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

Gabon

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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 Gabon was held at the third meeting on 7 November 2017. The delegation of Gabon was headed by his Excellency Mr. Francis NKEA NDZIGUE, Minister of State, Minister of Justice and Chargé for Human Rights. At its 10th meeting held on 10 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Gabon.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of: Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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 Gabon:

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

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

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay was transmitted to Gabon 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. Introduisant son rapport, la délégation du Gabon a souligné l'esprit de coopération qui a animé le Gabon depuis 2008, dans le cadre de l'Examen Périodique Universel, et a indiqué que la préparation du rapport national a été faite par le Comité national de rédaction des rapports sur les droits de l'homme en collaboration avec la société civile et les parlementaires en charge des droits humains. Le Gabon envisage cet examen comme une occasion de faire un bilan de la politique nationale en matière de droits humains, afin de consolider les bonnes pratiques et entreprendre les réajustements nécessaires.

6. La délégation a également indiqué que le Gabon a ratifié, en 2014, le deuxième Protocole facultatif se rapportant au Pacte sur les droits civils et politiques visant à abolir la peine de mort et le Protocole à la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées. La ratification du Protocole facultatif au Pacte sur les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels est aussi effective.

7. Les codes Civil et Pénal ont été modifiés afin de mieux lutter contre la violence familiale et conjugale, avec notamment l'introduction de la définition et la répression des agressions sexuelles entre époux dans le Code Pénal.

8. Une feuille de route modifiant le texte portant création et organisation de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme, afin de la rendre conforme aux Principes de Paris, est en voie d'adoption par le Parlement.

9. En matière de collaboration avec la société civile, le Gouvernement a mis en place des mécanismes de consultation et de dialogue, tels que les réseaux de promotion et protection des droits de l'enfant REPEG et RESPEG, la Voix des Oubliés, qui travaille

avec les personnes privées de liberté, la Fédération des associations de personnes handicapées, ou le Forum national des droits de l'enfant.

10. Différentes campagnes en matière de droits humains ont également été menées, telles que les campagnes de sensibilisation sur l'importance des actes de naissance en coopération avec l'UNICEF ou le projet de ligne d'assistance téléphonique pour les enfants vulnérables. À cet égard, le Gouvernement coopère avec le système des Nations Unies, notamment l'UNICEF, le Centre des Nations Unies pour la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme en Afrique Centrale, l'UNOCA et le FNUAP.

11. Un projet de loi portant création d'une Instance Nationale de Prévention de la Torture a aussi été élaboré, et, dans le cadre de la stratégie nationale en matière de châtiments corporels, des séminaires de renforcement des capacités des agents de l'Etat se sont tenus à travers le pays. Le Code de l'enfant, qui prévoit des dispositions de lutte contre les violences envers les enfants, est en phase d'adoption par le Parlement.

12. Au sujet de la formation en matière de droits humains pour les agents chargés de l'application de la loi, des séminaires de renforcement des capacités ont été organisés pour les Officiers de Police Judiciaire, les agents de la sécurité pénitentiaire, les gendarmes, les douaniers, les magistrats et les avocats.

13. La Politique nationale de santé et le Plan national de développement sanitaire 2017-2021 encadrent les politiques de santé dans le pays. Sont à noter également l'augmentation des ressources allouées au système de santé depuis 2012, les efforts importants en matière de lutte contre les pandémies, avec la mise en œuvre du Plan national stratégique de lutte contre le paludisme 2013-2017 et du Plan national stratégique contre les maladies sexuellement transmissibles et le VIH/Sida 2012-2016. Le financement des prestations de santé de la Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Maladie et de Garantie Sociale (CNAMGS) est passé de 22 milliards de FCFA en 2012 à 52 milliards en 2015. L'accès aux services médicaux de base est rendu possible par la construction d'hôpitaux et la liste des médicaments remboursés par la CNAMGS prend désormais en compte les traitements contre les maladies rares et coûteuses.

14. En matière de droit à l'éducation, des efforts sont en cours pour lutter contre l'abandon scolaire et augmenter la fréquentation scolaire. La pénurie d'enseignants du secondaire a été enrayée dans les filières littéraires et il y a eu une densification des écoles normales. La construction d'amphithéâtres et de salles de classes dans les secteurs supérieurs et secondaires a eu lieu et des études sur le décrochage scolaire et sur les grossesses en milieu scolaire visent à offrir aux jeunes un cadre au droit d'être éduqué ou formé. Le projet "un jeune-un métier" a permis en 2016 la formation de 1785 jeunes à certains métiers tels que les métiers du bâtiment, la coiffure, etc.

15. Dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pauvreté, la CNAMGS prend en charge les frais de santé, de consommation d'eau et d'électricité et les prestations familiales des gabonais économiquement faibles (GEF), qui sont par ailleurs soutenus par la Stratégie d'Investissement humain du Gabon. Un SAMU/Social a été mis en place en juillet 2017 en faveur des 11% de la population vivant dans l'extrême pauvreté avec pour but d'offrir une assistance sanitaire gratuite. Le Code de protection sociale, adopté en 2017 prévoit la réduction de la pauvreté, de la précarité et de l'informalité, notamment par le biais de l'allocation d'un Revenu Minimum d'Insertion à toute personne insolvable.

16. Dans le domaine de la promotion et protection des droits des femmes, la délégation a indiqué que les dispositions du Code Civil en matière de successions avaient été modifiées. Les efforts du Gouvernement se sont également portés sur l'autonomisation des femmes, à travers la formation et la réinsertion des jeunes filles en partenariat avec le FNUAP, l'allocation de fonds d'appui à des femmes réfugiées, et la mise en place d'activités génératrices de revenus (AGR) pour les femmes.

17. L'application de la stratégie nationale d'égalité et d'équité de genre a été renforcée par deux lois: No. 9/2015 fixant des quotas d'accès des femmes et des jeunes aux fonctions politiques et des femmes aux emplois supérieurs de l'Etat, et No. 10/2016 sur la lutte contre le harcèlement sexuel en milieu professionnel. De plus, les capacités de 120 acteurs de prise

en charge des violences basées sur le genre ont été renforcées et une plate-forme professionnelle a été mise en place.

18. Le Gabon s'est doté d'un plan d'action sectoriel et d'une stratégie nationale d'enregistrement des naissances et a mis en place des mesures d'accès simplifiées. Près de 15'000 dossiers sont en attente de jugement supplétif d'actes de naissance.

19. Les crimes rituels (avec prélèvement d'organes) ont fait l'objet d'une instruction du Président de la République au Gouvernement et aux acteurs clé de la lutte contre les crimes de sang afin de sanctionner les instigateurs de ces crimes. Un projet de loi prévoyant des peines incompressibles pour ces crimes est en voie d'adoption, et le projet de révision du Code Pénal prévoit un relèvement significatif des peines pour ces crimes.

20. La délégation a ensuite indiqué que le Gabon poursuit ses efforts dans le domaine des conditions de détention, notamment par des campagnes de vaccination en milieu carcéral. Des commissions de surveillance des établissements pénitentiaires sont instituées au siège de chaque tribunal de première instance en vertu de l'article 531 du Code de procédure pénale.

21. Dans le domaine de la justice pour mineurs, un arrêté de 2014 sur la réinsertion des détenus par le travail, élaboré en collaboration avec l'UNICEF, a été adopté en application de la Loi concernant les mineurs et un centre d'entrepreneuriat destiné à la formation des mineurs incarcérés en vue de leur réinsertion sera mis en place dans chaque prison.

22. La modification de la législation en matière de lutte contre la traite des personnes fait l'objet d'une Commission interministérielle mise en place en 2014, avec pour objectif de réviser la Loi 9/2004 relative à la prévention et à la lutte contre le trafic d'enfants. Les personnes coupables de traite des personnes ne peuvent pas bénéficier de remises de peine.

23. La délégation a également informé le Groupe de travail que la mise en œuvre du renforcement des droits de personnes vivant avec un handicap est axé sur leur autonomisation, et notamment sur leur insertion dans le milieu professionnel: à travers des conventions de partenariat entre le Gouvernement et des entreprises, l'aide du Fonds d'autonomisation pour la création d'AGR, l'allocations de logements sociaux, la fourniture de matériel orthopédique et la facilitation de l'accès aux édifices publics. Une loi No. 9/2015 fixe les modalités de prise en charge des personnes atteintes de maladies mentales.

24. En janvier 2017, le Gabon s'est doté d'un nouveau Code de la Communication tenant compte des procédures liées aux plaintes contre la presse, garantissant la liberté de la presse et l'indépendance des journalistes, et dépénalisant les délits de presse. Le Conseil National de la Communication (CNC) a été transformé en autorité de régulation sous statut juridique d'autorité administrative indépendante.

25. Afin de mieux garantir les droits des minorités, le Gouvernement a organisé avec l'UNICEF des campagnes d'établissement de jugements supplétifs tenant lieu d'actes de naissance pour les communautés locales. Par ailleurs, la première Convention de gestion des forêts communautaires a été signée par le Gouvernement.

26. En conclusion de ses remarques introductives, la délégation a souligné la volonté du Gabon de poursuivre ses efforts en matière de promotion et protection des droits humains, avec l'assistance technique du Conseil des droits de l'homme, et apportera les réponses aux questions posées dans un esprit de dialogue constructif.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

27. During the interactive dialogue, 73 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

28. Chile welcomed the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and encouraged Gabon to continue cooperating with international and regional mechanisms and the civil society, in order to achieve gender equality and full respect of the rights of women and girls.

29. China commended efforts for promoting socio-economic development, reducing poverty, improving education infrastructure, adopting a national health policy, combating domestic violence and trafficking, protecting the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable people.
30. Congo welcomed the adoption of the Communications Code decriminalising media offences, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and measures taken towards women's empowerment, the eradication of discriminatory practices and universal health insurance. It encouraged Gabon to adopt a law on early marriage and gender-based violence.
31. Côte d'Ivoire praised the measures taken to follow up to the recommendations of the second UPR . It noted the adoption of the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy and the elaboration of an integrated plan to give access to social, education and health services to Pygmées.
32. Cuba welcomed the capacity-building activities for the protection of children in conflict with the law and victims of trafficking, the awareness-raising on international standards on the rights of the child, the adoption of the National Health Development Plan with increased spending on health care.
33. Djibouti commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
34. Egypt welcomed efforts to fight trafficking, improve health services, combat disease and epidemics, reinforce education for all, combat poverty, empower women, protect minorities and ensure freedom of assembly and of the press.
35. Ethiopia noted the adoption of the national health development plan 2011-2015, and intensification of the fight against poverty, with safety net programme and social protection measures for the most disadvantaged population.
36. France welcomed the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
37. Georgia commended the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, steps taken towards combating trafficking, strengthening juvenile justice, protecting persons with disabilities, and the adoption of the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy. It noted gaps in guaranteeing full protection against all forms of discrimination.
38. Germany appreciated that Gabon called on the International Criminal Court to investigate the riots during the 2016 elections. It noted the importance independent inquiry into the post election violence.
39. Ghana welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the awareness-raising campaigns by the National Committee to Monitor the Fight Against Child Trafficking and the Directorate General for Human Rights.
40. Guatemala expressed concerns at reports of sexual abuse by peace-keeping operatives from Gabon.
41. Honduras welcomed the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the adoption of the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy.
42. Iceland welcomed the abolition of the death penalty on 2010 and the adoption of the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy.
43. India welcomed the National Health Development Plan 2011-2015, increase in resources for the National Health Insurance and Social Protection Fund, the adoption of the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy, and awareness-raising on the situation of

children without birth certificates. It encouraged adoption of measures to ensure freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly.

44. Indonesia is encouraged by the ratification of a number of international human rights instruments, the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights and the introduction of a vaccination against HIV infections.

45. Iraq commended the creation the legal assistance offices for women, efforts to increase representation of women in public life, the establishment of special courts for children, the adoption of a national strategy for reproductive health, and the strategy to combat HIV/AIDS.

46. Ireland welcomed the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the extension of a standing invitation to Special Procedures. It expressed concerns at reports of arrests and harassment of journalists, civil society activists and human rights defenders. It welcomed the decriminalisation of media offences in the 2016 Communications Code, but noted that provisions unduly restrict freedom of expression.

47. Italy welcomed the adoption of legal provisions against domestic violence and rape, efforts in the fight against poverty and the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

48. Lebanon appreciated efforts to reduce poverty, combat trafficking in persons and children and fight epidemics.

49. Libya commended measures taken for judicial protection, and in the sectors of health and education.

50. Luxembourg welcomed the referral to the International Criminal Court leading to the sending of a mission by the ICC in June 2017, and the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It noted remaining challenges in the area of freedoms of expression, reunion and association.

51. Madagascar welcomed the adoption of the National Health Development Plan, work with civil society in awareness-raising on human rights, and capacity-building campaigns in police stations and detention places in particular regarding torture and the protection of minors in conflict with the law.

52. Malaysia highlighted the development and the adoption of the National Policy on Health and Reproduction, the National Plan for Sanitary Development and the National Strategic Plan to combat HIV/AIDS. In line with the CRC and the Human Rights Committee it noted with concern the disproportionately high number of people living with HIV/AIDS, the high rate of mother to child transmission and the limited availability of HIV/AIDS related services. .

53. La délégation du Gabon a expliqué qu'en 1990, une Conférence Nationale, regroupant la majorité et l'opposition a fondé la Constitution actuelle du Gabon, et depuis lors, toute disposition ou texte législatif n'était adopté que conformément à cette Constitution. En matière de droits de l'homme, le Gabon s'efforce de satisfaire les conventions signées et de mettre en œuvre les dispositions permettant de les garantir.

54. La liberté de la presse est préservée au Gabon et elle a été sauvegardée à travers le nouveau Code de la Communication qui dépénalise la poursuite de journaliste pour délit de presse ou délit d'opinion.

55. L'égalité des hommes et des femmes est aussi respectée dans toutes les institutions du gouvernement et au Parlement pour une participation de 30 pour cent de femmes. Ce quota va être augmenté à 50 pour cent.

56. En ce qui concerne les violences post-électorales, le Gabon a déjà saisi la Cour Pénale Internationale et les autorités sont en attente de ses conclusions. A ce titre, il n'y a pas de raison d'entamer la seconde enquête internationale mentionnée par l'Union Européenne. Au niveau national, le Procureur de la République, les juges d'instructions et les tribunaux sont aussi saisis de ces enquêtes.

57. La délégation ajouta que l'âge de mariage au Gabon était à 18 ans et que le mariage devait aussi être consensuel et non forcé.
58. Le nouveau Code Pénal et le Code de Procédure Pénal réprimaient tout crime pour prélèvement d'organes ou mutilations et la lutte contre le VIH/SIDA se poursuivait.
59. Les dispositions du Protocole de Palerme avaient été aussi transposées dans la loi nationale et basées sur le décret n°337, ce texte est actuellement devant l'Assemblée Nationale. Un Conseil est mis en place pour s'occuper exclusivement des questions de traites des enfants. De plus, le nouveau Code de l'Enfant couvrirait toutes les questions affectant les droits de l'enfant.
60. The Maldives welcomed the implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity. It noted the important steps towards child protection with the help of UNICEF and the strengthening of legislative measures such as the Children's Code.
61. Mali welcomed Gabon's accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with the view of abolishing the death penalty and the Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It praised the adoption of a National Strategic Plan to combat HIV/AIDS.
62. Mauritania commended the establishment of a mandatory health assistance insurance for all. It praised Gabon's efforts to create a permanent national integrated structure to combat human trafficking as well as the setting up of a parliamentary commission for the protection of persons, in particular women and children.
63. Mauritius welcomed the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and an independent national mechanism for the prevention of torture. It praised the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014.
64. Mexico praised the positive impact of the National Policy on Health Care and Reproduction 2006-2015 and the National Sanitation Development Plan 2011 -2015. It commended the Humane Investment Strategy and its economic security programme for integration of persons with disabilities.
65. Montenegro expressed appreciation for the adoption of the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. It praised the progress made in the field of education but noted the concerns of several UN treaty bodies regarding the quality of education. It encouraged Gabon to develop a comprehensive strategy on inclusive education including children with disabilities.
66. Morocco welcomed the integration of a bill in the Criminal Code to sanction domestic violence. It encouraged Gabon's efforts aiming at the creation of a social integrated and permanent structure to combat trafficking in persons as well as the endeavours to promote gender equality and protect women and children's rights.
67. Namibia welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights. It requested information about the progress made towards the amendments to Articles 6 and 24 of the Constitution with regard to women's equality.
68. The Netherlands commended the measures taken to enforce and coordinate national legislation and policies and to raise public awareness on the issue of trafficking in persons. It however expressed concerns about the 2016 post-election violence and strongly regretted the pressure and intimidation experienced by the political opposition.
69. Nigeria praised Gabon's combat and prevention of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. It noted the measures taken in partnership with UNICEF in the area of judicial protection of children in conflict with the law and victims of trafficking in persons.
70. Pakistan commended Gabon's efforts in combating trafficking in persons, adoption of the National Health Policy, finalisation of the National Health Development Plan 2011-2015 and wider implementation of the National Health Insurance and Social Protection Fund showed Gabon's commitments to provide basic health facilities to its population.

71. Portugal welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

72. The Republic of Korea commended Gabon's active cooperation with the International Criminal Court in its efforts to provide justice and protect human rights. Its commitment to human rights mechanisms was demonstrated by a standing invitation to all Special Procedures.

73. Rwanda particularly commended Gabon for the notable progress in improving the social and economic status of its citizens. It welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR to abolish death penalty and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

74. Senegal commended the adoption of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity, the reforms in the judiciary system aiming at improving the living conditions and the overpopulation in prisons and the adoption the 09/2004 law on preventing and combating the trafficking child's trafficking

75. Sierra Leone welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. It mentioned the draft bill to amend the Criminal Code to incorporate penalties to sanction domestic violence and trafficking of children. It encouraged efforts to strengthen the implementation of the legislation aimed at defining and eliminating early marriage and gender-based violence.

76. Singapore commended Gabon's full implementation of recommendations from the previous UPR in particular those related to strengthening protection of vulnerable groups. It praised the expansion of the National Health Insurance and Social Fund and Gabon's support to persons with disabilities.

77. Slovenia welcomed the adoption of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted the adoption of the Children's Code but regretted the reports on the high dropout rates at primary and secondary schools as well as the low enrolment rates of girls in tertiary level of education. It noted with concern the lack of engagement of the local indigenous people in the efforts to preserve rainforest and biodiversity.

78. South Africa commended the steps to reform the National Human Rights Commission. It welcomed the legislation to impose penalties for domestic violence and human trafficking, the emphasis on integrating HIV services into various health facilities as well as the implementation of social protection measures for the most disadvantaged among the people.

79. Spain commended the progress made since the previous UPR referring to the ratification of the Second Optional Protocols to the ICCPR as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

80. The State of Palestine commended the intensified fight against poverty through the National Social Assistance Fund. It welcomed Gabon's plans to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

81. Sudan noted with satisfaction the developments since the previous review in 2012 such as the amending of many acts to bring them in line with several United Nations Human Rights Instruments referring to the Children's Code and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

82. Timor Leste commended Gabon for adopting the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy and for creating the National Fund for Social Assistance. It highlighted the creation of a dedicated court system for children and the increase in the representation of women in political life and decision making.

83. Togo praised ratification of the Optional Protocol on the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights. It commended the creation of National Health Assistance Fund that offers mandatory health insurance to all.

84. Tunisia commended the participatory approach to include the civil society in preparing the national reports. It welcomed the efforts made to implement the recommendations from the last UPR through the ratification of international instruments and cooperation with the human rights council and its mechanisms.

85. Après les élections présidentielles, un dialogue politique a été organisé et à la suite, un nouveau gouvernement a été mis en place. Une disposition de celui-ci avait été adoptée pour inclure les personnes handicapées dans toutes les instances même au niveau ministériel et donner l'égal accès de tous, hommes, femmes et jeunes aux emplois publics.

86. Une commission interministérielle avait été mise en place pour régulariser l'état civil de tous y compris les peuples autochtones. Des actes de naissance seront donc issus pour les 15 000 personnes recensées qui verront leur situation s'améliorer.

87. La liberté d'expression et de la presse sont aussi garanties par la Constitution et le Code de la Communication.

88. Quant à l'accès aux soins médicaux, un ministère et un système de Sécurité Sociale, soutenus par le Samu Social, s'en chargeaient afin d'y pourvoir pour les personnes démunies.

89. Turkey commended the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CRPD. It welcomed the adoption of a national health policy as well as the National Gender Equality Strategy. It noted with appreciation the national strategies in the field of birth registration to raise importance of birth certificates particularly for children of school age.

90. The United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland deplored the reversion of positive steps previously taken to enable greater space for political debate by placing restrictive measures on and using excessive force towards those wishing to exercise their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

91. United States of America expressed its deep concern over the lack of progress on democratisation referring to the post-election violence on both sides and significant lapses in respect for human rights including numerous arrests and detention without due process and continued restrictions on freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.

92. Uruguay praised the advances made since the previous UPR on trafficking in persons and, birth registration. It encouraged further efforts in the field of women and children's rights to eradicate violent and forced marriages.

93. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) praised the reform on the prevention and fight against human trafficking, particularly children. It welcomed the measures undertaken to combat poverty. It mentioned the Second National Health Care Promotion Plan that includes the establishment of a mandatory medical insurance for all.

94. Viet Nam welcomed the strengthening of institutions, the fight against poverty, the professional integration of persons with disabilities, launching of a process to develop a Children Code.

95. Zambia commended Gabon for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the laws against domestic violence and rape, the provisions in the Criminal Code to prevent and combat female genital mutilation and children trafficking.

96. Zimbabwe noted a number of amendments to the law which brought the national legislation in line with several UN human rights instruments including the Children's Code. It highlighted the development of a universal national insurance health scheme, the expansion of school infrastructure and social protection measures to the most disadvantaged people and the setting of quotas on women's access to senior civil posts .

97. Algeria underlined Gabon's progress in its fight against human trafficking, poverty, prevention of torture, healthcare and right to education. It praised the various initiatives to provide human rights training in various sectors.

98. Angola commended the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights with a view to abolishing the death penalty and the Optional Protocol on the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014. It praised Gabon's social assistance policies in the area of health care and education.

99. Argentina congratulated Gabon on the ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol of the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights as well as the Protocol to the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

100. Armenia commended Gabon's the implementation Gender Equality Strategy and the improvement of the education system. It appreciated the commitments to ratify various legal instruments and encouraged to pursue measures taken in terms of combating human trafficking.

101. Australia noted the importance of reviewing the future outcomes of the ICC Prosecutor's preliminary examination on the post-election violence of 2016. It urged Gabon to rapidly proceed with legislative elections and fully respect the rights of all Gabonese citizens to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in the lead up to the new elections.

102. Azerbaijan congratulated Gabon on the ratifications of the Second Protocol to the ICCPR and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities as recommended in the previous UPR cycle.

103. Belgium commended Gabon's for the proposed standing invitation extended to the Special Procedures. It welcomed the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights aiming at abolishing the death penalty.

104. Benin praised the inclusion of the civil society, the Parliament and the Senate in elaborating its national report. It encouraged Gabon to pursue the process underway to ratify the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant to Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

105. Botswana noted the efforts to amend the Criminal Code introducing penalties for domestic violence and trafficking in persons, legislative and judicial measures to fight and discourage ritual murders and the amendment of the Children's Code to become law.

106. Brazil welcomed the ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It praised the continuous efforts to combat trafficking in persons, to promote gender equality, to fight poverty and provide universal access to health care and education.

107. Burkina Faso hailed the high level of implementation of the 2012 UPR recommendations. It encouraged Gabon to put into practice the measures mentioned in its national report.

108. Burundi praised the efforts made in the field of children's rights such as as the capacity building workshops and the elaboration of a Children's Code. It noted with satisfaction the healthcare scheme for all and Gabon's efforts to combat human trafficking and eradicate gender discrimination.

109. Canada commended the respect of religious communities in Gabon's society. It noted the implementation of a national study on gender based violence. It encouraged Gabon to share the measures it intended to take to improve this situation.

110. Central African Republic highlighted the efforts undertaken by Gabon for the adoption of several legal instruments aiming at strengthening the mechanisms for promotion and protection of human rights.

111. Chad commended the Gabon's cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms. It stressed the progress made to align the national legislation with UN human rights instruments and the elaboration of the Children's Code.

112. En ce qui concerne le Mécanisme (ou l'Instance) National de la Prévention de la Torture, la délégation du Gabon informa qu'en Septembre 2017 un atelier avait été organisé pour faire état des défis à surmonter. Une feuille de route et un comité de travail avaient été établis pour un dialogue avec diverses instances nationales y compris la Cour Constitutionnelle. La feuille de route prévoit l'adoption d'une loi au plus tard en 2018 et la mise en place d'une instance nationale en Novembre 2018.

113. Sur la préoccupation des Etats Unis quant aux événements post-électorales, la délégation réitéra que le Gabon respecte le droit à la liberté de conscience, de pensée, d'opinion, d'expression et la libre pratique de la religion sous réserve de l'ordre public. Ainsi, le Gouvernement devait intervenir lors d'incidents qui perturbaient l'ordre public tels l'incendie à l'Assemblée Nationale. Cependant, suite au dialogue politique, des mesures législatives avaient été prises afin d'améliorer les dispositifs lors des réunions publiques.

114. Sur la condition des femmes, et suite aux recommandations lors du second EPU, un projet de loi contre la violence domestique avait été élaboré des lois à caractère préventive avaient été adoptées pour mettre fin à la mutilation génitale et pour le respect des droits successoraux des femmes.

115. Quant aux préoccupations de la France sur le besoin d'une société civile moderne, la délégation souligna que la société civile était légalement et physiquement présente au Gabon mais parfois la société civile semblait s'être alignée et guidée par des opinions politiques.

116. Quant à l'éducation, elle est obligatoire au Gabon et garantie par la Constitution. Des mesures considérables y avaient été allouées. Le budget de l'éducation s'élevait de 30 à 35 pour cent du budget national et une lutte farouche avait été entamée contre la traite des jeunes dans les marchés publics.

117. En conclusion, le Gabon remercia les pays qui avaient contribué à ce débat et réitéra son engagement à la mise en œuvre des recommandations acceptées à l'issue de cette session.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

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

118.1. Fully implement the outcomes of the 2017 political dialogue, particularly measures to improve health and social protection, gender equality, education, training and job creation (South Africa);

118.2. Continue its efforts to implement the outcomes from the political dialogue in 2017 (Sudan);

118.3. Favour national unity through dialogue as a guarantor for security, without which there can be no development (Central African Republic);

118.4. Facilitate the development, in law and practice, of a safe and enabling environment in which both civil society and human rights defenders can operate free from fear, hindrance and insecurity (Ireland);

118.5. Continue to promote programs for human rights education and awareness raising (Pakistan);

118.6. Fully implement certain recommendations to which it has committed itself (Madagascar);

118.7. Continue to mobilise resources and necessary support to enhance its capacity to fulfil its human rights obligations (Nigeria);

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 118.8. **Establish a National Action Plan for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (Portugal);**
- 118.9. **Make efforts to accelerate the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Burundi);**
- 118.10. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Mali, Portugal, South Africa);**
- 118.11. **Ratify the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption (Honduras, Togo);**
- 118.12. **Ratify the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol). (Honduras);**
- 118.13. **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity (Armenia);**
- 118.14. **Consider the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Côte d'Ivoire; Namibia);**
- 118.15. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Ghana);**
- 118.16. **Ratify and implement the Marrakesh Treaty to facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled (Ghana);**
- 118.17. **Proceed with measures to ensure transparent and credible legislative elections no later than 2018 (Australia);**
- 118.18. **Adopt the draft law amending the Penal Code, which incorporates the sanctions related to domestic violence and trafficking in persons which is currently in Parliament (Côte d'Ivoire);**
- 118.19. **Continue the dynamic of aligning the national legislation with a number of United Nations human rights instruments, such as the launching of the process to develop the Children Code (Chad);**
- 118.20. **Complete the process of adopting the Children's Code currently under examination by the State Council and the criminal laws sanctioning domestic violence and trafficking in persons (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.21. **Take all necessary measures for the optimal application of these texts (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.22. **Approve the Children's Code and give greater diffusion to the new regulatory and legislative measures for the protection of widows and orphans (Cuba);**
- 118.23. **Finalize the Children's Code which is aimed at, among others, curbing child marriages and ritual crimes (Namibia);**
- 118.24. **Continue national efforts to ensure harmonization of national legislation with international human rights law (Libya);**
- 118.25. **Continue implementing the designed road map with a view to putting in place a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Ethiopia);**
- 118.26. **Finalize the process of establishing a national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Georgia);**
- 118.27. **Assign the necessary economic, technical, and financial resources to accelerate the implementation of the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture (Honduras);**

- 118.28. Accelerate the establishment of a national preventive mechanism of torture and the process of creating an integrated and permanent national anti-trafficking structure (Mali);
- 118.29. Speed up the process of setting up the national mechanism on the prevention of torture (Togo);
- 118.30. Set up the national mechanism for prevention of torture (Morocco);
- 118.31. Take measures to limit the use of pre-trial detention and improve conditions of detention (France);
- 118.32. Take further measures to protect the rights of detainees, above all those on pre-trial detention (Brazil);
- 118.33. Put an end to overcrowding and bad prison conditions, by building new prison facilities and restricting the use of pre-trial detention (Spain);
- 118.34. Improve detention and prison conditions by, among other things, ensuring detainees receive adequate nutrition, and by reducing overcrowding in places of detention. (Canada);
- 118.35. Redouble efforts to improve prison conditions, significantly reduce prison overcrowding and to ensure that minors are separated from adults and that remand prisoners are separated from convicted prisoners, and women separated from men (Zambia);
- 118.36. Improve the conditions in prisons and review the extraordinarily long period of investigation (up to 18 months) as well as limited access to visit prisoners, as previously recommended (Germany);
- 118.37. Seek to improve prison conditions in Gabon including the availability of appropriate medical care for prisoners and access of prisoners to legal counsel and family (Australia);
- 118.38. Continue the reforms of the judicial system already initiated and strengthen measures aimed at combating behaviour in the judiciary that may impede independent, impartial and adequate investigations and trials (Guatemala);
- 118.39. Abide by its international obligations with regard to the procedures for arrest and detention, to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and to exercise the task of governing with due respect for the rule of law (Netherlands);
- 118.40. Adopt laws to combat ritual crimes, punish appropriately the instigators and perpetrators of such offences, and put in place a comprehensive strategy to eliminate them (Sierra Leone);
- 118.41. Intensify the fight to put an end to ritual crimes, including long-term awareness-raising campaigns (Spain);
- 118.42. Ensure fair trial guarantees for prisoners subject to criminal prosecution, including those detained after last year's presidential election (United States of America);
- 118.43. Continue undertaking measures to fight against trafficking in human beings (Azerbaijan);
- 118.44. Deepen anti-trafficking measures, in particular by ensuring investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes (Argentina);
- 118.45. Ensure all children and adolescents victims of trafficking the protection of their rights, access to justice and psycho-social rehabilitation (Chile);
- 118.46. Continue working actively for the creation of an integrated and permanent national structure to combat trafficking in persons (Cuba);

- 118.47. **Finalize the measures undertaken for the amendment of the national legislation related to children trafficking (Egypt);**
- 118.48. **Improve enforcement and coordination of national legislation and policies on the trafficking of persons, especially women and children, and to raise the awareness of this issue amongst the public (Iceland);**
- 118.49. **Take effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in women and children and to provide adequate legal framework to protect victims and prosecute traffickers (Belgium);**
- 118.50. **Develop the necessary legislation to criminalize all forms of human trafficking especially for sexual exploitation, forced labour or slavery (Iraq);**
- 118.51. **Reach bilateral agreements with the countries of origin of the children who are victims of trafficking, particularly Benin, Mali, Nigeria and Togo, and reinforce the internal legal framework to effectively combat this crime (Mexico);**
- 118.52. **Increase efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (Italy);**
- 118.53. **Intensify its efforts in combating and preventing trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Nigeria);**
- 118.54. **Continue efforts to combat all forms of human trafficking (Lebanon);**
- 118.55. **Expedite the adoption of the national legislation on human trafficking and the draft national policy on special protection that was finalised in 2013 (Botswana);**
- 118.56. **Establish a permanent, integrated, national structure for combating trafficking in persons (Sudan);**
- 118.57. **Take all necessary measures to fight internal trafficking of children (Portugal);**
- 118.58. **Expand the remit of the inter-ministerial child trafficking committee to include adults, ensuring adequate human and financial resource to support national efforts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.59. **Criminalize human trafficking, especially child trafficking, while providing protection and assistance to the victims (Republic of Korea);**
- 118.60. **Ensure the protection and assistance to all victims of trafficking (Timor-Leste);**
- 118.61. **Act more intensively against trafficking of children for sexual exploitation and guarantee their separate detention from adults (Spain);**
- 118.62. **Adopt a law that combats discrimination comprehensively and guarantees effective protection and equal opportunities for all people (Honduras);**
- 118.63. **Enhance efforts in achieving gender equality (Zambia);**
- 118.64. **Further widen its scope of assistance to women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, in this regard (State of Palestine);**
- 118.65. **Take measures to better protect vulnerable populations, by promoting the integration of young people and by combating violence against women and gender disparities in terms of professional integration - in line with the development of the framework for the organization of the justice system (France);**
- 118.66. **Further strengthen measures aimed at combating all forms of discrimination against women (Georgia);**
- 118.67. **Better fight against discrimination against women (Senegal);**

- 118.68. **Implement policies that reverse the inequality of opportunities and treatment between women and men in terms of access to employment (Mexico);**
- 118.69. **Fast-track the implementation of Acts No 09/22015 and 010/2016, on setting quotas for Women's access to senior civil service posts and on combating harassment in the work place, respectively (Namibia);**
- 118.70. **Adopt the necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that all branches of the government, Parliament and judiciary apply the CEDAW Convention, and harmonize domestic legislation with that Convention ensuring that discriminatory dispositions against women are repealed (Uruguay);**
- 118.71. **Adopt concrete measures, in the form of national awareness programs and campaigns, to eradicate stereotypes, cultural practices and traditions contrary to the fundamental rights of women and girls (Chile);**
- 118.72. **Adopt measures to combat discrimination against women in rural areas and to tackle the high mortality rate during childbirth (Spain);**
- 118.73. **Enhance efforts to implement the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Equity, including addressing the under-representation of women in decision-making bodies and elimination of harmful traditional practices (Rwanda);**
- 118.74. **Continue efforts to fight against discrimination against women and all violence against women, especially domestic violence (Tunisia);**
- 118.75. **Take all necessary measures to combat violence against women, including discrimination in employment (Djibouti);**
- 118.76. **Take the necessary measures to ensure that the Gabonese laws regarding violence against women, including those prohibiting rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence, are implemented and that those responsible are brought to Justice (Canada);**
- 118.77. **In line with the 2030 Agenda, adopt a policy aimed at putting an end to harmful practices against girls, such as forced early marriage and genital mutilation, among others (Honduras);**
- 118.78. **Continue efforts to strengthen prevention and fight against female genital mutilation (FGM) (Angola);**
- 118.79. **Continue its efforts on further eradicating poverty and empowering women (Azerbaijan);**
- 118.80. **Continue enhancing women's economic empowerment, particularly, in the arrangements of income generating activities (Ethiopia);**
- 118.81. **Continue efforts for the promotion and protection of rights of women and devise policies for their empowerment (Pakistan);**
- 118.82. **Continue to promote the equal representation of women in political and public life (Turkey);**
- 118.83. **Provide free legal aid to women without sufficient means in order to facilitate their access to justice (Sierra Leone);**
- 118.84. **Strengthen the measures taken to provide free legal aid to women without sufficient means (Timor-Leste);**
- 118.85. **Intensify efforts to provide easy and free access to registration of birth to all children (India);**
- 118.86. **Continue its good cooperation with civil society organizations and UN agencies, especially UNICEF, for the full registration of children at birth (Burkina Faso);**
- 118.87. **Continue efforts to support the rights of the child and protect children from sexual exploitation and trafficking (Tunisia);**

- 118.88. **Combat sexual violence and exploitation, particularly through the implementation of procedures and policies to prevent such offenses, facilitate their reporting and provide care to child victims (Belgium);**
- 118.89. **Clearly prohibit all forms of corporal, cruel or degrading punishment in all contexts and promote non-violent forms of education and discipline (Belgium);**
- 118.90. **Expressly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at school and at home (Luxembourg);**
- 118.91. **Reform the law authorizing the punishment of children in conformity with international standards (Madagascar);**
- 118.92. **Enact legislation with a view to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);**
- 118.93. **Continue its awareness-raising programmes with a view to putting an end to the use of corporal punishment in schools (Turkey);**
- 118.94. **Adopt all legislative and policy measures to eradicate child and forced marriages (Chile);**
- 118.95. **Continue its efforts to improve legislation to ensure that it is in line with international best practices and standards on freedom of expression (Brazil);**
- 118.96. **Undertake further measures to ensure freedom of the press based on decriminalisation of press offences and respect for the rights of the press (Iceland);**
- 118.97. **Ensure pluralism of the press and respect for freedom of expression and public assembly (France);**
- 118.98. **Respect the rights of all its citizens to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public and political life (Iceland);**
- 118.99. **Ensure the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and take steps to create a safe environment for human rights defenders and journalists (Italy);**
- 118.100. **Refrain from restricting freedom of expression, whether it is exercised online or offline, and ensure that journalists and media outlets are able to carry out their work without harassment (United States of America);**
- 118.101. **Respect freedom of peaceful assembly, including when exercised by the opposition (United States of America);**
- 118.102. **Enhance freedom of expression (Lebanon);**
- 118.103. **Take measures to guarantee a safe and transparent environment within which civil society can freely operate without fear of repercussions, including by lifting restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.104. **Ensure that the right to participate in public and political life as well as the freedom of the press are not submitted to undue limitations (Portugal);**
- 118.105. **Adopt appropriate measures to ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents against acts of violence or intimidation (Luxembourg);**
- 118.106. **Continue promoting economic and social sustainable development to improve steadily the standard of living and to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of human rights (China);**
- 118.107. **Continue efforts to combat poverty (Lebanon);**

- 118.108. **Strengthen anti-poverty policies (Algeria);**
- 118.109. **Continue to enhance its social protection programs, which provide assistance to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Gabonese (State of Palestine);**
- 118.110. **Continue to strengthen its social programs with a special emphasis on the fields of education, nutrition, and health, in order to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly those who are most in need, for which international cooperation and technical assistance demanded by the country are important. (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 118.111. **Continue efforts to guarantee a better access to education and to healthcare for the people, including for indigenous peoples (Algeria);**
- 118.112. **Take measures to guarantee access to healthcare for all, and strengthen the public sector, which suffers from difficulties to operate as well as from strong territorial inequalities (France);**
- 118.113. **Continue to expand the coverage of the National Health Insurance and Social Protection Fund to include more disadvantaged persons and those previously without coverage in accordance with its national plan (Singapore);**
- 118.114. **Step up efforts in order to ensure the right of access to health for all (Viet Nam);**
- 118.115. **Strengthen measures in reducing the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women and mother-to-child transmissions (Indonesia);**
- 118.116. **Take effective measures to cope with the high rate of HIV transmission by strengthening the national strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS (Malaysia);**
- 118.117. **Take further measures to ensure the accessibility of HIV/AIDS-related health services (Malaysia);**
- 118.118. **Strengthen public policies aimed at addressing the high number of people living with HIV/AIDS and not receiving treatment, particularly women, in order to reduce the rates of HIV transmission from mothers to children during childbirth ; as well as for LGBTI people, guaranteeing medical care without discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);**
- 118.119. **Continue enhancing investment in education to reduce the school drop-out rates (China);**
- 118.120. **Establish a strategy to reduce children's school drop-out (Angola);**
- 118.121. **Address the root causes of its high school dropout rates particular among girls, inter alia by enforcing zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual violence and sexual harassment (Slovenia);**
- 118.122. **Take all necessary measures to significantly increase the enrolment rates and decrease the dropout rates of girls at all levels of education, by the end of the 3rd UPR cycle (Montenegro);**
- 118.123. **Guarantee access to education for all, and, in particular, to strengthen the public sector, while access to a continuous and quality education curriculum is deteriorating (France);**
- 118.124. **Continue to undertake further measures towards inclusive and quality education (Armenia);**
- 118.125. **Continue to take necessary measures to ensure the provision of inclusive quality education to all children including children with disabilities and adopt legislation in this regard (Maldives);**

118.126. Continue its information campaign across the country on the rights of disabled persons in order to ensure the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and their integration into the society (Mauritius);

118.127. Continue to provide persons with disabilities equal access to health including free and informed consent with health interventions and take necessary measures to repeal legislation restricting these (Maldives);

118.128. Harder promote and protect the rights of people with disabilities, in particular of children (Senegal);

118.129. Continue to implement policies, and ensure adequate resources are allocated, to support the integration and active participation of all persons with disabilities in Gabonese society (Singapore).

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

119.1. Continue its capacity building activities and human rights training for defence and security forces by utilizing various international cooperation, including south-south cooperation (Indonesia);

119.2. Expand further efforts and resources allocated to programmes devoted to promoting youth employment, particularly of young people with disabilities (Viet Nam);

119.3. Ratify the Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Guatemala);

119.4. Adhere and adapt its national legislation to the Treaty on the Arms Trade and sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Guatemala);

119.5. Develop the legal framework imposing a prior authorization regime, in order to allow the emergence of a modern civil society (France);

119.6. Provide adequate resources to the National Human Rights Commission, regardless of the enactment of an amended bill for the establishment and organization of the Commission (Republic of Korea);

119.7. Provide adequate budget for the National Human Rights Commission (Timor-Leste);

119.8. Empower the National Human Rights Commission, including by providing adequate budget and office space to conduct sensitization on trafficking and to handle complaints related to trafficking (Zambia);

119.9. Strengthen the resources of the National Commission on Human Rights (Senegal);

119.10. Continue efforts to ensure the proper functioning and full independence of the Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);

119.11. Expedite its efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);

119.12. Finalize the A-status accreditation and ensure functioning of the National Human Rights Commission (Georgia);

119.13. Strengthen the role of the National Commission of Human Rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Morocco);

119.14. Make further efforts to obtain the A status in conformity with the Paris Principles for the National Human Rights Commission (Portugal);

119.15. Accelerate its efforts towards adopting the new law on the organisation and functioning of the National Human Rights Commission in order to make it more effective (Zimbabwe);

119.16. Enact legislation and take the necessary measures to protect people from discrimination especially women, pygmies and indigenous peoples (Iraq);

119.17. Provide equal legal protections and access to public services to all its citizens, particularly its minorities and indigenous peoples (Republic of Korea);

119.18. Ensure indigenous people's participation in decision-making at all levels, in all matters affecting them, including conservation efforts (Sierra Leone);

119.19. Take the necessary measures to ensure the right to the freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, among others, by holding responsible anyone who commits acts of intimidation, harassment or violence against individuals, including human rights defenders, for having exercised these rights. (Canada);

119.20. Accede to the Convention Against Discrimination in Education (Iraq);

119.21. Continue efforts to ensure respect for the principle of *non-refoulement*, and that this principle be applied to all situations, based on individual assessments, case by case and not collectively, particularly in the case of underage asylum seekers (Argentina);

119.22. Guarantee that refugee and asylum-seeking children have access to appropriate medical services (Turkey).

120. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Gabon and have been noted by Gabon:

120.1. Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Bodies elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

120.2. Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Congo, Egypt, Sierra Leone);

120.3. Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay);

120.4. Step up efforts in ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Indonesia);

120.5. Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Guatemala);

120.6. Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Spain);

120.7. Expedite the current preparations in order to specify the ratification of the Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uruguay);

120.8. Undertake an independent investigation into the post-electoral violence as well as allegations of human rights violations in the same context in order to shed light on the involvement and responsibilities of the various actors and bring to justice to victims (Luxembourg);

- 120.9. **Open a formal, independent and objective inquiry into the election-related violence and the allegations of serious violations of human rights (Netherlands);**
- 120.10. **Investigate alleged arbitrary arrests of demonstrators and excessive periods of pre-trial detention that reportedly took place following the election (Australia);**
- 120.11. **Ensure effective and systematic application of the principle of prior consultation with indigenous peoples, inter alia in its conservation efforts, including by providing specific regulatory or legislative framework (Slovenia);**
- 120.12. **Fully capacitate and support the National Women’s Council to better protect and promote the rights of women (South Africa);**
- 120.13. **Repeal or amend Law 19/06/2016 which entered into force at the beginning of 2017 in order to guarantee the constitutionally enshrined human rights to freedom of the press and of freedom of opinion and expression, as both are necessary preconditions for a democratic and active society (Germany);**
- 120.14. **Review thoroughly and amend the Communications Code to ensure that it is in line with international best practices and standards on freedom of expression (Ireland);**
- 120.15. **Ensure that all allegations of exploitation and sexual abuse of children in the Central African Republic by Gabonese soldiers are promptly and effectively investigated, and take steps to prevent this situation in the future (Guatemala).**
- 121. 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 Gabon was headed by his Excellency Mr. Francis NKEA NDZIGUE, Minister of State, Minister of Justice and Chargé for Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- S.E. Mme Marianne Odette BIBALOU BOUNDA, Ambassadeur Représentant Permanent;
 - Madame Aissatou BARRY, Conseiller du Premier Ministre, Chef du Gouvernement
 - Madame Diane NDONG NGUEMA, Conseiller du Ministre d'Etat (Ministère de la Famille);
 - Madame Pélagie Corine EFFALE NZE, Conseiller du Ministre d'Etat (Ministère de la Justice);
 - Monsieur Guy-Gervais MBONGO OTANDO, Conseiller Juridique du Ministre d'Etat (Ministère du Budget);
 - Monsieur Mathieu EKWA NGUI, Directeur Général Adjoint des Droits de l'homme;
 - Madame Edwige KOUMBY MISSAMBO, Premier Conseiller;
 - Madame Edna Paola BIYOGOU épouse MINKO, Directrice de la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme;
 - Monsieur Anicet-Gervais ONDO NGUEMA, Directeur de la Protection des Droits de l'Homme;
 - Madame Christelle Sylvania EYUMANE ESSAME, Chef de Service des Associations et des ONG (Ministère de la Justice);
 - Madame Nicole MENGUE, Chef de Division de la Protection Internationale (Ministère des Affaires Etrangères);
 - Madame Nadège MOUCKETOU-MVOU; Conseiller chargée des questions Juridiques et des droits de l'homme;
 - Monsieur Roland Steve ENGONE NGYE, Conseiller chargé du Protocole;
 - Lieutenant-Colonel Josette Flore ITOUMBA épouse MIHINDOU, Directrice du Centre de Rétention Administrative (Ministère de la Justice).
-