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

**Palau**

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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 13 January 2016. The review of Palau was held at the 8th meeting on 21 January 2016. The delegation of Palau was headed by Minister J. Baklai Temengil. At its 14th meeting held on 26 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Palau.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Palau: Congo, France and United Arab Emirates.

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 Palau:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/PLW/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/PLW/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/PLW/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Spain, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Palau 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. The delegation of Palau welcomed the opportunity to respond to the recommendations made at the first reporting cycle of the UPR, and receive any other recommendations on its 2nd UPR reports. It valued the UPR process as it had assisted in awareness-raising and mainstreaming human rights into their policies and programs in the past four years.

6. As a young nation that gained Independence in 1994 and with a population of less than 20, 000 people, Palau crafted its own Constitution, which reflected the values and beliefs of the people, and one that guarantees human rights for all. In Palau's culture, the strongest and the most powerful relationship was between a brother and a sister. This was exemplified through its extended family interactions and customary practices, and this relationship had historically formed the basis of its social organization, governance and system of justice.

7. Regarding the achievements met since last review, the delegation stated that 4 and ½ years ago, Palau's delegation returned with a set of recommendations; 83 in total that it had accepted and had a timeframe to implement. The national report captured the implementation journey in this period. While recognizing from the onset many challenges and difficulties to implement many of these key recommendations, it was also confronted

with the reality that some recommendations were not possible to fully implement within the given timeframe.

8. The Government of Palau strengthened its efforts towards implementation and dealing with emerging issues such as human rights affected through climate change and disasters. The delegation reiterated at the outset that some issues were complex and required extensive resources and national wide consultations, such as ratification of core treaties; human trafficking; migrant issues; and displacement and loss of land, property and homes due to climate change. As a Small Island Developing State, Palau has limited resources to address these multi-dimensional issues. It urged the members of the Human Rights Council to take these circumstances into account when proposing further recommendations.

9. Despite its challenges, the Government had worked hard and was proud to report on a number of significant achievements including: creation of the Reporting Committee on the UN Human Rights Treaties; new legislation to address gender based violence; revision and approval of the new Penal Code; ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; establishment of a gender and disability office within the Ministry of

10. Community and Cultural Affairs; hiring of Human Rights Officer under the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs; development of policies for persons with disabilities; completion and submission of our overdue periodic report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and giant steps of signing the remaining core treaties that Palau was not a state party to.

11. Upon advice from the members of the 9th Olbiil Era Kelulau (Palau National Congress), Palau would work towards establishing a national human rights mechanism to handle matters related to human rights.

12. On gender equality and women's rights the delegation asserted that while Palau had yet to ratify CEDAW, many positive steps had been taken. A gender office had been established within the Ministry of Community & Cultural Affairs. Recalling recommendations received at its 1st UPR, Palau enacted the Family Protection Act in 2012 to address the ugly crime of domestic violence. Palau was taking further steps towards the implementation of this new legislation and welcomed the support of international partners in this endeavor.

13. In line with the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration of 2012, Palau was exploring ways to improve services for victims such as safe houses, counselling, immediate health responses and protection orders for victims and children. In line with the Family Protection Act, the Family Protection Act Committee was established and had been active in promoting awareness of the new law, affording people comfort and safety in reporting sexual assault and domestic violence.

14. Support for women in leadership positions had increased with a number of advocacy programs and the establishment of a network 'CWEB' (Center for Women Empowered Belau).

15. Responding to the recommendations from its first UPR, Palau reported that marital rape was now criminalized under the Family Protection Act. Palau's President, His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., along with the current 9th Olbiil Era Kelulau, Palau's National Congress, showed tremendous support in ensuring the safety and protection of the people of Palau, especially children through the revision and approval of the new Penal Code 2014. The new Penal Code included regulations on the use of force against children and other persons under the care or control of another. The new Penal

Code also included Labour Trafficking, Anti-Smuggling and Anti Trafficking crimes and offenses, as well as Child Exploitation crimes and offenses.

16. Palau had begun the process of domesticating the CRC through various legislative initiatives, including the passage of the new model Penal Code, which addressed sexual assault of children and registration of sex offenders. Higher penalties were introduced to deter human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The Family Protection Act 2012 provided protection for children in violent domestic settings. Pursuant to a recommendation from the 1st UPR, the delegation announced that there was pending legislation in Congress to equalize the legal minimum age to 18 years for marriage.

17. Palau's Constitution (Art. VI) accorded free and compulsory education for all children living in Palau. It further highlighted the promotion of the health and social welfare through free and/or subsidized healthcare. Palau's government had declared this year 2016, the Year of the Youth, where attention was in full focus on youth development and programs.

18. Following its first review, the Government of Palau was a state party to only the CRC, and had since implemented UPR recommendations 62.1 to 62.5 by signing the core treaties, namely, ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CERD, CAT, CRPD, CRMW and CED at the margins of the 66th UN General Assembly in 2011. Palau was pleased to announce that it ratified the CRPD in 2013 and is currently in the process of formulating a Disability policy. In addition, His Excellency President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., through Presidential Proclamation declared Dec 3, 2015 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and called on the people of Palau to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

19. The delegation stated that Palau supported the fundamental principles of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Constitution of Palau stated that torture, cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, and excessive fines were prohibited. While Palau noted the importance of acceding to the statute of the ICC, Palau would need to consider the technical and resource implications of accession. Palau though, had sufficient legislative safeguards to address grave human rights violations.

20. The Government recognized the value of each of the core treaties, however it would need to commit to a broader timeline of ratification to allow for a more rigorous oversight into the realities of ratification and implementation of the core treaties against the backdrop of immediate challenges. However Palau was taking considerable steps including visiting each of treaties with an open mind towards ratification.

21. Palau noted the importance of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their family. Despite the challenges, much progress had been done in the area of migrant workers, such as the increase in minimum wage and its universal application.

22. On May 29, 2014, the Reporting Committee on UN Conventions on Human Rights was created through Presidential Executive Order 368. This was Palau's first attempt towards national coordination of its human rights reporting obligations. The Committee was comprised of Cabinet Ministers supported by a Working Group from government agencies and relevant stakeholders.

23. Palau announced that the National Human Rights Committee with its supporting Working Group had just completed and submitted its combined 2nd and 3rd reports on the CRC.

24. Palau, a peaceful and stable island nation, faced many challenges and prominent amongst these was climate change, which would affect our people's livelihood, access to food, water and property. International cooperation and support would be critical in

addressing and ensuring the basic human rights of people in Palau. Palau also sought the support of the international community in tackling other human rights priorities including human trafficking, migrant workers, gender based violence and vulnerable groups. Its intention to establish a national human rights institution required specialized resources and Palau would be looking for the assistance of partners to realize this.

25. Palau came bearing its own wealth of experience and ideas, particularly in the area of preserving our oceans, marine and environment. His Excellency President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., had successfully secured a protection measure for our oceans through the Marine Sanctuary Act, to ensure food security for the future of its children. Palau called upon the international community to commit to promoting these through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as for small island states, it depended on these resources and their protection was inextricably linked to its ability to protect and promote human rights. Palau emphasized the importance of development financing aligned with the SDGs, including Goal 5 on gender equality and those relating to marginalized groups and human rights. The Human Rights Council had a real opportunity to strengthen its monitoring of the human rights captured in the SDGs through the UPR process and this was a proposal Palau would like to submit to the Council at this review for further consideration.

26. Palau stated it continues to face many challenges and limitations in its efforts to fulfill their human rights obligations at the national, regional and international community. Due to limited capacity, human resources and expertise, Palau continues to seek external technical and funding assistance. Palau is committed to meeting its human rights obligations and it sought the assistance from the members of the human rights council.

27. Palau also called on the Council to take decisive leadership on the issue of climate change and human rights.

28. Palau supported the Universal Periodic Review process as it allowed it as a member state to engage constructively on issues that affected its people. Palau placed a lot of value on this process and had demonstrated it in its national report. The delegation underscored that Palau had taken great strides to better protect, promote and fulfill its human rights obligations. It assured the Council that Palau would continue to work towards the realization of human rights of its people.

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

29. During the interactive dialogue, 46 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report. All statements delivered by the delegations, to be checked against delivery on the United Nations Webcast archives,<sup>1</sup> are posted on the extranet of the Human Rights Council when available.<sup>2</sup>

30. Montenegro recognized Niger's efforts to improve its institutional and legislative human rights framework. However, it was concerned at insufficient capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights. Montenegro welcomed that Palau signed all core human rights instruments between its two UPR cycles. However, it was only part to two of them. Montenegro encouraged Palau to seek technical assistance from OHCHR to strengthen its capacities; implement the core human rights instruments and ratify conventions to which it is a signatory.

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<sup>1</sup> Include webpage of webcast of Palau

<sup>2</sup> Available on the UPR Extranet at <https://extranet.ohchr.org/sites/Sessions/24session/Palau/Pages/default.aspx>.

31. Morocco noted with satisfaction legislatives and institutional reforms undertaken by Palau, as well as ratification of CRPD and CRC. It appreciated attention paid to protect children, women and the family, and measures taken regarding domestic violence and violence against children. Morocco also welcomed progress to implement MDG3 on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as its Gender National Policy.

32. Namibia noted that Palau signed the core human rights instruments such as ICCPR and ICESCR, and asked which efforts were being undertaken to ratify those instruments. Namibia commended Palau on the enactment of the Family Protection Act and revision of the Penal Code to protect children. Namibia encouraged Palau to work in coordination with the international community to enforce international law related to water protection and security, including the impacts of global sea level rising.

33. Netherlands commended Palau for decriminalizing homosexuality through a revision of the penal code in 2014. It noted that work remained to be done to bring Palau's national legislation in conformity with its international human rights obligations.

34. New Zealand highlighted encouraging developments in Palau, such as Palau's accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013. However there were still some areas for further progress. Palau signed the ICCPR and the ICESCR but has yet to ratify them. It stated that Palau had legislation prohibiting and punishing violent behaviour, but had no legislation that specifically addressed domestic violence.

35. Pakistan took note with appreciation of Palau's efforts to implement recommendations received during the first cycle of the UPR. It commended the establishment of an Ombudsman Office, measures taken to strengthen legal and justice systems, human rights awareness programs for gender equality, education, health, and disabilities. It appreciated the ongoing national legislation and accession to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also appreciated the government for encouraging the participation of girls and women in all social and economic spheres of Palau, and their increased participation in leadership roles.

36. Panama welcomed Palau's reiteration of its invitation to Special Representatives and Rapporteurs, which could further the compliance with those commitments entered into human rights in connection with children, persons with disabilities, violence against women, climate change, trafficking in persons and migrant workers. With regards to the Family Protection Law, Panama was concerned that the protection measures taken by Palau on domestic violence and abuse of children have not yet been clearly established.

37. Philippines welcomed the signature of eight core international human rights convention during the review period and encouraged Palau to remain steadfast in pursuing the work towards their ratification. While appreciating Palau's openness to receive migrant workers, Philippines was concerned about their reported increased vulnerability to involuntary servitude and debt bondage, as a result of strict labour regulations and expressed its interest to be informed by Palau's delegation on which measures have been taken to protect and promote their rights.

38. Portugal welcomed the signature of seven core human rights instruments since the last UPR review and congratulated Palau for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Portugal regretted that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Palau ratified in 1995, have not yet been incorporated into the National Code.

39. The Russian Federation noted progress made by Palau since its first UPR. However, it also noted with regret that exhaustive legislative measures had not been adopted to ensure protection of children's rights.
40. Slovenia commended the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and also noted that Palau had become signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) finally encouraged Palau to proceed with the process of becoming a party of these instruments.
41. Spain valued specially the commitment of Palau to implement its policy on climate change respecting human rights, including in key aspects for a dignified life such as the human right to drinkable water. Spain appreciated efforts of Palau to provide assistance to its migrant workers. Regarding gender, Spain recognized progress made regarding equality in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. It congratulated Palau for decriminalizing consented homosexual activity.
42. Trinidad and Tobago commended Palau for the progress made since the last review by the signature of various international human rights conventions and measures taken to address domestic violence and safeguard children. It highlighted Palau's determination to overcome challenges despite the vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States. It stated that a similar commitment will serve to bear more fruit in the sphere of human rights in the coming years, and noted the invitation already extended via its national report, to various Special Procedures in areas including but not limited to children, violence against women and climate change.
43. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the acknowledgment by Palau of the growing problem of human trafficking, including forced prostitution and labour, and its efforts to tackle the issue. It called on Palau for a particular focus on safeguarding Palauan children from being forced to prostitution. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was concerned by continued reports of abuses committed against foreign nationals working and residing in the country. It called on Palau to review its policies on foreign nationals.
44. The United States of America commended Palau for the steps taken to deter acts of domestic violence and protect survivors, including by passing the Family Protection Act in 2012. It encouraged Palau to establish shelters to help domestic violence survivors to move forward with their lives. The United States of America also urged Palau to enforce the 2005 anti-trafficking law by prosecuting those responsible as traffickers, rather than under lesser labour violations or prostitution-related offences.
45. The delegation of Palau welcomed all the recommendations and noted all the concerns raised by the speakers. About the ratification of the Core Treaties Palau indicated that the country was a signatory to the treaties and the government was working to ensure its obligations and looking at the core treaties individually to undertake a legislative review and compliance.
46. With the ratification of the CRPD the country had the opportunity to extend to their partners internationally, particularly at a regional level through programmes of the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat and Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The delegation was also pleased with the national disability policy which was now in its final draft and would be presented to members of Cabinet and Congress this year.



47. About the recommendation done by the delegation of New Zealand to combat domestic violence, Palau indicated it had implemented a Family Protection Act in 2012. The delegation also explained that there had been training provided by the Pacific Islands Training Program with the support of New Zealand on domestic violence, and added that the Police in Palau was leading a campaign against violence against women.

48. The delegation indicated that the Family Protection Act was a very strong piece of legislation which had helped many women and families and stated that reconciliation under customary process was not a bar to persecution, therefore although there may have been some reconciliation between family members, domestic violence was a crime and prosecution continued.

49. It stated that the most important protection that was allowed in the Family Protection Act was that any person who was threatened or was harmed could walk into the court house 24 hours 7 days a week and get a protective order.

50. About the comments regarding to the shelters, Palau asserted it needed shelters and safe houses. The delegation explained that this was its biggest challenge and asked for support and technical and financial assistance to help the country build shelters and safe houses not only for victims of family violence but also for children who were under difficult conditions living in homes where there was violence.

51. Palau noted it had legislation to protect children in the Penal Code against child exploitation which was criminalized and also pointed out that there were existing laws that criminalized endangering a minor or his/her welfare, even when it was a parent who allowed a third person to endanger or hurt their child.

52. About the situation of migrant workers, and answering questions formulated by the Philippines and the United States of America, the delegation of Palau stated they were working on it and legislation was pending before the 9th National Congress to ensure safe working conditions and fair salaries. The minimum wage law passed has a provision in it that helps workers who were not given the minimum wage or worked under unsafe conditions to go to the Attorney General and file a case against their employer.

53. Uruguay welcomed Palau's entry into the International Labour Organization (ILO) and its ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. While welcoming the high number of international human rights instruments signed by Palau, Uruguay noted with concern that none of them have yet been ratified. It also welcomed the progress made in ensuring gender equality but noted that Palau has currently no law explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

54. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) noted that Palau signed various international human rights instruments and ratified the CRPD, thus strengthening its domestic legislation in this area. Venezuela welcomed steps taken to establish a NHRI and the adoption of a gender policy to be mainstreamed in Government's programmes. It also noted measures to combat discrimination against women. Venezuela highlighted the establishment of the National Medical Insurance in 2011 that covers everybody, including those who have not made contributions to the system and those who are no longer active.

55. Algeria welcomed efforts by Palau to promote human rights of children and persons with disabilities, as well as to combat violence against women, trafficking in persons, and climate change. It noted with satisfaction signature by Palau of the core human rights instruments. It welcomed results in the area of education, following the adoption of the Plan 2006-2016.

56. Argentina welcomed the efforts made since the last UPR and congratulated Palau on the decriminalization in the Penal Code of consensual same-sex relations. Argentina considered that there are still challenges in Palau that needs to be overcome. It also noted that particular attention should be given to vulnerable groups, particularly to persons with disabilities.

57. Armenia recognized the challenges that Palau faced as a small island state and appreciated the steps undertaken in promoting human rights in the country since its first UPR review. It also welcomed Palau's awareness raising programmes on certain areas of human rights and wished for their further expansion. Armenia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged the timely ratification of those international human rights instruments that Palau has already signed.

58. Australia congratulated Palau on strengthening its laws to protect family members against violence with the establishment of the Family Protection Act in 2012, which criminalize domestic violence. It also commended the steps taken in decriminalizing homosexuality, with the introduction in 2014 of legislation to remove offences relating to consensual same-sex relations. Australia welcomed Palau's signing of several international human rights treaties and commended its ratification of CRPD. It was also pleased to be working with Palau through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program.

59. Belgium encouraged Palau's commitment regarding the 2015 Joint Declaration of the Pacific States on Human Rights and Rule of Law. While welcoming ratification of the CRC, Belgium encouraged ratification of all the core human rights instruments, and stressed the necessity to submit reports to treaty bodies in due time. Belgium noted that Palau lacked a national body to coordinate policies to protect children. It welcomed measures taken to combat domestic violence and violence against children, while noting that further measures should be taken.

60. Brazil praised the efforts carried out since the first UPR cycle to improve the situation of human rights in Palau. It noted with appreciation the amendments to Palau's Penal Code in 2014, which decriminalized sexual relation between consenting adults of the same sex, a positive step towards the realization of the rights of LGBTI individuals in the country. It also congratulated Palau for ratifying in 2012 the CRPD, followed by consultations, in partnership with the Pacific Disability forum and Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, aimed at drafting a National Disability Policy.

61. Canada acknowledged steps taken in the development of a national gender policy and encouraged Palau to use the process to promote national dialogue and awareness-raising on the issue of gender equity in decision-making at the highest levels of Government and Congress. It encouraged Palau to develop policies to promote women's participation in national decision-making structures and processes. It commended Palau for enacting the Family Protection Act and encouraged it to raise awareness through public education to ensure greater understanding of its provisions.

62. China urged the international community to follow the fundamental principles established by HRC-Resolution 5/1 and carry out constructive dialogue and cooperation. It stated it was most regretful that in its national report Palau treated Taiwan Province of China as a country partner and refused to correct the mistake although China had repeatedly drawn its attention to the issue. Palau's behaviour constituted a violation of UNGA Resolution 2758 and departed from the purposes and principles of UN Charter. It was a serious violation of China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and against the principle of non-politicization of UPR process. China was resolutely against this practice and reserved the right to take further measures in this regard.

63. On the statement made by China the Vice-president of the Human Rights Council reiterated that in this Working Group, as a subsidiary body of the Human Rights Council and General Assembly the United Nations terminology applied.

64. The Congo noted Palau's good cooperation with human rights mechanisms and laws adopted to implement the CRC, CRPD and CEDAW. It appreciated the efforts taken to ratify human rights instruments, and equality of educational grants for girls and boys at superior educational level, which allowed increasing the number of women at high level posts in the public and private sectors. It regretted that a NHRI had not been established yet and insufficient human rights training for the Police and the Judiciary.

65. Costa Rica noted that Palau has signed core human rights instruments. However, it urged Palau to ratify those instruments. It welcomed the Family Protection Law to prevent domestic violence. It acknowledged Palau's efforts to create an independent NHRI and to provide training and awareness rising in the areas of domestic violence, migrant workers' rights and climate change. It considered pertinent that Palau strengthen and promote education and training on human rights particularly for the Police and law enforcement personnel.

66. Cuba stressed signature by Palau of eight human rights instruments, which demonstrated its commitment with the promotion and protection of human rights. Cuba also noted laws adopted to combat domestic violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking in persons, the establishment of a sexual-offenders registry, minimum wage, and criminalisation of marital rape. Cuba noted challenges to implement human rights in Palau, stressing its limited resources. Cuba called on the international community to support Palau's efforts to improve life conditions of its population.

67. Cyprus commended the measures that the Government of Palau had taken to implement its international human rights obligations and welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the year 2013.

68. Denmark was pleased to note that Palau after its first Universal Periodic Review had signed the United Nations Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment in 2011 and highlighted that the mentioned Convention which worked through government to government exchange and cooperation stood ready to explore new manners to assist the Government of Palau in advancing in this issue if deemed helpful.

69. The delegation of Palau was humbled by the support given by members and the comments regarding the Family Protection Act. The Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs with the gender office, the judiciary, the Ministry of Health and the police department and the attorney general had signed a memorandum of understanding regarding awareness-raising on domestic violence and working with schools, parent networks and traditional and non-traditional organizations on this issue.

70. As a small island country there were many challenges that Palau faced like domestic violence but it had many advances in the protection of women ,children and particularly family. The Family Protection Act for Palau is a protection effort for the whole family. Palau recognized that the support provided by Australia as a regional country in the Pacific region was important, particularly supporting gender policies. The delegation informed that a gender policy was in its final stages and thanked the support of the regional offices and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

71. Palau also welcomed the support from Denmark and the Ambassador of Cuba for recognizing Palau`s calling and stated it continued to seek assistance for its process to ratify

the core treaties. Palau is working with the leadership regarding the National Human Rights Institution and appreciated all the comments and supports that had been presented. It reported that the working committee for this UPR included cabinet members, the President and the Parliament, and that civil society and disability groups had worked together to send this report.

72. The Constitution of Palau guarantees equal protection and no discrimination based on sex, race, place of origin, language, religion or belief, a fundamental right under the constitution of Palau.

73. Regarding corporal punishment it is strictly prohibited and the laws in Palau criminalized this act, and actually there had been cases against teachers for using corporal punishments against children.

74. The delegation indicated that Palau continues to work with appropriate government agencies and different organizations on the issue of migrant workers. The delegation affirmed it is a challenging issue, as there are about 20 thousand people in Palau, of which about 6 thousand are foreign workers and with 7 labour officers overseeing the foreign workers. Despite the challenges, Palau continues to improve its work through existing regulations and legislation, such as the recently passed Minimum Wage Act, applicable universally.

75. About women in politics, the delegation of Palau asserted there were 29 members at the Palau National Congress and 3 are women. During the last term, there were also 3, so the number has been maintained and the country hopes to increase it in the upcoming general elections which will take place on November 2016. The delegation stated that with assistance of the Ministry of the Community and Cultural Affairs the government had reached programs to encourage more women to stand for election.

76. Djibouti welcomed the delegation of Palau and congratulated them for presenting their national report. It also welcomed the efforts made towards achieving promotion and protection of human rights.

77. Egypt noted with satisfaction the measures taken by Palau to promote human rights in the country and adopted by the relevant ministries in the areas of education, in improving gender equality, in promoting the rights persons with disabilities and in countering trafficking in human beings. Egypt noted the adoption of laws to protect human rights, in particular the Family Protection Law and encouraged Palau to continue its efforts in countering trafficking in persons. It also invited Palau to ratify the Protocol on Trafficking in Persons.

78. Estonia, while noting that Palau had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), encouraged the country under review to incorporate the provisions of both treaties into the domestic legislation. It also commended Palau for initiating the development of a national gender policy and expressed its concern about the definition of rape, which was limited to sexual intercourse and spousal rape was still exempt from persecution. Finally Estonia encouraged Palau to establish protection services for survivors of domestic violence and child abuse.

79. Fiji noted the efforts done by Palau to keep abreast of its human rights obligations and also noted that Palau had passed a Family Protection Act in 2012, which was designed to protect and empower the victims of domestic violence. Fiji finally congratulated Palau for its ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and for its constructive participation in the peer review process under UNCAC in April 2015.

80. France noted the human rights commitments made by Palau since its first appearance before the UPR Working Group in 2011, in particular the signature on numerous international instruments. France invited Palau to continue its commitment.

81. Georgia highlighted Palau's commitment to the full implementation of its human rights obligations and recognized efforts made by the Government by way of signing, ratification and legislative reform. It noted with appreciation that Palau had ratified the CRPD and had signed several international human rights conventions. It welcomed steps made by the Government of Palau to improve the healthcare system and the establishment of National Health Insurance.

82. Germany thanked the Palau delegation for the national report provided to the Working Group.

83. Ghana lauded the continuous engagement of Palau with the UPR mechanism since its first cycle review. It noted with appreciation the signing of some core international human rights treaties in 2011 reflecting Palau's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights of its people.

84. Indonesia commended the efforts taken by the Government of Palau in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights through the establishment of Ombudsman Office as well as the signing of the core human rights treaties in 2011 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Indonesia also recognized the efforts taken by the Ministry of the State and the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs to establish a National Human Rights Institution in Palau.

85. Iraq welcomed the delegation of Palau and their role played in the preparation of the national report. Iraq also expressed its appreciation and congratulated Palau for complying with international human rights instruments.

86. Israel recognized Palau's report as the result of extensive consultations, including with the recently created Reporting Committee on UN Conventions on Human Rights and the National Human Rights Working Group. It congratulated Palau for the progress it had achieved since its last UPR and the significant efforts taken by the government in order to implement many of the recommendations accepted during the first cycle. It highlighted a number of measures including the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman, the ratification of CRPD, the enactment of the Family Protection Act and the reform of the Penal Code.

87. Italy took note of the steps Palau had taken to promote gender equality and further the protection of women rights and in particular the measures aimed at combating domestic violence and protecting women and children from sexual abuse. Italy also commended the Authorities of Palau for having supported community awareness programs that were crucial to avoid discrimination and foster integration.

88. Japan commended Palau for its conduction of human rights awareness programs in areas such as gender equality and welcomed the signature of core human rights treaties in 2011 and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013. Japan also expressed its concern at the reports of prisoners being held under appalling conditions due to deterioration of prisons and lack of space therein.

89. Malaysia noted the efforts done by the government of Palau in conducting awareness programs for HIV and AIDS prevention, improving the rights of persons with disabilities, combating violence against women and environmental protection. It noted as well that the

enactment of the Family Protection Act and revision of the Penal Code were among efforts undertaken by the Government of Palau to provide protective measures for children.

90. Maldives commended the progress made by Palau including the enactment of the Family Protection Act, the Non-Communicable Disease Strategic Plan and of the new Penal Code and the efforts to combat human trafficking and gender equality. Maldives welcomed the policies adopted by Palau about climate change and for sustainable economic development through renewable energy applications and encouraged its government to reach out its partners and seek support for the implementation of the recommendations done during this UPR. Finally Maldives thanked Palau for its efforts to raise the voice of SIDS.

91. Mexico welcomed ratification of CRPD, the adoption of the National Policy on Disabilities and the Family Protection Law. It urged Palau to adopt a specific law to protect the children's rights. Mexico acknowledged increasing of participation of women at governmental posts and urged Palau to continue promoting involvement of women in public life. Mexico noted with satisfaction amendments to the Penal Code to decriminalize sexual relations consent between same-sex adults. It also welcomed the National Emergency Management Framework.

92. In its closing remarks, Palau thanked Estonia and Fiji for their comments about spouse rape, and made clear that marital rape was now a crime in Palau and sexual abuse in first degree was a felony. The language had been expanded in defining sexual penetration and there was no "drop policy" so although there were reconciliations under customary practice the cases moved forward and were prosecuted.

93. The delegation indicated about concerns on trafficking that there was anti-smuggling and trafficking penal laws in Palau and it is being enforced.

94. The delegation informed that a government act was adopted in 2014 for transparent government actions, making it accountable and allowing people to see government records and to sit in government proceedings allowing people to participate in government hearings and meetings

95. Palau thanked Japan for its concerns and stated that the conditions in jails had considerably improved for inmates.

96. Palau considered the value of ratifying the core treaties however they needed more time and to continue to seek international assistance in this matter.

97. About the recommendation of Ghana, the delegation reported that the education in Palau was inclusive for all children. Regarding health it indicated that there was a legislation for those who had not been in the program and were now in the health care system. Finally Palau recognized Maldives for their support to recommend Palau to push for a disability policy for 2015 to 2020 and welcomed the recommendation.

98. The delegation of Palau stated it continued to learn from best practices and strived to shape and develop its policies while also trying to stay abreast with international standards. It was no surprise that a small country with limited resources faced challenges in ensuring that human rights were afforded to every single person, however, it was also making some mighty strides and was proud to have shared an open and honest report with the international community.

99. With the financial and technical support from our international partners, Palau would continue to analyse its laws with legislative compliance reviews and make further

amendments to legislations in order to ensure human rights are afforded to every person in the country.

100. The Government would continue to educate the public in human rights, raising awareness to the community so that the ‘rights bearers’ understand their rights and responsibilities.

101. In closing, the delegation congratulated the OHCHR for its efforts in overseeing this process. The UPR process was a catalyst for Palau to look within, assess its situation and open its eyes to the gaps in our system when ensuring the rights of people in the country. The Government of Palau thanked the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat for their guidance and support.

102. The delegation particularly thanked the Government of Israel and the Government of Sweden for their gracious donation in supporting our delegation to attend this session. It expressed appreciation to the Kingdom of the Netherlands for providing funding support to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in order to provide the necessary support to all Pacific countries including the training support in Palau last year, the mock session in preparation for this Review and the presence of our colleague from SPC who is here today.

103. Palau welcomed and looked for any assistance and support available from development partners and donors in pursuing its human rights endeavours in not only fulfilling its international human rights obligations but also aligning themselves to these principles.

104. The delegation thanked the Mission of the Government of Fiji in Geneva for their assistance in helping it prepare for this session and opening their office to them and all the guidance in chairing its meeting and to all member States present, for all the input and recommendations that will indeed assist Palau in all of its work in the human rights conventions and its treaties. Lastly, it thanked the OHCHR working group and staff, especially the OHCHR Pacific and Asia section for providing support, assistance and guidance to prepare us for our 2nd UPR.

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

105. **The following recommendations will be examined by Palau, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016:**

105.1. **Speed efforts to ratify the ICCPR and the ICESCR (Namibia);**

105.2. **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (New Zealand);**

105.3. **Ratify the international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, in order to strengthen the implementation and observance of international human rights law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Panama);**

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

- 105.4. **Ratify, as a matter of priority, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**
- 105.5. **Consider continuing on to the ratification of core human rights instruments (Trinidad and Tobago);**
- 105.6. **Start the ratification process of the international instruments already signed (Uruguay);**
- 105.7. **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Canada);**
- 105.8. **Complete its international commitment by ratifying as a priority the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France);**
- 105.9. **Ratify all text that have already been signed, in particular the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**
- 105.10. **Continue taking steps towards the ratification of the international human rights conventions to which Palau is a signatory, in particular ICCPR, ICERD, ICESCR, CEDAW and CAT (Georgia);**
- 105.11. **Ratify those Conventions which Palau has not ratified, as previously recommended (Iraq);**
- 105.12. **Continue its efforts to accede to or ratify more Human Rights treaties and their Optional Protocols (Israel);**
- 105.13. **Continue its efforts to ratify the main human rights treaties without delay, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Japan);**
- 105.14. **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (Algeria);**
- 105.15. **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ghana);**
- 105.16. **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**
- 105.17. **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ghana);**
- 105.18. **Ratify ICCPR-OP 2 aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 105.19. **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);**
- 105.20. **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (New Zealand);**



- 105.21. **Ratify and implement the CEDAW and other international human rights treaties and their protocols, as previously recommended (Slovenia);**
- 105.22. **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);**
- 105.23. **Ratify Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the earliest opportunity (Australia);**
- 105.24. **Ratify the CEDAW (Costa Rica);**
- 105.25. **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Ghana);**
- 105.26. **Consider ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to ensure women equal inheritance rights (Italy);**
- 105.27. **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Denmark);**
- 105.28. **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**
- 105.29. **Incorporate the provisions of the CRC into the domestic legal system (Montenegro);**
- 105.30. **Incorporate the provisions of the Convention on the Rights on the Child in the national legal order (Panama);**
- 105.31. **Step up efforts to enact legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Philippines);**
- 105.32. **Swiftly adopt measures aimed at incorporating the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into the Palau National Code (Portugal);**
- 105.33. **Incorporate provisions of the CRC, which has been ratified by the country, into its domestic legislation (Russian Federation);**
- 105.34. **Consider acceding to three Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Uruguay);**
- 105.35. **Establish a national body to develop and coordinate services to address the rights of children and child protection issues and ensure full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Canada);**
- 105.36. **Incorporate in the national legislation the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Djibouti);**
- 105.37. **Take the necessary constitutional measures to bring the Convention on the Rights of the Child into force (Egypt);**
- 105.38. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Germany);**
- 105.39. **Ratify the International Convention on Rights of Migrant Workers and members of their Families (Algeria);**
- 105.40. **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

- 105.41. Consider to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Indonesia);
- 105.42. Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);
- 105.43. Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Ghana);
- 105.44. Continue to implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Pakistan);
- 105.45. Incorporate of the provisions of the CRPD into the domestic legal system (Portugal);
- 105.46. Ratify the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Belgium);
- 105.47. Consider ratifying fundamental ILO Conventions (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 105.48. Consider ratifying ILO fundamental conventions, and adopt policies to avoid discrimination against foreign workers (Brazil);
- 105.49. Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);
- 105.50. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ghana);
- 105.51. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, and the 1968 Convention on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and implement these in national law (Netherlands);
- 105.52. Take all necessary measures towards acceding to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus);
- 105.53. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its national legislation with the Statute and to accede to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court (Estonia);
- 105.54. Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ghana);
- 105.55. Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Costa Rica);
- 105.56. Consider ratifying the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Ghana);
- 105.57. Continue to implement laws for further protection of human rights of the people (Pakistan);
- 105.58. Redouble efforts through legislative measures and public policies to ensure that its legislation is aligned with international human rights obligations (Panama);

- 105.59. Implement the recommendations under the UNCAC peer review process conducted in April 2015 and in particular, review its legal framework to criminalise the bribery of foreign officials and officials of international organisations, and to pass legislation to allow for the forfeiture of unexplained wealth by public officials (Fiji);
- 105.60. Establish a national human rights institution that fully complies with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 105.61. Continue taking the necessary steps to set up a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 105.62. Establish an independent national human rights institution to lead, coordinate, develop capacity and assist with human rights implementation (Canada);
- 105.63. Set up a National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Congo);
- 105.64. In line with the recommendations from the 1st UPR accepted by Palau, establish an independent national human rights institution to lead, coordinate, develop capacities and help strengthen implementation of human rights throughout the country; and provide the Ombudsman with sufficient financial and human resources in order to strengthen its independence and capabilities (Costa Rica);
- 105.65. Set up an independent human rights institution in charge of coordinating the implementation of human rights in the whole country (Djibouti);
- 105.66. Establish a national human rights institution (Egypt);
- 105.67. Set up a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as the authorities committed to during the first review (France);
- 105.68. Continue efforts aiming at protection of human rights, including through the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution (Georgia);
- 105.69. Continue its efforts to establish the National Human Rights Institution in the line with the Paris Principles and with full participation of the civil society (Indonesia);
- 105.70. Continue its efforts to establish a National Human Rights Institution, as it was an accepted recommendation from the first UPR (Iraq);
- 105.71. Establish a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);
- 105.72. Establish an independent National Human Rights Institution to coordinate, develop capacities, and strengthen respect for human rights in the country, in line with the Paris Principles (Mexico);
- 105.73. Enact national legislation to protect the rights of the child (Maldives);
- 105.74. Continue to engage international and regional partners to seek technical and other assistance towards its full compliance with its human rights treaties obligations (Philippines);

- 105.75. Take active measures in order to ensure the protection of vulnerable groups in the society such as children, women and elderly, and to enact legislation on anti-discrimination (Namibia);
- 105.76. Continue deploying efforts for a strategy in favour of gender equality, in particular regarding policies and programmes of the national government and local authorities (Morocco);
- 105.77. Continue to promote gender equality through its policies and programs (Australia);
- 105.78. Eliminate all laws and practices that discriminate against women and promote equal treatment of girls and boys (Cyprus);
- 105.79. Take measures to facilitate a greater participation and representation of women in public offices (Israel);
- 105.80. Introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Netherlands);
- 105.81. Legislate in order to permit marriage between persons of the same sex (Spain);
- 105.82. Extend existing legislation to protect the rights of the LGBTI community including the recognition of same sex couples and anti-discrimination employment laws (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 105.83. Adopt measures to ensure that LGBT persons are no longer victims of discriminatory provisions (France);
- 105.84. Consider establishing explicit legislation or policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Israel);
- 105.85. Take all the necessary measures to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);
- 105.86. Establish shelters and other support services for victims and implement programs in order to provide human rights education in particular to the police, lawyers and judges (Panama);
- 105.87. Establish shelters for domestic violence survivors (United States of America);
- 105.88. Strengthen legislation on prevention and combat of sexual harassment, trafficking in persons, and sexual tourism (Mexico);
- 105.89. Enact legislation to directly address the prevention of and protection against domestic violence (New Zealand);
- 105.90. Take concrete measures to raise public awareness and further develop legislation to combat domestic violence, especially against women and children, including through the adoption of legislation that prohibits all corporal punishment of children in any setting (Brazil);
- 105.91. Align the legal definition of rape and related prosecution procedures with international norms, notably regarding marital rape and the burden of proof (Belgium);
- 105.92. Consider amending its Penal Code and Family Protection Act to ensure that spousal rape is criminalised, and that the definition of rape include any form of non-consensual penetration of or by a sexual organ and that the

definition be gender neutral so that men and boys are also protected by the rape laws (Fiji);

105.93. Take all necessary measures to promote the rights of women and to counter domestic violence, in particular by preventing and punishing more effectively violence within the family (France);

105.94. Carry out further awareness-raising campaigns to combat trafficking in persons, and include this issue on the school programmes, for a greater prevention of such phenomenon (Morocco);

105.95. Enact further measures in order to address violence in the educational system, particularly by implementing programmes to prohibit and eliminate all forms of corporal punishment (Slovenia);

105.96. Provide further training and legal assistance on the application of the Family Protection Law (Cuba);

105.97. Prohibit all corporal punishment in all settings, including in the home (Estonia);

105.98. Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of the rights of the child (France);

105.99. Strengthen laws and regulations to prevent and address human trafficking, including providing effective assistance to trafficked victims and prosecution of traffickers (Philippines);

105.100. Enforce the 2005 anti-trafficking law and ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (United States of America);

105.101. Setup a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons as defined by the existing Penal Code (Egypt);

105.102. Strengthen the efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings for sexual purposes, with particular attention to children (France);

105.103. Continue efforts to address human trafficking including the development of stricter legislation and assistance for victims reintegration and recovery (Malaysia);

105.104. Improve its prison environments as part of a wider effort to protect and promote the human rights of prisoners (Japan);

105.105. Introduce a law on freedom of information in compliance with international standards (Estonia);

105.106. Intensify its fight against all discrimination that hinders trade union freedom of all workers, both national and foreign (Spain);

105.107. Enforce regulations to protect foreign workers, particularly regarding work conditions and occupational and safety standards, and prosecute violations (United States of America);

105.108. Improve the situation of workers, in particular migrant workers, by providing them with the necessary protection (Congo);

105.109. Enact a labour law that applies to nationals and enhance efforts to spread awareness among workers (Egypt);

- 105.110. Continue taking efforts aimed at combatting the unemployment phenomenon (Egypt);
- 105.111. Adopt concrete measures to better integrate migrant workers, with special attention to combating human trafficking and discrimination (Germany);
- 105.112. Continue implementing additional measures to fight discrimination against foreign workers, addressing in particular work conditions and the respect for occupational and safety standards (Italy);
- 105.113. Continue efforts to promote the rights and working conditions for employment including through appropriate legislative and administrative measures (Malaysia);
- 105.114. Continue to strengthen the social protection programmes which are currently being implemented, in order to provide the greatest possible welfare and standard of living to its people (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));
- 105.115. Expand human rights training and awareness-raising programs so that they include all aspects of human rights (Armenia);
- 105.116. Continue promoting education for all, in particular to persons with special needs (Djibouti);
- 105.117. Adopt specific measures to promote the development of inclusive education of persons with disabilities (Argentina);
- 105.118. Consider endorsing and implementing the National Disability Policy as a tool to ensure better rights for persons with disabilities (Malaysia);
- 105.119. Implement the National Disability Inclusive Policy (Maldives);
- 105.120. Increase efforts to guarantee access to education for children with disabilities (Mexico);
- 105.121. Step up efforts to improve the situation of socially vulnerable groups of the population, in particular migrant workers, including their protection from discrimination (Russian Federation);
- 105.122. Become party to the 1954 and 1961 UN Statelessness Conventions and take all steps necessary to implement their content (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 105.123. Strengthen efforts deployed to prevent natural disasters (Morocco);
- 105.124. Continue to implement policies for development of its people under SDGs (Pakistan);
- 105.125. Continue to pay particular attention to the consequences of climate change on the human rights of the population (Cuba).
106. 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 Palau was headed by Honorable J.Baklai Temengil, Minister, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Honorable J. Uduch Sengebau Senior, Senator, Palau National Congress 9<sup>th</sup> Olbiil Era Kelulau;
  - Ms. Hila Asanuna, Senior Foreign Service Officer, Bureau of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Ministry of State;
  - Ms. Holly Yamada, Small Island States Officer, Ministry of State/PIFS;
  - Mr. Kyonori Tellames, Senior Planning Analyst, Bureau of Budget & Planning, Ministry of Finance;
  - Mr. Romulo Nayacalevu, Human Rights Adviser, Regional Rights Resource Team, Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
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