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

Pakistan

* 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-eighth session from 6 November to 17th November 2017. The review of Pakistan was held at the 11th meeting on 13 November 2017. The delegation of Pakistan was headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Khawaja Muhammad Asif. At its 17th meeting held on 16 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Pakistan.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Pakistan: Egypt, Iraq and Latvia.

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 Pakistan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/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.6/28/PAK/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/PAK/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Estonia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to Pakistan 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 Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan stated that the national report of Pakistan's third UPR was prepared through an extensive and inclusive process involving all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and academia.

6. He stated that, in the last four years, Pakistan's democracy had flourished with an elected and sovereign parliament, an independent judiciary, a free media and a vibrant civil society.

7. He stressed that real commitment of any government for the cause of human rights needed to be contextualized in the given domestic environment. In the past fifteen years, terrorism and extremism not only endangered the national security and social fabric of Pakistan but also jeopardized the human rights of its citizens.

8. The reporting period of UPR (2012-2016) marked a critical turnaround in terms of progress in security and terrorism. In December 2014, following the barbaric terrorist attack on a public school in Peshawar, Pakistan undertook decisive counterterrorism measures and cleared Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) from terrorists, that enabled it to undertake much needed administrative, judicial and security reforms there.

9. A consequence of its challenges in counterterrorism was the implementation of the death penalty. Mounting public pressure in the wake of the Peshawar school attack forced the Government to lift the moratorium on death penalty. Pakistan imposed death penalty in line with the Constitution, and in consonance with international norms, only in the "most serious crimes" with due process of law and fair trial standards followed in full earnest.

10. Pakistan had made extraordinary efforts and sacrifices to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. To date, Pakistan had lost nearly 10,000 soldiers and policemen, and around 50,000 civilians. The total economic cost for Pakistan over the last decade had been around 75 billion dollars.

11. Pakistan ensured steady mainstreaming of human rights in overall policy priorities and national discourse. Some of the key areas of this progress were in line with recommendations from its last UPR. These included the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, Provincial Human Rights Departments, Human Rights Committees at district-level, and launching of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, among others.

12. Pakistan had taken important legislative measures to meet its international human rights obligations, including ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Pakistan continued to regularly report to the relevant Treaty Bodies on the implementation of these conventions.

13. As for the rights of minorities, the Minister stressed that minorities had the Constitutional right to freely profess their religion and visit their places of worship. A case in point was the flourishing Christian missionary school system where even the most devout Muslims sent their children for education.

14. The Minister underlined that an undeniable fact of history was that global fault lines of the Cold War and ideological competition among foreign powers had travelled to Pakistan, creating forces of extremism and sectarianism which targeted people of all faiths and beliefs.

15. The Government was taking serious actions against hate speech, which led to instances of allegations of blasphemy and religious discrimination. The Minister gave examples of such actions in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh.

16. Pakistan agreed that all human rights were equal, indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. However, for a developing country like Pakistan, economic and social rights were of paramount importance. Pakistan strengthened social protection networks, which provided subsistence allowance to poor widows, orphans, persons with disabilities and the unemployed. The micro-credit financing scheme, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) continued to provide immediate relief to women of low-income families.

17. The Minister thanked for the advanced questions and indicated that the Pakistani delegation would try to respond to them during the interactive dialogue.

18. The Secretary for Human Rights stated that, despite severe constraints, Pakistan had enhanced its promotion and protection of human rights through institutional, legal and policy measures.

19. Noteworthy was the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, with provincial offices; Treaty Implementation Cells and independent and well-funded human rights institutions at the federal and provincial levels, such as the National Commission on Human Rights and the National Commission on the Status of Women; and the human rights cell in the Supreme Court. Grass root district level human rights committees acted as human rights monitoring mechanisms and provided free legal aid and financial assistance.

20. Legislative work was also underway. There were laws prescribing penalties for anti-women practices, such as rape or acid crime on one hand, and laws providing social support such as BISP on the other. The Hindu Marriage Bill and the Christian Marriage Bill were recognition of the communities' right to regulate their own marriages.

21. Vision 2025 focused on ending discrimination against women and providing an enabling environment for their socio-economic potential.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 111 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
23. The Sudan commended the Climate Change Act of 2017 and the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights.
24. Sweden made recommendations.
25. Switzerland regretted the resumption of executions in 2014 and was concerned about the high number of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions.
26. The Syrian Arab Republic commended the legislative and institutional developments and the work of the National Commission on Human Rights.
27. Thailand applauded the increase of the minimum age of criminal responsibility and improvement in women's rights.
28. Tunisia commended the plans to accomplish SDGs to promote economic and social rights of Pakistani people.
29. Turkey welcomed the ten-year socio-economic plan of FATA, the 11th Five-year Plan, and Vision 2025.
30. Uganda welcomed the national institutional framework for human rights and stated that the adequate capacity for action was necessary.
31. The United Arab Emirates commended the establishment of the National Centre for Aging and old persons in all provinces.
32. The United Kingdom recognised positive steps taken but remained concerned about the overall human rights record of Pakistan.
33. The United States commended passing of the Hindu Marriage Act and noted increased action against sex trafficking.
34. Uruguay welcomed the cooperation that the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances received from interested parties.
35. Uzbekistan welcomed the legal and institutional changes to strengthen human rights and democracy in the country.
36. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) highlighted the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission in conformity with the Paris Principles.
37. Viet Nam welcomed the adoption of the Climate Change Act and the National Human Rights Action Plan.
38. Yemen commended the National Action Plan on Human Rights launched after the wide consultations with all stakeholders.
39. Zimbabwe noted the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the National Commission on Human Rights.
40. Afghanistan called for a sincere cooperation in dealing with terrorism, in line with the recent discussions in the region.
41. Albania praised the gender equality reforms and welcomed the recognition of the rights of inter-sex and transgender persons.
42. Algeria welcomed strengthening of the National Commission on the Status of Women at national and provincial levels.
43. Angola congratulated the engagement with human rights mechanisms and policy reforms in economic, judicial and social sectors.
44. Argentina praised the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

45. Australia welcomed Pakistan's efforts to address violence against women and girls.
46. Austria made recommendations.
47. Azerbaijan welcomed the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as the national development strategy.
48. Bahrain commends the National Action Plan to combat terrorism launched and the efforts to protect women from violence.
49. Bangladesh appreciated the Draft National Policy on Ending Violence against Women and Girls and the commitment to eradicate poverty.
50. Belarus commended Vision 2025 and the existence of a broad network of human rights institutions at the federal and local levels.
51. Belgium made recommendations.
52. Bhutan welcomed the endorsement of the National Commission on the Rights of Children by the National Assembly.
53. Bolivia commended the efforts in the field of education poverty alleviation through the National Rural Support Programme.
54. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the Anti-Rape Law, the Anti-Honour Killings Law, and the Hindu-Marriage Act.
55. Brazil welcomed the positive developments on the rights of transgender persons but was concerned about religious intolerance.
56. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the Aashiyana Housing Scheme to provide affordable housing to the population.
57. Bulgaria encouraged improvement in the protection of children's rights and in the assistance to persons with disabilities.
58. Burundi noted the development of the National Action Plan to combat terrorism and the establishment of the National Counter Terrorism Authority and encouraged continuing the efforts in fight against terrorism.
59. Canada welcomed the accession to the Hague Convention on Child Abduction and expressed concern about reports of forced conversions.
60. Chad encouraged Pakistan to continue to reinforce the cooperation and dialogue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
61. Chile welcomed the efforts to protect the rights of the elderly and the recognition of the rights of transgender and intersex people.
62. China commended efforts in the implementation of the right to development, poverty alleviation and the increase of employment.
63. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.
64. Croatia welcomed the adoption of anti-rape and anti-honour killing laws but still remained concerned with violence against women.
65. Cuba recognized Pakistan's commitment in defending, promoting, and safeguarding universal human rights.
66. Cyprus remained concerned by the high incidence of violence against women and human rights defenders.
67. Czechia appreciated the human rights overview presented by Pakistan.
68. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea appreciated the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan.
69. Denmark noted the inter-linkage between child, early and forced marriage of especially young girls and sexual exploitation.

70. Djibouti welcomed advances in legislation for women's rights, particularly with the modification of the Criminal Law.
71. Ecuador welcomed the establishment of the Protection, Education and Assistance Centres for children to provide psychological support and legal assistance.
72. Egypt noted the National Action Plan on Human Rights adopted following broad consultations with stakeholders, including civil society.
73. Estonia urged preventing underage and forced marriage and forced conversion through marriage of minority women.
74. Ethiopia commended developments in legislation, policies and institutions and the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan.
75. France welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan.
76. Georgia encouraged accelerating efforts to combat hate crime and eliminate violence against minority groups.
77. Germany noted, as a significant step backward, the lifting of the moratorium on the death penalty followed by executions.
78. Ghana welcomed the development of the National Sanitation and the National Drinking Water Policies for inclusive development.
79. Greece noted the efforts made in the field of human rights but stated that setbacks and challenges remained.
80. Guatemala welcomed the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights.
81. Haiti encouraged Pakistan to engage all stakeholders before taking position on the recommendations.
82. Holy See appreciated the efforts made by Pakistan but noted multiple attacks on religious minorities.
83. Honduras commended the Supreme Court's decision in favour of transgender persons.
84. Iceland welcomed progress made in promoting human rights, including legally recognizing transgender people.
85. India made recommendations.
86. Indonesia commended the strengthening of the Election Commission and the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights, among others.
87. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended the National Action Plan on Human Rights and encouraged continuing path for further improvement.
88. Iraq commended the establishment of the Ministry of Human Right and the independent National Commission on Human Rights.
89. Ireland encouraged towards the full operationalisation of the National Commission on Human Rights.
90. Italy welcomed the launch of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the promotion of interfaith dialogue.
91. Japan commended the efforts made for the rights of persons with disabilities and to promote women's social participation.
92. Kazakhstan took positive note of the significant legal, policy and institutional steps taken since the last UPR.
93. Kuwait noted the actions to consolidate democracy, strengthen human rights institutions and provide awareness and educational programmes.

94. Kyrgyzstan commended the strengthening of the legislative and institutional frameworks and the practical measures to promote human rights.
95. Latvia welcomed the amendments to the crime laws in 2016 but noted the occurrences of honour killings.
96. Lebanon noted the adoption of the law to protect women from violence in Punjab.
97. Libya noted the developments in the political and legal reforms and the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan.
98. Lithuania welcomed the establishment of the National Commission of Human Rights as a step towards strengthening human rights institutions.
99. Luxembourg was concerned about the protection of human rights defenders and journalists.
100. Malaysia noted efforts to enhance maternal and neo-natal healthcare services, promote food security and alleviate poverty.
101. The Maldives commended the efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of children, women and older persons.
102. Mauritania welcomed Vision 2025 to meet socio-economic needs of people and the Green Pakistan Programme to address negative impacts of climate change.
103. Mexico welcomed the legislative reforms to combat violence and discrimination against women and the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution.
104. Mongolia encouraged further strengthening of human rights institutions to allow for their effective functioning.
105. Montenegro noted legislative acts adopted to prevent honour killings and rape and encouraged intensifying efforts in this regard.
106. Morocco welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan and the establishment of the Ministry on Human Rights.
107. Namibia commended developing various legal, policy and institutional measures for the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.
108. Nepal noted efforts for consolidating democracy and creating an environment for better realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
109. The Netherlands remained concerned about violence and discrimination against religious, ethnic and gender-based minorities.
110. New Zealand made recommendations.
111. The State of Palestine commended the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission on Human Rights.
112. Nigeria was encouraged by Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts, with a resolve to eliminating terrorism.
113. Norway welcomed the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights.
114. Oman commended the commitment to provide better health services and the initiatives to advance education.
115. Paraguay encouraged Pakistan to pursue its policy on gender equality.
116. The Philippines hoped that the National Climate Change Policy would contribute to combating climate change.
117. Poland was concerned about violence and discrimination against religious minorities, particularly.
118. Portugal welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights.

119. The delegation of Pakistan stated that the Women's Parliamentary Caucuses were consensus building mechanisms across party lines, promoting the adoption of laws, policies and programmes in favour of women and vulnerable groups.

120. Recent achievements included: the Election Act, encouraging participation of women in elections as candidates and voters; review of the CRPD to identify required changes in relevant laws; introduction in the Senate of the Transgender and Intersex Persons Bill; enactment of the Anti-Rape Law and Anti-Honour Killings Law; adoption of the Child Protection Act and National Commission on the Rights of the Children Act to bring the legal system in conformity with the CRC; adoption of the National Health Vision to set national priorities with clear budgeted targets; and the introduction of the Compulsory Child Immunization Bill.

121. Achievements at the provincial level included the adoption of the Punjab Violence against Women Law; Sindh and Baluchistan Domestic Violence Acts; Punjab Fair Representation of Women Act; and Punjab Marriage Restraint Act.

122. Institutions were working for the promotion and protection of human rights across the country, such as the Inter Provincial Ministerial Group.

123. The delegation stated that the application of death penalty was in full compliance with the ICCPR. It was applicable only in the most serious crimes. It could not be imposed on an individual below the age of 18.

124. Blasphemy law was non-discriminatory in nature, dealt with offences against all religions, and was applied to Muslims and non-Muslims alike and a number of safeguards were in place to prevent its abuse.

125. Freedom of expression was preserved through Article 19 of the Constitution. Safety of journalists was of paramount importance in view of the instrumental role played by them for ensuring freedom of press, fostering a culture of accountability and protecting citizens' rights.

126. Pakistan was committed to prevent any torture or ill-treatment by State functionaries. Complaints of torture allegations had been fully investigated and disciplinary action taken against those responsible.

127. Regarding problems faced by women and girls in getting speedy justice, the Ministry of Human Right was undertaking broad training of prosecutors and court officials.

128. Qatar welcomed the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights and the national development agenda 2030.

129. The Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of laws to protect rights of women and children.

130. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan but regretted the end of the moratorium on death penalty.

131. The Russian Federation welcomed inclusion of topics on tolerance, human rights, democracy in education and efforts to combat extremism and discrimination.

132. Saudi Arabia commended the measures to combat terrorism, including the law for preventing abuse of cyberspace by terrorists and extremists.

133. Senegal welcomed the creation of the Ministry of Human Rights and specific mechanisms for vulnerable groups.

134. Sierra Leone applauded the legal reforms to ensure the fundamental human rights of people living in FATA.

135. Singapore commended the efforts to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Vision 2025 and 11th five-year plan.

136. Slovakia was concerned about alleged torture, death penalty and the situation of some groups who were stateless.

137. Slovenia appreciated the National Curriculum Council's intentions to reform the school curriculum by including themes such as tolerance, human rights and democracy.
138. South Africa noted Pakistan's active role in and firm commitment to the agenda for development and the right to development.
139. South Sudan noted the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights and the National Commission on the Rights of Children.
140. Spain welcomed the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and efforts for the protection of transgender persons and women.
141. Sri Lanka welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
142. Nicaragua praised policies and measures to strengthen the development and social inclusion, combat discrimination and tackle climate change.
143. Concerning minorities, the delegation of Pakistan stated that the Constitution protected their right to profess their religion and visit their places of worship. The Constitution and legislation prohibited any discrimination on the basis of caste, colour or creed.
144. Pakistan had been leading global efforts to combat intolerance and hate speech. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was formulating the National Interfaith Harmony Policy to ensure the political participation of minorities. Festivals had been officially celebrated for Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Kalash communities. There was a five per cent job quota for the minorities in all federal services.
145. For the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, the delegation highlighted that Pakistan's National Health Vision (2016-2025), in conformity with health related SDGs, provided a comprehensive approach to improve access to quality health services. The launching of the Prime Minister's National Health Programme was a major step towards achieving the universal health coverage. Enhancing access to good quality education was part of Vision 2025, and the education budget had more than doubled since 2010.
146. The delegation stressed that Pakistan took its international human rights obligations very seriously and continued to strengthen cooperation and engagement with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Procedures. Pakistan had reviews of three of its reports submitted to treaty bodies this year.
147. On the issue of refugees, the delegation reminded that, since 1979, Pakistan had hosted more than twice the number of refugees than the entire Europe in the last five years. Neither problems of Pakistan nor the Afghan refugee situations should be underestimated or overshadowed. Pakistan was committed to pursuing voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees in safety and with dignity.
148. The delegation encouraged India to stick to the focus of UPR, which was a constructive process. It invited India to honour their obligations to the United Nations, especially on Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.
149. The Minister of Foreign Affairs welcomed the substantive exchange of views and inputs from the Member and Observer States. He reiterated that protection and promotion of human right was anchored in Pakistan's national constitutional framework and that promotion of human rights was a national duty to its people.
150. He underlined that it was important to understand some of implementation challenges in the broader historical context. After the incidents of 9/11, Pakistan once again became a frontline State in the war against terrorism, erstwhile Jihadist-turned terrorists were pushed into the territory. The spill over of these wars had had far reaching impact on the Pakistani society.
151. He concluded that Pakistan would remain committed to promoting the human rights agenda comprehensively both by consolidating the progress made and by further improving the implementation framework.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

152. The following recommendations will be examined by Pakistan which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in March 2018:

- 152.1. Ratify the international conventions and protocols on human rights in order to enable its people to enjoy all their rights (Chad);
- 152.2. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Angola);
- 152.3. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, for the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Spain);
- 152.4. Consider ratifying the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and meanwhile, declare an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty, commuting death sentences to imprisonment (Uruguay);
- 152.5. Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 152.6. Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Guatemala);
- 152.7. Ratify the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);
- 152.8. Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Senegal) / Accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Honduras);
- 152.9. Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and continue strengthening the legislation aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (Uruguay);
- 152.10. Develop indicators and a timeline for the implementation of the recent legislation on women's rights, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Germany);
- 152.11. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);
- 152.12. Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);
- 152.13. Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras) /

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan);

152.14. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Afghanistan);**

152.15. **Accede to and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone) / Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France) (Iraq) (Japan) (Montenegro) (Paraguay) (Senegal);**

152.16. **Take the necessary measures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognise the competence of the Committee (Argentina);**

152.17. **Ratify the United Nations Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and adapt its national legislation to international standards in this regard (Chile);**

152.18. **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia) (Uruguay);**

152.19. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark) (Ghana) (Lebanon) (Poland);**

152.20. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establish its national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia);**

152.21. **Prevent and eliminate all acts of torture and accede to the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Luxembourg);**

152.22. **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Tunisia);**

152.23. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure (Georgia);**

152.24. **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus) / Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

152.25. **Accede to and adapt its national legislation to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

152.26. **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**

152.27. **Accede to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Honduras);**

152.28. **Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Estonia);**

152.29. **Ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Slovakia);**

152.30. **Ratify the International Labour Organization Convention No.169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (Guatemala);**

152.31. **Acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);**

- 152.32. Continue its cooperation with the United Nation human rights mechanisms to protect and promote these rights (State of Palestine);
- 152.33. Issue a standing invitation to all Human Rights Council's Special Procedures (Estonia);
- 152.34. Extend a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Afghanistan);
- 152.35. Present a standing invitation to all Special Rapporteurs (Republic of Korea);
- 152.36. Respond positively to pending visit requests of Special Procedures and extend a standing invitation to Special Procedure mandate holders (Latvia);
- 152.37. As a follow-up to recommendations 10 and 39 from the first cycle, and 122.77 from the second cycle, establish a systematic consultation and follow-up mechanism with civil society and non-governmental organizations on the implementation of recommendations formulated in the framework of the universal periodic review (Haiti);
- 152.38. Accelerate the domestication of provisions of international human rights instruments to which it is a party (Zimbabwe);
- 152.39. Continue efforts to review national laws to ensure that they are in line with their international human rights obligations (Cuba);
- 152.40. Continue to codify all legislation related to human rights, with a view to transforming it into one national system (Turkey);
- 152.41. Continue to implement its commitments in the promotion of human rights (Libya);
- 152.42. Continue to mobilise resources and redouble efforts towards the fulfilment of its human rights obligations (Nigeria);
- 152.43. Mainstream human rights in development planning by incorporating cross-cutting issues and promote the right to development (Sudan);
- 152.44. Continue to apply and strengthen programmes and public policies of social development, inclusion, reduction of poverty and inequality, and non-discrimination (Nicaragua);
- 152.45. Strengthen the role and effectiveness of the Ministry of Human Rights and the National Commission in accordance with the international human rights standards (State of Palestine);
- 152.46. Continue its current approach on consolidation of human rights institutions (Kuwait);
- 152.47. Continue strengthening the operational efficiency of various human rights institutions (Morocco);
- 152.48. Give continuity to strengthening of the national human rights institutions (Nepal);
- 152.49. Take all the necessary measures to ensure that the National Commission for Human Rights is in line with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 152.50. Fully staff and fund the National Human Rights Institutions outlined in its Action Plan for Human Rights in order to better collect and analyse disaggregated data in support of laws, policies and safeguards related to women and girls (Canada);
- 152.51. Continue efforts to enhance the operational effectiveness of its national human rights institutions as well as strengthen activities to promote education and awareness of human rights (Bhutan);

- 152.52. Further enhance the operational effectiveness of the national human rights institutions in accordance with their mandates through provision of adequate human and financial resources (South Africa);
- 152.53. Adjust the mandate and responsibilities of the National Commission on Human Rights to the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient financial resources to carry out its activities effectively (Guatemala);
- 152.54. Enhance the independence and effectiveness of the National Commission on Human Rights through provision of adequate human and financial resources (Indonesia);
- 152.55. Step up measures to strengthen the work of local human rights institutions, including the national commission for human rights, the National Commission on Status of Women, and the Commission for Minorities (Saudi Arabia);
- 152.56. Increase the level of funding of the National Commission on the Status of Women, in order for it to better protect and promote the rights of women (Croatia);
- 152.57. Strengthen National and Provincial Commissions on Status of Women through increased funding and support, given the importance of this sector (Philippines);
- 152.58. Continue its efforts to implement the National Action Plan on Human Rights (Sudan);
- 152.59. Continue to take steps to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan (Sri Lanka);
- 152.60. Strengthen awareness raising and implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights (Ethiopia);
- 152.61. Pursue the successful implementation of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights and the 2025 Vision initiative, which are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 152.62. Make greater efforts to implement the National Plan for Human Rights and the National Policy Framework on Human Rights (Bhutan);
- 152.63. Finalise the National Policy Framework on Human Rights, in consultation with stakeholders (Sri Lanka);
- 152.64. Continue the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and finalise the draft National Policy Framework for promotion and protection of human rights (Indonesia);
- 152.65. Implement the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Policy Framework on Human Rights referred to in paragraph 12 in the report (United Arab Emirates);
- 152.66. Establish a National Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, as well as explicitly criminalise the recruitment and use of children in hostilities (Portugal);
- 152.67. Continue to strengthen its efforts on human rights education, training and awareness raising (Viet Nam);
- 152.68. Continue to promote human rights education, training and awareness raising (Malaysia);
- 152.69. Continue efforts in the area of human rights education and training (Morocco);
- 152.70. Strengthen human rights training and education in school programmes as well as training programmes for security forces (Algeria);

- 152.71. Continue to provide improved human rights education and training for judicial and law enforcement officials (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 152.72. Strengthen the promotion of human rights education, training and capacity building for government officials and other relevant stakeholders (Indonesia);
- 152.73. Continue adopting effective measures to fight against discrimination (Saudi Arabia);
- 152.74. Adopt a comprehensive legislation to combat all forms of discrimination, in line with its obligations and international standards (Honduras);
- 152.75. Maintain efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, considering their specific needs and capacities, through the empowerment of their rights, and fair reparation mechanisms (Ecuador);
- 152.76. Develop programmes and policies for comprehensive development and improvement of the situations of the most needy groups (Egypt);
- 152.77. Identify gaps for further protection and harmonization of vulnerable groups including religious minorities (Ethiopia);
- 152.78. Continue implementing measures to safeguard the rights of women, children and other marginalized and vulnerable segments of the society (Nepal);
- 152.79. Support legislative policies to protect vulnerable groups with the necessary financial resources to ensure their implementation (United Arab Emirates);
- 152.80. Continue to adopt measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 152.81. Continue its efforts for the improvement of the protection of human rights, especially by eliminating discrimination based on sex, race, caste and religion (Holy See);
- 152.82. Institute specific legislative measures aimed at eliminating the practice of discrimination against minority group including women and girls (Uganda);
- 152.83. Adopt the necessary legislative or regulatory measures to combat all forms of discrimination, particularly against ethnic or religious minorities (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 152.84. Make greater efforts to investigate complaints and prosecute those that commit crimes against ethnic and religious minorities like the Hazaras, Dalits, Christians, Hindus and Ahmadies (Argentina);
- 152.85. As a follow-up to recommendations 122.38 from the second cycle, amend discriminatory laws and vigilantly counter discrimination against marginalized groups, including women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities and provide a safe and just environment for all citizens in Pakistan (Haiti);
- 152.86. Adopt effective measures to prevent and punish all forms of discrimination against minority groups by adding clear provisions to articles 25 to 27 of the Constitution to ensure prohibition of discrimination on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as by adding clear protection provisions in criminal laws concerning public assembly, obscenity and public nuisance (Netherlands);
- 152.87. Ensure that minority groups including Scheduled Castes are not discriminated against in education, health care, employment and other basic

services and that perpetrators of hate crimes against them face the full course of the law (Sierra Leone);

152.88. **Protect the rights of LGBTI people and take necessary measures to guarantee their protection and a life free from discrimination (Mexico);**

152.89. **Adopt legislative measures to decriminalize homosexuality and consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex (Chile);**

152.90. **Accelerate the enactment of laws for the protection of LGBTI people, in particular the Transgender Protection of Rights Bill (France);**

152.91. **Rapidly adopt and implement the two draft bills recently presented before the National Assembly to ensure the rights of transgender persons (Spain);**

152.92. **Ensure that the 2017 law presently being reviewed on the recognition of the rights of intersex and transgender persons pays necessary attention to both women and men transgenders (Albania);**

152.93. **Enact and enforce legislation to afford legal protections from violence and discrimination to all its citizens, including women, girls, the LGBTI community and religious minorities, including through effective prosecutions in accordance with the rule of law (Australia);**

152.94. **Allocate sufficient resources for the Sustainable Development Goals (Syrian Arab Republic);**

152.95. **Strengthen efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Egypt);**

152.96. **Continue to invest in green energy projects for providing clean and modern energy to all its people (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

152.97. **Consider conducting an assessment of the effects of air, water and soil pollution on children's health with a view to designing a well-resourced strategy to address the situation (Ghana);**

152.98. **Intensify its efforts in combating terrorism (Nigeria);**

152.99. **Respond comprehensively toward both terrorism and terrorists (Afghanistan);**

152.100. **Dismantle Special Terrorist Zones, safe havens and sanctuaries and take verifiable actions, including on terror financing (India);**

152.101. **Step up efforts to prevent child casualties in counter terrorism operations, using every method to protect their rights (Paraguay);**

152.102. **Protect the rights of the child more effectively, particularly during counter-terrorism activities, and by desisting from death sentencing and executing juveniles (Poland);**

152.103. **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Iceland);**

152.104. **Reinstate moratorium on death penalty (Estonia);**

152.105. **Restore the moratorium on the death penalty (France);**

152.106. **Re-establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Czechia);**

152.107. **Re-establish the moratorium on death penalty (Lithuania);**

152.108. **Re-impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

152.109. **Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty and consider abolishing capital punishment (Brazil);**

152.110. **Re-instate the moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step towards abolition (Greece);**

- 152.111. **Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Norway);**
- 152.112. **Introduce a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to repealing it (Switzerland);**
- 152.113. **Re-instate the moratorium on executions, with a view to ultimately abolishing the death penalty (Cyprus);**
- 152.114. **Establish without delay a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its definitive abolition (Luxembourg);**
- 152.115. **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its legal and practical abolition (Chile);**
- 152.116. **Reintroduce the moratorium on the death penalty for all cases as a first step towards its full abolition (Portugal);**
- 152.117. **Immediately abolish the death penalty and establish a moratorium on all pending executions (Slovakia);**
- 152.118. **Consider to re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**
- 152.119. **Reinstate the moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards complete abolition and accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sweden);**
- 152.120. **Halt the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, and take steps towards its abolition including ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**
- 152.121. **Reinstitute its moratorium on the use of the death penalty, as a first step towards complete abolition and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**
- 152.122. **Immediately repeal legislation that provides the possibility to impose the death penalty for freedom of speech-related cases, in particular section 295-C of the Penal Code, in order to ensure compliance with Articles 6 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Belgium);**
- 152.123. **Initiate a legislative process to revise the Pakistan Penal Code in order to limit the death penalty to cases in which the accused committed an intentional killing at first steps towards abolition (Republic of Moldova);**
- 152.124. **Set a clear timeline for the review of legislation carrying the death penalty with the aim of limiting the scope of crimes to which it applies (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 152.125. **Re-establish the moratorium on the use of death penalty with a view to its abolition, particularly when the alleged perpetrators are minors or belong to minorities (Mexico);**
- 152.126. **Reinstate the moratorium on executions, and ban the death penalty for defendants who suffer from mental illness or were minors at the time of their alleged crimes (Germany);**
- 152.127. **Pending abolition of the death penalty, reinstate a moratorium on executions and introduce a statutory prohibition on the death penalty and execution of mentally disabled and those who were juveniles at the time of the crime (Republic of Moldova);**
- 152.128. **Review the list of crimes punishable by death and bring the enforcement of capital punishment in line with international standards, with a view of a re-introduction of the moratorium and the eventual abolition of the death penalty (Austria);**

- 152.129. Re-institute the moratorium on the application of the death penalty, reduce the number of crimes punishable by death and consider to ultimately abolish the death penalty (Namibia);
- 152.130. Ensure due process and full enforcement of laws to avoid extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings and arbitrary detentions, including adopting all necessary measures, including legal and judicial measures, in order to bring an end to impunity and to prevent the recurrence of such activities (New Zealand);
- 152.131. Make enforced disappearance a criminal offense and ensure that all allegations of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions are thoroughly investigated and those responsible brought to justice (Switzerland);
- 152.132. Conduct an independent inquiry into all suspected cases of enforced disappearances of human rights defenders and hold accountable those responsible (Germany);
- 152.133. Legislate a specific definition of torture as recommended by the Committee against Torture in June 2017 (Canada);
- 152.134. Take all necessary steps to ensure that all perpetrators of torture are prosecuted and brought to justice (Slovakia);
- 152.135. Pursue the efforts to remove all measures which could give rise to situations analogous to torture, cruel or inhuman treatment from its national legislation, and establish necessary safeguards for preventing torture, as well as abolishing the death penalty (Paraguay);
- 152.136. Take necessary measures to improve detention facility including renewing its Prison Act which was enacted in 1894 (Republic of Korea);
- 152.137. Strengthen the functioning of the independent judiciary to enhance transparency and efficiency in judicial proceedings (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 152.138. Ensure the right to a fair trial for all and ban traditional and informal justice systems (Republic of Korea);
- 152.139. Bar military courts from trying civilians and allow their monitoring by international observers and human rights organisations (India);
- 152.140. Allow due legal processes and judicial review by High Courts and Supreme Court for cases tried by Military Courts (India);
- 152.141. Ensure due process is afforded to all persons accused of criminal offences, as well as protection from public persecution (Australia);
- 152.142. Strengthen the reform process of the criminal justice system in accordance with international standards, particularly regarding the right to a fair trial, right to appeal to civilian courts and the right to a public hearing, and abrogate the jurisdiction of the military courts over civilian cases in terrorism-related offences (Slovenia);
- 152.143. Advance the efforts made to facilitate equitable access to justice for all, especially the poor and marginalized (Cuba);
- 152.144. Align with the comprehensive recommendations made by the Committee against Torture as well as those mentioned by the Human Rights Committee in the review of Pakistan in 2017, regarding rule of law and access to justice (Greece);
- 152.145. Track and report the investigation and prosecution of security forces who commit human rights violations and abuses (United States of America);
- 152.146. Continue measures to increase the overall tax-to-GDP ratio, in particular implementing recommendations from the Tax Reforms Commission final report, including steps to provide a proper mechanism to improve tax

collection at the national and provincial level in an open and transparent manner, with the view of ensuring that everyone pays their fair share (Haiti);

152.147. Finalize and fully implement the National Interfaith Policy, in order to among others, protect the rights of religious minorities (Namibia);

152.148. Adopt and implement legal and practical measures to ensure the protection of religious minorities, including Christians, Ahmadis, Hindus and Sikhs in line with the previous concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee, recommendation 34 (Netherlands);

152.149. Strengthen protection of religious minorities, in particular by guaranteeing freedom of manifestation of their religion in teaching, practice, worship, and observance (Poland);

152.150. Amend its national legislation on defamation and blasphemy in accordance with international human rights law (Lithuania);

152.151. Modify or abolish blasphemy laws that limit the right to freedom of religion or belief (Mexico);

152.152. Review the procedures applicable to the blasphemy law with a view to containing abuses (France);

152.153. Revise the Law on Blasphemy so that it cannot be abused against religious minorities (Czechia);

152.154. Enact legislation ensuring the right to freedom of religion or belief for all religious groups and take effective measures to prevent the abuse of blasphemy legislation and the use of violence against religious minorities (Austria);

152.155. Repeal blasphemy laws and restrictions and end their use against Ahmadi Muslims and others and grant the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression (United States of America);

152.156. Repeal or modify the blasphemy laws in order to bring them in line with the principles related to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and in particular with its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);

152.157. Consider repealing the blasphemy law, or at least amending it to protect persons from eventual abuses or false accusations and to moderate the penalties (Holy See);

152.158. Guarantee freedom of religion or belief by considering to decriminalize blasphemy and adopt measures to protect the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities (Italy);

152.159. Abolish, or profoundly reform, the blasphemy laws and guarantee freedom of religion and belief for all in law and in practice (Luxembourg);

152.160. Ensure the prosecution of the right to freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly by decriminalising blasphemy and respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of all religious minorities, including the Ahmadi, Shi'a Muslims, Christians and Baha'i (New Zealand);

152.161. End harassment of minorities and place procedural and institutional safeguards to prevent misuse of blasphemy law (India);

152.162. Implement measures to prevent violence, persecution and discrimination on the basis of religion, and in particular prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws by requiring all cases to undergo prior judicial review before charges may proceed (Canada);

152.163. Continue active work to ensure inter-confessional harmony within Pakistan (Russian Federation);

- 152.164. Continue adopting policies and measures to promote dialogue and tolerance between religions (Qatar);
- 152.165. Strengthen measures with regard to elimination of violence and discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities (Georgia);
- 152.166. Investigate all reports of violence against religious minorities and bring those responsible to justice (Norway);
- 152.167. Amend Chapter XV in the Penal Code to ensure protection of minorities of all religions and beliefs (Denmark);
- 152.168. Take effective measures to protect persons belonging to minorities, including the Ahmadi community (France);
- 152.169. End forced conversions and marriages of minorities, including Hindu, Sikh, and Christian women, and prosecute all cases (India);
- 152.170. Intensify efforts aimed at efficiently safeguarding the freedom of expression (Cyprus);
- 152.171. Stop targeting political dissidents and legitimate criticism in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (India);
- 152.172. Take steps to protect freedom of expression and online freedoms (Australia);
- 152.173. Prevent impunity for crimes against journalists and media workers (Sweden);
- 152.174. Protect independent journalists and media against any intimidation or violence, including enforced disappearance (Czechia);
- 152.175. Investigate all reports of attacks on journalists and human rights defenders and bring perpetrators to justice (Norway);
- 152.176. Implement measures to protect the right to life and freedom of expression of journalists and human rights defenders ensuring that the perpetrators of violence against them are brought to justice (Greece);
- 152.177. Bring to justice anyone who threatens, abducts, or attacks human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers or others who work to promote democracy (Canada);
- 152.178. Introduce strong legislation prohibiting attacks against journalists to effectively investigate such acts and prosecute the perpetrators as previously recommended (Austria);
- 152.179. Provide updated information regarding the judicial status of cases of murdered journalists to the UNESCO Director-General's Report on the Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity (Sweden);
- 152.180. Continue the adoption and implementation of administrative legal measures for the protection of journalists and human rights defenders and ensure the referral to the courts of perpetrators of violence against them (France);
- 152.181. Continue its efforts to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to ensure that all allegations of improper use of criminal laws against journalists and dissenting voices, including human rights defenders are investigated in an effective, impartial and prompt manner (Ireland);
- 152.182. Enforce the measures adopted to ensure the participation of minorities in public affairs (Egypt);
- 152.183. Strengthen measures to ensure the participation of minorities in all spheres of national life (Zimbabwe);

- 152.184. **Strengthen the protection of minorities by having a fully inclusive electoral roll without discrimination or religious bias, and by establishing an independent National Commission for Minorities from all faith communities, who should appoint their own representatives (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 152.185. **Pass an anti-trafficking law that prohibits and penalizes all forms of human trafficking (United States of America);**
- 152.186. **Update national laws to cover all forms of trafficking, eliminate cross-border trafficking in persons and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**
- 152.187. **Implement fully the national strategic framework against trafficking in persons and human smuggling, ensuring adequate human and financial resource (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 152.188. **Combat human trafficking and forced labour through the establishment of systematic and regular monitoring mechanisms (Iraq);**
- 152.189. **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly the exploitation of children, by reinforcing the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);**
- 152.190. **Continue its efforts to strengthen the institutional mechanisms to combat and prevent trafficking of persons, specially that of children (Maldives);**
- 152.191. **Continue to raise the level of protection of human rights of vulnerable groups, with particular reference to eliminate child labour (Turkey);**
- 152.192. **Undertake the necessary steps for the effective implementation of the National Framework Programme to combat child and bonded labour (Russian Federation);**
- 152.193. **Develop a clear implementation and monitoring plan for all national and provincial legislation on bonded labour (Ireland);**
- 152.194. **Strengthen monitoring its domestic labour condition to eliminate practice of bonded labour and unlawful child labour (Republic of Korea);**
- 152.195. **Implement programmes for job creation to ensure realization of the right to work (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 152.196. **Continue to promote the implementation of the necessary basic, legal and social structures to enable people to live a decent life (Libya);**
- 152.197. **Continue to achieve economic growth aimed to raising the standard of living of the population and improving the social, health and educational situation of the poor people (Yemen);**
- 152.198. **Continue providing financial support to low-income families (China);**
- 152.199. **Continue to provide financial and other forms of support to the women and other vulnerable groups (Azerbaijan);**
- 152.200. **Further strengthen existing flagship programmes for social safety nets (Azerbaijan);**
- 152.201. **Continue its policies to eradicate poverty (South Sudan);**
- 152.202. **Continue to take measures to ensure social equity and reduce poverty in the country (Uzbekistan);**
- 152.203. **Introduce further measures to sustain and reinforce progress made in poverty reduction (Viet Nam);**
- 152.204. **Continue its efforts in poverty alleviation and promoting economic and social sustainable development (China);**

- 152.205. Continue the successful programmes of employment, food and assistance for the most vulnerable in its fight against poverty (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 152.206. Combat poverty, including through the effective implementation of the Benazir Income Support Programme (South Africa);
- 152.207. Strengthen its efforts to promote food security and eradicate all forms of malnutrition, and ensure quality education to all children through inclusive policies (Albania);
- 152.208. Further strengthen cooperation with other countries and relevant international organizations by sharing good experiences in the fields of poverty reduction, education for all and universal medical care (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);
- 152.209. Continue its efforts to ensure its people have access to affordable housing (Brunei Darussalam);
- 152.210. Continue the existing efforts in order to provide better health services to all (Oman);
- 152.211. Strengthen its public health system with a view to provide free, quality, basic health services to all and reduce child mortality (Angola);
- 152.212. Allocate sufficient resources for strengthening of public health aiming to provide affordable and quality basic medical services (Belarus);
- 152.213. Ensure the availability of medicines with good quality at an appropriate price, especially for the disadvantaged, the vulnerable and the poor (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 152.214. Continue the successful social policies of education and health to the benefit of women, girls and older persons (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 152.215. Prioritize policies and programmes on nutrition, vaccination, and health workers to reduce maternal, neonatal, and child mortality and make sufficient budgetary allocations (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 152.216. Take additional tangible steps to protect children, in particular, to address the critical nutritional and health-care needs (Kyrgyzstan);
- 152.217. Expand further ongoing efforts to provide medical facilities and access to vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, in rural areas, as part of overall efforts to achieve universal health coverage in Pakistan (Malaysia);
- 152.218. Continue improving maternal and neonatal health services through interventions at national and provincial levels (Sri Lanka);
- 152.219. Ensure women's rights over their sexual and reproductive health through an enabling policy (Iceland);
- 152.220. Take effective measures to improve women's access to health services, in particular reproductive health services (Kazakhstan);
- 152.221. Continue the positive experience of incorporating international human rights standards into the national education system (Azerbaijan);
- 152.222. Increase its efforts to improve the education system, as a tool to enhance peaceful coexistence in the country (Holy See);
- 152.223. Step up efforts to ensure provision of free and quality primary and secondary education (Georgia);
- 152.224. Continue current efforts to ensure that all children, without discrimination, enjoy the right to education (Kazakhstan);

- 152.225. Intensify efforts to ensure that all children enjoy the right to education and protection from discrimination and violence (Kyrgyzstan);
- 152.226. Implement federal and provincial laws on the right to education to ensure universal access (Norway);
- 152.227. Strengthen efforts to ensure the access of children to their compulsory education (Bahrain);
- 152.228. Step up efforts to ensure access of all children to quality education, regardless of social status, gender and ethnicity (Bulgaria);
- 152.229. Undertake more efforts to ensure equal access to elementary and secondary education for both genders (Oman);
- 152.230. Increase government spending on education to provide compulsory public and private education (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 152.231. Take measures to further promote the right to education, including by ensuring that school facilities and well-trained teachers are sufficiently provided throughout the country (Thailand);
- 152.232. Continue its efforts to increase enrolment rates at all levels of education, in particular continue to improve equal access to education for all children, regardless of gender, income level, or background (Bosnia and Herzegovina);
- 152.233. Continue to invest resources to ensure that all children between 5-16, in particular girls in difficult regions, have access to quality basic and secondary education (Singapore);
- 152.234. Ensure a better and greater access of women and girls to education with the aim of empowering them (Spain);
- 152.235. Take urgent measures to protect women and girls against discrimination and gender disparity, in particular by ensuring their access to education (Argentina);
- 152.236. Continue efforts to improve the literacy rate among women (Qatar);
- 152.237. Redouble its efforts to improve condition of schools facilities in the rural areas (South Sudan);
- 152.238. Ensure that madrasas, within the territory of Pakistan, operate in line with the human rights obligations of Pakistan (Afghanistan);
- 152.239. Continue the implementation of the laws for the protection of women (France);
- 152.240. Continue efforts to promote and protect the role and status of women (Lebanon);
- 152.241. Continue efforts to combat and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Tunisia);
- 152.242. Continue efforts aiming at empowering women, combating social and economic discrimination, and protect them from violence (Poland);
- 152.243. Continue implementation of initiatives to encourage the empowerment of women, in particular in rural areas (Bulgaria);
- 152.244. Consolidate the protection of women's human rights with new mechanisms and laws in this area (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 152.245. Launch governmental programmes to raise the awareness of women on their constitutionally guaranteed rights (Bahrain);
- 152.246. Continue progress towards equality between women and men, increasing and strengthening the representation of women in politics, economy, academia and the judiciary. This also implies effective equality before the law,

including the inheritance right, equal access to justice, equality in the effective exercise of their rights to education and health, and equal remuneration for their work and access to credit and other financial services among others (Nicaragua);

152.247. Work on implementing the Agenda Women Peace and Security to ensure effective participation of women in all spheres (Spain);

152.248. Effectively enforce the existing as well as new laws to promote and protect the rights of women and children as well as religious minority members, in order to promote tolerance and an inclusive society (Thailand);

152.249. Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children by means of reinforcing the relevant legal framework, running awareness campaigns and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive appropriate help (Italy);

152.250. Continue to increase its efforts to prevent discrimination and violence against women (Japan);

152.251. Continue to implement additional measures to prevent discrimination against women and girls (Maldives);

152.252. Enhance activities aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and gender-based violence (Kyrgyzstan);

152.253. Strengthen its efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women and girls to achieve the exercise of their rights under conditions of equality (Ecuador);

152.254. Address the societal acceptance of violence against women and ensure punishment for all perpetrators of violence against women (Czechia);

152.255. Expedite the finalization of the National Policy on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (Bangladesh);

152.256. Speed up the finalization of its National Policy on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (South Africa);

152.257. Intensify its efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls by ensuring that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (Djibouti);

152.258. Enact legislation on domestic violence in all provinces (Sweden);

152.259. Adopt legislation that criminalizes domestic violence in all provinces and ensure, promote and facilitate the effective implementation of this legislation, *inter alia*, by providing training for law enforcement officers (Belgium);

152.260. Complete the existing legislation in order to combat all forms of violence against women throughout its territory (Switzerland);

152.261. Ensure effective and monitored enforcement of existing federal and provincial legislation related to violence against women (Sweden);

152.262. Strengthen national legislation criminalizing violence against women in order to remove existing loopholes which leave room for perpetrators to escape punishment (Uganda);

152.263. Effectively and stringently implement legislation criminalizing violence against women and domestic violence, including marital rape, and improve data collection mechanism on violence against women (Slovenia);

152.264. Effectively enforce all relevant laws criminalising violence against women and domestic violence (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

- 152.265. Set up effective legislative or others measures, to protect women and children against domestic violence and all forms of ill-treatment (Luxembourg);
- 152.266. Abolish harmful customary practices against young girls in line with its commitments in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);
- 152.267. Redouble efforts to enforce laws criminalising gender-biased violence, such as the recently adopted Anti-rape Law and Anti-honour Killing Law (Brazil);
- 152.268. Take effective measures to ensure the full implementation of the Anti-Honour Killings Bill and the Anti-Rape Bill and raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years in all provinces (Austria);
- 152.269. Fully and without delay, implement the Anti-honour Killing Law, which resolved an ambiguity that had allowed perpetrators to be pardoned by relatives of the victim (Croatia);
- 152.270. Adopt measures that will enhance the implementation of legislation combating honour killings, rape, violence against women and domestic violence (Cyprus);
- 152.271. Continue its efforts towards eradicating discrimination and violence against women and girls, including by the full implementation of the anti-rape and anti-honour killing laws with thorough investigation and prosecution of all violations of those laws (New Zealand);
- 152.272. Increase the number and quality of gender-sensitive training events on violence against women for the judiciary and law-enforcement agencies (Lithuania);
- 152.273. Work on raising the legal marriage age to 18 years (Bahrain);
- 152.274. Make 18 years the minimum age of marriage for women and men (Iceland);
- 152.275. Enact and enforce legislation that facilitates women's social, political and economic empowerment, including in relation to child marriage and forced conversion (Australia);
- 152.276. Amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act to include an equal minimum age of marriage of 18 years for all individuals (Denmark);
- 152.277. Take concrete steps aimed at increasing the minimum marriage age for girls from 16 to 18 (Namibia);
- 152.278. Set the legal minimum age to marry at 18 years for males and females in all provinces, and ensure that the law is effectively enforced (Belgium);
- 152.279. Continue to adopt measures which would further promote and protect the rights of the child (Brunei Darussalam);
- 152.280. Develop a Comprehensive Child Protection Policy with a view to fully reflect the realities of the children in the national plans and programmes (Mongolia);
- 152.281. Consider the implementation of the necessary safeguards for the protection of children against corporal punishment (Cuba);
- 152.282. Take necessary measures to include, in the domestic judiciary systems, international standards with respect to juvenile justice (Algeria);
- 152.283. Take measures to considerably reduce the number of stunted children and out-of-school children, and end child labour by developing indicators and a timeline for the implementation of the recent legislation against child labour (Germany);

152.284. Consider the implementation of programmes and policies for the empowerment of young people (China);

152.285. Continue to introduce new policies and measures that promote the social and economic inclusion of all persons with disabilities (Singapore);

152.286. Continue to implement policies that fully consider the rights of persons with disabilities when formulating and implementing all social activities and development plans (Japan);

152.287. Ensure that all refugees within the territory of Pakistan enjoy their basic human rights and are protected from arbitrary arrests, humiliation and enforced expulsion (Afghanistan);

152.288. Fulfil international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, including consular access for foreign national without discriminations (India);

152.289. Provide freedom to the people of Pakistan occupied Kashmir by ending its illegal and forcible occupation (India).

153. 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 Pakistan was headed by H.E. Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Ayesha Raza Farooq, Member of Senate;
- Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Law;
- Mr. Tahir Khalil Sindhu, Minister of Human Rights & Minorities, Punjab;
- Mr. Farukh Amil, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary for Human Rights;
- Mr. Ashgar Ali, Secretary for Law, Khyber Pakhtunkwa;
- Mr. Muhammad Aftab Bhatti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmon;
- Mr. Shujjat Ali Rathore, Director General (Foreign Minister's office), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Khalil-ur-Rahman Hashmi, Director General (United Nations) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Mr. Usman Iqbal Jadoon, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Farhat Ayesha, Director (Human Rights & Humanitarian Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Bilal Akram Shah, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Fareena Arshad, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Mr. Atif Raza, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Zunaira Latif, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Mr. Qazi Saleem Ahmed Khan, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva.