Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Armenia);**

121.56 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Namibia);**

121.57 **Consider establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

121.58 **Actively continue the improvement of existing national human rights mechanisms with the aim of establishing a national human rights institution based on the Paris Principles (Georgia);**

121.59 **Strengthen the National Human Rights Committee as a national mechanism for the implementation, reporting and monitoring of recommendations, considering the possibility of receiving cooperation for this purpose (Paraguay);**

121.60 **Continue improving the efficiency of existing national institutions and mechanisms that ensure promotion and protection of human rights (Zimbabwe);**

121.61 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in accordance with international human rights standards (Estonia);**

121.62 **Establish comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation encompassing all prohibited grounds of discrimination in line with international human rights obligations (Gambia);**

121.63 **Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law that covers all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including ethnic origin and sexual orientation (Chile);**

121.64 **Consider adopting comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that includes discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, in the public and the private spheres (Cyprus);**

121.65 **Enact constitutional and legislative changes to fully incorporate the prohibition of gender-based discrimination in all applicable laws (Malta);**

121.66 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based discrimination (India);**

121.67 **Develop and enforce comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of discrimination against persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (Iceland);**

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

121.69 **Abolish the death penalty (Luxembourg);**

121.70 **Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**

121.71 **Consider reducing the number of offences subject to the death penalty, with a view toward its full abolition (Timor-Leste);**

121.72 **Reduce the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition (Colombia);**

121.73 **Reduce the number of death penalty offences, with a view to a complete abolition of the death penalty (Czechia);**

121.74 **Enact measures to reduce the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty, in order to move towards its total abolition (Argentina);**

121.75 **Further reduce the number of crimes punishable by death, including drug offences, and work towards a formal moratorium and ultimately abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

121.76 **Review current legislation to reduce the number of crimes punishable by death, in accordance with article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Paraguay);**

121.77 **Establish a moratorium on executions and commute existing death sentences (Switzerland);**

121.78 **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its definitive abolition (France);**

121.79 **Establish a formal moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);**

121.80 **Institute an official moratorium on executions, and commute existing death sentences to terms of imprisonment, with a view to abolishing it for all offences (Montenegro);**

121.81 **Consider establishing an official moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its complete abolition (Marshall Islands);**

121.82 **Introduce a de jure moratorium on the death penalty, pending its abolition, including for drug-related offences; or at least abolish the mandatory death penalty and restrict its use only to crimes that meet the threshold of most serious crimes under international human rights law (Belgium);**

121.83 **Introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**

121.84 **Definitively abolish the death penalty in line with the existing de facto moratorium, or at a minimum, reform the Penal Code to reduce the number of offences for which capital punishment may be imposed (Spain);**

121.85 **Enhance independent monitoring and complaints mechanisms to ensure the lawfulness of arrest and detention procedures (Ukraine);**

121.86 **Conduct independent, impartial and transparent investigations into all alleged cases of enforced disappearance (Australia);**

121.87 **Conduct credible investigations into all alleged cases of enforced disappearance, including that of Sombath Somphone and other human rights defenders (Canada);**

121.88 **Refrain from all forms of reprisals, including enforced disappearances (Czechia);**

121.89 **Conduct prompt, effective, impartial, thorough and independent investigations into all cases of intimidation, attacks, disappearance and killings of human rights defenders brought to the attention of the authorities (Belgium);**

121.90 **Ensure the comprehensive protection of human rights defenders and activists from human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest or detention, torture, enforced disappearance, and other judicial harassments and physical or psychological intimidation and codify this in Lao law (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

121.91 **Improve conditions in detention centres, including access to legal representation, medical care and food, in compliance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Denmark);**

121.92 **Continue efforts to improve good governance and public administration (Azerbaijan);**

121.93 **Ensure the right to presumption of innocence, effective legal representation and fair trials, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);**

121.94 **Take steps to ensure the right to a fair trial for all, which includes enabling those accused of crimes to receive independent and competent legal representation (Lesotho);**

121.95 **Enhance access to justice for all and provide legal aid (Oman);**

121.96 **Continue the implementation of measures to ensure universal access to justice, including the provision of legal aid to vulnerable segments of the population (Belarus);**

121.97 **Bolster measures to provide free or reduced-fee legal aid to vulnerable populations, to enable access to justice for all persons (Lesotho);**

121.98 **Continue to take targeted steps to improve national legislation and law enforcement practices with regard to ensuring respect for human rights and freedoms (Russian Federation);**

121.99 **Ensure full respect for freedom of expression and media freedom by aligning national legislation with international standards (Ukraine);**

121.100 **Amend existing laws and regulations in order to promote the exercise of freedom of expression, including online, without fear of sanctions or reprisals (Chile);**

121.101 **Review and amend legislation and practices relating to freedom of expression and assembly to fully enable the function of non-governmental organizations and civil society (New Zealand);**

121.102 **Safeguard the right to freedom of expression by repealing or amending ambiguous laws, such as the 2015 cybercrime law and articles 110 on acts of betrayal towards the nation and 117 on propaganda against the State of the Penal Code (Kingdom of the Netherlands);**

121.103 **Amend Decree No. 327, the Cybercrime Law and article 117 of the Penal Code to ensure that restrictions on freedom of expression comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Switzerland);**

121.104 **Remove restrictions that hinder freedom of expression and the work of independent media, such as article 23 of the Constitution and Decree No. 238/GOV on Associations of 2017, and ensure a safe environment free from intimidation, harassment, threats or reprisals for journalists, human rights defenders and individuals exercising their right to express opinions and associate peacefully (Costa Rica);**

121.105 **Create conditions for free press and civil society to grow, including by amending relevant laws, such as article 65 of the Criminal Code, to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association (Australia);**

121.106 **Create a safe and enabling environment for civil society actors by repealing or amending Decree No. 238 on Associations and refraining from initiating criminal proceedings against individuals for the peaceful exercise of their human rights (Ireland);**

121.107 **Enhance the protection of freedom of expression, both online and offline, as well as freedom of association, by ensuring a pluralist and safe working environment for journalists and human rights defenders (Italy);**

121.108 **Take immediate steps to protect and promote civic space, ensuring that all individuals can freely exercise their rights without fear of reprisal (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

121.109 **Fully implement obligations to respect and guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly, including preventing harassment of human rights defenders (Canada);**

121.110 **Ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigations into all the allegations of intimidation and violence against human rights defenders (Ireland);**

121.111 **Ensure respect for the right to peaceful assembly by safeguarding the rights and freedoms of journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders (Armenia);**

121.112 **Promote and protect freedom of expression and a safe and secure environment for civil society and to prevent acts of intimidation and harassment against human rights defenders, civil activists, journalists and media workers (Latvia);**

121.113 **Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of expression, assembly and association, including online, by reviewing legislation to avoid obstacles to the work of NGOs and human rights defenders, and to involve them as partners in the implementation of these freedoms (Luxembourg);**

121.114 **Remove restrictions on the registration and activities of civil society organizations (Colombia);**

121.115 **Review legislation that is not in line with international human rights standards, especially concerning the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly (Brazil);**

121.116 **Guarantee full enjoyment of freedom of opinion and expression, the right of association and peaceful assembly and the right to privacy, offline as well as online (Czechia);**

121.117 **Guarantee unhindered access to domestic and foreign media for all, both online and offline (Estonia);**

121.118 **Revise the relevant national legislation, update policies and implement effective measures to prevent and eradicate child and early marriages (Bulgaria);**

121.119 **Adopt legislative measures prohibiting child marriages (Romania);**

121.120 **Consider reviewing the relevant national legislation with a view to eradicating child and early marriage (Uruguay);**

121.121 **Enforce the relevant national legislation to eradicate child and early marriage (Czechia);**

121.122 **Take the necessary measures to eradicate de jure and de facto child and forced marriage (Paraguay);**

121.123 **Continue the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking for the period 2021–2025 (Jordan);**

121.124 **Continue implementing the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking (2021–2025), focusing on raising public awareness and strengthening prevention efforts (Indonesia);**

121.125 **Intensify efforts to combat human trafficking, by allocating the necessary resources to the prosecution of existing cases, with a particular focus on women and children, and by dismantling criminal networks (Brazil);**

121.126 **Take effective action to strengthen the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation and allocate resources to the identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking, with a particular focus on women and children (Maldives);**

121.127 **Continue to work on combating trafficking in persons, including together with regional and international partners, and to strengthen the capacity of the National Steering Committee on Human Trafficking (Belarus);**

121.128 **Step up the fight against trafficking in persons, with a particular focus on women and children, and ensure access to services for survivors (Mongolia);**

121.129 **Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, allocating additional resources to the identification, investigation and prosecution of all trafficking cases, with a particular focus on women and children (Cyprus);**

121.130 **Enhance efforts to combat child labour and trafficking, including by strengthening child protection systems and improving the enforcement of existing laws (Gambia);**

121.131 **Continue its efforts to combat human trafficking and transnational crimes, through a human rights-based and victim-centred approach (Thailand);**

121.132 **Continue its endeavours in combating human trafficking, especially through enhancing regional cooperation (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

121.133 **Take decisive action to prevent and address trafficking in persons, forced labour and sexual exploitation, particularly when victims are girls and young women (Italy);**

121.134 **Continue its efforts to combat human trafficking and all forms of violence, particularly against women and children (Lebanon);**

121.135 **Continue efforts to expand infrastructure and support services for victims of trafficking, while further strengthening awareness-raising and training initiatives (Republic of Korea);**

121.136 **Combat trafficking in persons, by improving victim identification procedures, increasing cross-border cooperation, ensuring adequate protection and rehabilitation services for survivors, and combating impunity for traffickers (Costa Rica);**

121.137 **Take measures to establish a robust trafficking screening mechanism in high-risk areas, including border zones, as it is observed that the country is becoming a destination for transnational human trafficking (Sri Lanka);**

121.138 **Strengthen institutional, regulatory and policy mechanisms for preventing, combating and punishing human trafficking and intensify**

awareness-raising measures, as well as victims' access to justice and support services (Paraguay);

121.139 **Continue implementing policies and initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of specific groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees and migrants, and combat human trafficking and other crimes (China);**

121.140 **Establish a central system for the protection of victims of human trafficking, including, among other things, the dissemination of information prior to migration and the creation of contact points offering assistance for reintegration after return (Germany);**

121.141 **Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking, including of foreign nationals, by training law enforcement officers, prosecuting traffickers, assisting victims and enhancing international cooperation (Philippines);**

121.142 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in persons and allocate more resources to identify, investigate and prosecute trafficking cases, with a particular focus on women and children (Qatar);**

121.143 **Continue the fight against forced child labour, forced and early child marriage, and human trafficking (Burundi);**

121.144 **Ensure the effective implementation of existing regulations to combat forced labour, including that of women, and child labour, and to combat forced marriages (France);**

121.145 **Take actions to implement comprehensive measures to hold the parties accountable for forced labour, human trafficking and online scam operations located in the country's special economic zones (Sri Lanka);**

121.146 **Enhance regional cooperation and data-sharing to address cross-border trafficking, job scams and money-laundering (Malaysia);**

121.147 **Implement its international obligations under the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and collaborate with regional and international partners to address this issue (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

121.148 **Guarantee the realization of labour rights, by ensuring adequate working conditions for all and the right to form trade unions, with full independence (Portugal);**

121.149 **Amend the Labour Law and other legislation to address sexual harassment in employment and in all workplace contexts (Montenegro);**

121.150 **Continue to strengthen the integration of women in all aspects of the world of work (Equatorial Guinea);**

121.151 **Further strengthen the social security system and ensure access to basic healthcare and quality education (China);**

121.152 **Continue strengthening social protection measures for women, children, persons with disabilities and senior citizens (Nepal);**

121.153 **Continue measures to alleviate poverty, assist affected families to graduate from poverty, and uphold their right to development (Pakistan);**

121.154 **Continue and strengthen efforts to eradicate poverty and promote access to education for all citizens, especially in rural and remote areas (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

121.155 **Further efforts towards poverty alleviation within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (Brunei Darussalam);**

121.156 **Continue to implement national programmes to combat poverty and promote economic and social development for all segments of society, especially the most needy groups, especially in rural areas (Egypt);**

121.157 **Continue implementing the National Socioeconomic Development Plan, promote sustainable socioeconomic development, redouble poverty alleviation efforts and enhance people's well-being (China);**

121.158 **Continue measures to improve the welfare of the people and the level of social protection of vulnerable groups (Belarus);**

121.159 **Continue efforts to improve standards of living, and ensure broad access to quality education and health services (Uzbekistan);**

121.160 **Take effective measures to ensure universal and equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural and remote areas (Spain);**

121.161 **Develop strategies to guarantee water and sanitation services, prioritizing access for the most vulnerable populations and in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

121.162 **Continue efforts to build on this success and to reach those communities still in need (Eritrea);**

121.163 **Scale up support for community livelihood and nutrition initiatives to ensure equitable development and resilience among vulnerable populations (Malaysia);**

121.164 **Improve equitable access to education, health, and social services, particularly in rural and remote areas, to raise living standards and ensure sustainable development (Viet Nam);**

121.165 **Intensify efforts to implement the provisions of the National Nutrition Action Plan, which aims primarily to address the issue of malnutrition among women and children (Uzbekistan);**

121.166 **Continue its efforts to put in place adequate policies and make appropriate budgetary allocations to ensure universal health coverage, in particular for those in rural areas (Mauritius);**

121.167 **Continue to further strengthen the national health system and ensure full and effective implementation of laws, national strategies and action plans related to maternal and child healthcare (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

121.168 **Ensure the full implementation of the seven health-related laws adopted since 2021 to fully realize the right to health for all citizens, especially those in rural areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

121.169 **Continue to promote the right to health for its people, particularly for women and children (Singapore);**

121.170 **Redouble efforts to promote inclusive and quality healthcare services across the country, with particular focus on women, children and ethnic minorities (Republic of Korea);**

121.171 **Further efforts to address remaining challenges in the health sector, especially in ensuring that rural areas are fully included in these important initiatives (Eritrea);**

121.172 **Continue strengthening the healthcare system, particularly by enhancing resources for maternal and child health programmes (Ethiopia);**

121.173 **Implement concrete actions and allocate adequate resources to improve maternal and child health outcomes (Estonia);**

121.174 **Continue to increase access to healthcare services to women and girls, including those from ethnic minority groups, both in rural and remote areas (Serbia);**

121.175 **Complete programmes to strengthen the national health system, including comprehensive healthcare services for women and children (Egypt);**

121.176 **Continue to improve the health status of the Lao people, by strengthening existing programmes to ensure the provision of services that are accessible to all (Brunei Darussalam);**

121.177 **Facilitate access to health and education for vulnerable groups (Equatorial Guinea);**

121.178 **Work on healthcare and education systems that reach its vulnerable communities, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, and those living in remote areas (Zimbabwe);**

121.179 **Guarantee access for women and girls to sexual and reproductive health services across the country (Uruguay);**

121.180 **Further enhance women's access to sexual and reproductive health services (Thailand);**

121.181 **Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services (Iceland);**

121.182 **Ensure that adolescents, especially girls, have access to quality, comprehensive, age-responsive information, education and services to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, prevent unintended pregnancies, protect themselves against gender-based violence and sexually transmitted infections, and make a safe transition into adulthood, in line with commitments made at the Nairobi Summit on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (Panama);**

121.183 **Maintain the focus on reducing maternal and child mortality, improving nutrition, and ensuring access to medicine and medical products at reasonable prices (Pakistan);**

121.184 **Review the national family planning programme and conduct a study to identify and address existing gaps, in order to improve maternal and child health, as well as to prevent teenage pregnancies, especially in remote areas (Mexico);**

121.185 **Enhance data collection on victims of cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance and allocate greater resources to their medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, and provide for their social and economic inclusion (Panama);**

121.186 **Decriminalize and legalize abortion (Iceland);**

121.187 **Continue to step up its efforts to improve equitable access to educational opportunities by increasing public investment and improving the recruitment of teachers (Bhutan);**

121.188 **Continue to strengthen its education system to ensure inclusive and equitable education opportunities for all, including addressing the teacher shortages and improving school facilities (New Zealand);**

121.189 **Continue efforts to improve access to quality education, especially in rural areas (India);**

121.190 **Step up the measures to enhance access to quality education for all (Nepal);**

121.191 **Facilitate access to quality education for all children, especially girls and children with disabilities from low-income families (Qatar);**

121.192 **Continue to expand investment in educational infrastructure and resources to enhance educational quality and promote inclusivity (Ethiopia);**

121.193 **Intensify efforts to ensure equitable access to educational opportunities, particularly by supporting vulnerable girls and boys from low-income families and by establishing a digital-based education system (Republic of Korea);**

121.194 **Continue its efforts to enhance support for students from vulnerable groups, with a view to improving access to education (Mauritius);**

121.195 **Maintain the existing efforts to ensure the adoption of strategies to strengthen the right to education, particularly for girls (Morocco);**

121.196 **Strengthen efforts to promote human rights education and awareness among government officials, business actors, the media, and youth (Indonesia);**

121.197 **Step up its efforts to decrease dropout rates in both lower and upper secondary schools, including combating violence in educational settings (Serbia);**

121.198 **Consider developing a national strategy for inclusive education aimed at addressing socioeconomic difficulties affecting children's enrolment and retention in schools (Romania);**

121.199 **Continue to strengthen the legal framework related to the environment (Bhutan);**

121.200 **Adopt human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches in environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction policies (Marshall Islands);**

121.201 **Increase investments in climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene services, prioritizing access for the most vulnerable populations (Maldives);**

121.202 **Continue with the adoption and review of laws and legal instruments, based on national realities, which enable strengthening of the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights for the entire population, including the right to development (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

121.203 **Redouble efforts to advance the right to development by effectively implementing the Master Plan on National Land Allocation, aiming to reduce the development gap between urban and rural areas, and promoting sustainable natural resource management (Indonesia);**

121.204 **Continue to strengthen socioeconomic development plans, with a focus on achieving development objectives and improving living standards for all citizens (Cambodia);**

121.205 **Further explore South-South cooperation in the process of graduation from least developed country status; especially, those collective affairs related to realization of the right to development (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

121.206 **Remain committed to ensuring the continuity of programmes to promote and protect human rights, in light of its future graduation from least developed country status (Thailand);**

121.207 **Continue implementing development programmes targeting marginalized groups (Oman);**

121.208 **Ensure that development projects respect the rights of affected communities, including noting the principle of free, prior and informed consent (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

121.209 **Continue its efforts in the clearance of the Confirmed Hazardous Areas, in which necessary assistance to affected communities could be provided (Thailand);**

121.210 **Ensure that the social impact of major infrastructure development projects is meaningfully considered, in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Luxembourg);**

121.211 **Ensure free, prior and informed consultation with affected communities in all development projects and establish a clear legal framework for compensation and resettlement of displaced persons under the Resettlement and Livelihoods Law (Switzerland);**

121.212 **Further reduce barriers to women's participation in business and access to credit (Pakistan);**

121.213 **Strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation capacities and reduce the impact of climate change and natural disasters (China);**

121.214 **Continue supporting the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period 2021–2030 aiming at, among other things, strengthening the disaster prevention system, risk reduction, and preparedness and response (Jordan);**

121.215 **Strengthen the implementation of the 2030 Master Plan on the National Land Allocation to ensure food security, by recognizing the land traditionally used by rural communities (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

121.216 **Give continuity to the national action plans for gender equality and the National Action Plan on the Prevention and Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

121.217 **Repeal all provisions in the Penal Code that discriminate against women (Iceland);**

121.218 **Further promote women's and girls' rights by increasing their access to health services and education, preventing violence against them, and forbidding forced marriage (Japan);**

121.219 **Continue to eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, including by strengthening legal protections, access to justice, and support services (Thailand);**

121.220 **Take concrete steps to combat gender-based violence and discrimination and to improve the access of women and girls to the labour market and education (Czechia);**

121.221 **Promote the participation of women at all levels of political life (Lebanon);**

121.222 **Enable further participation of women in decision-making positions (Türkiye);**

121.223 **Continue programmes to strengthen women's capacities, their economic empowerment, and their promotion in decision-making bodies (Burundi);**

121.224 **Continue national efforts to ensure gender equality and empower women in leadership positions and decision-making circles (Egypt);**

121.225 **Take initiatives to create a more conducive environment for meaningful participation of women and girls in all sectors (Bangladesh);**

121.226 **Take further steps to empower women in all fields (Oman);**

121.227 **Encourage community awareness about the importance of gender equality, and strengthen the role of the family and school in establishing a culture of respect for rights from an early age (Kuwait);**

121.228 **Combat violence against women and girls (Equatorial Guinea);**

121.229 **Make the necessary legal amendments to criminalize all forms of gender-based violence against women and adopt a definition of rape based on the absence of consent (Colombia);**

121.230 **Take action to improve gender equality across all sectors and address the issues related to gender-based violence, including raising awareness, and expanding shelter facilities for the protection of girls and women (Sri Lanka);**

121.231 **Revise and enforce legislation to eradicate child and early marriage as well as other forms of gender-based violence against adolescent girls, such as bride kidnapping, trafficking, sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence (Cyprus);**

121.232 **Intensify efforts to eradicate child and early marriage and other forms of gender-based violence against adolescent girls, such as bride kidnapping, trafficking, sexual exploitation and intimate partner violence (Belgium);**

121.233 **Develop and finance a national strategy to combat gender-based violence, as well as child, early and forced marriage, which includes clear responsibilities, enforcement mechanisms, an accountability process and a clear budget (Canada);**

121.234 **Adopt a consent-based definition of rape that applies to all persons without discrimination (Iceland);**

121.235 **Criminalize marital rape (Iceland);**

121.236 **Amend the Law on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women to include precise legal definitions and to provide for a supportive environment necessary for women to exercise their rights, report crimes and participate in criminal proceedings, including specialized gender units within the police and prosecution systems and assistance from psychological experts (Slovenia);**

121.237 **Sustain redoubled efforts aimed at combating gender-based violence and discrimination and at women's empowerment through intensified human rights education and training, among other measures (Philippines);**

121.238 **Continue efforts to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, by strengthening prevention and protection mechanisms, and building the capacity of stakeholders (Kuwait);**

121.239 **Take the necessary measures to ensure that crimes of violence against women are effectively investigated and prosecuted (Spain);**

121.240 **Continue in its efforts to combat gender-based violence and to facilitate women's representation in leadership positions (Singapore);**

121.241 **Strengthen child protection systems and intensify efforts to eradicate child marriage (Lesotho);**

121.242 **Strengthen the national child protection system by increasing the budget allocation, developing professional training programmes for social workers and improving service delivery nationwide (Romania);**

121.243 **Intensify efforts to reduce school dropout by promoting inclusive education for all children (Thailand);**

121.244 **Continue measures aimed at effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Georgia);**

121.245 **Review national legislation to bring it into line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Lebanon);**

121.246 **Take effective measures to fully abide by its obligations to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, by incorporating them in the forthcoming tenth National Socioeconomic Development Plan and amending legislation that**

restricts the rights of persons with disabilities to participate in political life, including their right to vote (Portugal);

121.247 **Continue the authorities' efforts to effectively ensure the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, including access to education, employment and healthcare (Spain);**

121.248 **Strengthen the implementation of policies, strategies and national action plans for persons with disabilities (Azerbaijan);**

121.249 **Continue efforts to provide improved healthcare access to persons with disabilities (India);**

121.250 **Make more efforts to improve the conditions of persons with disabilities, especially in the work environment (Iraq);**

121.251 **Continue its efforts to implement measures to protect vulnerable groups, including children and persons with disabilities (Vanuatu);**

121.252 **Maintain efforts to provide social services, health services and education for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities (Türkiye);**

121.253 **Strengthen the human rights-based and disability-sensitive approach in programmes for the recovery of agricultural lands previously contaminated by unexploded ordnance, as well as in victim assistance services, especially in remote areas (Mexico);**

121.254 **Legislate for the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (New Zealand);**

121.255 **Continue with efforts to ensure protection of the rights of minority groups (Malawi);**

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

121.257 **Take appropriate measures to ensure that migrants have access to healthcare and health insurance plans, facilitating the legal and linguistic aspects (Colombia).**

122. **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 Lao People's Democratic Republic was headed by H.E. Mr. Thongphane SAVANPHET, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the National Committee on Human Rights, Head of Delegation and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Daovy VONGXAY, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
- Amb. Phoukhong SISOULATH, Director General, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
- Brig. General Kongsavat BOUNLIENG, Deputy Director General, General Police Department, Ministry of Public Security, Delegate;
- Mr. Sosonephith PHANOUVONG, Director General, Department of Ethnic and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Delegate;
- Mr. Nalonglith NORLASING, Director General, Justice Affairs Administration and Promotion Department, Ministry of Justice, Delegate;
- Mrs. Bounleua CHANTHAPHOMMA, Director General, the Center for Counseling and Protection of Women and Children, Lao Women's Union, Delegate;
- Mr. Boungnalith SOUTHICHAK, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
- Mr. Bounlath VORACHITH, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Delegate;
- Mr. Thiphasone SOUKHATHAMMAVONG, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Delegate;
- Mr. Phoutsady PHANYASITH, Deputy Director General, Department of Multilateral Parliamentary Relations, Foreign Affairs Committee, National Assembly, Delegate;
- Mr. Phetsamone KEOVONGVICHITH, Deputy Director General, Department of International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
- Mr. Thiphasone SENGSOURINHA, Deputy Director General, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
- Mr. Phoutthabandith WARINTHRASAK, Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Division, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
- Ms. Sililat SIENGSOUNTHONE, Deputy Director of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Division, Department of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Delegate;
- Mrs. Oudavanh NARKKHAVONG, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva, Delegate;
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