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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-fourth session**  
Geneva, 18-29 January 2016

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

**Niger**

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\* The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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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 twenty-fourth session from 18 to 22 January 2016. The review of Niger was held at the 2nd meeting on 18 January 2016. The delegation of Niger was headed by S.E. Amadou Morou, Minister of Justice. At its 10th meeting held on 22 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Niger.
2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Niger: Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), and Switzerland.
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 Niger:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/NER/1);
  - (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/NER/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/NER/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Lichtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Niger 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. Le Niger a remercié le Groupe du travail de l'EPU pour la préparation de la session, ainsi que le bureau du Haut-commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme pour son engagement et travail quotidien pour la promotion et la protection des droits de l'Homme à travers le monde. La délégation a ensuite assuré sa pleine coopération au Conseil de droits de l'homme.
6. Le Niger a rappelé que 112 recommandations lui avaient été formulées lors de son premier EPU. Pour leur mise en œuvre, un plan d'action a été élaboré et validé par toutes les parties prenantes en 2012. Ce plan de mise en œuvre a fait l'objet d'évaluation, en 2014, dans le cadre du rapport à mi-parcours qui a permis de mesurer les progrès réalisés accomplis.
7. Le rapport national a été élaboré avec le soutien de plusieurs partenaires dont les organisations internationales, de la Commission Nationale des Droits Humains (CNDH), ainsi que de la société civile.
8. Les recommandations formulées lors du premier EPU ont fait l'objet d'une attention particulière. Dans l'ensemble, la majorité des recommandations ont été suivies d'actions d'effets.

9. Sur le plan normatif, plusieurs textes de lois ont été adoptés afin d'améliorer le cadre d'intervention des pouvoirs publics dans tous les secteurs.
10. S'agissant de la gouvernance démocratique, le Niger a procédé à la mise en place effective des institutions de la République, prévues par la Constitution du 25 novembre 2010. Par ailleurs, toutes ces institutions ont résisté aux difficultés internes et externes auxquels le Niger a dû faire face, y compris la dernière tentative de coup d'Etat.
11. En outre, la Commission Nationale des Droits Humains a été créée et elle est aujourd'hui éligible au Statut A du Comité international de coordination.
12. La délégation a signalé que depuis 2011, des progrès importants ont eu lieu accomplis en matière de promotion de la transparence et de la bonne gestion des affaires publiques, avec principalement la mise en place d'une Haute Autorité de Lutte contre la Corruption et les Infractions Assimilées et la publication régulière de rapports par la Cour des Comptes.
13. Les droits civils et politiques ont aussi connu une évolution d'envergure depuis 2011 avec notamment la mise en place d'un dispositif institutionnel de lutte contre le terrorisme comprenant un Conseil National de Sécurité, un Pôle Judiciaire Antiterroriste et un Service Central de Lutte contre le Terrorisme ; l'amélioration de l'accès à la justice, le développement de la liberté de presse et le renforcement du cadre juridique et institutionnel de lutte contre l'esclavage et la traite des personnes.
14. Concernant l'accès à la justice, le Niger a adopté une Politique Nationale Justice et Droits Humains (PNJDH) assortie d'un Plan d'action décennal 2016-2025, et opéré plusieurs réformes dont la mise en place de l'Agence Nationale de l'Assistance Juridique et Judiciaire en vue d'assurer l'accès à la justice aux personnes vulnérables. Un Bureau d'Information, Réclamation, Lutte contre la Corruption et le Trafic d'Influence, a aussi été créé et doté d'une ligne verte pour combattre la corruption et le trafic d'influence dans le milieu judiciaire.
15. Dans le domaine de la lutte contre l'esclavage et la traite des personnes, le Niger a mis en place une Commission Nationale de Coordination de la Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes et une Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes.
16. Le Niger a, en outre, indiqué que ses efforts pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations de l'EPU ont été reconnues par la Rapporteuse spéciale sur les formes contemporaines de l'esclavage lors de sa visite au pays, en 2014.
17. En matière de liberté de la presse, le Niger a souligné la dépénalisation des délits de presse, le renforcement des capacités des médias privés à travers l'amélioration de l'enveloppe du fonds d'aide à la presse et la signature par le Président de la République de la Déclaration de la Montagne de la Table, visant l'abolition des peines de prison pour les journalistes dans l'exercice de leur métier.
18. En ce qui concerne les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels, le Niger a mis en œuvre l'Initiative 3N (les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens), qui a conduit à l'atteinte de l'ODD1 relative à la réduction de la malnutrition. Le Niger a aussi souligné la mise en œuvre de la politique de gratuité des soins, ayant permis l'amélioration de la santé de la mère et de l'enfant ; la révision en 2012 du Code du travail pour une meilleure protection du droit au travail ; et la création d'un observatoire national de l'emploi.
19. Dans le cadre de la promotion et de la protection des droits des groupes spécifiques, le Niger s'est référé à la modification de la loi portant le Code de la nationalité en 2014, visant notamment l'élimination de la discrimination à l'égard de la femme en matière de transmission de sa nationalité à son époux étranger ; la révision à la hausse du quota de 10 à 15% de l'un ou l'autre sexe aux postes électifs en 2014 ; la mise en place d'un observatoire

national genre ; l'adoption de la Politique Nationale du Développement Intégré du Jeune Enfant du Niger (PNDIJE) et du Document Cadre de Protection de l'Enfant ; l'adoption de la politique nationale de protection sociale et la mise en place des conseils pour les personnes âgées.

20. Sur le plan de la coopération avec les mécanismes spéciaux, le Niger a reçu en novembre 2014 la visite de la rapporteuse spéciale sur les formes contemporaines de l'esclavage et s'apprêtait à accueillir le Rapporteur spécial sur l'extrême pauvreté et les droits de l'Homme.

21. S'agissant de la coopération avec les organes des traités, le Niger poursuit ses efforts pour combler le retard accusé dans la soumission de ses rapports. Ainsi, en août 2015, la présentation du rapport sur la mise en œuvre de la Convention pour l'Élimination de toutes les formes de Discrimination Raciale a eu lieu. Le Niger a également soumis les rapports sur la Convention relative aux Droits des Personnes en situation d'handicap, la Convention sur l'Élimination de toutes les formes de Discrimination à l'Égard des Femmes, la Convention relative aux Droits de l'Enfant, et le Protocole facultatif à la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant, concernant la vente d'enfants, la prostitution des enfants et la pornographie mettant en scène des enfants. Le rapport sur le Pacte International relatif aux Droits Economiques, Sociaux et Culturels a été validé en décembre 2015. En outre, début 2016, le Niger a transmis son rapport sur le Pacte International relatif aux droits civils et politiques, ainsi que le document de base commun actualisé.

22. Malgré ces avancées enregistrées depuis 2011, les défis restent importants. Il s'agit essentiellement des menaces terroristes, de trafics illicites y compris de migrants, de la très forte croissance démographique, de la désertification, de l'ensablement du fleuve Niger et de l'assèchement du Lac Tchad.

23. De tous ces défis, le terrorisme, en particulier celui de Boko Haram, avec son lot d'assassinats, d'incendies, de biens détruits, de personnes déplacées et réfugiées, est sans doute le plus préoccupant et le plus actuel. La situation qui prévaut dans la région ouest-africaine est d'autant plus préoccupante au regard des défis qu'elle pose, notamment la prise en charge de centaines de milliers de personnes déplacées ou réfugiées, la réinsertion de celles-ci et le développement socio-économique des zones affectées.

24. En dépit de ces menaces, le Niger, avec l'assistance de ses partenaires, continue à préserver l'intégrité de son territoire et à assurer la sécurité des personnes et de leurs biens. Il a aussi pris en charge les personnes déplacées, réfugiées et retournées qui affluent à ses frontières.

25. Le Niger a lancé un appel à la communauté internationale à soutenir toutes les actions de rétablissement de la paix et de la sécurité dans l'espace sahélo-saharien, ainsi que son combat contre le terrorisme qui est une menace pour tous.

26. Dans ce contexte, le Niger prépare activement les élections générales prévues pour le 21 février 2016. Le Gouvernement s'est engagé à organiser des élections libres, transparentes, inclusives et pacifiques dans le respect des lois et règlements de la République.

27. Le Niger a procédé à un audit interne du fichier électoral, suite à la demande des partis politiques de l'opposition, accepté par toute la classe politique nigérienne. Par ailleurs, la Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante a demandé à l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) de procéder à un audit externe par ses experts. Le Gouvernement a accepté sans réserve, la mise en œuvre des recommandations des auditeurs de l'OIF. Le fichier électoral fait l'objet d'une acceptation de toute la classe politique nigérienne.

28. Quant aux observations reçues sur la liberté des journalistes et déclarations faites sur certains hommes politiques, le Niger a répondu que depuis 2011, aucun homme politique ou journaliste n'avait fait l'objet d'emprisonnement pour son opinion. Les délits de presse, tels que la diffamation, les injures, la propagation de fausses nouvelles, ont été décriminalisés. Néanmoins, la délégation a précisé que lorsque le Code pénal est violé, la loi est appliquée. C'est ainsi qu'un seul journaliste a été emprisonné pour faux et usage de faux.

29. Deux défenseurs des droits de l'homme ont également été interpellés pour des déclarations tendant à être démoralisantes pour les troupes dans le contexte des opérations de lutte anti-terroriste, ils ont été libérés le lendemain. Le Niger a signalé que sa stabilité doit être assurée et que certains militants des droits de l'homme font le relais des partis d'opposition afin de déstabiliser le gouvernement et les institutions étatiques. Le Niger a encouragé le bon usage de la liberté d'expression car elle renforce le système démocratique.

30. Par rapport à la peine de mort, un projet de ratification du deuxième Protocole facultatif au Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques a été porté devant l'Assemblée. Cependant, depuis 2012, le Gouvernement a systématiquement commué les peines de mort en peines de prison à perpétuité. Depuis 1977, aucune peine de mort n'a été exécutée au Niger. Bien que la volonté abolitionniste du Gouvernement soit présente, une majorité de citoyens y est actuellement opposée. C'est ainsi que le Niger a opté pour la sensibilisation dans ce sens, avec l'assistance des partenaires internationaux, jusqu'à ce que les conditions soient réunies pour l'abolition. La question de Boko Haram a néanmoins retardé les activités de sensibilisation. Le Niger a demandé à la communauté internationale de continuer à soutenir ses efforts à ce sujet.

31. Le Niger a pris acte de la nécessité de soumettre son rapport au Comité contre la torture. De plus, la délégation a souligné que le Gouvernement est intransigeant en ce qui concerne toute forme de torture ainsi que la traite des personnes. Un projet de loi sur la torture a été élaboré et mis dans le circuit de l'adoption. Le Niger a constamment encouragé à dénoncer ces actes afin d'en poursuivre les responsables.

32. Concernant la surpopulation carcérale, sur les 38 prisons du pays seule celle de Niamey connaît ce phénomène. Une prison avec une capacité d'accueil de 1500 personnes y sera construite.

33. Le Niger a indiqué qu'un mécanisme indépendant chargé de vérifier les conditions de détention n'a pas encore été mis en place, cependant des actions à niveau national ont été prises pour aboutir à sa création.

34. Concernant les efforts pour éliminer la discrimination fondée sur le genre sexe, le Niger a ratifié la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes et un Comité de réflexion a été mis en place en vue de retirer les réserves formulées. Un Plan triennal 2015-2017 a aussi été élaboré. Une caravane de sensibilisation et des activités de plaidoyer à l'attention des parlementaires, des leaders religieux et des chefs traditionnels, sont prévues.

35. Conformément à la politique décennale de promotion de la femme, les droits des femmes sont pris en compte de manière transversale dans les politiques sectorielles des différents ministères.

36. Quant à la question de Wahaya, comme pour les MFG, le Gouvernement a indiqué faire des efforts de sensibilisation pour que toute personne responsable de cette pratique soit dénoncée. Des instructions ont été transmises données au Ministère public, afin que celui-ci poursuive les éventuels responsables de tels actes. De plus, un cadre de concertation a été créé et une stratégie holistique est envisagée pour le développement de projets pilotes

afin de garantir le remboursement de frais médicaux, la réinsertion sociale et l'assistance juridique aux victimes.

37. Grace à la stratégie nationale, le taux des mutilations génitales féminines a diminué de 5% en 2005, à 2% en 2013.

38. Le Niger est aussi résolu à mettre fin au mariage des enfants. En 2014, une campagne de l'Union Africaine a été lancée à cette fin.

39. Concernant le droit à l'éducation, les efforts du Niger sont sans équivalent dans l'histoire du pays. En 5 ans, 15 000 classes ont été construites, contre 20 000 les 50 années précédentes. De plus, la proportion d'enfants inscrits à l'école est passée de 8% en 2010, à 25% en 2014. Des mesures pour améliorer et rendre l'enseignement technique et professionnel accessible, ont aussi été prises telles que la création de la Direction de l'Education Civique et de la formation à la Citoyenneté de l'observatoire national de l'emploi et de la formation professionnelle et l'ouverture de 8 centres d'appui à la formation continue et à l'apprentissage. Le Niger a en outre souligné ses efforts accomplis concernant la scolarisation des jeunes filles, le taux d'achèvement et de réussite aux examens, ainsi que l'instauration de l'école obligatoire jusqu'à 16 ans.

40. Le Niger a aussi précisé que les filles mères à l'école sont autorisées à poursuivre leurs études après avoir accouché.

41. Concernant les femmes aux postes de décisions, ou dans des fonctions électives, en 2010, pour la première fois, parmi les 10 candidats à la Présidence, une femme s'est portée candidate. Aux élections législatives, 15 femmes ont été élus sur 113 députés, 639 conseillères élues sur 3 477, 8 maires pour 270 collectivités, et sur 36 ministres, 7 étaient des femmes. En outre, une femme était Présidente de la Cour constitutionnelle et une autre de la Haute cour de justice.

42. Le Niger s'est aussi référé à la loi sur le quota, qui a été revu à la hausse, ainsi qu'à la mise en place de l'observatoire national genre.

43. Concernant ses engagements en matière de droit international, le Niger a rappelé qu'il a signé les principaux instruments internationaux des droits de l'homme et a promis des efforts continus en vue de la poursuite des ratifications.

44. En 2012, une invitation permanente a été faite aux procédures spéciales.

45. Le Niger a fait noter qu'il a adopté un programme national concernant l'alimentation et l'eau potable et l'assainissement 2011-2015, ainsi qu'une stratégie nationale de l'hydraulique pastorale en 2014, ce qui a permis d'augmenter le taux d'accès à l'eau en milieu rural et urbain.

46. Des actions ont également été prises concernant le droit à la santé, notamment concernant la santé maternelle et reproductive, tels que des soins gratuits suivant une césarienne, des soins aux enfants de moins de 5 ans, des consultations prénatales, des consultations de planning familial, de la césarienne et la prise en charge de cancers des femmes. Ceci a contribué à la réduction du taux de mortalité maternelle et de la mortalité néonatale.

47. Concernant les droits des personnes handicapées, le Niger a signalé que les recommandations du Forum de 2015 feront l'objet d'un Plan d'Action. De plus, il a adopté une loi sur la protection sociale en 2011, et suite au forum national sur la protection sociale, la définition d'un socle de protection sociale est envisagée.

48. Pour finir, le Niger a exprimé sa satisfaction au regard des déclarations de soutien reçues pour les efforts et progrès réalisés depuis son premier EPU. Le Niger a réaffirmé sa détermination à poursuivre ses efforts en matière de promotion et de protection de droits de

l'homme, notamment en matière de promotion et de protection des droits des femmes et des enfants.

49. Le Niger s'est également engagé à continuer de renforcer la liberté d'expression, ses efforts pour lutter contre le terrorisme, la corruption et l'impunité, en renforçant son cadre institutionnel et juridique.

50. Le Niger a remercié tous ses partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux pour leur soutien sans relâche aux efforts de construction d'un Etat démocratique, pacifiques et prospère.

51. Le Niger a enfin réaffirmé qu'il est étai conscient de l'ampleur des défis auxquels il est confronté et de l'obligation de répondre aux engagements pris dans le domaine des droits de l'Homme. Il a appelé la communauté internationale à l'accompagner dans sa détermination de poursuivre sa lutte pour une meilleure gouvernance démocratique et un développement économique et social équilibré. Le Niger a salué les délégations qui ont invité les institutions des Nations Unies à lui apporter leur assistance technique pour un futur meilleur.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

52. Chad noted Niger's efforts to implement recommendations accepted during its first UPR and its voluntary commitments. Chad encouraged Niger to continue to deal with a large number of challenges which it faced and recalled for significant support from partner countries to assist Niger.

53. China commended Niger for the development of the 2012-2015 Action Plan and for conscientiously implementing the first cycle recommendations. China welcomed Niger's efforts to combat slavery and improve people's health, education, employment and other economic, social and cultural rights. China called on the international community to support Niger in moving forward with its sustainable development.

54. The Congo noted Niger's efforts to improve the human rights situation through the Plan of Action 2012-2015. Congo noted the creation of national institutions between 2011 and 2013. However, it also noted persistence of challenges, particularly regarding social rights and rights of women. It appreciated Niger's decision to abolish the death penalty.

55. Costa Rica acknowledged Niger's efforts regarding ratification of human rights instruments and the establishment of institutions to ensure democracy and rule of law. However, it noted with concern challenges related to gender equality, security situation and internal displacements. It regretted the lack of laws and standards to effectively abolish the death penalty and criminalize torture.

56. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed in particular Niger's accession to the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Cote d'Ivoire welcomed the setting up of the Programme for Economic and Social Development 2012-2015 and encouraged the continuation of such efforts for combating poverty.

57. France welcomed measures taken by Niger in the area of human rights since its first UPR, in particular the ratification of the CPPED and the OP-CAT.

58. Democratic Republic of Congo noted with satisfaction ratification by Niger of core human rights instruments and that Niger was the first country to sign the Optional Protocol to the ILO Convention on Forced Labour aiming at combating modern slavery. Furthermore, it welcomed that Niger voted in favor of General Assembly's resolution on the universal moratorium on the death penalty.

59. Denmark commended Niger for the ratification of the OP-CAT and its efforts to promote the rights of women and girls. However, it expressed concern at reports of arrests



of journalists and politicians, persistence of discrimination against women and girls, and the practice of land grabbing. Denmark urged Niger to respect freedom of speech and assembly, as well as democratic principles.

60. Djibouti welcomed the participative and inclusive approach to the preparation of Niger's national report. Djibouti appreciated the efforts underscoring the political willingness of the Government to improve the human rights situation in Niger.

61. Egypt noted Niger's progress on human rights through the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, the Action Plan to implement recommendations from the first UPR; measures to fight against contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons. It encouraged Niger to pay great attention to protect economic and social rights in the context of sustainable development.

62. Ethiopia commended significant advances in ratifications and the follow-up framework in place for the implementation of first cycle recommendations. Ethiopia appreciated the establishment of a counter-terrorism institutional framework to better contain the terrorist threat. Ethiopia encouraged Niger to continue working towards socio-economic development to sustain and support vulnerable groups.

63. Cuba welcomed that Niger had adopted important legislation further to its first UPR, such as the laws on juvenile courts and trafficking, or the adoption of the Justice and Human Rights Action Plan. Cuba praised the policy of child development in early childhood and the improvements in the areas of health, education, employment and food.

64. Georgia noted with appreciation ratification of international human rights instruments, particularly OP-CAT, and adoption of legislative provisions since its first UPR. It welcomed the standing invitation to special procedures and highlighted efforts to combat slavery, including the adoption of a National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons. Georgia acknowledged steps taken to enhance the protection of women and children.

65. Germany recognized Niger's efforts to cooperate with the UN human rights system, particularly the standing invitation issued to special procedures. Germany remained, however, concerned at the high rate of early, child and forced marriages and insufficient protection of migrants and refugees from smugglers and human traffickers.

66. Ghana appreciated the 2012-2015 Action Plan aimed at implementing the first cycle recommendations. Ghana shared the concerns of Niger of the threat posed by terrorists. Ghana was concerned at alleged reports of intimidation and ill-treatment by security agencies of human rights defenders, journalists and other civilians exercising their rights to free speech, peaceful assembly and religion.

67. Indonesia welcomed the establishment of the NHRC, the Ombudsman's office and institutions to combat trafficking in persons and corruption. Indonesia welcomed the National Policy on Justice and Human Rights and its Ten-year plan of action for 2016-2025, including the increase of women participation in politics and the national policies implemented for children and youth, as well for social welfare.

68. Islamic Republic of Iran noted progress, particularly in reducing neonatal and maternal mortality rates and the implementation of different programmes for children to access education. It applauded the adoption of the National Action Plan on Combatting Human Trafficking in 2014.

69. Iraq appreciated the ratification of international instruments and the role played by Niger in combatting terrorism and consolidating human rights within the society. Iraq applauded Niger's cooperation with the international human rights community.

70. Italy commended Niger's commitment to eradicate poverty, the attention it attributed to economic, social and cultural rights and the adoption of the Health Development Plan. Italy also appreciated the abolitionist de facto position of Niger regarding the death penalty.

71. Libya commended Niger on important legislation adopted, including the Act of May 2015 on migrant smuggling and the establishment of national institutions such as the national agency for combatting trafficking in persons.

72. Luxembourg welcomed progress made in the sector of nutrition through the 3N initiative, efforts made to promote women rights, and measures to combat slavery. However, it regretted that women and girls remained extremely vulnerable regarding harmful practices, including FGM or early marriage. Luxembourg hoped that the forthcoming elections be carried out in conformity with human rights.

73. Madagascar acknowledged the will of Niger to comply with international commitments despite a difficult regional environment marked by violence and terrorist acts. Madagascar welcomed the establishment of the Constitutional Court, the High Commissioner for the 3N initiative and the National Commission for Human Rights.

74. Malaysia acknowledged the legislative measures, policies and programmes developed in Niger to promote economic and social rights, to address the issue of trafficking in persons, and to protect vulnerable groups, particularly women and children. Malaysia encouraged Niger to overcome the challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

75. Mauritania welcomed the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the national policy on the justice system and human rights and the establishment of the National Agency for Legal and Judicial Assistance. Mauritania welcomed other reforms such as the Declaration of Table Mountain prohibiting prison sentences for journalists. Mauritania noted Niger's concern with combating slavery and human trafficking and continued to accord priority to the security challenges and fighting terrorism.

76. Mexico noted the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, the adoption of the National Policy on Justice and Human Rights and the amendment of the Quota Act fostering greater women participation in political life. Similarly, Mexico welcomed the rise of birth registration, particularly in rural areas through mobile courts to issue birth certificates.

77. Slovenia commended the remarkable progress achieved since its last review and noted the human rights action plan, education programme and national institutions, strengthened measures to combat FGM and Wahaya, submitted overdue treaty body reports and ratified OP-CAT and OP-CRC-AC. Slovenia considered that the first cycle recommendations it made had been mostly implemented.

78. Mozambique saluted the outstanding progress achieved by Niger since its first UPR. It urged the Government to accelerate the process of abolishing the death penalty and appealed the International Community to be responsive to the request of Niger of technical support regarding attacks by Boko Haram.

79. Namibia commended the creation of the Office of the Ombudsman, the Constitutional Court, the Court of Audit and other courts and agencies to secure an institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights. Namibia appreciated efforts to protect freedom of expression and encouraged Niger to build on these achievements and to guard against any arbitrarily restriction in the fight against terrorism.

80. The Netherlands commended progress in creating national institutions for human rights. It noted some limited progress regarding access to maternal health care; and

reducing FGM and early marriage. Netherlands asked that particular attention be paid to human rights defenders working on corporate accountability and transparency issues who might face arrest, arbitrary detention and spurious charges.

81. Nicaragua recognized the enactment of a new constitution in 2010 that triggered a process to establish the rule of law and promote and protect human rights. Nicaragua commended the Government for improving the quality and access to education and health and called for the rapid adoption of the Justice and Human Rights Policy.

82. Nigeria welcomed the Justice National Policy and the Action Plan 2016-2025, as well as initiatives to prevent trafficking in persons. Nigeria urged Niger to promote human rights at all levels, ensure political inclusion in the forthcoming elections and free and fair elections. It also urged Niger to continue to provide the enabling environment for the protection of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, in line with international standards.

83. Norway commended Niger for its efforts to enhance access to education and food security. It acknowledged the hospitality that Niger had demonstrated towards refugees from neighbouring countries and condemned the attacks on innocent civilians in the Diffa region. Norway recalled the responsibility of Niger to uphold fundamental rights even during a State of Emergency.

84. Pakistan noted that Niger had implemented a majority of the first cycle recommendations. Pakistan commended the passage of a number of laws and administrative reforms and appreciated the on-going cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the treaty bodies.

85. Panama welcomed progress made by Niger to implement the recommendations accepted during its 1<sup>st</sup> UPR as well as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.

86. Philippines recognized Niger's challenges regarding climate changes and terrorism. It welcomed ratification of international human rights instruments and strengthening of domestic legal and institutional framework. It appreciated efforts towards the abolition of the death penalty, to combat trafficking in persons and slavery. It commended Niger for measures taken to promote and protect the rights of refugees and migrant workers.

87. Portugal noted with appreciation Niger's willingness to engage further with treaty bodies and welcomed, among other developments, the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee in charge of preparing human rights reports. Furthermore, it welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR in 2014.

88. Senegal congratulated Niger for its efforts, since its first UPR, and measures taken in the areas of education, health, agriculture and food self-sufficiency, as well as the ratification of human rights instruments. Senegal called on the international community to assist Niger in its efforts to combat terrorism.

89. Sierra Leone welcomed the policies undertaken by Niger since its first UPR. It noted that Niger was targeted by Boko Haram and commended the Government for tackling this threat in a holistic manner and working with regional partners. Sierra Leone encouraged Niger to implement a more comprehensive preventative strategy to combat gender-based violence.

90. Morocco appreciated Niger's reforms to build a democratic society which respect human rights. Morocco congratulated Niger for establishing a national human rights institution, decriminalizing press crimes, improving access to justice and combatting slavery and human trafficking. Morocco supported Niger's request for technical support to establish a specialized body dealing with prison administration and security.

91. South Africa recognized the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the adoption of the Economic and Social Development Plan. However, it noted remaining challenges in the full realization of human rights exacerbated through the burden of external debt and the food crises. It encouraged Niger to continue all efforts towards the promotion and protection of human rights including the right to development.

92. South Sudan appreciated the National Action Plan on Justice and Human Rights (2016-2025) and applauded efforts to combat slavery and human trafficking and the enshrining of the abolition of slavery in the Constitution. South Sudan appreciated steps taken to prosecute perpetrators of the crime of FGM and bring them to justice.

93. Spain welcomed the accession of Niger to OPCAT and CPPED and the decision of the Government to accede to the Second OP-ICCPR. In this respect, Spain commended the fact that the death penalty had not been applied since 1976.

94. Switzerland welcomed Niger's efforts to abolish the death penalty. However, it was concerned at persistent rate of child, forced and early marriages that lead to human rights violations, in particular of the right to education and sexual and reproductive rights. Switzerland was also concerned that human rights defenders continued to face violations and restrictions of their rights. It stated that Niger should ensure that mining companies are aware about its obligation to respect human rights.

95. Togo welcomed the participative and inclusive approach in preparing the national report. Togo was particularly impressed with the work undertaken during the last four years to promote and protect human rights. Togo welcomed the adoption of the decade long Action Plan on Justice and Human Rights (2016-2025) and the decriminalization of press crimes.

96. Tunisia welcomed the development of an action plan for the implementation of the UPR recommendations and the presentation of a mid-term report on this regard. It noted the establishment of fifteen institutions contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights. Tunisia encouraged Niger to fight all forms of violence against women and children including FGM.

97. Ukraine noted Niger's significant progress in the ratification of human rights instruments and that Niger had strengthened its national legal and institutional framework to combat slavery and human trafficking. Ukraine welcomed Niger's signature of the ILO protocol to the Forced Labour Convention aiming at combating modern slavery. However it noted remaining challenges to build a genuinely constitutional state.

98. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland commended Niger's progress regarding security and humanitarian challenges. It urged Niger to ensure human rights protection particularly for those who are seeking refuge. It welcomed Niger's signing of the Declaration of the Table Mountain and urged Niger to ensure that journalists and NGOs are not unduly hindered, harassed or detained as a result of their work. It called on Niger to end traditional practices that discriminate and target women and girls.

99. The United States of America commended Niger's efforts to counter terrorist groups. It welcomed the audit of Niger's electoral list in advance of the upcoming elections. It was concerned by reports that political space was narrowing. It remained concerned about the continued existence of slavery and noted that prison conditions were still a challenge.

100. Uruguay welcomed ratification by Niger of the Optional Protocol to the ILO Forced Labour Convention aiming at combating modern slavery. It encouraged Niger to implement the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on Slavery. Uruguay was concerned at high rate of early and forced marriage and encouraged Niger to strengthen measures to

eliminate those practices as well as FGM, and harmonize its domestic legislation with the CEDAW.

101. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela praised the progress achieved in the fields of health and education, such as the distribution of free books in the 1 and 2 basic cycles, the establishment of canteens in schools for the nomad population and the strategic plan for delivering food in schools for the most vulnerable population.

102. Zambia called upon Niger to consider withdrawing its reservations to the CEDAW; domesticate the instruments it has ratified, particularly those concerning the rights of women and children; and enact laws to combat slavery, and take the necessary steps to eliminate FGM. Furthermore, Zambia urged Niger to include a definition of discrimination in its legislation and harmonize the Criminal Code with the CEDAW, ICCPR and CRC.

103. Afghanistan commended actions and commitments in promoting and protecting human rights in compliance with international obligations. Moreover, it welcomed significant progress in the area of freedom of expression and the Declaration of Table of Mountain signed by the President of Niger that allowed journalists to freely practice their professional duties.

104. Algeria congratulated Niger for the remarkable progress it made in implementing its first cycle recommendations of which it had accepted 110 out of 112 recommendations. Algeria welcomed Niger as the first signatory to the Protocol to the ILO Convention on Forced Labour aiming at combating modern slavery. Algeria encouraged Niger to continue its efforts to combat early marriage.

105. Angola noted with satisfaction that Niger continued its efforts to improve respect of human rights, particularly in its domestic legislation. Angola welcomed the Action Plan to implement recommendations from the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle. Angola also noted the adoption of constitutional provisions that prohibit all forms of slavery and human trafficking.

106. Argentina welcomed that Niger had become a party to CPPED and OPCAT. It also noted the efforts of Niger to address the consequences of the clashes between the terrorist group Boko Haram and the defence and security forces.

107. Armenia appreciated health development plans, strategies and programmes and Niger's commitment to maintaining an open-door policy for refugees. Armenia noted challenges in combating trafficking in persons and addressing the high number of child marriages. Armenia encouraged Niger to reconsider its reservations to its many signed and ratified international human rights instruments.

108. Australia was concerned at reports of torture and ill treatment of detainees accused of terrorist activities. It noted the de facto moratorium on executions. However, it regretted that this penalty remained in the Penal Code. Australia was also concerned by reports of violence against women, including FGM, and by the persistence of slavery.

109. Azerbaijan welcomed the ratification of the OP-CAT and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on children in armed conflict, and adoption of the Law against trafficking and of Rural and Water Codes. Azerbaijan commended cooperation with human rights mechanisms, highlighting the issuance of a standing invitation to special procedures, and welcomed quotas for women in elected office and public service.

110. Belgium welcomed the standing invitation extending by Niger to Special Procedures in 2012; recent ratification of the CPPED; the ratification of the Rome Statute and related amendments to the Penal Code. Belgium appreciated the moratorium to the death penalty and Niger's decision to pass the bill to adhere to the OP-ICCPR-2. Belgium was concerned at deterioration of the security situation caused by terrorist groups' attacks. Belgium encouraged Niger to ensure the independence of the Judiciary.

111. Benin welcomed in particular the adoption of various laws covering areas such as political life, individual freedoms, child protection and the administration of justice. Benin welcomed the adoption of measures taken regarding the rights to education, food and health. Benin urged Niger to continue awareness-raising campaigns to ensuring the completion of legislative processes for the abolition of the death penalty. Benin urged the international community to support Niger's human rights and development efforts.

112. Botswana welcomed the adoption of the 2014-2019 Action Plan of the National Commission to Coordinate the Fight against Trafficking in Persons, as well as legislative measures taken. It encouraged Niger to fully implement the Declaration of Table Mountain and ensure the enjoyment of freedom of expression. Botswana noted measures taken in the areas of violence against women and girls, early and forced marriages.

113. Brazil appreciated that Niger issued a standing invitation to the special procedures in line with a Brazil's UPR recommendation. Brazil was encouraged by progress registered in food security with the adoption and implementation of the 3N Initiative. It considered that efforts to combat violence against women and girls needed to be further strengthened.

114. Burkina Faso acknowledged security and environmental challenges faced by Niger. It welcomed progress to accede to international human rights instruments. Burkina Faso called upon the international community to fully support Niger in the fight against terrorism.

115. Burundi applauded the issuance of a standing invitation for special procedures to visit Niger. Burundi congratulated the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and a citizenship and human rights education programme. Burundi welcomed the establishment of a national human rights commission. Burundi noted the adoption of a national social protection policy and a regulatory framework to improve care for persons with disabilities and the elderly.

116. Canada commended Niger for actions taken since its first UPR to combat slavery. It welcomed the signature of the Declaration of the Montagne de la Table. However, it was concerned at reports of an increase in the arrests of journalists and activists. Canada urged Niger to adopt measures to protect freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association.

117. Montenegro commended Niger for its efforts to strengthen the institutional and strategic framework for human rights, in particular to prevent sexual violence and protect victims. Montenegro also noted progress in the areas of education and health. It was however concerned at trafficking in children and child labour. It posed questions about any action undertaken to ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.

118. Chile commended the adoption of regulations to strengthen Niger's institutional framework such as the adoption of the National Plan for the implementation of the UPR recommendations and the extension of an open invitation to special procedures. Chile noted remaining challenges in combatting poverty, protecting the environment, combating desertification and food safety.

## **II. Conclusions and/or recommendations\*\***

**119. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Niger and enjoy the support of Niger:**

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\*\* The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 119.1. **Ratify the ICPPED (Ghana);**
- 119.2. **Ratify the ICRMW (Congo);**
- 119.3. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (Spain);**
- 119.4. **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure (Chile);**
- 119.5. **Sign and ratify the ICCPR-OP 2, to definitively abolish the death penalty in the country (Chile);**
- 119.6. **Ratify the ICCPR-OP 2 aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro), (Norway);**
- 119.7. **Accede to the ICCPR-OP 2 aimed at abolishing the death penalty (France);**
- 119.8. **Consider ratifying the ICCPR-OP 2 (Italy);**
- 119.9. **Re-launch the process of ratifying the ICCPR-OP 2 with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty (Luxembourg);**
- 119.10. **Complete the procedures for the ratification of the ICCPR-OP 2 (Spain);**
- 119.11. **Complete the internal process to adhere to the ICCPR-OP 2 on abolition of the death penalty, as earlier as possible (Uruguay);**
- 119.12. **Complete the ratification of the ICCPR-OP 2 as early as possible; and take all necessary legislative measures to confirm the abolition of the death penalty, including in its domestic legislation (Belgium);**
- 119.13. **Harmonize its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the ICC, and accelerate the process to approve the draft law to adhere to the ICCPR-OP 2, and thus eliminate the death penalty (Costa Rica);**
- 119.14. **Remove reservations to core human rights instruments including the CAT, ICERD, CEDAW and ICRMW (Sierra Leone);**
- 119.15. **Withdraw its reservations on the CEDAW and incorporate all the provisions of that Convention into national law (Luxembourg);**
- 119.16. **Lift its reservations to CEDAW and ratify the Maputo Protocol to ensure women's rights (Norway);**
- 119.17. **Withdraw its reservations to CEDAW (Canada);**
- 119.18. **Remove reservations to CEDAW, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**
- 119.19. **Adopt all the necessary measures to lift reservations to the CEDAW (Panama);**
- 119.20. **Undertake efforts to withdraw the country's reservations to the CEDAW (South Africa);**
- 119.21. **Make all the necessary efforts to remove the reservations from the CEDAW (Togo);**
- 119.22. **Accelerate the process of withdrawal of reservations to the CEDAW (Tunisia);**

- 119.23. Accelerate the withdrawal of its reservations to CEDAW, to fully comply with the provisions of the Convention, and introduce plans and programs to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Chile);
- 119.24. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 119.25. Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 119.26. Accede to the Convention on the Non-applicability of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity (Ghana);
- 119.27. Consider ratifying ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);
- 119.28. Establish normative frameworks to help domesticate the human rights instruments it has ratified (Sierra Leone);
- 119.29. Take all necessary measures to fully align its legislation with the Rome Statute and particularly to allow full cooperation with the International Criminal Court (Belgium);
- 119.30. Proceed with the internal measures necessary to comply with the obligations arising from the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR (Portugal);
- 119.31. Ensure a rigorous implementation of its legislation in the main sectors that have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights such as education, health, rights of women and children, environment and access to justice (Burkina Faso);
- 119.32. Harmonize national laws with international regulations on rights of women and children (Ukraine);
- 119.33. Adopt a family law that ensures equal rights between men and women and which protects girls from early and forced marriage (Denmark);
- 119.34. Adopt a family code (Algeria);
- 119.35. Prevent early, child and forced marriages by passing into law and effectively enforcing a minimum age of 18 for marriage (Germany);
- 119.36. Increase the minimum legal age for marriage for girls and develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to support already married children and adolescent girls (Italy);
- 119.37. Adopt national legislation prohibiting the recurring forced marriages of minors in the country (Spain);
- 119.38. Ban by law early and forced marriage as well as the practice of Wahaya (Ukraine);
- 119.39. Establish and enforce laws and policies that criminalize and help prevent child, early and forced marriages (Canada);
- 119.40. Adopt the law that will protect minors from early and forced marriages (Montenegro);
- 119.41. Continue its efforts to strengthen the National Human Rights Commission, in line with the Paris Principles and with full participation of the civil society (Indonesia);



- 119.42. **Take the necessary measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission is in conformity with the Paris Principles (Chile);**
- 119.43. **Strengthen its internal human rights monitoring system by proceeding with the accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission with A category rating according to the Paris Principles (Portugal);**
- 119.44. **Increase the human and financial resources of the National Human Rights Commission in order to allow it to obtain A status from the International Coordinating committee of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Senegal);**
- 119.45. **Provide the National Commission for Human Rights with adequate resources to enable it to conform to its mandate in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);**
- 119.46. **Establish an independent and specialized institution to investigate any allegations of human rights violations (Afghanistan);**
- 119.47. **Develop a monitoring system to implement recommendations accepted at previous UPR cycle and ensure implementation (Costa Rica);**
- 119.48. **Consolidate the rule of law and human rights principles in the society (Iraq);**
- 119.49. **Continue to implement the National Policy on Justice and Human Rights (Pakistan);**
- 119.50. **Continue the cooperation with the international community to improve democracy and social development in accordance with human rights principles (Iraq);**
- 119.51. **Continue its efforts to promote and protect the rights of children and of persons with disabilities (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**
- 119.52. **Better integrate the concerns of elderly persons and those with disabilities into public policies (Senegal);**
- 119.53. **Continue to uphold and respect human rights standards and obligations as it pursues counter terrorist operations (Philippines);**
- 119.54. **Take the necessary measures to protect the victims of Boko Haram and the terrorist groups, in particular children (Egypt);**
- 119.55. **Further continue taking effective counter-terrorism measures as terrorism is a cause for serious human rights abuses in the country (Ethiopia);**
- 119.56. **Continue to strengthen the national efforts to control the borders and to fight against trafficking in persons and drug smuggling as well as terrorist activities of Boko Haram in the borders and to continue the effective coordination with neighbouring countries in that regard (Libya);**
- 119.57. **Implement existing laws and undertake concerted efforts to combat violent extremism and acts of terrorism (Malaysia);**
- 119.58. **Encourage the efforts displayed to combat terrorism (Iraq);**
- 119.59. **Continue with its commitment to fight terrorism, together with other countries in the region (Nicaragua);**
- 119.60. **Continue its engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Azerbaijan);**

- 119.61. Continue to engage its regional and international partners with the view of seeking technical and other assistance towards its full compliance with its human rights treaty obligations (Philippines);
- 119.62. Submit overdue reports to the relevant UN treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);
- 119.63. Submit its initial report to the Committee against Torture without further delay (Denmark);
- 119.64. Take measures to effectively implement the provisions of the CEDAW and the CRC, with special attention placed on the principle of non-discrimination (Namibia);
- 119.65. Actively promote women's rights and eliminate discrimination against women (China);
- 119.66. Further take measures in order to improve its legislation, policy and practice on gender equality and on prevention and response to gender based violence (Portugal);
- 119.67. Step-up measures through legislation, policies and programmes to promote the rights of women, and protect them from being victimized by any forms of slavery and abuse (Malaysia);
- 119.68. Review the legislation to eliminate provisions that may discriminate against women and girls and harmonize it with the CEDAW (Mexico);
- 119.69. Repeal all norms/standards that discriminate against women, remove all reservations to the CEDAW and promote gender equality by introducing public awareness-raising programmes (France);
- 119.70. Enhance its efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and withdraw its reservations to the CEDAW Convention (Portugal);
- 119.71. Step up efforts to combat all forms of discrimination towards women, in particular by re-examining its reservations to CEDAW with a view to withdrawing them (Brazil);
- 119.72. Conduct an awareness-raising and educational campaign among the populations with the view to eliminate all the socio-cultural barriers which impede the full enjoyment of the rights of women (Angola);
- 119.73. Strengthen the measures to combat discrimination against women and girls, in particular, by prohibiting early or forced marriages (Argentina);
- 119.74. Continue intensifying its efforts to promote women's empowerment through capacity-building, gender sensitivity training and public awareness-raising activities (Azerbaijan);
- 119.75. Strengthen the awareness-raising and training of women on leadership (Cuba);
- 119.76. Formally abolish the death penalty, as previously recommended (Slovenia);
- 119.77. Abolish the death penalty, despite obstacles (Djibouti);
- 119.78. Abolish the death penalty and ratify the second OP to the ICCPR (Portugal);

- 119.79. **Abolish the death penalty, through the accession to the ICCPR-OP 2, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and maintain the de-facto moratorium on executions till ratification (Georgia);**
- 119.80. **Remove the death penalty from its Penal Code with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Australia);**
- 119.81. **Consider taking measures aimed at affecting a de facto and de jure moratorium on the death penalty (Namibia);**
- 119.82. **Continue efforts towards the abolition of the death penalty (South Africa);**
- 119.83. **Accelerate the procedure relating to the abolition of the death penalty, as quickly as possible (Togo);**
- 119.84. **Enact the law on abolishment of the death penalty (Ukraine);**
- 119.85. **Criminalize acts of torture in the penal code and set up a national preventive mechanism in line with OP-CAT (France);**
- 119.86. **Include a definition of torture in the Penal Code (Australia);**
- 119.87. **Set up a specialized body on penitentiary administration (Togo);**
- 119.88. **Establish a national independent mechanism responsible for the inspection of detention centres (Ukraine);**
- 119.89. **Conduct a review of prison conditions in the country's various detention facilities and implement a plan for addressing overcrowding (United States of America);**
- 119.90. **Eliminate overcrowding in prisons (Ukraine);**
- 119.91. **Strengthen legislation and policy on gender equality and the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 119.92. **Increase efforts to prevent sexual and gender violence, especially regarding groups at risk, such as child girls refugees, and decrease gender inequality through urgently improving legislation and educational programmes (Costa Rica);**
- 119.93. **Strengthen efforts to protect women and girls from all forms of violence and implement a strategy to eliminate negative cultural practices that are harmful and discriminate against women (Australia);**
- 119.94. **Strengthen the laws on the protection of the rights of women with a view to effectively address violence against women, including sexual violence and FGM (Botswana);**
- 119.95. **Abolish the practice of FGM (Congo);**
- 119.96. **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns related to women's rights, in particular aimed at eradicating FGM (Georgia);**
- 119.97. **Intensify efforts to fully eradicate FGM, also by promoting awareness-raising and educational activities particularly targeted at local community leaders and health workers (Italy);**
- 119.98. **Eradicate all harmful practices such as FGM and early or forced marriages, and take the necessary measures to ensure the full protection of boys and girls (Mexico);**

- 119.99. Continue taking further measures to eliminate FGM (South Sudan);
- 119.100. Prohibit the harmful practices such as the FGM and the Wahaya or practice of the fifth wife converted into sexual slave (Spain);
- 119.101. Intensify awareness-building among traditional and religious leaders to strictly observe the ban on FGM (Ukraine);
- 119.102. Create and implement a strategy to eliminate traditional harmful practices, such as FGM, child, early and forced marriage, and “Wahaya”; and modify traditional stereotypes that are harmful to and discriminate against women (United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland);
- 119.103. Continue with the education process, dissemination of information and awareness raising for families, local leaders, civil society and all relevant actors, in order to eradicate the practice known as “Wahaya” or 5<sup>th</sup> wife (Uruguay);
- 119.104. Set up a national strategy to combat all forms of slavery (Egypt);
- 119.105. Take more active measures to abolish all forms of slavery in practice (Georgia);
- 119.106. Review Law 2003-25 of 23 June 2003 with a view to giving itself the appropriate means to eventually eradicate all forms of slavery and promptly adopt national action plans to this end (Luxembourg);
- 119.107. Ensure effective implementation of existing legislation to eradicate all forms of slavery, prosecute perpetrators and ensure effective access to justice for victims of slavery (Italy);
- 119.108. Adopt and implement targeted measures to address the root causes of slavery, including poverty, inequality and customary norms (Italy);
- 119.109. Adopt a long term national plan with local communities and civil society, in order to decrease the traditional practice of slavery among certain ethnic groups, avoid its continuity in future generations and eradicate it definitely (Uruguay);
- 119.110. Continue its efforts in the fight against slavery and human trafficking, promoting a culture of respect, equality and tolerance (Nicaragua);
- 119.111. Conduct a nationwide study on the prevalence of slavery and slavery-like practices in cooperation with national and international stakeholders (Norway);
- 119.112. Build law enforcement and labour inspection capacity to combat slavery practices, including sexual servitude, and forced child begging, and rehabilitate and integrate victims (United States of America);
- 119.113. Take concerted action to eradicate slavery including by enforcing the anti-slavery law and ensuring prosecution of perpetrators; taking measures to prevent slavery, protect and rehabilitate victims; and raising awareness of the criminalisation of slavery (Australia);
- 119.114. Take effective actions to prevent and eradicate all forms of slavery and discrimination (Panama);
- 119.115. Take the necessary measures to eliminate child labour, especially forced begging (Mexico);

- 119.116. Create and implement, in conjunction with all social partners, a holistic policy aimed at progressively eradicate child labour (Panama);
- 119.117. Prevent different forms of danger for children such as life on the streets, domestic violence, child trafficking, child labour, armed conflict, sexual exploitation (Ukraine);
- 119.118. Foster national strategies to combat child labour (Brazil);
- 119.119. Combat the trafficking of children, including the problem of combatting the forced begging of children (Djibouti);
- 119.120. Ensure effective implementation of the 2014 National Action Plan to combat trafficking in persons and related offences, including slavery (Italy);
- 119.121. Continue the implementation of the national action plan against human trafficking that was adopted in 2014 (France);
- 119.122. Further strengthen its efforts in implementing the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and related Offences, including Slavery of 2014-2019 (Indonesia);
- 119.123. Further strengthen its national legislation to combat trafficking in persons (Iran (Islamic Republic of));
- 119.124. Develop a national action plan to address the needs of victims of trafficking in human beings (Portugal);
- 119.125. Guarantee mechanisms of access to justice for the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Mexico);
- 119.126. Ensure that members of the security forces who are responsible of violations of human rights are prosecuted (France);
- 119.127. Open impartial and independent investigations into claims of torture and ill-treatment and bring perpetrators to justice (Australia);
- 119.128. Take steps to open prompt, impartial, thorough and effective investigations into alleged violations of international human rights law committed by law enforcement agencies in order to bring all the perpetrators to justice (Ghana);
- 119.129. Strengthen the measures aimed at ensuring the investigation and punishment of perpetrators of human rights violations, as well as the reparation of victims (Argentina);
- 119.130. Promote awareness-raising campaigns and adaptive policies aimed at eliminating child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);
- 119.131. Take steps aimed at the elimination of child, early and forced marriage (Armenia);
- 119.132. Ensure full abolition of all forms of early and forced marriages (Botswana);
- 119.133. Advance in the eradication of forced and early marriages involving boys or girls (Chile);
- 119.134. Respect and fully guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly, in particular in the context of measures undertaken to respond to violent extremism and terrorism (Switzerland);

- 119.135. Ensures full respect for the right to freedom of expression and media freedom by preventing all harassment and undue detention of journalists and civil society activists (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 119.136. Respect freedoms of expression and association, both online and offline, particularly leading up to this year's elections, and release political detainees (United States of America);
- 119.137. Protect human rights defenders and ensure that they are able to carry out their work free from harassment and intimidation (Germany);
- 119.138. Take steps to halt all intimidations and harassment by law enforcement officials against human rights defenders (Ghana);
- 119.139. Take firm measures to ensure that human rights defenders and peaceful activists are free to enjoy their fundamental rights of, inter alia, freedom of expression and freedom of association (Norway);
- 119.140. Adopt an action plan for the employment of women and young people (Morocco);
- 119.141. Strengthen the participation of women in decision-making positions and on the labour market (Egypt);
- 119.142. Continue its efforts to improve people's lives and to promote economic and social development (China);
- 119.143. Continue implementing economic and social development programmes in order to fight poverty (Ethiopia);
- 119.144. Continue progressing in the eradication of poverty, with the implementation of its sound social policies to improve the quality of life of its people, particularly of the most vulnerable (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 119.145. Continue implementing the 3N Initiative to guarantee the exercise of the right to food (Cuba);
- 119.146. Continue implementing the 3N Initiative in order to ensure the full realization of the right to food (South Africa);
- 119.147. Take, in collaboration with the international community and other United Nations specialized programs, concrete measures to ensure access to adequate food (Madagascar);
- 119.148. Advance in the effective implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation, by increasing public water infrastructures (Spain);
- 119.149. Improve the infrastructure of the health care system and strengthen women's access to health care facilities (Madagascar);
- 119.150. Increase efforts to improve women's health, in particular access to family planning services, maternal health care and eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation (Netherlands);
- 119.151. Take appropriate measures to reduce infant mortality and improve access to health services in rural areas (Malaysia);
- 119.152. Strengthen health care and consider the possibility of providing mobile clinics for Bedouins (Egypt);

- 119.153. **Facilitate high education and free education to all school aged children (Egypt);**
- 119.154. **Continue facilitate free access to education for both boys and girls (Ukraine);**
- 119.155. **Expand access to education for children and youth, and provide vocational training as a means to improve their future employability (Malaysia);**
- 119.156. **Ensure that all children between 4 and 18 years of age have access to education without gender discrimination, in accordance with Article 2 of the Constitution of Niger as well as Articles 2 and 28 of the CRC (Canada);**
- 119.157. **Ensure the equal right to quality education for young mothers and married girls (Slovenia);**
- 119.158. **Ensure the education and training of girls and women, including access to education on sexual and reproductive health (Switzerland);**
- 119.159. **Include human rights education in all curricula and school systems (Morocco);<sup>1</sup>**
- 119.160. **Continue efforts to increase the school enrollment rate and literacy among nomadic populations (Algeria);**
- 119.161. **Continue to implement the National Social Welfare Policy for Persons with Disabilities (Pakistan);**
- 119.162. **Enhance the protection of migrants and refugees by implementing the law on human trafficking and enhancing the operational capacities of the Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité au Statut de Réfugié and the Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la traite des Personnes (Germany);**
- 119.163. **Strengthen safety and protection measures for the exploitation of natural resources, in order to rigorously protect the environment and the health and rights of local residents, and in line with the UN Guiding Principles of Business and Human Rights (Slovenia);**
- 119.164. **Ensure that business companies, particularly those working in mining, respect the human rights, following the guiding principles on business and human rights (Switzerland).**
120. **The following recommendations will be examined by Niger which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016:**
- 120.1. **Refrain from criminalizing the legitimate activities of human rights defenders and repeal or amend all laws and policies which restrict their activities and rights, including by ensuring that anti-terrorism legislation is not misused (Netherlands);**
- 120.2. **Adopt the implementing decrees of the ordinance on pastoralism, guaranteeing the protection of land rights (France);**

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<sup>1</sup> The recommendation as read in the meeting was: "Include human rights education at all levels of the school system."

120.3. **Take concrete steps to effectively increase the protection of the rights of pastoralists (Denmark).**

121. **The recommendation below did not enjoy the support of country Niger and would thus be noted:**

121.1. **Ensure participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making and their equal representation in the governance of the country (Ukraine).**

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 Niger was headed by S.E MOROU AMADOU, Minister of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- Dr MAIKIBI KADIDIATOU DANDOBI, Ministre de la Promotion de la Population, de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Protection de l'Enfant;
- Madame KAFA REKIATOU CHRISTELLE JACKOU, Ministre Déléguée aux Affaires Etrangères;
- Madame Fatima Sidikou ABOU, Ambassadeur/Représentant Permanent du Niger auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations à Genève;
- Monsieur OUMARIA MAMANE, Conseiller Principal du Premier Ministre;
- Monsieur ANANFO MAMAN ISSOUFOU, Conseiller Technique de la Ministre Déléguée auprès de la Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération, de l'intégration Africaine et des Nigériens de l'Extérieur, chargée de l'Intégration Africaine ;
- Monsieur HAMA KANSAYE SOULEYMANE, Directeur des Organisations Internationales au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de la Coopération, de l'intégration Africaine et des Nigériens de l'Extérieur ;
- Monsieur ABDOU MAIGA MAHAMADOU, Premier Conseiller de la Mission ;
- Monsieur LAOULI LABO, Premier Conseiller de la Mission Permanente du Niger à New York ;
- Madame MOUNKEILA AICHATOU SEYNI, Directrice Générale des Droits de l'Homme, de la Protection Judiciaire Juvénile et de l'Action Sociale, Présidente du comité interministériel chargé de la rédaction des rapports initiaux et périodiques aux organes des Traités;
- Monsieur IBRAHIM JEAN ETIENNE, Directeur de la Protection Judiciaire Juvénile, membre du comité interministériel;
- Madame RABIOU ASSETOU TRAORE, directrice des droits de l'homme, membre du comité interministériel;
- Monsieur GARBA Issoufou, Premier Secrétaire de la Mission, en charge des questions de droits de l'homme;
- Monsieur MOUMOUNI DJIDA, Ministère de la Promotion de la Population, de la Promotion de la Femme et de la Protection de l'Enfant membre du comité interministériel;
- Madame SOURGHIA MARIAMA, Ministère de la Santé, membre du comité interministériel;
- Madame KAZA AMINA, Ministère de l'Enseignement Primaire, de l'Alphabétisation, de la Promotion des Langues Nationales et de l'Education Civique, membre du comité interministériel;
- Monsieur LIMAN YAHAY BOUBACAR, Protocole du Ministre de la Justice.

