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Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Guyana

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Guyana was held at the 15th meeting on 28th January 2015. The delegation of Guyana was headed by Ms. Carolyn Rodriguez-Birkett. At its 17 meeting held on 30 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Guyana.
2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Guyana: Ethiopia, Portugal and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Guyana:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GUY/1);
 - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GUY/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/GUY/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Guyana through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Her Excellency Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs, introduced Guyana's National report to the 2nd Universal Periodic Review and presented the status of the implementation of the recommendations made at the 15th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in 2010.
6. The delegation recalled, as highlighted in the National Report, that Guyana's State Party reports had been submitted to various treaty bodies. Guyana had also brought up to date 80% of the outstanding reports to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
7. It was also highlighted that additionally, in the reporting period, Guyana ratified/acceded to several conventions, was actively considering ratifying the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
8. The delegation expressed its concern that the national Report was not posted in a timely manner for the benefit of the various delegations, and stated that many of the questions submitted in advance related to issues that had been answered in the National Report. ,
9. The delegation recalled that Guyana had voluntarily committed to hold consultations on 28 of the 55 Recommendations. These included recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty, the abolition of corporal punishment, decriminalizing consensual same sex

adult sexual relations and discrimination against LGBTs and concerning the age of criminality.

10. Guyana stated that as part of the consultative process, following elections in 2011, a decision had been taken to bring these recommendations before the National Assembly. The Government had therefore tabled a motion and asked that these matters be sent to a Parliamentary Special Select Committee (PSSC). This motion had been approved by the National Assembly and a Parliamentary Special Select Committee appointed and commenced meeting in 2012.

11. The Committee had not concluded its work at the time of reporting but had commenced by focusing firstly on the abolition of corporal punishment. Public hearings had been held and submissions were received from government agencies, civil society and experts. It became evident during these hearings that the abolition of corporal punishment in schools remained an issue on which sections of society were staunchly and equally divided. Nonetheless, the delegation highlighted the enactment of the Training School (Amendment) Act 2010 and the Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Act 2010 which abolished corporal punishment in juvenile correctional institutions and that the new Child Care and Development Services Act (2011) also prohibited corporal punishment in institutional residences.

12. Although the Parliamentary Special Select Committee did not complete its mandate with regard to the recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty it was noted that the Criminal Law Offences (Amendment) Act 21 of 2010 removed the mandatory death penalty for persons convicted of murders and made provisions for life imprisonment and imprisonment with the possibility of parole. The death penalty was retained only in limited cases such as murder of a police officer on duty, a judicial officer or treason. As a result, during the past 5 years over 15 prisoners on death row had had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment, and, some of these will be coming up for parole. At the time of reporting there were 13 prisoners on death row. In this period no prisoner on death row had been executed.

13. The delegation indicated that the Parliamentary Select Committee also had a mandate been to receive and hear submissions on the attitude of Guyanese to changes in legislative provisions and the criminal code regarding consensual adult same sex relationships and discrimination, perceived or real, against Lesbians, Gays, Bi-Sexual and Transgender persons. Due to the prorogation of the 10th Parliament the Select Committee's work has ceased. The Government hoped to resubmit these matters to the National Assembly following General Elections in May.

14. The delegation stated that during this period, there had been free and unfettered freedom of expression by NGOs, religious organizations and the media on these issues. In response to an NGO submission on LGBT Rights in Guyana, the Government reiterated that the State does not discriminate against persons based on their sexual orientation and that every Guyanese is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms as provided for in the constitution, laws and policies of Guyana.

15. The delegation also highlighted that consultations had been held across the country by the Ministry of Education on the abolition of corporal punishment.

16. Guyana noted the Low Carbon Development Strategy and the Guyana-Norway partnership indicating that under this partnership, Guyana was targeted to earn up to US\$250 Million for its forest climate services. The funds earned were being used for the implementation of projects and initiatives identified in Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy, a significant portion of which had gone to interventions that focused on the indigenous population.

17. Guyana indicated that much had been accomplished with regard to the recommendations on poverty reduction and equal access to education, water, health, housing and food security for the poor and vulnerable, including indigenous peoples. The delegation highlighted, among others: the poverty reduction programme and pro-poor pro-growth developmental approach; continuous investments in the social sector which now received 34.5% of the annual budget; and the enactment of National Minimum Wage in 2013.

18. The delegation reported that progress within the Education sector had been significant noting that the MDG Guyana Progress Report 2011 indicated that Guyana has made excellent progress towards achieving universal primary education and had met its target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

19. This sector had played a critical role in equalizing access to opportunities for children regardless of where they live, ethnicity, religion or class. This was most evident in the interior and Amerindian communities where all children had access to nursery and primary education and over 90 percent to secondary education. The delegation then provided detailed information on programmes and initiatives taken for education.

20. The delegation stated that health care services offered by the government remained free. It highlighted that in 2014, 96 % of all births were attended by skilled health personnel in comparison to 85.6 % in previous years. Guyana continued to offer free Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Treatment and free Anti-Retroviral Treatment at its facilities but the delegation noted that these programmes were under pressure due to the reduction of international funding to assist small developing countries. Guyana's Immunization coverage remained high in all rural and hinterland areas, despite challenges with regards to the high costs of accessing remote areas.

21. Guyana's national housing programme continued to provide subsidized house lots for poor, low and middle income families. Through a number of legislative as well as Government/commercial banks partnerships, low income households can access loans to build their houses. Additionally, by the end of 2013, 18,000 households in squatter settlements which emerged over 3 decades were regularized with Certificates of Title to Land being provided.

22. Moreover, the supply of potable water now reached in excess of 95% of the population in the coastal areas and 73% in the hinterland areas.

23. Guyana was honored by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) for attaining the targets set by both MDG #1 and the goal set by the 1996 World Food Summit of halving the absolute number of hungry people by 2015 and improving nutrition. The prevalence of undernourishment had been reduced from 19.1% (1990 – 1992) to 5.1% (2010 and 2012).

24. The delegation reported that, recognizing the historic injustices perpetrated against the Amerindian peoples, the revised Guyana Constitution and the Amerindian Act 2006, provided for and guarantee Amerindian land rights, governance and culture for the Amerindians population. Amerindians are now the second largest land owners in Guyana with the State being the first. They own communal land titles totaling 14% of Guyana's land mass. 103 Amerindian villages have been awarded absolute grants and 83 have been demarcated thus far. The delegation also indicated that the government had continued to channel resources toward the development of Amerindian communities and reported on numerous initiatives. Guyana indicated that it would continue to give consideration to ratifying the ILO Convention No. 169.

25. The delegation reported on efforts to address discrimination based on culture and traditions and promote and protect the rights of all citizens. Guyana highlighted the

enactment of the 2010 Judicial Review Act, the appointment of an Ombudsman in January 2014, the recent parliamentary approval of the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC), and the functioning of numerous institutions and the implementation of a number of initiatives.

26. Guyana indicated it had made major progress towards promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. It noted that the 2013 Global Gender Gap Report ranked Guyana at 33 out of 136 in the area of overall Political Empowerment. The Global Gender Gap ranked also Guyana at 41 for wage equality for similar work.

27. Better coordinated efforts were being made with regard to persons with disabilities since the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act and these will improve as Guyana strives to implement its treaty obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

28. Guyana noted that it was part of the CARICOM Reparations Commission which calls for reparations as it related to Africans who were enslaved and brought to work in the British, French, Dutch and Spanish colonies. As a result it had established a broad-based committee which was preparing Guyana's submission to CARICOM for its reparations claims to these former colonial powers.

29. The delegation indicated that though there had been some reduction, interpersonal violence including sexual and domestic violence continued to cause grave concern. Guyana highlighted some of the achievements and some challenges. In July 2014, the National Task Force on Sexual Violence had held a special session to review the draft protocols for the police, prosecutors, magistrates, social workers and medical practitioners under the Sexual Offences Act 2010 and examine the new draft action plan. With the assistance of the UNFPA, this Plan of Action Act has been completed and submitted in January 2015 for Cabinet review. The draft protocols and new regulations to strengthen the 1996 Domestic Violence had also been completed.

30. Over the last 4 years, the media, civil society and community and faith based organizations had played a more pro-active role with regard to combating violence against women and children.

31. It was also noted that that there has been a decrease in the total number of reports by more than 50 %, and an increase in persons charged from 25% to 52%. Whilst the number of persons charged and sentenced for domestic violence offences by Magistrates had increased significantly, the number of successful prosecutions and convictions of sexual offences had been disappointing.

32. Guyana recalled information provided in its National Report on legislative reforms to enhance the protection of children's rights. It was noted that the Child Care and Protection Agency (CCPA) had continued to investigate child abuse cases reported throughout the country. The delegation regretted that the draft Juvenile Justice Bill was still not complete and that as a result Guyana had been unable to implement the recommendation with regard to the age of criminality.

33. Guyana also highlighted efforts to combat Trafficking in Persons including the work of the broad based Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons.

34. The delegation noted that Guyana had taken major steps and made significant financial investments in the justice sector. A number of initiatives had been introduced to improve oversight, monitoring, accountability and enhance coordination within this sector. Such initiatives included the establishment of Civil and Criminal Justice Committees; increasing the number of Judges; and removing the annual budget of the judiciary from under the Ministry of Legal Affairs and moving it as a direct charge on the Consolidated Fund to enhance its independence.

35. The delegation then reiterated that the Constitution strictly prohibits torture and mistreatment of detainees and inmates and that the Government had publicly condemned abuse and torture and repeatedly demanded that any such allegations be expeditiously investigated and action taken. In 2014, several police ranks had been brought before the courts, including for abuse and torture in lockups. Additionally, in an effort to strengthen its investigative capacity the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) will be establishing its own Investigative Unit in order to conduct investigations independent of the Guyana Police Force (GPF).

36. The delegation indicated that a result of major disturbances in in July 2012 which resulted in 3 protestors being shot, a Commission of Inquiry had been set up. Although the COI was unable to find that it was the police who had shot the protestors, it recommended that compensation be provided for those who suffered losses in the violence and that the police protocols with regard to public order and safety be reviewed and amended. The Government and the Guyana Police Force have implemented these recommendations.

37. Guyana reported on efforts to improve conditions in police lock ups and prisons noting the 2014 Strategic Plan on the Renewal and Reconstruction of the Guyana Prison Service and the appointment of a Visiting Committee for each Prison (Prison Act) to monitor prison conditions.

38. Guyana expressed its conviction that its constitutional rights commissions form a critical component of the protection of human rights. Legislation determines that the Commissions are to be funded by a direct charge upon the Consolidated Fund, which is in compliance with the Paris Principles. However until such time as the umbrella Human Rights Commission is appointed, in compliance with the Constitution, Guyana regretted it would not be fully compliant with the Paris Principles.

39. With regard to the Special Procedures, Guyana reiterated its readiness to continue to respond to invitations and to offer full collaboration with mandate holders.

40. The delegation indicated that positive achievements had been tempered and sometimes overshadowed by the political situation that has emerged since the November 2011 elections. The ruling party has one seat less than the two opposition parties combined and the 10th Parliament had witnessed the reduction of the annual budgets by the opposition majority which had a major impact on the implementation of the national developmental agenda. Following a no confidence motion in 2014 the President announced elections which will be held on May 11, 2015.

41. The delegation of Guyana indicated it had made significant efforts to meet most of the commitments it had made in 2010 despite the many challenges associated with small developing States. Such challenges include climate change and the imposition of the “graduation” policy using the narrow measure of GDP per capita which will see countries like Guyana losing concessionary financing. Guyana indicated that notwithstanding these challenges, Guyana will continue to make efforts to support the role of the UN human rights system, including the UPR, within available means and prevailing conditions even as it strives to continuously improve the lives of its citizens.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

42. During the interactive dialogue, 54 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

43. Ireland welcomed the positive efforts undertaken by Guyana since its first UPR. It encouraged extending a Standing Invitation to Special Procedures and establishing a NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principle. It urged a moratorium on the death penalty with a

view to its abolition. Ireland raised concern with the criminalisation of adult same-sex relations and the rate of under-five child mortality.

44. Italy commended the progress achieved in the protection of human rights, in particular the measures taken in promoting women's rights.

45. Jamaica noted with appreciation the follow up to the accepted recommendations from the first UPR cycle through legislation and various initiatives in a wide range of areas related to human rights. It lauded the tremendous strides made in ensuring access to education and food security for all Guyanese. It commended the continued efforts to safeguard access to land for indigenous people.

46. Kuwait praised the efforts made in improving the human rights situation in the field of poverty, education, health sector, reform of the justice system and gender equality. It encouraged further efforts for child protection and human trafficking.

47. Maldives commended the ratification of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC and also the adoption of the Child Care Developmental Services Act of 2011. It welcomed the adoption of the "The Persons with Disabilities Act" of 2010, the ratification of the CRPD and the implementation of the National Commission on Disability Strategic Plan for 2008-2011

48. Mauritius congratulated Guyana for achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education and encouraged it to pursue its Education Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and the Hinterland Education Improvement Project. It encouraged the strengthening of the anti-discrimination legislation to further promote the inclusion of women in the socio-economic development of the country in line with CEDAW recommendations.

49. Mexico highlighted advances such as the appointment of the head of the Ombudsman's Office and the adherence to several international instruments. It urged Guyana to adopt necessary measures to ensure transparency during the following 2015 elections and suggested that Guyana ask for assistance to the UN to comply with human rights commitments.

50. Montenegro welcomed the ratification of several human rights treaty bodies between the two UPR cycles. Montenegro asked Guyana to elaborate on the steps undertaken to address the continuing prevalence of trafficking in women and girls and to protect the victims of trafficking. It also inquired about the implementation of comprehensive programmes to address health issues affecting infants, girls and women.

51. Morocco welcomed the ratification of several international instruments since the last UPR cycle, namely those related to trafficking, labour and sexual exploitation. It congratulated the nomination of an Ombudsperson in 2014, the establishment of institutions to protect children's rights as well as the rights of indigenous and Amerindian children. It noted the adoption of the National Strategy on Health and the establishment of the National Commission for Disabled Persons.

52. Namibia took note of the legislation reform on death penalty and its substitution to imprisonment. It commended the appointment of an Ombudsperson in January 2014 and the support provided to the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

53. The Netherlands noted with appreciation the enactment of legislation to strengthen the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation. It raised concern with the pending debates on the follow up to the UPR recommendations due to the prorogation of the Parliament.

54. Nicaragua highlighted the commitment of the Government of Guyana to fight against discrimination against minority groups, indigenous peoples, women and children,

and welcomed increased participation of women in public administration and reforms to the laws on domestic violence.

55. Norway raised concern with the high level of impunity for violence against women and children and the use of excessive force by the Guyana Police and Defence Forces. It took note of Guyana's commitment to promote indigenous peoples rights and the Establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Commission to address discrimination faced by Amerindian children.

56. Panama urged Guyana to offer a standing invitation to the Special Procedures mandate holders, particularly to the Special Rapporteur on Torture, a recommendation that Guyana had previously accepted in its last exam.

57. Paraguay welcomed the approval of the Law on Sexual Crimes, while expressing concern on the levels of physical and sexual violence against women and girls. It expressed concern that Guyana maintains the death penalty for several criminal offences and encouraged it to ratify the Second Optional Protocol the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

58. The Philippines lauded the ratification of the ICMRW, as well as the CRPD and the Optional Protocols to the CRC. It noted the remarkable progress in ensuring access to universal primary education, gender equality, women empowerment and the implementation of Domestic Violence Act and Sexual Offenses Act.

59. Portugal welcomed the ratification of the CRPD. It raised concern with the inclusion of death penalty in Guyana's legislation.

60. Romania noted the efforts made to improve the human rights situation in the country and acknowledged concrete measure and results. It encouraged Guyana to pursue its work of improving the protection and promotion of human rights.

61. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction steps taken to implement a number of international agreements, including those combating human trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation. It appreciated efforts to carry out legislative and judicial reforms to improve the system for administration justice.

62. Sierra Leone commended efforts towards addressing economical and social rights, including providing inclusive education, and achieving universal primary education. It urged considering including provisions prohibiting discrimination against women in its Constitution and more vigorously tackle the issue of trafficking in women and girls.

63. Singapore welcomed Guyana's efforts to invest in the health sector and noted that it is implementing the Maternal, Peri-natal Strategy and Integrated Child Health Strategy 2011-2015. It also commended the achievements of the National Housing Programme.

64. Slovenia welcomed the implementation of two of its first cycle recommendations. It continued to call for a complete abolition of the death penalty and regretted that consensual homosexual relations continue to be criminalized. It reiterated its past recommendations no. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49.

65. South Africa welcomed progress in the development of a national food and nutrition security strategy, development of the draft sexual and reproductive health policy and implementation of the country's poverty reduction programmes. It encouraged continuing all efforts towards promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights.

66. Spain highlighted positively the adoption of a national policy on domestic violence and expressed its concern on Guyana's vote against General Assembly resolutions on moratorium for death penalty and on the number of allegations presented against Guyana's

Police for excessive use of force and for the lack of an effective and independent investigation about them.

67. Sweden noted that the rape is quite common and the inclination to report rapes rather low. It further noted that violence against women is a significant problem and that indigenous peoples have a lower standard of living than the majority society.

68. Switzerland encouraged Guyana to pursue its efforts to ratify international instruments. It also welcomed the commitment taken to organise national and public consultations on the recommendations from its first UPR.

69. Thailand noted discrimination based on sexual orientation as well as that violence against women remains a challenge. It encouraged to further implement education and awareness-raising programmes to help promote the inclusion and participation of children with disabilities in the society.

70. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the enactment of the Sexual Offences Act, the adoption of the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act as well as the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission.

71. Trinidad and Tobago highlighted, inter alia, the development of an action plan to combat human trafficking; increase in awareness campaigns regarding sexual abuse and drafting of a sexual and reproductive health policy.

72. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Guyana to ratify the OP-CEDAW and to establish a formal moratorium on executions with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty.

73. The United States of America welcomed Guyana's voluntary commitments to hold national consultations on issues from its first UPR session. It remained deeply concerned by continued and widespread reports of excessive violence by police officers.

74. Uruguay welcomed adherence to international human rights instruments and encouraged it to continue working in the promotion of education for children, addressing the issues of non-attendance to school as well as the transport and nutrition costs, to reduce illiteracy.

75. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted with appreciation the Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Poverty (2011-2015) for the most vulnerable. It praised the establishment of the national minimum wage in 2013 and the allocation of 34,5 % of the 2014 Annual Budget to education, health, water, housing and social security.

76. Algeria noted that despite the challenges and difficulties in terms of resources Guyana has adopted a number of initiatives to implement the recommendations from the first cycle of the UPR. It encouraged to continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

77. Argentina welcomed the delegation of the Republic of Guyana and congratulated them for their national report.

78. While noting the efforts to increase the quality of and access to education, Armenia also noted that Guyana had not yet ratified number of international human rights instruments and recalled a number of challenges in the promotion of the right to education.

79. Australia welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the accession to OP-SC. It remained concerned that Guyana has not yet implemented its National Violence Policy and noted with concern that it rejected recommendations to establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty

80. Botswana commended Guyana for the progress made towards achieving universal primary education and elimination of gender disparity at school. It also encouraged Guyana to enhance cooperation with OHCHR to address challenges that it continued to face.
81. Brazil welcomed the fact that the vacant position of ombudsman had been filled and it underscored the importance of providing him with appropriate funding and staff for the fulfilment of his mandate.
82. Canada asked Guyana to give information on the measures taken to address the challenges to freedom of expression and to prevent and instigate instances of intimidation or violence against the media.
83. Chile acknowledged the efforts Guyana had made to strengthen the human rights sector comprehensively, particularly looking at the respect of civil and political rights. It viewed positively that the ratified international instruments have already been transposed into domestic law.
84. China noted that Guyana supported measures to facilitate the reintegration and free vocational trainings for trafficked persons. It also called upon the international community to increase the financial and technical assistance to Guyana.
85. Colombia praised the commitment demonstrated by Guyana in its efforts to implement the recommendations made during the first UPR cycle. It also appreciated its transparent collaboration with the human rights mechanisms.
86. Costa Rica highlighted the ratification of the CRPD and the Optional Protocols to CRC. It also appreciated the efforts and achievements made for gender equality and access of women to public elections and positions of power. Costa Rica stressed the negative impact of the use of death penalty and torture.
87. Cuba noted that Guyana showed its commitment to protect and promote human rights. It highlighted the progress made to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in general and acknowledged the actions taken to recognise the rights of all Afro-Descendants.
88. Denmark hoped that concrete steps were under way to honour the commitment made by Guyana to accede to the OP-CAT and added that the Convention against Torture Initiative stood ready to explore avenues to assist Guyana in advancing this issue.
89. Ecuador commended Guyana for the efforts it had undertaken to implement the recommendations from the first cycle, in particular the ratification of ICRMW, OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC.
90. While recognising the progress made in the recognition of indigenous people's rights, Estonia was disappointed by the fact that decisions on mining on lands used by indigenous people could still be taken without their consent.
91. France asked Guyana on the results of consultations that it was committed to lead, in his previous UPR, on LGBTI rights, on the state of its legislation regarding the relations between consenting adults of the same sex and about violence committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and identity.
92. While appreciating the ratification and accession by Guyana to various international instruments, Germany remained concerned that the *de facto*
93. Ghana was pleased with the efforts undertaken to meet most of the commitments made since the first UPR cycle aimed at strengthening the constitutional, legal and policy framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

94. Guatemala welcomed the nomination of the Ombudsman as well as the establishment of a national task force and the elaboration of a national action plan both to fight human trafficking.

95. India asked Guyana to share more details on its efforts at reducing poverty and hunger, and hoped that the implementation of the national food and nutritional strategy is prioritised.

96. Indonesia commended Guyana for the achievement made in the area of poverty reduction and the ratification of the CRDP. It also acknowledged the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act.

97. Sierra Leone highlighted Guyana's commendable efforts towards progressing in economic, social and cultural rights and urged Guyana to consider including provisions prohibiting discrimination of women in its Constitution, more vigorously tackle trafficking in women and girls, and establish a moratorium on the death penalty.

98. The delegation of Guyana thanked countries that acknowledged its efforts and progress achieved and thanked countries for recommendations made.

99. Regarding concerns by Ireland about under 5 child mortality, the delegation indicated that infant mortality in 1991 was 120 for 1000 and that last year it was reduced to 17 for 1000, which meant there was progress but work had to continue.

100. Regarding the abolition of the death penalty or the establishment of the moratorium raised by many delegations, the delegation indicated that Guyana had amended its Law to commute some of the sentences to life imprisonment and added parole. It affirmed that, whilst having not reached the point of abolishing the death penalty, discussions were continuing. In addition, the parliament was prorogued and therefore the work of the Parliamentary Select Committee was not completed.

101. The issue of abolition of death penalty, together with the decriminalization of same sex relations of adult males and other matters related to LGBT and corporal punishment were to be considered by this Select Committee. On these three issues, the delegation underscored that compared to 2010, in 2014 and 2015 there had been an increase in the discussion on these issues, which was a very good sign. The delegation also affirmed that the society was very divided on these issues, and that sometimes it was a challenge to talk to citizens about death penalty when in the neighbourhood some countries were seeking to activate the death penalty because of the high rate of criminality. However, discussions were continuing in Guyana.

102. Regarding the strengthening of the Police Complaints Authority, raised by Italy, it had been decided that this Authority would establish its own investigative arm. The delegation of Guyana recalled that in the past, the Police was responsible for investigating and it could be concluded that if the Police investigates the Police, people would not have the impartiality needed, and this is why this independent investigative arm would prove to be a boost to the Police Complaints Authority. There was a need for more resources for this Authority, and this should also be considered in the context of how the national economy is doing, although there had been increases throughout the years.

103. Recalling the issue on the access to land for indigenous people, the delegation of Guyana noted that some delegations raised the issue of discrimination and that in the list they included Amerindian children. The delegation indicated that if there was discrimination as far as the State is concerned, it is positive discrimination. The delegation explained that most of these communities are located in the vast interior, so the delivery of services is not only costly but also very challenging. It added that road networks and telecommunication had been improved. In order to ensure that children have access to education, secondary schools were being built with dormitories to cater to a number of

communities in those areas, fully funded by the State. In addition a State-funded scholarship program was in place for hinterland children, and over 90% of children were Amerindians.

104. The delegation also indicated that there were gaps that needed to be filled, and that was why a Hinterland Education Improvement Program had been established to ensure full access in the hinterland not only to nursery and primary (already covered) but also to secondary education.

105. Guyana pointed out that about 14 years ago there was just one Amerindian doctor and that today with the help of Cuba, hundreds of doctors had been trained including Amerindian doctors, many of who attended secondary schools in their communities, showing a measure of progress.

106. On child protection, the delegation noted this was a work in progress, highlighting that the Child Protection Agency was very active and efforts would continue in this regard.

107. On discrimination against persons with disabilities, the delegation reported that Guyana had not only passed a law on the subject but also ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Necessary measures were being taken both in public and private institutions, including banks. The delegation reported that the State was working with Cuba to establish in Guyana a Centre to do training of persons with disabilities, a project that would not only benefit Guyana but the entire Caribbean community.

108. On the question of discrimination against women and violence against women the delegation expressed regrets that it could not report to the Working Group that this area had seen massive improvement. Efforts at the State level on this matter would continue and would be intensified. The Plan of Action on domestic violence and sexual offences was submitted and already considered. It reported that the plan of action on domestic violence was already in operation. The delegation stated that this phenomenon required a lot of research in addition to the measures already put in place.

109. The delegation affirmed there was a school of thought that stated that because of the increased awareness by women of their rights and because of the increased independence of women, some men were not reacting nicely to this. Therefore, quite a lot of work was needed with men in this regard. It expressed that if in the past women were subservient and took whatever was told to them by their male counterpart, this had changed.

110. It mentioned that Guyana was working on parity in education at the tertiary level, where almost two thirds of those attending university are women, a challenge for males both nationally and in the entire Caribbean community. Regarding drop-out rates in school, at the primary level and the nursery level, the delegation pointed out that more schools had to be built but that overall there had been an increase in attendance to school.

111. Regarding elections and the need for transparency, the delegation informed the Working Group that the elections that took place before the last one, Guyana came number two in the world in the cost per/capita for holding elections, and this was because of the number of layers of transparency operating. It assured that Guyana had sought observers from the Commonwealth, the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations and the CARICOM. Therefore, the delegation trusted that the next elections would be transparent, once all the measures were put in place.

112. On the judicial training, as it relates to women's rights, work had been done with the Police and the Prosecutors and seven domestic violence units in each of the Police divisions had been established.

113. On trafficking of women and trafficking of persons in general, the delegation asserted a task force was already working on this. It noted that there was no evidence of widespread trafficking, but work had been done with several Ministries.

114. Regarding the reproductive health services, the delegation said it had noticed in one of the reports prepared for the UPR that a complaint was made about not providing contraceptives to children of a certain age, but the delegation asserted it did not have this kind of report, but would be checking on it. Additional resources had been provided regarding reproductive health services.

115. On the matter of the eradication of poverty Guyana mentioned the measures outlined in its national report, and stated it was pleased because it was able to reduce poverty, most of the Millennium Development Goals were met, and there was an improvement in nutrition.

116. The delegation underscored that Guyana would continue to give consideration to the recommendations regarding various Protocols and Conventions, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

117. On the intervention of the Kingdom of the Netherlands which referred to a political standstill caused by the decision of the President of Guyana to prorogue the Parliament, the delegation clarified that, faced with a no-confidence motion which if passed would immediately see the country go to elections in three months, what the President had sought to do by proroguing the Parliament was to preserve its life and invite the opposition to dialogue. The delegation noted that prorogation could only last for six months, The delegation asserted that if elections were held and saw the same results, there would still be a need to dialogue. The delegation stated that, given that the President wanted one last opportunity to try to dialogue with the Opposition, the Parliament was prorogued. The delegation reported that the offer of dialogue was not accepted by the Opposition and the President has since announced that elections would be held on May 11th.

118. Addressing the claim of the Netherlands that because of this situation the debate on the follow-up of the UPR recommendations could not continue, the delegation affirmed that the Parliamentary Select Committee examining the abolition of the death penalty and corporal punishment and LGBT matters was still functioning and had not concluded its work at the time of prorogation. Consequently, these matters were not ready to be debated in the National Assembly. The delegation indicated that the Government hoped that those issues would be taken back to the National Assembly when reconvened.

119. The delegation affirmed it was not happy that the Juvenile Justice Bill was not presented to Parliament but that this would be taken back to Parliament when it is reconvened.

120. It stated that Guyana was always open to officials from the UN system visiting the country and working with them.

121. Regarding issues of excessive use of force, mistreatment and extrajudicial killings, the delegation declared not being aware of extrajudicial killings in this reported period although there was one in 2011. The delegation added that the national report included what Guyana had been doing in terms of reported excesses by the Guyana Police Force and declared that efforts would continue.

122. On comments by Norway on the credibility of the judiciary, the delegation asserted it could not state that the Judiciary in Guyana was not credible, and that all branches of Government had to be strengthened including the judiciary.

123. On consultation with indigenous peoples, it stated that there were several indigenous NGOs. However, the Government dealt more with the elected representatives of the indigenous communities, and that there was a National Toshaos Council where all of the indigenous leaders met every year and every one of them had an opportunity to interact directly with the President and the Ministers, and that this was where a lot of the consultations with indigenous leaders took place. This was where indigenous peoples put forward their plans and programmes such as the community development plans which were presented to be included in the national budget. The delegation considered that the consultation and involvement of indigenous peoples in all matters of life including politics had never been as robust as it is now.

124. On the Women and Gender Equality Commission raised by Romania, the delegation affirmed that Guyana would continue to put the necessary resources, and was also looking for the support of international partners.

125. On a Comprehensive National Strategy to prevent various forms of violence against children, the delegation reported that information was provided in the national report but it understood that States did not see the report earlier.

126. Regarding the legal services in the hinterland, Guyana had expanded these services and committed to continue working in this issue. On the issue of housing, raised by Singapore, the delegation said it was one of the flagship projects of Guyana. The delegation stated that housing had increased tremendously and that the Government had learned much from what was done in Singapore.

127. On forced marriage, raised by Slovenia, the delegation affirmed that in Guyana no one could get married before age 16 unless one's parents consented and there had been no such requests that it knew of..

128. On ensuring that persons of African Descent participation and integration in society, the delegation expressed that it was very difficult to have more than 30% of your population not involved in the society and that there was representation in Government, Parliament, and public bodies of all different groups in the society, which made Guyanese proud.

129. On the media, the report states what Guyana has done, supporting self-regulation in the media because rights have also responsibilities. The delegation concluded thanking the delegations and underscored that many issues raised are addressed in the report.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

130. **The recommendations listed below have been examined by Guyana and enjoy the support of Guyana:**

130.1. **Consider ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Ghana);**

130.2. **Continue harmonizing its legal framework with respect to women and children with CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, respectively (Nicaragua);**

130.3. **Maintain the necessary efforts to promote corporate responsibility, which is linked to the full enjoyment of human rights of the population (Ecuador);**

** Conclusions and recommendations will not be edited

- 130.4. Analyse the possibility of creating a national human rights network to facilitate, among others, the submission of reports to treaty bodies, and establishing a national system to monitor international recommendations (Paraguay);
- 130.5. Consider developing Human Rights Indicators as suggested by the OHCHR (Portugal);
- 130.6. Adopt administrative and legislative measures to increase the human, technical and financial resources for the adequate functioning of the Commission on Human Rights and the three rights' commissions as well as to ensure its independence, in accordance to the Paris Principles (Mexico);
- 130.7. Implement a comprehensive strategy to combat the discrimination against women, Amerindian children and also children with disabilities (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 130.8. Continue work to enhance equality and combat discrimination including discrimination against women (Russian Federation);
- 130.9. Clearly define the mandate and the responsibilities of the national mechanism for the advancement of women and allocating the necessary resources to enable it to promote equality and mainstreaming gender equality and ensuring coordination of activities in this field (Morocco);
- 130.10. Intensify technical and vocational training for women and adopt temporary special measures aimed at achieving de facto equal opportunities for men and women in the labour market (Timor-Leste);
- 130.11. Provide the Women and Gender Equality Commission with adequate human, financial and technical resources, so as to consolidate its role in gender promotion and mainstreaming (Romania);
- 130.12. Continue strengthening the presence of women in various institutions (Algeria);
- 130.13. Strengthen the legislative framework and ensure its effective enforcement in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women (Maldives);
- 130.14. Advance in the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination and gender violence, particularly strengthening the coordinated multisectorial implementation and application of the Sexual Offences Act, adopted in Guyana in 2010 (Chile);
- 130.15. Continue working to be able to incorporate the prohibition of discrimination against women in its national legislation (Guatemala);
- 130.16. Strengthen training within the judiciary on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and carry out campaigns on the rights of women and existing resources in cases of gender-based violence or discrimination (Mexico);
- 130.17. Continue promoting the participation of women in social, economic and political spheres contributing to the development of the country (Nicaragua);
- 130.18. Heed the call of CEDAW to promote shared parental and caring responsibilities of women and men (Slovenia);

- 130.19. **Strengthen policies for gender equality to ensure participation of women in the political and labour arenas, both public and private, particularly women from ethnic minorities (Colombia);**
- 130.20. **Continue the actions taken to further advance in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women (Cuba);**
- 130.21. **Continue its efforts for the proper implementation of the measures adopted for the effective promotion and protection of women's rights, considering the different vulnerability factors to which they may be exposed and the importance of their participation in society (Ecuador);**
- 130.22. **Take measures to address patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women (Botswana);**
- 130.23. **Strengthen efforts to ensure that People of African Descent participate and integrate in the economic, political, social and cultural spheres of Guyanese society (South Africa);**
- 130.24. **Implement more appropriate measures to build an inclusive society, in which no segment of the population, notably the Afro Guyanese who constitute 30 percent of the population, do not suffer discrimination (Ghana);**
- 130.25. **Strengthen the protection of LGBT individuals (Brazil);**
- 130.26. **Take measures to ensure that hate crimes and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity are vigorously investigated and appropriately prosecuted (United States of America);**
- 130.27. **Continue its effort in eliminating discrimination against LGBT starting with the review of its related legislation (Thailand);**
- 130.28. **Carry out the national consultations on the death penalty, which it had engaged to hold during the 8th UPR WG session, so as to continue advancing towards the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);**
- 130.29. **Consider taking all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy);**
- 130.30. **Consider the abolition of the death penalty, and declare a moratorium on executions, as previously recommended (Slovenia);¹**
- 130.31. **Ensure thorough investigations of all allegations of extrajudicial killings and use of excessive force by the police (Italy);**
- 130.32. **Improve conditions of detention, particularly for persons with disabilities (France);**
- 130.33. **Redouble efforts to combat all forms of sexual violence against women, fully implementing the Sexual Offences Act (Panama);**
- 130.34. **Deepen the actions taken against discrimination and violence against women, particularly guaranteeing an effective access to courts and strengthening assistance and accompaniment to the victims (Argentina);**

¹ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "We therefore reiterate our past recommendations no. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49."

- 130.35. **Adopt a national action plan in order to combat gender-specific violence, including domestic violence (Sweden);**
- 130.36. **Establish preventive measures such as the creation of the national action plan for the prevention of sexual violence as well as public information campaigns on domestic violence so as to facilitate the implementation of Sexual Offense Act (Switzerland);**
- 130.37. **Intensify its efforts in combating domestic violence, in particular, provide sufficient resources to ensure effective implementation of its legislation as well as to raise awareness of women's rights (Thailand);**
- 130.38. **Make the necessary constitutional and legislative amendments to implement its National Domestic Violence Policy with a view to end violence against women and girls (Australia);**
- 130.39. **Provide law enforcement and judiciary members with training on addressing domestic violence and child abuse cases and build their capacity to record and track complaints ensuring that all allegations are thoroughly investigated and that all perpetrators are prosecuted (Canada);**
- 130.40. **Fully implement the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, in order to improve support and access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence (Slovenia);**
- 130.41. **Fully implement the Sexual Offences Amendment Act 2013 (South Africa);**
- 130.42. **Provide the necessary human means and resources for the effective implementation of Sexual Offences Act and the national policy on domestic violence (Spain);**
- 130.43. **Implement fully the Sexual Offences Act through the national plan for the prevention of sexual violence and the establishment of a unit against sexual offences (Uruguay);**
- 130.44. **Ensure a coordinated response between police, justice, child protection, and social service officials so that women and children who are victims of violence, including sexual abuse, have access to immediate protection (Canada);**
- 130.45. **Further strengthen awareness- raising and information programs to promote the rights of the child and consider developing a comprehensive national child protection mechanism and action plan (Philippines);**
- 130.46. **Ensure more fully the rights of the child, and first and foremost, the realisation of the right to education and combating illegal child labour (Russian Federation);**
- 130.47. **Intensify awareness-raising campaigns to strengthen the protection of children's rights (Germany);**
- 130.48. **Intensify efforts to reduce the use of corporal punishment against minors in state-run institutions through awareness-raising campaigns and training in non-violent forms of discipline (Canada);**
- 130.49. **Take measures to develop a comprehensive action plan to combat trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and girls (Panama);**
- 130.50. **Take measures to ensure effective implementation of laws and policies that combat trafficking in persons (Philippines);**

- 130.51. Continue to address the root causes of human trafficking and provide the relevant training to law enforcement officials and judges to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous crime do not go unpunished (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 130.52. Develop a comprehensive national strategy with a view to prevent and address all forms of violence against children (Romania);
- 130.53. Strengthen the provisions of legal aid services in all regions and ensure enhanced awareness of key CEDAW provisions by the judiciary (Norway);
- 130.54. Continue legislative and judicial reforms with a view to ensuring the accessibility of legal services in the hinterlands (Russian Federation);
- 130.55. Strengthen the independence of the Police Complaints Authority and provide it with adequate funding and resources (Italy);
- 130.56. Investigate all complaints of human rights violations committed by state security agencies and ensure that cases of violations are brought before the courts (Norway);
- 130.57. Increase the capacity of the Police Complaints Authority to undertake prompt and impartial investigations of police abuse so the PCA can transfer cases to the justice system for prosecution as warranted (United States of America);
- 130.58. Adopt measures that ensure enjoyment of fundamental freedoms in law and practice (Botswana);
- 130.59. Improve access to age-appropriate HIV, sexual and reproductive health services especially among adolescents (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 130.60. Continue consolidating its correct social programs in favour of its people, in the fight against poverty, exclusion and social injustice underscoring the areas of nutrition, health, education and employment, for which it is important that the Community of Nations provide the cooperation and technical assistance that Guyana requires (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 130.61. Apply the measures envisaged to continue the trend towards poverty reduction in the country (Cuba);
- 130.62. Enhance its poverty eradication efforts by continuously allocating sufficient annual budget dedicated to poverty eradication programmes (Indonesia);
- 130.63. Continue implementing programmes and plans aimed at improving services linked to drinking water and sanitation (Algeria);
- 130.64. Continue to strengthen the construction of drinking water and basic sanitation facilities in order to provide better basic services for its people (China);
- 130.65. Continue to develop sustainable housing schemes with a view to increasing the provision of housing for low and middle income households (Singapore);
- 130.66. Take actions at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the “Technical Guidance on the Application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate

preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age, A/HRC/27/31 (Ireland);

130.67. Continue to implement measures to strengthen public health services to all its citizens (Singapore);

130.68. Increase access to affordable contraceptive methods throughout the country, include comprehensive sexuality education in school curricula, and provide adequate and effective sexual and reproductive health services, including to adolescents (Slovenia);

130.69. Further promote human rights education and awareness-raising programmes in Guyana (Armenia);

130.70. Continue to increase the inputs of financial and human resources into education so as to improve educational standards and reduce drop-out rates (China);

130.71. Continue its efforts to ensure the full implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2010 (Indonesia);

130.72. Combat prevailing discrimination against children with disabilities and ensure the availability of appropriate health and equal educational services for children (Maldives);

130.73. Take further measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to transportation, facilities and health services and ensure their integration into the general education system (Panama);

130.74. Guarantee extended, free and transparent participation of civil society and minorities in the public national debate (Chile);

130.75. Guarantee the indigenous people's rights by fully engaging indigenous peoples of the country in decision-making in all the matters that affect them (Estonia);

131. The following enjoy the support of Guyana which considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation:

131.1. Enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women by ensuring effective implementation of the existing legislation, by implementing a policy of equal work for equal pay and by developing a comprehensive national strategy to facilitate equal access of girls and women to all levels and fields of education (Italy);

131.2. Amend the list of hazardous work to prohibit children under the age of 18 from working in all listed sectors (United States of America);

131.3. Reduce the number of crimes to which the death penalty can be imposed (Australia);

131.4. Ensure de facto criminalization of child, early and forced marriages and to carry out awareness-raising among women about their rights (Slovenia).

132. The following recommendations will be examined by Guyana which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 29th session of the Human Rights Council in June/July 2015:

132.1. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Italy); (Paraguay); (Uruguay);

- 132.2. **Ratify the 2nd Optional Protocol to the ICCPR with the aim to total abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**
- 132.3. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty (Switzerland);**
- 132.4. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Timor-Leste);**
- 132.5. **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);**
- 132.6. **Abolish the death penalty in law and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Germany); Abolish the death penalty and ratify the second Optional Protocol to ICCPR (Portugal);**
- 132.7. **Ratify the OP – CEDAW (Namibia);**
- 132.8. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (Spain); (Uruguay);**
- 132.9. **Give a high priority to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Australia);**
- 132.10. **Ratify the American Convention on Human Rights (Uruguay);**
- 132.11. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark);**
- 132.12. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to UN Convention Against Torture (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 132.13. **Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention Against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism as soon as possible (Costa Rica);**
- 132.14. **Consider ratifying the OP-CAT (Ghana);**
- 132.15. **Withdraw the reservations made to the articles 21 and 22 of CAT and ratify its Optional Protocol (Portugal);**
- 132.16. **Ratify the OP-CRC on a communications procedure (Montenegro);**
- 132.17. **Ratify the ICPED and OP-CEDAW (Sierra Leone);**
- 132.18. **Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**
- 132.19. **Ratify and implement ILO Convention 169 (Norway);**
- 132.20. **Align its national legislation with the Rome Statute, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court and investigate and prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes effectively before its national courts (Estonia);**
- 132.21. **Establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone);**
- 132.22. **Consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (India);**
- 132.23. **Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Ghana);**

- 132.24. **Issue a standing invitation to all Special Procedures (Ghana);**
- 132.25. **Extend an open invitation to the Special Procedures of the United Nations (Guatemala);**
- 132.26. **Extend a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures and accept the request for a visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on torture (Spain);**
- 132.27. **Accept the request for a visit made by the Special Rapporteur on Torture (Portugal);**
- 132.28. **Adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (Portugal);**
- 132.29. **Repeal all provisions that discriminate against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly those which criminalise consensual adult same-sex relations (Ireland);**
- 132.30. **Decriminalise homosexuality and combat all forms of discrimination and abuse against LGBTI persons (Italy);**
- 132.31. **Bring its legislation in line with international standards by removing the relevant sections that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct from the Criminal Law (Offences) Act (Netherlands);**
- 132.32. **Repeal the laws which criminalize sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex, as previously recommended (Slovenia);²**
- 132.33. **Abrogate national laws which criminalize or discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Switzerland);**
- 132.34. **In consultation with civil society, develop and pass legislation that decriminalizes consensual same-sex sexual conduct (United States of America);**
- 132.35. **Guarantee to LGBTI persons the full enjoyment under equal conditions of their human rights, through the abolishment of the norms that criminalize and stigmatize them, and the investigation and sanction of cases of violence or discrimination motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina);**
- 132.36. **Amend Article 149 of the Guyana Constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and repeal Sections 351 to 353 of the Criminal Law Offenses Act, which criminalizes sexual activities between consenting adults of the same sex (Canada);**
- 132.37. **Advance in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity, particularly abolishing all regulations of the Penal Code that support those discriminations and reinforce legislative and judicial protections against such abuses (Chile);**
- 132.38. **Abolish discriminatory laws against LGBT persons and also amend its national legislation in order to include sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds of discrimination (Norway);**

² The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “We therefore reiterate our past recommendations no. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49.”

- 132.39. **Repeal all norms that can be presumed or interpreted as being discriminatory against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity (Spain);**
- 132.40. **Repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 132.41. **Amend all legislation that discriminates against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as investigate incidents or acts of violence motivated by homophobia or transphobia and bring to justice those responsible for such acts (Uruguay);**
- 132.42. **Take the legislative and policy measures to prevent and fight against violence and fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Colombia);**
- 132.43. **Carry out the necessary amendments to its national legislation so that no crime is punished by the death penalty (Panama);**
- 132.44. **Establish an immediate official moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 132.45. **Establish an official moratorium on executions with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, and commute without delay death sentences into prison terms (Uruguay);**
- 132.46. **Accompany the informal moratorium on death penalty, maintained since 1997, by a commitment to the adoption of the necessary measures to establish a formal moratorium, with a view to eventually abolishing the death penalty (Brazil);**
- 132.47. **Eliminate the death penalty from its legislation and alternatively, establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Chile);**
- 132.48. **Establish a de jure moratorium on death penalty with a view to its abolishment and ensure death penalty is commuted to prison penalties (Costa Rica);**
- 132.49. **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to definitively abolishing the death penalty (France);**
- 132.50. **Seek the support of the Group of Friends of the Convention against Torture Initiative for technical assistance in the implementation of measures aimed at preventing and investigating reports of torture in the prisons system (Ghana);**
- 132.51. **Repeal corporal punishment of children (Kuwait);**
- 132.52. **Eliminate corporal punishment of children both in public and private life (Netherlands);**
- 132.53. **Prohibit corporal punishment, especially in schools, in accordance with article 19 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as previously recommended (Slovenia);³**

³ The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “We therefore reiterate our past recommendations no. 70.29, 70.39 and 70.49.”

- 132.54. **Develop a comprehensive national strategy and adopt a national coordinating framework to ban all corporal punishment against children (Germany);**
- 132.55. **Take all the necessary measures including law reform initiatives to eliminate violence against children in all its forms, including corporal punishment (Namibia);**
- 132.56. **Put in place an independent organ to investigate complaints of abuses perpetrated by members of the country's security forces (Spain);**
- 132.57. **Increase age of criminal liability to 18 (Kuwait);**
- 132.58. **Continue efforts for the prompt adoption of the Law on Juvenile Justice (Nicaragua);**
- 132.59. **Raise the age of criminal responsibility (Slovenia);**
- 132.60. **Increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 18 years (Sierra Leone);**
- 132.61. **Respect and protect the right to freedom of expression online and offline and bring its national legislation fully in line with international standards, including by decriminalizing defamation; and to develop self-regulatory mechanisms of the media (Estonia);**
- 132.62. **Intensify efforts to improve the quality of education, to deal with the issue of high dropout rates, and continue to increase resources for educational infrastructure (Philippines);**
- 132.63. **Continue its efforts in addressing the challenges in the promotion of the rights to education, inter alia through addressing high rates of students withdrawal from schools (Armenia);**
- 132.64. **Adopt a national action plan for the improvement of the situation for indigenous peoples (Sweden).**
133. **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 Guyana was headed by Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Sherwyn Naughton, First Secretary, Embassy of Guyana in Brussels.
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