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

Ghana

* 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 17 November 2017. The review of Ghana was held at the 4th meeting on 7 November 2017. The delegation of Ghana was headed by Honourable Miss Gloria Afua Akuffo, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. At its 10th meeting held on 10 November 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Ghana.
2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Ghana: Bangladesh, Paraguay and South Africa.
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 Ghana:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GHA/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/GHA/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/28/GHA/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Ghana 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 head of the delegation of Ghana Honourable Gloria Afua Akuffo Attorney-General and Minister of Justice stated that Ghana regarded the UPR mechanism as a platform for examining the status of human rights of Member States of the United Nations.
6. The obligation of the Government of Ghana to uphold the human rights of its people was enshrined in the 1992 Constitution. The Constitution provided for the establishment of State institutions with mandates to safeguard the human rights of all persons in Ghana, guaranteed people's access to justice, ensured the independence of the Media, and empowered the citizenry to contribute to good governance and development of the country, among others.
7. The delegation acknowledged the contributions of civil society organisations in Ghana, which over the years had kept Government on its toes in the promotion and protection of human rights and educated the public on its rights. The Government reiterated its commitment to a continued engagement with all relevant stakeholders in the implementation of recommendations that will be accepted at the 28th UPR Session.
8. At the second review of October 2012, Ghana accepted a total of 123 recommendations and rejected 25. The progress made in the implementation of the recommendations is outlined in detail in the National Report, which highlights achievements by Government in human rights, as well as challenges impeding Government's efforts towards a full realization of the rights of all persons in Ghana. The delegation also acknowledged the budgetary and technical support received from development partners towards the implementation of its human rights programmes.

9. In fulfilment of a recommendation by several States, Ghana ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) in June 2016. Prior to the ratification of the OPCAT, the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), an independent constitutional body, which meets the criteria for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) under the Paris Principles, has been discharging the responsibility of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) through the monitoring of detention facilities, especially prisons and police cells. The Office of the Attorney-General would take the necessary action to seek Cabinet and Parliamentary approval to amend CHRAJ's mandate to enable it to undertake the additional responsibility as an NPM before the end of the tenure of the present Parliament.

10. In December 2016, the People of Ghana, elected a President and 275 parliamentarians in elections that have been rated internationally as peaceful, transparent and inclusive.

11. In line with its commitment to abolish the death penalty, Ghana voted in favour of Resolution HRC/36/L.6 entitled "The question of the death penalty" during the recent 36th Session of the Human Rights Council. The Cabinet, on 24th April 2014, gave its approval to the abolition of the death penalty. The penalty has however remained on statute books because it is an entrenched provision in the Constitution. There is therefore the need to overcome a number of legal hurdles including a national referendum.

12. Amnesty International (Ghana), in partnership with CHRAJ, the Ghana Prisons Service and Civil Society Organizations were spearheading an advocacy campaign aimed at abolishing the death penalty. The group is presently engaging Government to put in place a formal moratorium on the death penalty.

13. The present Government has tasked a small committee to review the large number of proposed amendments to the Constitution with the view to continuing the work done by the previous Constitutional Review Implementation Committee (CRIC) in practical phases.

14. CRIC nonetheless, sponsored the passage of the following bills:

- (a) Head of Family Accountability Bill;
- (b) Labour (Amendment) Bill;
- (c) Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill;
- (d) Internal Audit Agency (Amendment) Bill;
- (e) Ghana Immigration Service (Amendment) Bill and the;
- (f) Ghana Revenue Authority (Amendment) Bill.

15. Proposed amendments to the Persons with Disability Act, (2006) to make it consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities began in September 2017. Stakeholders' consultations had been held on the Bill and it is expected that it will be passed into law by the end of 2018.

16. Regarding Women and Children's Rights, the Office of the Attorney-General together with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection were jointly sponsoring an amendment Bill to the Intestate Succession Act, 1985, (Act 111), to ensure that the same law applies to all couples regardless of the type of marriage contracted or the inheritance system to which they belonged.

17. A National Gender Equality Bill to ensure women's participation in decision-making and politics was being prepared for Cabinet approval for passage by Parliament by the end of 2018.

18. Article 18 of the Constitution makes provision for every Ghanaian, irrespective of gender, to own property. Pursuant to this provision, a Bill is currently before Parliament to regulate the sharing of spousal property upon the occurrence of death or divorce; to protect the rights of women in cohabitation relationships and children born outside marriage.

19. To ensure that every reported case of domestic violence, including female genital mutilation, was investigated and prosecuted, the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service had put in place a number of systems, including a referral system that provided victims with counselling, medical and legal assistance.
20. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection also operated public and supported private shelters to provide care and rehabilitation services for victims of abuse and trafficking.
21. The Judiciary has established dedicated Family Tribunal and Gender-Based Violence courts to facilitate determination of gender-based violence cases. Currently, there are four specialised courts, which will be increased to eleven in 2018.
22. The Office of the Attorney-General will continue to work with the DOVVSU and the Judiciary to ensure prosecution and adjudication of reported domestic violence cases.
23. Concerning corporal punishment and juvenile offenders, the Ghana Education Service, through the Child Friendly School Programme, has developed a Professional Code of Conduct for Teachers, which defines physical violence to include corporal punishment. Under this Code teachers are prohibited from inflicting any form of corporal punishment on a child.
24. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has developed a Child and Family Welfare Policy to eliminate corporal punishment and other forms of abuse against children both at home and in school. Key interventions under this policy include, the strengthening of community partnership and collaboration with chiefs, queen-mothers, community leaders, religious and other faith-based organisations.
25. The Government in 2016 introduced a Justice for Children Policy to protect the right of juvenile offenders, victims and witnesses. The policy is aimed at protecting children's rights in the justice delivery system.
26. Regarding child labour, Ghana had recently undergone peer-review under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). As Government commits to taking appropriate steps to address the existing gaps in its National Plan of Action on Child Labour, more than 2,000 children have been rescued from working in the mining industry in 2017 alone. Other similar special operations by the police are underway to rescue victims of child labour and to bring persons who condone this practice to justice.
27. On right to Education, following the implementation of the free Compulsory Universal Basic Education for all children of school going age, the Ministry of Education in September 2017 has begun the implementation of a Free Senior High School Education Policy. This policy aims at making secondary school education not only accessible to all Ghanaians but also to ensure the retention and completion of students of Senior High School as a tool for economic development and growth. Under the free Senior High School Programme, 354,000 students have been placed in Senior High Schools raising the transition rate from Junior High School to Senior High School from 67% to 76% in 2017.
28. The passage of the Right to Information Bill ranked high in the legislative agenda of the Attorney-General. It is expected that will be placed before Parliament for passage into law before the end of the tenure of the present Parliament.
29. At the 2012 review, Ghana accepted a recommendation to monitor the application of customary laws with the view to ensuring that traditional practices were aligned with Ghana's international human rights obligations. The Bonyase witch camp in the Northern Region of the country was closed in December 2014. The victims have since been provided with humanitarian assistance including re-integration into communities of their choice.
30. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection launched a "National End Child Marriage Project" in February 2016. The Ministry is in the process of implementing a National Strategic Framework for the prevention of Early and Forced Child Marriage.
31. A Discrimination Reporting System aimed at providing remedy for vulnerable groups of people such as People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV) and key populations

(female sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs) was established in 2013.

32. Currently, various platforms including Civil Society Organizations and the mass media were being utilized to raise awareness against stigmatization. The Ghana AIDS Commission, under its 2018 Annual Work Plan, intends to intensify dissemination of the Ghana AIDS Commission Act, 2016 (Act 938), particularly sections dealing with non-discrimination. The Act provides for the right to education to all including women and children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Legal & Ethics Committee with the mandate to ensure the protection of the rights of vulnerable persons. The Committee is in the process of crafting an Action plan.

33. CHRAJ is presently training its staff to build capacity towards the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons aimed at implementing Resolution 275, adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in 2014 as well as the 2006 Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (the Yogyakarta Principles). Under the Discrimination Reporting System, the right to a remedy for vulnerable persons including LGTBI persons is guaranteed.

34. The Judicial Service of Ghana in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney-General has since 2007 championed the Justice for All Programme, (JFAP), by holding court hearings in prisons across the country aimed at granting bail to and discharging accused persons who have been on remand for unreasonably long periods without trial. To date, a total of 3,554 inmates have been reviewed under the programme, out of which, 711 have been discharged, 1,153 granted bail and 157 convicted.

35. At the inception of the programme, the pre-trial inmate population represented 30.6% of the total prison population. At the end of October 2017, the pre-trial inmate population had dropped to 13.2% of the current total inmate population.

36. In addition to the Justice for All Programme, the Ghana Prisons Service has established a paralegal unit, which has offices in all the large prisons to assist inmates in accessing justice. The "Case Tracking System" project aims to ensure that cases of pre-trial prisoners are tracked to check delays and thereby promote speedy trials. It is expected that the speedy trials will in turn reduce overcrowding in prisons.

37. There is now a regular capacity building programme for judges, prosecutors and investigators. To ensure consistency in sentencing and to avoid excessive sentencing by judges and magistrates, Sentencing Guidelines have been launched. The Chief Justice has issued a circular to judges and magistrates directing them to comply with the Sentencing Guidelines.

38. A Legal Aid Commission Bill has been approved by Cabinet and is on its way to Parliament for passage. When passed into law, the legal aid system in the country will become much more effective and provide greater legal assistance to the indigent.

39. Ghana has been implementing major social protection interventions, with remarkable achievements to address poverty and vulnerability over the years. These include the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the School Feeding Programme, the Capitation Grant, the Free School Uniforms, Sandals and Textbooks and the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) Programmes. However, certain population groups still suffered from multiple vulnerabilities due to chronic poverty.

40. The Mental Health Act, 2012, (Act 846) established the Mental Health Authority of Ghana with the mandate to formulate mental health policies and ensure implementation. A Mental Health policy was being developed for cabinet approval and will be launched in due course.

41. The Mental Health Act has criminalized inhuman treatment of mental patients and has established free decentralized community oriented services. The Ministry of Health has issued guidelines and campaigns for the education, training and monitoring of traditional and faith-based mental healers.

42. A Mental Health Fund under the Act has been established to provide financial resources for the care and management of people suffering from mental disorders.

43. A National Adolescent Reproductive Health Service Policy and Strategy (2016-2020) has been developed and disseminated through social media.

44. The Office of the Attorney-General's has completed a process of establishing and hosting an Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Human Rights as a dedicated National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up, which will be inaugurated by the first quarter of 2018. As a practice, Ghana's reporting obligations to international and regional human rights bodies and special procedures mechanisms have been carried out through a process of an inter-ministerial/agency consultation on thematic human rights issues.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

45. During the interactive dialogue, 98 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

46. The Central African Republic recognised the proof of further strengthening of democracy by the Ghanaian authorities and population. Ghana occupies an important position in the UN human development rankings.

47. Chad welcomed Ghana's implementation of the agreement on child protection, of the initiative to end forced marriage and of the strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS.

48. Chile welcomed Ghana's ratification of the OP-CAT, and commended Ghana for deciding to abolish capital punishment and urged it to enact the relevant legislation and to ratify the second OP of the ICCPR.

49. China welcomed Ghana's promotion of health, education and strengthening of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and efforts to promote gender equality, to combat discrimination and violence against women.

50. Colombia congratulated Ghana on achieving the MDG on universal free primary education. It welcomed its approval of gender policy and its implementation of measures against Child trafficking.

51. Congo commended Ghana's programmes for child protection, and encouraged it to continue strengthening the powers of the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

52. Côte d'Ivoire commended Ghana for ratifying various international legal instruments. It appreciated its measures to strengthen the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice.

53. Guatemala urged Ghana to continue working with the UN to strengthen key legal and judicial institutions. It was concerned about harmful practices involving women and girls, especially FGM.

54. Czechia appreciated Ghana's overview of the human rights situation in the country and thanked it for its comments on some of its advance questions.

55. Denmark was concerned that minority groups in Ghana continue to be subject to violence, discrimination and hate- and homophobic speech, and that the Affirmative Access Bill has not yet been enacted.

56. Djibouti welcomed Ghana's efforts to improve the human rights situation in the country. It congratulated it for ratifying the OP-CAT.

57. Ecuador commended Ghana's efforts to implement community services in healthcare, to improve access in remote communities and for drawing up a National Strategic Plan to combat HIV/AIDS.

58. Egypt commended Ghana for holding free, fair elections under universal suffrage. It encouraged pursuit of its constitutional review, while appreciating human rights efforts and cooperation with OHCHR.
59. Estonia welcomed Ghana's draft bill on the abolition of the death penalty. It encouraged it to eliminate harmful practices including child labour, child, early and forced marriage, domestic violence and FGM.
60. Ethiopia noted Ghana's progress with national legislation and its ratification of international human rights instruments. It commended it for its constitutional democracy and preservation of law and order throughout the country.
61. France welcomed Ghana's advances in human rights since the last UPR session, especially its ratification of the OP-CAT.
62. Georgia welcomed Ghana's ratification of OP-CRC-AC and OP-CAT. It commended it for granting approval for the abolition of the death penalty and encouraged the government to hold the relevant referendum in timely fashion.
63. Germany commended Ghana for its social and economic progress, its strengthening of civil rights and its inclusive consultations with civil society to prepare the UPR.
64. Greece expressed its appreciation of Ghana's ratification of OP-CRC-AC, and OP-CAT. It commended it for implementing some of the recommendations expressed during the UPR second cycle.
65. Cuba commended Ghana's combat against discrimination. It emphasised the fact that Ghana's current development plan and Shared Growth and Development Agenda embrace UN Sustainable Development Goals.
66. Honduras welcomed the fact that Ghana has accepted the various recommendations from the 2012 UPR cycle.
67. Hungary encouraged Ghana to identify gaps in current legal and policy systems to protect children from violence and to strengthen monitoring of corporal punishment.
68. Iceland welcomed Ghana's progress in protecting and promoting human rights since the UPR 2nd cycle but noted that improvements are still required.
69. India recognised Ghana's adoption of its 2015 Gender Policy and approval of its Affirmative Action Bill. It welcomed its ratification of OP-CRC-AC.
70. Indonesia commended Ghana for ratifying the OP-CAT and welcomed its cooperation with the Paralegal Department to assist prison inmates with the appeal process.
71. Iran acknowledged Ghana's measures to promote and protect the health service including community-based health and planning services aimed at isolated areas.
72. Iraq noted Ghana's commitment through implementation of a National Human Rights Plan and provision of universal primary education, along with its Affirmative Action measures to ensure gender equality.
73. Ireland recognised Ghana's efforts to combat FGM. It welcomed its promotion and protection of LGBTI rights but was concerned about ambiguity within Ghana's criminal code.
74. Israel commended Ghana's establishment of a special task force to combat human trafficking, the plan to eliminate early and forced child marriage and measures to end discrimination against persons with HIV.
75. Italy commended Ghana for ratification of the OP-CAT and its efforts to eradicate poverty, promote access to education, reduce maternal mortality, increase birth registration and combat child labour.
76. Japan was concerned by the persistence of harmful practices and called upon Ghana to strengthen measures towards achieving Target 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Guidelines.

77. Kenya asked Ghana how it is addressing the issue of allowing pregnant girls to attend school. It commended efforts to implement the recommendations of past reviews and encouraged it to maintain this approach henceforth.
78. Latvia noted that Ghana has improved its cooperation with Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, although a significant number of request by SP mandate holders have not yet been accepted.
79. Lebanon appreciated Ghana's continued efforts to promote healthcare, provide free education and fight discrimination through ad hoc programmes.
80. Libya welcomed Ghana's efforts to improve healthcare, in particular its adoption of the law on mental health, which aims to improve living conditions and treatment for persons in psychiatric institutions.
81. Liechtenstein welcomed Ghana's commitment to international criminal justice through ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC. It noted efforts to address the issue of child labour and to abolish the death penalty.
82. Madagascar commended Ghana for its implementation of a notification system to deal with stigmatisation and discrimination, and for the implementation of the Child Protection Compact.
83. Malaysia was pleased to note that Ghana is enhancing the role of women and is deploying efforts to promote gender mainstreaming and equality. It commended improving access to education and combatting poverty.
84. The Maldives welcomed Ghana's ratification of OP-CRC-AC and the OP-CAT. It commended efforts to end child marriage, to implement free high school and compulsory universal basic education.
85. Mali welcomed Ghana's signing of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption and ratification of the OP-CAT. It also welcomed progress made towards abolishing the death penalty.
86. Mauritania noted that the number of pre-trial detainees has fallen, that community-based health services have been set up in remote areas and that a secondary education programme has been implemented.
87. Mexico commended Ghana for ratifying the OP-CAT and the OP-CRC-AC.
88. Mauritius congratulated Ghana for its democratic elections in December 2016. It encouraged it to pursue its comprehensive social policies targeting vulnerable groups.
89. Mongolia welcomed Ghana's decision to abolish the death penalty. It noted efforts to strengthen the right to education, promote gender equality and eliminate discrimination against women.
90. Montenegro noted high rates of violence, abuse and child exploitation and marriage in Ghana. It asked the Ghanaian delegation to elaborate on measures to ensure affordable education for adolescent girls.
91. Morocco commended Ghana for elaborating a National Plan on human rights, a National Action Plan on human trafficking and a National Strategic Framework to combat forced marriage.
92. Myanmar was encouraged by Ghana's measures to improve the human rights of prisoners, efforts to address gender-based violence and the launch of the National End Child Marriage Project.
93. Namibia welcomed the work of Ghana's Constitution Review Implementation Committee. It also noted the various human rights initiatives completed and still in progress.
94. The Netherlands welcomed Ghana's democratic credentials, its attachment to the rule of law and its promotion of these universal values internationally. It commended it for its stand against corruption.

95. Nicaragua welcomed Ghana's accession to instruments relating to UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. It welcomed progress in education and health, especially for women and girls.
96. Nigeria commended the implementation of Discrimination Reporting System, Child Protection Compact Agreement, Baseline Survey on Human Trafficking and various social investment programmes.
97. Norway praised Ghana for the progress achieved and expressed concern over the high prevalence of domestic violence and rape.
98. Peru commended Ghana for the Declaration on universal primary education, National Human Rights Action Plan and measures to end early and forced marriages.
99. Poland welcomed ratification of the OP-CRC-AC and OP-CAT. It also noted steps to eliminate the death penalty.
100. Portugal appreciated Ghana's commitment to extending free access to free senior high school. It expressed concern over the situation concerning mental health patients.
101. Qatar commended Ghana's efforts to elaborate a human rights action plan and a second programme for shared growth and development.
102. Republic of Korea commended Ghana's ratification of the OP-CAT and cooperation with the UN mechanisms. It expressed concern over the human rights of children, women and girls.
103. Rwanda encouraged Ghana to enhance efforts by implementing laws to ensure justice for victims of gender based violence.
104. Senegal welcomed measures taken by Ghana to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups and urged the international community to support Ghana.
105. Sierra Leone applauded the efforts to develop the National Human Rights Action Plan, End Child Marriage project and the national plan on human trafficking.
106. Slovenia praised Ghana for the ratification of the OP-CAT and OP-CRC-AC. It expressed concern over reports on violence against women, use of harmful practices, abuse and sexual exploitation of children.
107. South Africa welcomed Ghana's commitment to implementing recommendations from the previous cycle and steps to resolve outstanding issues following the Constitutional Review Process.
108. Spain commended Ghana for progress made in the elaboration of a national human rights action plan and for the ratification of international instruments.
109. The State of Palestine acknowledged Ghana's Free Senior High School Education and One Hot Meal a Day programmes aimed to improve access to secondary education.
110. Sudan praised Ghana for ratification of the OP-CAT and OP-CRC-AC and noted with appreciation efforts to increase access to education and socio-economic development.
111. Sweden appreciated Ghana's continued work to fulfil its human rights obligations and encouraged it to make further efforts.
112. Switzerland acknowledged efforts to implement the National Anti-Corruption Plan and to abolish the death penalty. It noted that the situation of women and children remains concerning.
113. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation the launch of an inclusive educational policy focused, particularly, on children with disabilities and End Child Marriage project.
114. Togo praised Ghana for its efforts to combat poverty and promote socio-economic development with the focus on vulnerable groups.
115. Tunisia appreciated Ghana's steps to ratify a number of international legal instruments and align its national legislation with these instruments.

116. Turkey commended Ghana for ratifying human rights treaties and establishing the Office of the Special Prosecution to deal with state corruption issues.
117. Uganda welcomed the ratification of the OP-CRC-AC and urged Ghana to align its juvenile justice system with the Convention to address the problem of child labour.
118. Ukraine appreciated the establishment of a standing coordinating body and a roadmap to implement previous recommendations and called on international partners to support Ghana.
119. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognised the progress made by Ghana in the human rights area and made recommendations.
120. United States of America recognised Ghana's efforts in human rights but remained concerned over prison conditions and discrimination towards LGBT, women and people with disabilities.
121. Uruguay welcomed the Complaint System for Discrimination and efforts made to combat harmful practices. It expressed hope that capital punishment can be repealed after the referendum.
122. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) acknowledged the programme for shared growth and development and programme to combat poverty. It urged Ghana to continue improving human right situation.
123. Zambia noted with satisfaction the ratification of the OP-CAT and implementation of End Child Marriage project and "Justice for All Programme".
124. Zimbabwe appreciated steps taken by Ghana to improve social services, reduce poverty and promote socio-economic development as well as ratification of the OP-CAT and OP-CRC-AC.
125. Albania commended Ghana for its End Child Marriage project and encouraged it to expand free access to senior high school education.
1276. Algeria welcomed Ghana's End Child Marriage project, measures to expand access to school education and to combat discrimination and the ratification of the OP-CRC-AC.
127. Angola commended Ghana for the launching of the inclusive education system focused on people with disabilities and progress made in health, justice and gender equality.
128. Argentina made recommendations.
129. Armenia commended Ghana for launching End Child Marriage project and ratification of OP-CRC-AC. It encouraged Ghana to combat corporal punishment and violence against women.
130. Australia welcomed Ghana's effort to maintain religious harmony and noted that the criminalisation of consensual same-sex relationship and violations of rights of mental health patients are of concern.
131. Austria welcomed progress achieved in protection of human rights and expressed concern over reports of excessive use of force and unlawful killings by law enforcement.
132. Azerbaijan praised Ghana for achieving the MDG on primary education, ratifying the OP-CAT and OP-CRC-AC as well as measures taken to combat human trafficking.
133. Bahrain commended Ghana for its efforts and raised concern over the high rate of child marriages in the country.
134. Belgium noted with satisfaction Ghana's efforts to implement recommendations during the previous UPR and encouraged it to continue improving the situation of women and children.
135. Benin welcomed the ratification of OP-CAT, OP-CRC-AC and ILO Convention 189 and initiatives to ensure gender equality, education for children and to combat enforced and child marriages.

136. Botswana welcomed projects to end child marriage and child trafficking. It raised concern over the practice of shackling mental health patients and rise of vigilantism in politics.

137. Brazil commended Ghana's efforts in combatting torture, prison overcrowding and ensuring universal education. It welcomed such initiatives as the Heart to Heart Campaign and Justice for All.

138. Bulgaria encouraged Ghana to take further legislative and policy measures to achieve gender equality, such as the draft Affirmative Action Bill and Gender Policy.

139. Burkina Faso urged Ghana to intensify efforts to ensure women's rights, notably inheritance right, participation in public life and to combat gender violence and harmful practices.

140. Burundi praised Ghana's efforts in the human rights area and encouraged it to improve detention and police custody conditions by establishing national mechanism to prevent tortures.

141. Cabo Verde noted with satisfaction that Ghana ratified a number of international legal instruments and encouraged Ghana to effectively abolish the death penalty.

142. Canada welcomed Ghana's commitment to ensuring gender equality and to address the issue of child labour. It encouraged Ghana to implement a National Action Plan to eliminate child labour.

143. Pakistan commended Ghana's Discrimination Reporting System and Justice for All project. It urged the international community to support Ghana in its efforts.

144. The delegation of Ghana replied to a question on affordable education for adolescents and girls and prevention of early marriages by Montenegro and a question by Kenya on pregnant girls' school attendance.

145. The delegation thanked delegations for the constructive engagement and solidarity messages, especially the unanimous recognition of the progress that Ghana has made and continue to make in upholding human rights.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

146. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Ghana and enjoy the support of Ghana:

146.1. **Ratify the two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Egypt);**

146.2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);**

146.3. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Honduras); (Iran); (Spain); (Montenegro); (Uruguay);**

146.4. **Prompt ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (Guatemala);**

146.5. **Expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Hungary);**

146.6. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras); (Spain) (Liechtenstein); (Portugal); (Angola); (Montenegro); (Sweden); (Albania); (Poland); (France);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

- 146.7. **Formalise abolition of the death penalty by signing the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**
- 146.8. **Consider ratifying the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**
- 146.9. **Continue efforts to abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia);**
- 146.10. **Effectively abolish the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Greece);**
- 146.11. **Expedite the ratification of International Labour Organization Convention No.189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (India);**
- 146.12. **Ratify the Conventions that Ghana is a signatory to (Madagascar);**
- 146.13. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**
- 146.14. **Ratify the remaining Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal);**
- 146.15. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on a communications procedure (Spain);**
- 146.16. **Undertaken the necessary measures to ensure that the Persons with Disabilities Act (2006) is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (State of Palestine);**
- 146.17. **Accede to the ILO Convention 189 (2001) concerning decent work for domestic workers (Sudan);**
- 146.18. **Speed up the ratification procedure of the African Union Convention on the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (Togo);**
- 146.19. **Amend the Persons with Disability Act of 2006 in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (Turkey);**
- 146.20. **Ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) (Uganda);**
- 146.21. **Ratify the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**
- 146.22. **Undertake all the necessary measures to complete the alignment of its legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**
- 146.23. **Intensify efforts aimed at establishing standing coordinating body for the implementation of recommendations and reporting (Georgia);**
- 146.24. **Step up its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate holders (Latvia);**
- 146.25. **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for UN Treaty Body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

- 146.26. Intensify efforts towards the implementation of some of the recommendations of the last review, which are already in the process of being implemented (Nigeria);
- 146.27. Implement the recommendations of the Constitutional Review Committee speedily (South Africa);
- 146.28. Establish before the next UPR review, national preventive mechanism in accordance with the OP -CAT (Czechia);
- 146.29. Establish a National Preventive Mechanism for combating torture in line with the OP-CAT (Estonia);
- 146.30. Expedite internal procedures related to the establishing of the National Preventive Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);
- 146.31. Continue to engage in the effort to designate a National Preventive Mechanism in Ghana (Indonesia);
- 146.32. Establish a national mechanism for reporting and the follow up, which includes the elements identified in the Practical Guide prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner (Mexico);
- 146.33. Establish a standing coordination mechanism for the implementation of the recommendations and for the drafting of the reports (Morocco);
- 146.34. Consider establishing the National Preventive Mechanism, with the necessary legal and administrative provisions for its effective functioning in full independence, and sensitizing the prison and police officers on human rights based approach towards detainees (Mauritius);
- 146.35. Establish a National Preventive Mechanism against Torture (Morocco);
- 146.36. Continue to strengthen its National Human Rights Institution namely the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice and for the Commission to further develop a national human rights action plan which incorporates the SDGs (Indonesia);
- 146.37. Consider the establishment or the strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements arising from good practices identified in the OHCHR Study/Guide of 2016 concerning NMRF's (Portugal);
- 146.38. Establish an independent mechanism to carry out investigations of alleged misconduct by police officers (Austria);
- 146.39. Develop and implement a mechanism or solid legal measure to eliminate violations committed by the security forces and police (Madagascar);
- 146.40. Continue strengthening the institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights (Cuba);
- 146.41. Adopt and implement the revised Right to Information Bill in order to establish a robust legislative frame for access to information (Czechia);
- 146.42. Adopt the Affirmative Action Bill without further delay (Denmark);
- 146.43. Finalise other pending human rights initiatives, including the Affirmative Action or Gender Equality Bill, the Right to Information Bill, and the National Plan of Action on Human Trafficking (Namibia);
- 146.44. Finalize the process of implementation of the Bill drafted for the abolition of the capital punishment (Poland);
- 146.45. Enact the "Right to Information Bill" which has been reviewed by the Attorney General and submitted to the Cabinet in May 2017 (Turkey);

- 146.46. **Passing of gender equality legislation including: the Property Rights of Spouses; the Affirmative Action Bill; and the Intestate Succession Bill (Australia);**
- 146.47. **Adopt the Right to Information Bill, building on its efforts to improve good governance, accountability and transparency (Canada);**
- 146.48. **Fully implement the Domestic Violence Act (Austria);**
- 146.49. **Complete the process of the development of a National Human Rights Plan that is geared to take into account the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (South Africa);**
- 146.50. **Continue its efforts for the implementation of sustainable development goals especially those related to education and their integration in the national policies (Pakistan);**
- 146.51. **Integrate and apply the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to all its relevant policies including licensing extractive business (Republic of Korea);**
- 146.52. **Strengthen implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices in particular child, early and forced marriage (Rwanda);**
- 146.53. **Continue its efforts to develop a national human rights action plan (Sudan);**
- 146.54. **Intensify efforts on developing a National Human Rights Action Plan (Ukraine);**
- 146.55. **Continue adopting all the necessary measures to promote human rights in the country (Cuba);**
- 146.56. **Continue its efforts for the development of a comprehensive National Action Plan for Human Rights (Pakistan);**
- 146.57. **Amend national legislation to allow Ghanaian nationals residing abroad to vote (Egypt);**
- 146.58. **Intensify efforts to bring the domestic legislation in compliance with the provision of the Rome Statute of the ICC (Estonia);**
- 146.59. **Take the steps necessary to protect LGBTI persons from violence and discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity. (Ireland);**
- 146.60. **Ensure that victims of discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity have access to rehabilitation and remedy and that all perpetrators are punished (Czechia);**
- 146.61. **Take measures to fight against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy);**
- 146.62. **Continue promoting gender equality through specific laws, plans and programmes (Peru);**
- 146.63. **Continue to implement the discrimination reporting system in order to tackle stigmatisation and discrimination of the most vulnerable groups (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 146.64. **Continue promoting economic and social sustainable development in order to lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of human rights (China);**
- 146.65. **Expedite the development of a concrete national implementation framework on human rights (Uganda);**
- 146.66. **Continue the efforts to abolish the death penalty (Colombia); (Côte d'Ivoire); (Togo);**

- 146.67. **Abolish formally the death penalty (The Netherlands);**
- 146.68. **Continue to take the necessary steps to achieve the total abolishment of death penalty (Brazil);**
- 146.69. **Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as the first step towards its full abolition (Portugal);**
- 146.70. **Continue the current practice of granting clemency and commuting death sentences, establish an official moratorium on executions and continue the public discourse to finally abolish the death penalty (Germany);**
- 146.71. **Take immediate measures to introduce a formal moratorium on executions and take concrete steps toward the total abolition of the death penalty (Norway);**
- 146.72. **Consider declaring an official moratorium on executions and organise a referendum on the death penalty, following the approval by cabinet granting its abolition in 2014 (Namibia);**
- 146.73. **Adopt a formal moratorium and commute all death sentences to prison terms (Sweden);**
- 146.74. **Intensify its efforts towards abolishing the death penalty including through holding public consultations on a referendum on its abolition in accordance with Ghana's constitution (Rwanda);**
- 146.75. **Conclude the enactment of a law aimed towards the abolishment of the death penalty as prioritised by the Government of Ghana and the holding of the required referendum in this regard (South Africa);**
- 146.76. **Finalize the decision on abolishing the death penalty by holding a referendum (Ukraine);**
- 146.77. **Put in place the recommendation made in 2011 by the Commission on the Constitutional Reform, in concrete regarding the abolition of death penalty (Spain);**
- 146.78. **Include the total abolition of death penalty in the Constitution as soon as possible (Switzerland);**
- 146.79. **Take further steps on the abolition of the death penalty in accordance with the Constitution and national legislation (Armenia);**
- 146.80. **Revise the criminal code so as to eliminate mandatory death sentence and pursue efforts to abolish the death penalty (Austria);**
- 146.81. **Fully implement legislation on domestic violence (Norway);**
- 146.82. **Integrate a human rights component into the protocols of actions for security forces (Guatemala);**
- 146.83. **Continue the judiciary system reform to reinforce its efficiency, notably to improve the access to the justice of all (Djibouti);**
- 146.84. **Continue efforts to combat corruption (Algeria);**
- 146.85. **Pursue its efforts to strengthen the Human Rights and Administrative Justice Commission, in particular by ensuring adequate financing and guaranteeing its efficiency (Switzerland);**
- 146.86. **Enact criminal justice sector reforms to protect the rights of the accused, in particular the rights to a trial within a reasonable time and to legal assistance (United States of America);**
- 146.87. **Align its justice system for minors with the CRC and other relevant norms (Albania);**
- 146.88. **Strengthen efforts to improve prison conditions (France);**

- 146.89. **Take necessary steps to improve treatment of prisoners in compliance with international standards (Myanmar);**
- 146.90. **Consider the introduction of alternative punishment for minor crimes, to alleviate overcrowding (The Netherlands);**
- 146.91. **Adopt a law guaranteeing the media freedom (Lebanon);**
- 146.92. **Continue the efforts made to fight human trafficking, in particular the exploitation of children and women by reinforcing the fight against the smugglers (Djibouti);**
- 146.93. **Finalize adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking (Azerbaijan);**
- 146.94. **Strengthen the efforts to prevent and combat the human trafficking, protect the victims and guarantee the access to the medical, social, judicial and rehabilitation services as well as the psychological support (Ecuador);**
- 146.95. **Enforce the Human Trafficking Act and the Immigration Amendment Act, and allocate sufficient resources to combat trafficking in persons, human smuggling and other irregular migration (Iceland);**
- 146.96. **Further implement actions to fight against trafficking in human beings (Italy);**
- 146.97. **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Lebanon);**
- 146.98. **Continue their efforts to combat trafficking in human beings (Libya);**
- 146.99. **Adopt and implement anti-trafficking legislation (Norway);**
- 146.100. **Enforce the Human Trafficking Act and the Immigration Amendment Act and allocate sufficient resources to combat trafficking in person (Timor-Leste);**
- 146.101. **Adopt a more holistic approach to combating modern slavery, through systematic case referral and improved co-ordination between law enforcement agencies, in line with the ‘Call to Action’ that Ghana endorsed on 17 September 2017 in New York, (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 146.102. **Institute measures to remove existing structural and legislative barriers for women in the labour market (Uganda);**
- 146.103. **Continue applying and reinforcing programmes and public policies on inclusion, poverty reduction, equality promotion, and non-discrimination, with particular attention to women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities, among other vulnerable groups (Nicaragua);**
- 146.104. **Continue strengthening social policy implemented by the Government to tackle the neediest in the country (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 146.105. **Establish the Mental Health Fund as described in Mental Health Act 2012 and provide it with adequate funding. (Czechia);**
- 146.106. **Ensure implementation of the Mental Health Act, including through the adoption of legislative instruments, and the recruitment of qualified mental health professionals (Timor Leste);**
- 146.107. **Adopt the necessary legislative instruments for the implementation of the Mental Health Act (Turkey);**
- 146.108. **Provide health care to persons with mental disabilities (Tunisia);**
- 146.109. **Complement the reported improvement in mental health services, with a more robust supervision on the way mental patients are treated in "prayer camps" (Israel);**

- 146.110. Prevent, investigate and prosecute inhumane treatment in prayer camps or witch camps and psychiatric hospitals. Address societal attitude condoning such violations and abuses of rights of persons with mental disabilities (Czechia);
- 146.111. Improve assistance to vulnerable groups, in particular persons facing mental illness (Senegal);
- 146.112. Full implementation of the Ghanaian Mental Health Authority's announcement that it will abolish inhumane treatment of mentally ill people in prayer camps (Australia);
- 146.113. Undertake mental health awareness campaigns to educate communities (Botswana);
- 146.114. Increase government spending on education and in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (Iraq);
- 146.115. Continue its efforts to promote access to health services including in local communities (Qatar);
- 146.116. Take the necessary measures to ensure that the National Health Insurance Scheme is financially sustainable for the promotion of basic health care (Turkey);
- 146.117. Continue improving the access and the use of health services in the most remote communities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 146.118. Continue its efforts to implement the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (Sudan);
- 146.119. Intensify its response to the spread of HIV infection by implementing the new National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (Ukraine);
- 146.120. Continue its efforts to deliver free education to all, and that women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, are at the forefront of its efforts (State of Palestine);
- 146.121. Conduct awareness-raising programmes to increase women's legal literacy (Timor-Leste);
- 146.122. Continue increasing investment to education providing subsidies to help poverty-stricken students and further increase school enrolment (China);
- 146.123. Enhance education and awareness-raising to ensure maximum respect for the rights of girls (Japan);
- 146.124. Continue the efforts being undertaken to make education more accessible and especially to implement the much-lauded free education programme (Kenya);
- 146.125. Continue improving the quality of the primary and secondary education (Peru);
- 146.126. Work for universal free and compulsory basic education for school-age children (Qatar);
- 146.127. Implement measures concerning the improvement of the quality of education (Angola);
- 146.128. Continue its endeavours to increase the quality and availability of education at all levels (Azerbaijan);
- 146.129. Take concrete steps towards operationalizing extended access to free senior high school for all students (Portugal);
- 146.130. Abolish legislation discriminating against women in the fields of property ownership, access to credit and inheritance (Austria);

- 146.131. Eliminate obstacles to the enjoyment of land property rights for women (Albania);
- 146.132. Ensure that complete and impartial investigation into allegations of all forms of violence against women are conducted, that perpetrators are brought to justice and that victims receive adequate support (Belgium);
- 146.133. Continue its efforts in order to combat discrimination against women and end all forms of discrimination and violence against women including domestic violence (Tunisia);
- 146.134. Reinforce awareness raising and educational programs, to prevent traditional harmful practices against women and girls and to ensure that the victims have access to resources and mechanisms of protection and rehabilitation (Guatemala);
- 146.135. Strengthen its awareness raising and education programmes, prevent and eradicate harmful traditional practices and ensure that victims had access to remedies, and rehabilitation mechanism. (Zambia);
- 146.136. Continue the efforts in the field of violence against women and the promotion of the equality between women and men (Djibouti);
- 146.137. Continue awareness-raising campaigns on violence against women and girls and ensure that perpetrators of such crimes are brought to justice (Italy);
- 146.138. Continue efforts to combat violence against women and early and forced marriage (Egypt);
- 146.139. Expedite adoption of laws prohibiting harmful practices against women and girls including forced and early marriage (Republic of Korea);
- 146.140. Enact the Affirmative Action Bill promoting women in governance and decision-making positions (Estonia);
- 146.141. Pass the Affirmative Action Bill speedily to allow the increase of women presentation in political offices (South Africa);
- 146.142. Introduce measures to promote full and active participation of women in public life (Zimbabwe);
- 146.143. Strengthen the campaign to combat discriminatory practices and violence against women and children (France);
- 146.144. Continue efforts to implement the 2007 law on domestic violence and prohibit dehumanizing practices against women and girls (France);
- 146.145. Appropriate measures be taken to prevent and combat harmful traditional practices which are discriminatory against women, especially in rural areas (Uruguay);
- 146.146. Intensify efforts to prevent violations of children's rights and accelerate the adoption and implementation of laws prohibiting harmful practices against women and girls, including *trokosi* and female genital mutilation (Germany);
- 146.147. Elaborate a holistic strategy that includes judicial and social measures to eradicate female genital mutilation (Chile);
- 146.148. Endow the competent authorities with more resources to apply the law that sanctions female genital mutilation in particular in the most isolated areas (Chile);
- 146.149. Put an end to harmful practices such as early and forced marriages; and genital mutilation, in line with the Agenda for Sustainable Development (Honduras);

- 146.150. Take further measures to strengthen the legislative framework on female genital mutilation, whilst also ensuring effective implementation, monitoring and investigation (Ireland);
- 146.151. Enhance efforts by law enforcement authorities to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation (Israel);
- 146.152. Continue its efforts to eradicate traditional harmful practices, such as child forced and early marriage and other forms of gender violence, including female genital mutilations and those based on superstitions such as fear to “witchcraft” (Nicaragua);
- 146.153. Reinforce measures aimed at abolishing Female Genital Mutilation (Peru);
- 146.154. Adopt subnational actions plans for strengthening implementation of laws prohibiting harmful practices, including but not limited to: trokosi, female genital mutilation, child early and forced marriage, widowhood rites and practices related to “witchcraft” (Sweden);
- 146.155. Strengthen the public authorities in charge of protecting women and children, through adequate financial resources and further strengthen the awareness raising campaigns on the prohibition of female genital mutilation and the trokosi practice that is a ritual form of servitude (Switzerland);
- 146.156. Advance in the eradication of violence against women, intensifying actions such as those developed by the Domestic Violence Branch of the Police, and put in place measures that contribute to the elimination of traditional practices such as female gender mutilation, the “trokosi” practice and forced marriage (Spain);
- 146.157. Strengthen and closely monitor laws protecting girls and women from Female Genital Mutilation through dedicated programmes and mechanisms (Norway);
- 146.158. Take the necessary measures to improve the right of children and particularly with regard to juvenile justice and the fight against child marriage (Algeria);
- 146.159. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to end the practise and harmful effects of child marriage and related cultural practices (Kenya);
- 146.160. Make the Ending Child Marriage Unit operational within the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 146.161. Take steps to fully implement the National Strategic Framework for Ending Child Marriage and allocate adequate resources to the Ending Child Marriage Unit within the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (Canada);
- 146.162. Amend and harmonise all relevant laws in order to ensure that child marriage is strictly prohibited and criminalised (Zambia);
- 146.163. Strengthen its existing initiatives to end Early, Forced Child Marriage (Zimbabwe);
- 146.164. Organize these programs about the negatives consequences of child marriages and about the importance of education (Bahrain);
- 146.165. Further intensify the implementation of the coordinated initiative to end early, forced child marriage (Ethiopia);
- 146.166. Develop a strategy and an operational National Action Plan to combat child marriage (Hungary);

- 146.167. **Continue implement the National End Child Marriage Project and promote awareness on the negative consequences of child marriage and teenage pregnancy (Myanmar);**
- 146.168. **Continue its efforts in order to eliminate child marriage (Tunisia);**
- 146.169. **Continue efforts to prohibit and eliminate child marriage (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 146.170. **Fast-track the finalisation of the National Strategy framework aimed at responding to and preventing child early forced marriages (Namibia);**
- 146.171. **Continue its efforts to expand educational programmes and awareness-raising campaigns for preventing and combating corporal punishment of children in schools and childcare institutions (Bulgaria);**
- 146.172. **Prohibit absolutely the corporal punishment inflicted on children in all the environments as well as the use, acquisition or the offering to children on the production of pornography and pornographic spectacles (Ecuador);**
- 146.173. **Strengthen legislation and establish clear guidelines and measures to prevent child exploitation and their commercial sexual exploitation (Sierra Leone);**
- 146.174. **Continue with the legal and administrative steps to finally prohibit fully corporal punishment of children (Kenya);**
- 146.175. **Continue the implementation of the previous recommendations, regarding in particular the protection of children, increasing access and effectiveness of justice (Cabo Verde);**
- 146.176. **Adopt a sexual and reproductive health policy for adolescents and develop a policy to protect the rights of pregnant teenagers, adolescent mothers and their children and combat discrimination against them (Iceland);**
- 146.177. **Implement measures that strengthen the protection of the rights of children and adolescents in order to eradicate child labor and prohibit the sexual exploitation of children (Mexico);**
- 146.178. **Exhort further efforts in order to fight child exploitation in dangerous work and to work more seriously through the promulgation of laws to combat this dangerous phenomenon (Bahrain);**
- 146.179. **Strengthen efforts to implement the legal framework prohibiting child labour (Italy);**
- 146.180. **Strengthen its measures to eradicate child labour (Japan);**
- 146.181. **Investigate cases of child labour, bring alleged perpetrators to justice and ensure that all victims are protected, assisted, rehabilitated and compensated (Liechtenstein);**
- 146.182. **Establish relevant mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to end child sexual exploitation and child labour (The Maldives);**
- 146.183. **Continue its efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and child labour (Nicaragua);**
- 146.184. **Take necessary measures to eliminate and penalize all forms of hazardous child labour (Republic of Korea);**
- 146.185. **Improve the National Action Plan on Child Labour and expand measures adopted in the area of mining to other sectors (Spain);**
- 146.186. **Enforce laws on human trafficking and child labour by holding perpetrators criminally accountable and providing adequate funding to investigate traffickers and protect victims (United States of America);**

- 146.187. **Adopt a legislation on child protection against all forms of ill-treatment violence and exploitation and to adopt policies and laws more seriously that can be more effective in order to combat discrimination rape and sexual harassment (Bahrain);**
- 146.188. **Take all necessary steps to eliminate the harmful practices towards girls, as well as release all children, who are subjected to the trokosi practice (Poland);**
- 146.189. **Adopt a national plan to support the rights of children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence (Tunisia);**
- 146.190. **Raise the fight against all forms of child labour by investigating cases of the worst forms of child labour, bringing alleged perpetrators to justice and ensuring that victims are adequately protected, assisted and compensated (Belgium);**
- 146.191. **Ensure the effective implementation of the legal framework on child abuse and exploitation and, when necessary, address the related weaknesses (Congo);**
- 146.192. **Continue implementing its project aimed at eliminating child trafficking and child labour in the fishing communities (Ethiopia);**
- 146.193. **Provide assistance to children in preventive detention who do not benefit from any family support (Senegal);**
- 146.194. **Further improve the birth registration system so as to reach universal birth registration for children in rural areas, asylum seeking and refugee children (Turkey);**
- 146.195. **Enhance and develop laws to protect the rights of the child (Lebanon);**
- 146.196. **Ensure a more comprehensive application of initiatives designed to improve the situation of people with disabilities, including Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (Israel);**
- 146.197. **Further improve the legal framework on the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the provisions of international conventions (Italy);**
- 146.198. **Implement a national employment policy for persons with disabilities (Turkey);**
- 146.199. **Elaborate and adopt an Action Plan for strengthening the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in compliance with 2006 Persons with Disability act of Ghana (Bulgaria);**
- 146.200. **Strengthen strategies to guarantee the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees in order to ensure their access to justice, education and health, regardless of their status (Mexico).**
- 147. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Ghana and have been noted by Ghana:**
- 147.1. **Adopt legislative and political measures to protect LGBTI persons against stigmatization and violence (Chile);**
- 147.2. **Continue strengthening the application of the Discrimination Complaint System that allows to protect the rights of people because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and encourage that the education system include guidelines to prevent discrimination against students (Colombia);**
- 147.3. **Expedite the revision of the legal framework on refugees (Congo);**
- 147.4. **Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in**

accordance with the commitments made during the Ministerial Conference held in Abidjan on 23 February 2015 (Côte d'Ivoire);

147.5. Ratify the Convention on the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, No. 169 of the ILO (Guatemala);

147.6. Amend the criminal procedure code 1960 (Act 30) to introduce alternative sentencing policy (Denmark);

147.7. Combat impunity of perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment, particularly in cases of excessive use of force by the police (France);

147.8. Take measures to decriminalise homosexuality and take special measures of non-discrimination with regard to LGBTI persons (France);

147.9. Decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults by repealing Section 104 (1) (b) of the Criminal Code and introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to provide equal protection against discrimination for all persons and on all grounds (Germany);

147.10. Eliminate the type of crime of “unnatural carnal knowledge”, and adopt measures to eradicate discrimination motivated by sexual orientation and gender identity (Greece);

147.11. Adopt measures to ensure universal access to sexual health and reproductive rights pursuant with the Beijing Conference (Honduras);

147.12. Decriminalize same-sex sexual relations and adopt measures to put an end to discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons (Honduras);

147.13. Take further measures to prevent hate crimes, hate speech, and discrimination (Hungary);

147.14. Systematically register all religious and customary marriages (Iceland);

147.15. Ratify or adopt implementing legislation with regard to the 1926 Slavery Convention, the 1956 Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (Islamic Republic of Iran);

147.16. Ensure that persons with albinism were protected against discrimination (Islamic Republic of Iran);

147.17. Strengthening the national framework for the reduction of all forms of discrimination, especially against persons affected with albinism (Iraq);

147.18. Expedite action on the review of the Minerals and Mining Act to ensure sound management of the extractive sector to include control of illegal mining activities and integrate community rights (Kenya);

147.19. Ratify the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute on the crime of aggression (Liechtenstein);

147.20. Revise its criminal code so as to eliminate mandatory death sentence (Liechtenstein);

147.21. Improve the conditions of detainees and address prisons overcrowding (Mauritania);

147.22. Prioritize and fund information campaigns for non-discrimination and universal access for the LGBT groups in Ghana (Norway);

147.23. Guarantee protection of human rights of nomad pastors, most of them of Fulani ethnicity (Peru);

147.24. Prohibit non-consensual treatments, such as forced medication and confinement (Portugal);

- 147.25. Establish measures and policies to address the stigmatisation of persons with albinism and ensure they are effectively protected against discrimination (Sierra Leone);
- 147.26. Provide clear national guidelines to prevent discrimination in schools and universities on any ground, including on sexual orientation and gender identity (Slovenia);
- 147.27. Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual acts (Sweden);
- 147.28. Ensure free birth registration and birth certificate issuance, at least for children up to five years of age (Togo);
- 147.29. Ensure full protection of the human rights of all people in Ghana, including LGBT people, women, and persons with disabilities, by eliminating discriminatory legislation, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and effectively implementing existing laws and policies on gender and disabilities (United States of America);
- 147.30. Efforts to strengthen the legislative framework to protect the LGBTI community from all forms of discrimination and intimidation or violence by amending laws which criminalise consensual same sex relations (Uruguay);
- 147.31. Introduce a crime of torture in the national penal legislation (Albania);
- 147.32. Ensure that sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex are not punishable by law (Albania);
- 147.33. Deepen efforts to prevent and sanction harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, the tradition known as trokosi, early forced marriage and accusations of witchcraft and polygamy, guaranteeing the protection and rehabilitation of victims (Argentina);
- 147.34. Analyse amending legislation that penalizes consensual same sex relations between adults in order to guarantee the rights of the LGBTIQ community (Argentina);
- 147.35. Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);
- 147.36. Decriminalise same-sex relationships between consenting adults and actively address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Australia);
- 147.37. Step up efforts aimed at ending and discouraging vigilantism in politics in order to protect participation and freedom of expression in public life (Botswana);
- 147.38. Step up efforts to combat discrimination and violence by adopting measures to raise awareness among the population and public officials of the negative effects of public stigmatization on any grounds, including against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Brazil);
- 147.39. Scale up and expand youth-friendly and gender sensitive programs on comprehensive sexuality education and sexual reproductive health and rights (Canada);
- 147.40. Take measures and demonstrate leadership to prevent, and ensure accountability for, any crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);
- 147.41. Consider ratifying the core human rights treaties, including the ICCPED (Japan).
148. 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 Ghana was headed by Honourable Miss Gloria Afua Akuffo, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and composed of the following members:

- Honourable Gifty Twum-Ampofo, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Accra;
- Mrs. Helen Awo Ziwu, Solicitor-General, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General, Accra;
- Mr. Sylvester Kow Williams, Chief State Attorney, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General, Accra;
- Mrs. Marina Appiah Opare, Chief State Attorney, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General, Accra;
- Mrs. Tricia Quartey, Senior State Attorney, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General, Accra;
- Mr. Richard Apietu, Deputy Judicial Secretary, Ghana Judicial Service, Accra;
- Mr. Amos Kwabena Antwi Legal Officer, Ghana Prisons Service, Accra;
- Mrs. Florence Ayisi Quartey, Principal Programme Officer, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Accra;
- Dr. Fred Nana Poku, Technical and Acting Policy Manager, Ghana AIDS Commission, Accra;
- Mr. Samuel Amankwah, Director of Research and Public Relations, Ministry of the Interior, Accra;
- Mr. Jonathan Odartey, Head, Legal, Ministry of Education, Accra;
- Mr. Hamidu Adakurugu, Director, Administration and Legal, Ministry of Health, Accra;
- Mr. Alexander Grant Ntrakwa, Minister/Chargé d’Affaires ad Interim, Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Mr. Joseph Owusu-Ansah, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
- Mrs. Peninnah Abena Agyakwa Danquah, Personal Assistant to the Attorney-General;
- Ms. Korankyewa Anamoah, Assistant Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Accra.