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Universal Periodic Review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Tunisia

Addendum

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

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

1. Tunisia presented its second report under the universal periodic review mechanism at the thirteenth session of the Working Group of the Human Rights Council held in Geneva in May 2012. The State party accepted the majority of the 125 recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue, in which it participated with all due transparency and openness.
2. During the review, 110 recommendations were accepted and 3 were rejected. At the same time, the delegation of Tunisia asked for the examination of 12 recommendations relating principally to the abolition of the death penalty¹ and equality in relation to inheritance rights² to be postponed as the two issues are still being debated at the national level by the National Constituent Assembly, the political parties forming part of the ruling coalition and those forming part of the opposition as well as by the many component parts of Tunisian civil society.
3. With regard to the abolition of the death penalty, it should be borne in mind that the death penalty has not been carried out since 1991. Furthermore, all prisoners on death row were recently granted a presidential amnesty under which the death penalty was commuted to life imprisonment. Thus, a de facto moratorium is in place in Tunisia. In the absence of the conditions necessary for a national consensus on this issue, the Government has repeatedly called on all stakeholders to engage in an open, frank and constructive debate on the subject.
4. With regard to the question of equality in relation to inheritance rights, the Government of Tunisia reiterates its commitment to safeguarding the advances achieved by Tunisian women and strengthening their rights. The draft of the new Constitution approved by the National Constituent Assembly's Commission on Rights and Freedoms enshrines the equality of all citizens in respect of their rights and responsibilities. However, the complexity of this issue means that the conditions for a national consensus on the subject are unlikely to arise at present.
5. All these issues are the subject of ongoing discussion at the national level. For this reason, the Government of Tunisia can only continue to take note of these 12 recommendations and will ensure that the Human Rights Council is informed of any developments concerning the issues in question, which, moreover, fall under the competence of the National Constituent Assembly.

¹ Recommendations Nos. 116.6 – 116.7 – 116.8 – 116.9 – 116.10 – 116.11 – 116.12.

² Recommendations Nos. 116.1 – 116.2 – 116.3 – 116.4.