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

Bangladesh

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in English.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Bangladesh was held at the 10th meeting, on 14 May 2018. The delegation of Bangladesh was headed by Hon'ble Law Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, H.E. Mr. Anisul Huq, MP. At its 17th meeting, held on 17 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Bangladesh.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bangladesh: Afghanistan, Rwanda and Ukraine.

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 Bangladesh:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BGD/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.6/30/BGD/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BGD/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay were transmitted to Bangladesh through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of delegation, quoting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "All Human beings are born equal in dignity and right" stated that regrettably, discrimination and human rights violations were still present in what some analysts called a post-human rights era. In such a global context, Bangladesh, opened its border for the forcibly displaced nationals of Myanmar.

6. He underscored that despite constraints, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomed the Rohingyas, the most persecuted people of the world forced to flee from their homes in Myanmar. Bangladeshi people embraced the 1.1 million helpless Rohingyas who suffered the worst kind of human rights violations in Myanmar and, supported by the international community, provided basic services and temporary shelter. The humanitarian agencies have been given full access to Cox's bazar where the world's largest camp shelters the Rohingyas.

7. Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in terms of socio economic development reaching a record high GDP growth of 7.5%. Poverty rate was brought down to 24.3% in 2016 from 38.4% in 2006. Life expectancy increased to 72 years.

8. Bangladesh met all three criteria for graduation from least developing country and believed her inclusive development agenda to leave no one behind is closely linked with the vision to ensure, 'human rights for all'. The head of delegation reported that in the last five years Bangladesh made every possible effort to implement the 191 recommendations accepted from previous UPR cycle through a consultative process engaging the government and civil society.

9. In the last 4 years Bangladesh submitted reports, under ICCPR, ICRMW, ICESCR, ICRPD and CEDAW. Bangladesh also facilitated visits by the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Freedom of Religion or Belief and SR on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar (twice). Bangladesh responded favourably to request of meetings from the SR on Human Rights of Migrants and the Working Group on Enforced Disappearance. It was affirmed that before entering into any further international obligations Bangladesh needed to address capacity issues of national institutions.

10. In the last 5 years the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been strengthened substantially. Further, 50 Parliamentary Committees including 39 Standing Committees and Anti-Corruption Commission are overseeing implementation of UPR recommendations. Independent Judiciary continues to play its due role as an effective resort to justice.

11. On accountability, Bangladesh maintains 'zero tolerance' policy with regard to criminal liabilities of the law enforcing officials. The law in general neither accords them immunity from criminal prosecution nor favours them. Bangladesh unequivocally condemned all incidents of violence against the religious and ethnic minorities and addressed the allegations of such violence as promptly as possible.

12. To protect the rights of ethnic minorities, the Government committed to implement the CHT Peace Accord entirely. The 15th Amendment of the constitution stipulates that the State shall undertake responsibility to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribal and ethnic communities.

13. The democratic environment thrived with more than 3000 local and international NGOs currently operating in Bangladesh. Since the second UPR, with 18 new channels approved, 34 TV channels and 2,800 newspapers are currently operating. Also, Bangladesh Journalists Welfare Trust Act, 2014 was enacted.

14. According to Gender Gap Index 2017 of World Economic Forum, Bangladesh ranked 47th out of 144 countries and 1st in South Asia. Bangladesh ranked 7th in political empowerment of women in the world. By 17th amendment of the Constitution, Bangladesh extended the tenure of women MPs in reserved seats. One-third of the seats have been kept reserved for women candidates in local bodies elections. For her pioneering role in empowering women, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has recently been honoured with Global Women Leadership Award 2018.

15. Bangladesh enacted the Children Act 2013, updating the earlier Act and in 2013 amended the Birth and Death Registration Act 2004. Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act was adopted in 2013. A separate Act was passed in 2013 to address the needs of persons and children with mental disorder and autism. The Government has reserved 1% quota for disabled persons in 1st class Government job and 10% in 3rd and 4th class jobs.

16. The Labour Act, 2006 was amended in 2013 providing flexible procedure for trade union registration and occupational health and safety measures. All garment factories of Bangladesh are now recognized compliant. To promote safe, orderly and regular migration, Bangladesh enacted the Overseas Employment and Migrant Act, 2013.

17. The Government has adopted the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in 2015, ensuring right to social security for the unemployed, disabled, widows, orphans and elderly citizens. Bangladesh also initiated the Life-Cycle-based Social Security Agenda covering equally and inclusively all age-group people within social security net.

18. Bangladesh enacted Food Safety Act 2013 to ensure safety and health of citizens and also adopted Food Safety Rules 2014 under which, 64 Pure Food Courts have been established.

19. At present 97.9% population are covered under 'Improved Drinking Water Coverage' and 99% of population brought under sanitation facility.

20. Bangladesh brought over 80% people under electricity facilities, planned to ensure electricity for all by 2021.

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21. Adult literacy has increased to 72.3% in 2016 (from 53.5% in 2005). Government incentives, e.g. stipends, resulted in almost 100% enrolment of female students.
 22. To foster public health, Bangladesh adopted the National Drug Policy in 2016. Bangladesh has already formulated The National Adolescent Health Strategy 2017-30.
 23. Addressing global issues like terrorism and violent extremism all over the world, Bangladesh undertook massive awareness programme to prevent violent extremism and radicalization engaging youth, women and community leaders.
 24. To address the adverse impacts of climate change, at the initiative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a climate change trust fund worth of USD 400 million was established with own resources. The government earmarks 6-7% of annual budget on adaptation projects. Bangladesh remained committed to fulfilling its obligations under Paris Agreement 2015, and called for international cooperation and assistance in addressing this challenge.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 105 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
26. Sri Lanka stated that the opening of the borders to Rohingya refugees had been exemplary. It urged Bangladesh to implement its pledge to eliminate child labour by 2025.
27. State of Palestine noted Bangladesh's efforts to combat poverty and improve standard of living and promote women rights especially in work.
28. Sudan recognized Bangladesh's efforts in the field of human rights, and commended Bangladesh's cooperation with Human Rights Council despite challenges.
29. Sweden acknowledged the important role Bangladesh played in the face of overwhelming influx of Rohingya refugees deserving solidarity and support from the international community.
30. Switzerland called on Bangladesh to guarantee democratic, free and fair elections in 2018 elections. It congratulated Bangladesh for hosting a large number of Rohingya refugees.
31. Syrian Arab Republic applauded Bangladesh's efforts to improve the human rights despite challenges and obstacles.
32. Thailand commended the amendments to different laws, encouraged Bangladesh to continue working with Myanmar and international organizations to ensure voluntary repatriation of persons in Cox's Bazar.
33. Togo noted the decisions to strengthen the national human rights institution and the efforts made to address the challenges from the flow of Rohingya refugees.
34. Tunisia applauded efforts to improve the human rights, including restraining marriage age, combating violence against women, and combating human trafficking.
35. Turkey commended efforts to advance human rights, cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and addressing the acute humanitarian situation from the influx of Rohingya refugees.
36. Turkmenistan noted reforms to the national system for the protection of human rights and for establishing the office of the Ombudsman. It commended poverty reduction efforts.
37. Ukraine commended legislative and policy initiatives to tackle human rights challenges. Ukraine urged taking further steps to ensure the human rights of Rohingya refugees.
38. United Arab Emirates applauded Bangladesh's improvement in economic and social rights, commended the legislation to protect the family and preserve its social value.
39. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed concerns about allegations of extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances. It called on Bangladesh to address the pressures on freedom of expression and religion or belief.

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40. United States of America expressed concern about limitations on freedoms of association and expression targeting opposition, and reports of human rights violations by the security forces, urged holding genuine elections.
41. Uruguay welcomed the commitment to provide refuge to 800,000 Rohingya refugees, replacing the death penalty with other forms of punishment, measures taken to prevent violence against women and children.
42. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated efforts to implement previous review recommendations, noted the national development programmes and housing projects, asked about measures taken to empower women.
43. Viet Nam commended Bangladesh for its economic growth in 2017 and for reducing poverty. It asked about the efforts taken to combat climate change.
44. Yemen recognized Bangladesh's cooperation with international partners to fulfil its human rights obligations, including legislative measures on torture, children and disabilities to implement the obligations.
45. Zambia remained concerned that Bangladesh lagged behind in fulfilling its international obligation and cooperation with human rights mechanisms and not ratified a number of human rights instruments.
46. Zimbabwe noted the legislative, policy and administrative measures to promote and protect human rights, enacting laws to protect children and persons with disabilities and food security.
47. Afghanistan acknowledged the various legislative and policy initiatives undertaken to strengthen the national institutions. It noted the accommodation of about one million Rohingya refugees.
48. Algeria welcomed the adoption of measures to reinforce democratic practice and transparency in the management of public affairs. It welcomed measures adopted to combat corruption and on Rohingya refugees.
49. Argentina commended the adoption of the Seventh Five-Year Plan focusing on SDGs. It noted measures taken to combat discrimination and violence against minorities and to address the Rohingya refugee crisis.
50. Australia urged protecting the rights of displaced Rohingya. Underscored the importance of free, fair and inclusive elections later this year. It noted extrajudicial deaths and the imposition of the death penalty.
51. Austria commended sheltering Rohingyas, expressed worry about reports of attacks against religious minorities, journalists and human rights defenders. It noted that the age of criminal responsibility remained at 9 years.
52. Azerbaijan commended Bangladesh graduation from the LDC category. It asked how the refuge of one million Rohingya people in the Cox's Bazar district had affected the rights of the Bangladeshi people.
53. Bahrain commended the passing of the Ombudsman Act, demonstrating consistency and fairness in the application of the law. Welcomed the development of the NSSS, as it included SDG targets.
54. Barbados commended Bangladesh for legislative reforms, and recognised that improving its human rights situation was a continuous process and Bangladesh had much more work to do.
55. Belarus welcomed comprehensive and systematic work to achieve the SDGs and congratulated Bangladesh for the progress in improving well-being of its population.
56. Belgium recognized positive steps in implementing previous review recommendations and encouraged strengthening further the protection of human rights, in line with international treaties.

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57. Benin commended efforts to implement recommendations from the previous review. It noted the good cooperation Bangladesh had with the international human rights mechanisms.
58. Bhutan welcomed achievements in meeting the criteria to graduate from the LCD countries, encouraged Bangladesh to continue with its people-centred development agenda with particular focus on vulnerable sections of society.
59. Plurinational State of Bolivia noted progress in poverty reduction, interested in learning about Bangladesh experience in the progressive implementation on the right to social security.
60. Bosnia and Herzegovina encouraged Bangladesh to submit its outstanding periodic treaty body reports, while acknowledging the efforts it had made to improve the human rights situation.
61. Botswana applauded Bangladesh for accommodating about one million Rohingya refugees. It noted legislative measures undertaken in line with treaty obligations on children, torture and disabilities.
62. The head of delegation thanked all for extending humanitarian support to Rohingyas and requested for support needed to ensure their voluntary, dignified and safe return.
63. He emphasised that even without acceding to the 1951 Refugee Convention, Bangladesh is doing more than those that signed these instruments, detailing support measures taken for the Rohingyas. Responding to question from Azerbaijan about the impact of the Rohingya crisis, he stated that at the moment, Rohingyas were double the local population number in Cox's Bazar. Locally, the influx caused price hike of basic goods in the area. The local people, unable to use their land for cultivation, lose out to the Rohingyas in the labour market affected by lower wages accepted by the Rohingyas. Municipal services in the Cox's Bazar area has been unavailable to locals since the influx adding more sufferings. At national level, resources were diverted for deployment of additional law-enforcement officials in Cox's Bazar for Rohingyas' protection depriving other areas of the country.
64. Regarding law-enforcing agencies and human rights, he underscored Bangladesh's zero-tolerance policy on criminal liabilities of the members of the law-enforcing agencies, and gave example of Narayanganj seven murder case, in which highest punishment was awarded to convicted Law Enforcement Agency members. The government has unequivocal, no-impunity stance regarding involvement of law-enforcing agencies in kidnapping or abduction.
65. On enforced disappearance, he respectfully disagreed that enforced disappearances occur in Bangladesh frequently. Often, cases of possible abduction of individuals are often reported as enforced disappearances. This is done with the obvious intention of maligning the Government and its achievements. In many cases, the perceived victims have reappeared proving the allegations of the so-called enforced disappearance false.
66. The government is vigilant to protect civil society, bloggers and, thus create space for freedom of expression for all walks of life. The government has instructed all the police stations in the country to provide security and security tips for individuals. Since 2016, no new case was found where such unfortunate killings have taken place or threats have been given.
67. The ICT Act was enacted in 2006 to legalise electronic signature. As the media raised questions, the government found the section incongruous and agreed to repeal section 57. To combat cyber-crime and to ensure cyber security, Bangladesh is in the process of enacting the Digital Security Act, and will ensure that it will not affect the freedom of speech and freedom of expression.
68. In 2013 Bangladesh amended the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 and raised the marriageable age to 18 for girls and 21 for boys. The special provision in the Act with regard to special circumstances will be applied only when consent of the court and the guardians of the persons involved. As of today, there was no case of misuse of the provision. The Government would remain vigilant on its proper implementation.

69. On ratification of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, he stated that Bangladesh would have to make detailed analysis of the provisions of the Convention and its implication on existing legal system of Bangladesh. Based on that, decision would be taken whether ratification of the Convention is necessary. The enactment of the Torture Prevention in Custody Act is a testimony that Bangladesh s accepted the recommendations of the second cycle of UPR. Before ratifying the Optional Protocol allowing the complaint mechanism, Bangladesh should first address the gaps in the national legislation. The government is planning to bring necessary amendments into the law in consultation with concerned stakeholders.

70. Brazil commended the generosity in sheltering Rohingyas and commended efforts to promote gender equality and reduce poverty. It encouraged the country to accede to the statelessness convention and other important instrument.

71. Cambodia commended amending human rights related legislations and economic and social development achievements and encouraged providing resources to strengthen national institutions on human rights, democracy, good governance and rule of law.

72. Canada welcomed efforts to host the Rohingya and called on Bangladesh to implement ILO Conventions 87 and 98 on freedom of association and collective bargaining.

73. Chile welcomed progress made in human rights, but expressed concerns about pending requests for visits from special rapporteurs and a working group.

74. China welcomed country's efforts in socio-economic development, poverty reduction, employment and improvement of education and health care services and socio protection systems.

75. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Bangladesh for its solidarity with Rohinwa refugees and encouraged further improvement of the situation of women, children and refugees.

76. Cuba welcomed the approval new laws and asked about priority established by the government to provide social security to vulnerable groups.

77. Czechia welcomed constructive attitude while accepting great number of Rohingya refugees, but noted serious persisting human rights challenges.

78. Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed legislative and policy measures taken to improve human rights and effort to develop the country.

79. Denmark expressed concerns on child marriage and the lack of human resources and office equipment and absence of rules that impedes the work of the land commission.

80. Djibouti welcomed progress made on the rights of the child and persons with disabilities and the strengthening of the NHRC.

81. Egypt asked on the legal measures taken on the social security strategy to protect elderly, and welcomed the adoption of a program to provide jobs and stable income for the poorest groups.

82. Estonia commended Bangladesh for its efforts in keeping their borders open and protecting refugees who were fleeing discrimination, persecution and violence in Myanmar.

83. Finland commended measures taken since the last UPR-cycle to address violence against women and girls, remained concerned over the high number of reports of such violence.

84. France commended the progress made on the right to food, health care and education and the good reception given to the refugees from Burma.

85. Gabon welcomed efforts in managing natural disasters and guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable people, such as women, children and people living with HIV/AIDS.

86. Georgia welcomed efforts to combat trafficking and commended efforts to receive Rohingya refugees with full respect to international protection regime, regardless not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention.

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87. Germany expressed appreciation for Bangladesh offering refuge to hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees.
 88. Ghana commended efforts to protect human rights and noted in particular the strengthening of democratic institutions and accountability mechanisms.
 89. Greece commended the generosity of hosting Rohingya refugees and the immense efforts undertaken by Bangladesh in facing the Rohingya humanitarian crisis.
 90. Guyana congratulated Bangladesh for the distinction of having women in the roles of Prime Minister, Speaker, leader and deputy leader of the opposition.
 91. Haiti congratulated Bangladesh for its continued efforts to protect the rights of large numbers of refugees fleeing discrimination and violence in the region.
 92. Holy See acknowledged efforts to promote and protect human rights, particularly of Rohingya refugees, and progress made in poverty reduction and interfaith dialogue.
 93. Honduras expressed appreciation for accepting its previous cycle recommendations and reiterated its support for the efforts of the Bangladeshi government.
 94. Iceland paid tribute to the hospitality and compassion of the Government in providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community.
 95. India commended the progress achieved in relation to development, poverty reduction and food security, and praised measures for improving gender equality in education, health and employment.
 96. Indonesia commended strengthening institutional and legal measures to protect women from violence. Welcomed the adoption of the Ombudsman Act and addressing trafficking.
 97. Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the unexpected influx of the Rohingya refugees hindered the progress made to protect human rights, which requires attention from the international community.
 98. Saudi Arabia commended human rights education efforts, including the training provided by NHRC to the law enforcement agencies and incorporating human rights in the police academy curriculum.
 99. Ireland commended Bangladesh protection of Rohingya refugees and cooperation with the SR on Myanmar, while concerned over legislation restricting freedom of expression.
 100. Italy welcomed Bangladesh's commitment to the UPR process and particularly efforts made to protect children's rights and extending compulsory primary education.
 101. Japan welcomed adopting the Judicial Service Discipline Rules, efforts to promote capacity-building for judges and legal officials, appreciated the decision to accommodate large number of refugees, and the continued dialogue with Myanmar.
 102. Jordan commended Bangladesh's support to the national institutions to promote human rights and, and commended the legislative and administrative measures taken in this regard.
 103. Kuwait welcomed the efforts since the last UPR, mainly the cooperation with special procedures, enhancing the NHRC, strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission and adopting human rights laws.
 104. The head of delegation stated that Bangladesh is now studying two drafts of the anti-discrimination Act and it will soon come up with an Act.
 105. To make access to justice freer, Bangladesh is addressing capacity issues in the judiciary, including encouraging ADR.
 106. He stated that there is no child labour in the readymade garments sector and that Bangladesh is committed to eliminate child labour in all its forms by 2025 as enshrined in the SDG 8.7. Earlier Bangladesh reduced the threshold for setting up trade unions from 30% to 20 Law is amended to allow trade unions in EPZs. Bangladesh also acceded to the Convention 87, the Convention 98.

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107. Lao People's Democratic Republic commended measures taken to implement human rights treaties at the national level including the adoption of laws relating to torture, persons with disabilities and children.
108. Russian Federation welcomed steps to adopt laws on national food security, on children and persons with disabilities and effective steps to combat corruption.
109. Pakistan noted with appreciation the adoption of laws aimed at preventing domestic violence and child marriage restraint Act, and Bangladesh's efforts to eradicate poverty.
110. Libya appreciated efforts in the implementation of UPR recommendations and treaty obligations, including adopting laws on persons with disabilities, preventing torture and children.
111. Madagascar expressed satisfaction with the "zero tolerance" policy towards all forms of violence against religious minorities and adopting social security strategy.
112. Malaysia commended steps taken to strengthen national institutions to promote democracy, good governance and rule of law, and its compassionate response to the Rohingya crisis. It asked on steps taken to reduce pre-trial detentions.
113. Maldives commended Bangladesh for the legislative measures protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, restraining child marriage and on Biodiversity.
114. Mexico recognized the progress made since the previous cycle, particularly the efforts to house more than one million Rohingya refugees.
115. Montenegro welcomed progress in combating discrimination, remained concerned about discrimination against women and children in marginalised situations, urged revealing discriminatory laws and policies.
116. Morocco commended the efforts made for the Rohingyas, strengthening institutional mechanisms and combatting terrorism.
117. Namibia commended Bangladesh for taking administrative and legal measures to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission, establishing an Ombudsman's office and child right's commission.
118. Nepal appreciated efforts aimed at strengthening the national human rights institutions, promoting gender equality hosting a large number of refugees on humanitarian grounds.
119. Netherlands welcomed steps to reform legal restrictions on freedom of expression, related to religious groups and minorities. Regretted government's reluctance to denounce attacks against human rights defenders and restrictive legislation.
120. New Zealand commended Bangladesh's response to the Rohingya crisis and efforts made to promote workplace safety, remained concerned of the use of death penalty and reprisals.
121. Nigeria commended Bangladesh for cooperating with human rights mechanisms, adoption of laws on the rights of persons with disabilities, children, combating torture, terrorism and trafficking.
122. Norway noted Bangladesh's remarkable social and economic progress, including poverty reduction and girls' education.
123. Oman applauded Bangladesh commitment to rule of law, equality and justice and for hosting about one million Rohingya refugees adding to its national development challenges.
124. Lebanon praised Bangladesh's management of the sudden influx of large numbers of refugees despite its limited resources, and commended its efforts to meet its international obligations particularly in human rights education.
125. Peru recognized the generous welcome of the government to the Rohingya refugees and encouraged it to continue providing the necessary support to this population.
126. Philippines commended the enactment of the Overseas Employment and Migrant Act and efforts in poverty eradication and in addressing the adverse impact of climate change.

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127. Poland acknowledged efforts to improve human rights situation of Rohingya refugees, to combat discrimination and corruption, to strengthen access to justice and to protect vulnerable groups.
128. Portugal welcomed positive steps taken since the last UPR, such as the adoption of a national strategy on Myanmar refugees and undocumented Myanmar nationals.
129. Qatar noted Bangladesh's efforts to promote human rights including economic, social and cultural rights, consolidating democracy and the independence of the judiciary.
130. Republic of Korea applauded Bangladesh's commitment to accepting Myanmar refugees and cooperating with the UN to protect their rights, noting adoption of the Domestic Violence Act.
131. Latvia noted positive measures taken by Bangladesh and encouraged making further efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations.
132. Iraq appreciated efforts to implement previous UPR recommendations and to implement human rights treaty obligations at the national level through legislative and policy measures.
133. Senegal hailed measures to help vulnerable groups, to submit reports to the Treaty Bodies and to host displaced Rohingya despite resource challenges.
134. Serbia welcomed measures to strengthen the independence of NHRC, improve court capacity. It encouraged enforcing national legislation on child labour and invest in access to justice.
135. Singapore commended prioritizing protection of women, and adopting the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and children, confident of successful efforts to transform Bangladesh into middle-income country by 2021.
136. Slovakia appreciated efforts to train journalists, expressing concern about cases of murder of journalists. It noted that disadvantaged children have limited educational opportunities.
137. Slovenia welcomed the work in ensuring children's rights, particularly efforts to eradicate child marriage, and expressed concern about the situation of the LGBTI.
138. South Africa commended the Perspective Plan 2010-2021, the implementation of five-year plans and strengthening institutional mechanisms.
139. Spain noted efforts to promote and protect human rights, especially minorities, combating torture, improving job security and invited them to approve the National Plan on Persons with Disabilities.
140. Tajikistan noted positively the enactment of numerous laws on children, disabilities and combating torture, which related to human rights promotion and protection.
141. Ecuador commended efforts made to cope with the influx of refugee and progress made on the right of children and persons with disability and combatting corruption.
142. Bangladesh ratified OP- CEDAW and OP-ICRPD. Before entering into Optional Protocol related to complaint mechanism, Bangladesh would like to strengthen and make existing national institutions strong and effective
143. On Youth and Employment, 1.4 million new jobs have been created since 2015. The Employment Generation Programme for the poorest provides secure and regular source of income to over 700.000 people more than 30% of them being women.
144. Bangladesh is a multiparty democracy and political parties enjoy freedom of assembly and peaceful protest. Unfortunately, since 2014, BNP continues to boycott or disrupt election processes in ways condemned by many. The Government is committed to ensure peoples' right to vote at any cost. Elections will be held on time as per Constitutional provisions under the independent Election Commission.
145. The Supreme Court has issued a directive to stop all forms of corporal punishment against children at educational institutions and the Government issued a circular accordingly.

The head of delegation stressed upon the fact that while considering the human rights situation of a country, we must not lose sight of its specific social, political, cultural, economic and demographic situation. Therefore, efforts need to be aligned with the people's views, opinion and values of the people, specifically, issues like death penalty or same-sex relations.

146. The head of delegation concluded by thanking all delegations, Troika members, the NHRC and other stakeholders.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

147. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below enjoy the support of Bangladesh:

147.1 Continue constructive cooperation with the UN HR mechanisms (Tajikistan);

147.2 Continue its cooperation with United Nations and its mechanisms to protect and promote human rights (Kuwait);

147.3 Continue to strengthen national mechanisms that strengthen the human rights situation (Sudan);

147.4 Incorporates provisions of international human rights instruments to which it is a party into its domestic legislation (Zimbabwe);

147.5 Make further efforts to strengthen existing national legislations to address discrepancies and to enact new legislation to implement international human rights instruments it is a party to (Bhutan);

147.6 Continue to bring its national legislation and policies fully in line with its international commitments (Barbados);

147.7 Bring legislation into conformity with the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by repealing restrictive provisions that limit the rights of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society organisations to freedom of expression and free speech (Latvia);

147.8 Promptly implement the recommendations accepted in the second cycle of the UPR on extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and against torture (France);

147.9 Establish a plan of action to ensure full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord (Australia);

147.10 Launch a road map with a clear time line for the speedy, proper and full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord (Denmark);

147.11 Continue efforts to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and ensure that the ethnic minorities fully enjoy their rights (Maldives);

147.12 Increase efforts to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord (New Zealand);

147.13 Continue to implement the national social security strategy, prioritizing the situation of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly (Belarus);

147.14 Provide a mechanism to follow up the full implementation of the Parental Maintenance Act of 2013 (United Arab Emirates);

147.15 Continue to strengthen human and financial resources of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) (Turkey);

147.16 Continues to implement measures aimed at strengthening the NHRC (Zimbabwe);

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- 147.17 Provide the NHRC with the resources to fully implement its mission (France);
- 147.18 Provide adequate financial and technical resources to the NHRC to enable it fulfil its mandate (Ghana);
- 147.19 Continue to strengthen the role of the NHRC (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 147.20 Provide further support to the NHRC to enable it to fulfil its mandate in the best manner and in line with the Paris Principles (Qatar);
- 147.21 Pursue the effective implementation of the Five-Year National Development Plan (Lebanon);
- 147.22 Ensure security forces abide by relevant national and international standards in countering criminal and extremist activity (Australia);
- 147.23 Ensure that police officers are adequately trained and instructed to investigate reports of harassment, attacks and death threats against journalists, media workers, human rights defenders and activists and ensure the protection of those under threat in accordance with international human rights law (Finland);
- 147.24 Focus on training the women of Bangladesh, in particular police women, to increase the percentage of female blue helmets (Haiti);
- 147.25 Further accelerate the process of adoption of the anti-discrimination legislation (Georgia);
- 147.26 Expedite the formulation of the Elimination of Discrimination Act (Thailand);
- 147.27 That the Anti-discrimination law be drafted to protect the rights of marginalized communities and that it is consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (South Africa)
- 147.28 Advance its policy of promoting a culture of peace, supporting collective measures against racism, xenophobia, hatred of Islam, and protecting the victims of these crimes (Oman);
- 147.29 Intensify efforts to ensure gender equality in the area of education (United Arab Emirates);
- 147.30 Establish a legislative framework to eliminate discrimination against marginalised and disadvantaged children (Madagascar);
- 147.31 Take specific measures aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination and stigma in healthcare settings, in particular against those persons who are in a more vulnerable position, including in the context of mental health and of HIV/AIDS (Portugal);
- 147.32 Continue to promote a culture of peace and support anti-racism measures (Sudan);
- 147.33 Continue the efforts to implement the 2030 agenda and promote economic and social sustainable development in order to lay solid foundations for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);
- 147.34 Implement sustainable development goals to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and achieve that goal through continuing efforts with development partners and the international community to accelerate the implementation of those goals (Egypt);
- 147.35 Continue efforts and development plans to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and to a developed country by 2041 (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 147.36 Continue to carry out inclusive public policies targeting vulnerable groups in order to achieve the sustainable development goals (Senegal);

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- 147.37 Continue its efforts in addressing the negative impacts of climate change (Viet Nam);
- 147.38 Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change (Gabon);
- 147.39 Continue efforts to combat terrorism and trafficking in persons (Syrian Arab Republic);
- 147.40 Continue efforts to combat terrorism, including addressing root causes, in full conformity with international norms (Saudi Arabia);
- 147.41 Continue efforts to combat violent extremism, notably through the studies of the root causes of this phenomenon (Morocco);
- 147.42 Sustain efforts in combating terrorism and drug trafficking (Nigeria);
- 147.43 Enhance the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights in accordance with the level of socio-economic development of the country in keeping with international human rights instruments (Tajikistan);
- 147.44 Redouble efforts and commitments in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);
- 147.45 Enact legislation clearly prohibiting corporal punishment (Zambia);
- 147.46 Formulate Rules of Procedures for the use of clause 22 of the 2017 Child Marriage Restraint Act to clarify existing gaps in order to prevent misuse of the provision allowing marriage for children below the legal age in “special circumstances” (Denmark);
- 147.47 Continue to strengthen its measures in preventing child marriages (Viet Nam);
- 147.48 Amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act to maintain the legal minimum age at 18 years (Republic of Korea);
- 147.49 Move towards the real and effective elimination of child marriage, restricting to the maximum the application of exceptions (Spain);
- 147.50 Step up measures to combat child prostitution and early marriage (Gabon);
- 147.51 Strengthen existing law and practice to guarantee effectively rights of the children, in particular by combating violence against children, child labour, forced marriages, and by improving access to education (Poland);
- 147.52 Establish a comprehensive national system for the protection of children to prevent and respond to violence against children, prohibit corporal punishment of children and implement awareness and education programs in this area (Uruguay);
- 147.53 Put an end to the practices of early marriages and the payment of dowries by implementing laws prohibiting such practices (Belgium);
- 147.54 Promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of extrajudicial execution or enforced disappearance and bring those responsible brought to justice. (Switzerland);
- 147.55 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);
- 147.56 Consider revising the Penal Code and Children Act in order to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings and raising the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 years under all circumstances (Namibia);
- 147.57 Continue the efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);
- 147.58 Continue efforts to eliminate human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);

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- 147.59 Continue paying attention to the issue of trafficking in human beings at the national and the international level (Belarus);
- 147.60 Take immediate steps to implement the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Rules under the 2012 Act, and the National Plan of Action 2015-2017 as a means of addressing the high levels of trafficking (Botswana);
- 147.61 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in humans, particularly the exploitation of children, by stepping up measures against traffickers (Djibouti);
- 147.62 Enhance cooperation at all levels to address trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls (Guyana);
- 147.63 Work with Civil Society to develop a roadmap to implement HRC resolution 16/18 on combating religious intolerance (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 147.64 Continue working on enhancing religious freedom and prevention of extremism and violent extremism (Holy See);
- 147.65 Take effective measures to ensure that press can work free from the oppression by instances of censorship, threats, physical assaults and killings (Slovakia);
- 147.66 Take prompt and effective measures to ensure that freedom of assembly and expression extends in practice - both online and offline - to all people, media, civil society and political parties, throughout the upcoming election campaign and beyond (Canada);
- 147.67 Protect freedom of expression in media, politics and religion, and work with civil society to address concerns regarding Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 147.68 Review all existing and proposed legislation relating to freedom of expression, both online and offline, to ensure that it fully complies with the relevant international standards (Ireland);
- 147.69 Take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and end all assaults on journalists and human rights defenders as well as ensure that the proposed Digital Security Act is in line with international standards (Estonia);
- 147.70 Guarantee freedom of expression in the Digital Security Act (France);
- 147.71 Ensure democratic space for all political actors, including the implementation of domestic laws, without restrictions on the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Switzerland);
- 147.72 Continue to invest in Information and Communications Technologies for its large youth population with a view to ensuring a better standard of living (India);
- 147.73 Safeguard freedoms of political expression and association, without reprisals, censorship, intimidation or restrictive legal action, and that Bangladesh safeguard the independence of media (New Zealand);
- 147.74 Continue efforts to protect freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief for all citizens and residents, and to support civil society participation (Poland);
- 147.75 Publicly commit to ensuring that journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders and civil society organizations are able to carry out their activities without fear of surveillance, intimidation, harassment, arrest, prosecution or retribution (Austria);
- 147.76 Guarantee the security of human rights defenders (France);

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- 147.77 **Protect human rights defenders and journalists from harassment by combatting impunity and ensuring the prompt and impartial investigation of all violations against human rights defenders (Netherlands);**
- 147.78 **Ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and civil society have a safe and enabling environment and can operate freely without fear of reprisals (Norway);**
- 147.79 **Ensure a free, fair and inclusive general election, with full participation of all parties, and increase efforts to strengthen democracy (Japan);**
- 147.80 **Ensure effective protection of the lives and security of human rights defenders and journalists against human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and extrajudicial killings (Republic of Korea);**
- 147.81 **Continue its efforts to combat the stigmatization of people living with HIV AIDS (Gabon);**
- 147.82 **Continue taking further steps for the strengthening of the judicial system (Tajikistan);**
- 147.83 **Ensure procedures of the International Crimes Tribunal meet fair trial standards in accordance with article 14 of the ICCPR (Greece);**
- 147.84 **Consider measures to accelerate trial process with a view to reduce pending cases and number of pre-trial detainees as well as safeguard their basic rights (Malaysia);**
- 147.85 **Continue efforts to improve and speed up the processing of cases in the courts (Benin);**
- 147.86 **Ensure that investigations into cases of killings, abduction attempts, physical attacks and threats against Human Rights Defenders are prompt, effective and impartial (Ireland);**
- 147.87 **Strengthen the National Legal Aid Services with the necessary financial, human and technical resources to enable effective representation of those in need (Guyana);**
- 147.88 **Continue its policy to improve the judicial system, the law enforcement bodies and to reduce levels of corruption and poverty (Russian Federation);**
- 147.89 **Investigate all cases of murder and violence against journalists and bloggers and bring the perpetrators to justice (Slovakia);**
- 147.90 **Strengthen measures of protecting the family in order to work for the best interest of the child (Egypt);**
- 147.91 **Use effective measures to eliminate and prevent violations of economic, social and cultural rights (Turkmenistan);**
- 147.92 **Continue to adopt positive measures to better protect the right to education, health, employment and other rights of its people (China);**
- 147.93 **Proceed with the development of the legislative structure by additional laws that aim at promoting and protecting human rights, especially in the field of education and health (Syrian Arab Republic);**
- 147.94 **Enact a law on the patients and health care service providers and mobilize the necessary means for its implementation (Algeria);**
- 147.95 **Continue efforts to improve health and education and combating discrimination (Libya);**
- 147.96 **Step up taken efforts to improve economic and social rights notably through the follow-up of the 2021 vision and the five year plan (2016-2021) (Morocco);**

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- 147.97 **Continue to guarantee the right to food for marginalized groups, and make efforts together with the international community on this (Cuba);**
- 147.98 **Continue consolidating the successful housing plans for all (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 147.99 **Ensure the implementation of the National Social Security Strategy focusing specifically on delivering social security to the most vulnerable groups (Bahrain);**
- 147.100 **Continue increasing the successful social programs, in the fight against poverty and social exclusion (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 147.101 **Continue efforts in order to reduce poverty among the most vulnerable populations (Algeria);**
- 147.102 **Continue in the program of combating poverty through supporting microfinance programmes (Sudan);**
- 147.103 **Establish appropriate programs to guaranty to Bangladeshis living in poverty access to economic growth in the country in a tangible and practical way (Haiti);**
- 147.104 **Step up efforts to implement poverty reduction measures (Philippines);**
- 147.105 **Step up its efforts to eliminate poverty and improve living standards (Qatar);**
- 147.106 **Continue to implement its strategies and plans and work to adopt a plan to ensure access of drinking water and sanitation services to poor neighbourhoods and rural areas (State of Palestine);**
- 147.107 **Continue promoting access to drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 147.108 **Promote greater access to safe and drinkable water and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Holy See);**
- 147.109 **Amend the Bangladesh Labor Act and Export Processing Zone Labor Act, in consultation with workers and employers, to ensure the provisions on freedom of association conform to international labor standards (United States of America);**
- 147.110 **Adopt further measures to guarantee workers' rights, also in line with the "Sustainability Compact" (Italy);**
- 147.111 **Continue efforts to strengthen labour inspection authorities to conduct assessments of the safety of the workplaces (Jordan);**
- 147.112 **Take the necessary steps to hold companies accountable for practices with a negative impact on workers' health, well-being and safety (Ecuador);**
- 147.113 **Improve the working conditions of women by monitoring and punishing lawbreakers from employers (State of Palestine);**
- 147.114 **Take effective measures to protect workers' rights, including by reducing the existing gender wage gap and improving working conditions (Botswana);**
- 147.115 **Continue to implement national measures to address the wage gap between the two sexes (State of Palestine);**
- 147.116 **Reduce the wage gap between the two sexes and ensuring women's access to the labour market (Iraq);**
- 147.117 **Continue efforts to significantly strengthen measures combatting unsafe and unhealthy working conditions in accordance with the International**

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and relevant ILO Conventions (New Zealand);

147.118 Strengthen existing follow-up mechanisms for the protection of women workers against all forms of exploitation, particularly those working in the informal sectors, and require businesses to respond to practices that are harmful to the health, well-being and safety of women workers (Côte d'Ivoire);

147.119 Strengthen efforts to protect female workers from exploitation (Guyana);

147.120 Strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms to protect female workers from all forms of exploitation, particularly those working in the informal sector (Ghana);

147.121 Strengthen the existing national monitoring mechanisms aimed at protection of women workers from all kinds of discrimination, in particular those working in informal sector (Serbia);

147.122 Make further effort to improve health infrastructures particularly in rural areas and intensify training programs for health professionals (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

147.123 Increase access to basic healthcare, particularly in rural areas, with the aim to reduce and prevent maternal, foetal and infant mortality (Holy See);

147.124 Continue promoting access to health services, facilitating greater access to mental health, maternal health and neonatal health care (Plurinational State of Bolivia);

147.125 Treat the Right to Education similarly as other rights in the Constitution (Guyana);

147.126 Strengthen national measures and international cooperation to achieve the goal of education for all (Belarus);

147.127 Continue measures to boarden the educational system, including the enshrining of the right to free and compulsory education. (Peru);

147.128 Continue to invest in quality education for creating a knowledge-based society to ensure equality, justice and peace (Turkey);

147.129 Extend the compulsory primary school and take efforts to increase the school participation rate of the marginalized groups (Slovakia);

147.130 Continue efforts to improve the quality of education in public schools, towards the realization of the right to development (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

147.131 Ensure a continued focus on girls' education through-out the country specially for poor and marginalized children and youth and ensure that they all complete their education (Afghanistan);

147.132 Invest in quality education, and make use of information and communication technology to create employment opportunities for its youth population (Azerbaijan);

147.133 Continue its efforts at increasing the number of children, particularly girls, enrolled in free and compulsory primary education, and hopes that free and compulsory education is extended to all secondary school aged children irrespective of gender or ethnicity (Barbados);

147.134 Continue its efforts to ensure full enrolment of children particularly girls in schools and to provide quality education (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

147.135 Intensify efforts to improve the education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly for women and girls (Djibouti);

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- 147.136 **Implement policies to increase the enrolment ratio of girls in primary and secondary schools to give them a good start in life (Singapore);**
- 147.137 **Further enhance its efforts to achieve higher enrolment ratios of girls in primary and secondary schools (Thailand);**
- 147.138 **Continue efforts to develop practical measures to implement the Informal Education Act of 2014 (Tunisia);**
- 147.139 **Take additional measures, in consultation with civil society, to strengthen progressive social reforms, in particular to empower women and girls, and to combat religious extremism (Haiti);**
- 147.140 **Continue assistance and promotion on women's empowerment in all sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 147.141 **Continue to prevent violence against women in accordance with the National Action Plan (2013-2025) with regular monitoring (Sri Lanka);**
- 147.142 **Combat violence against women and children and take action for their rights (France);**
- 147.143 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Tunisia);**
- 147.144 **Intensify its efforts towards combating violence against women (Georgia);**
- 147.145 **Strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms to protect women and children from all forms of violence and exploitation (Nepal);**
- 147.146 **Continue to tackle sexual violence against women to ensure protection of women's rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 147.147 **Take concrete measures to prevent and protect women from domestic violence, ensure effective access to legal recourse and hold perpetrators to account (Norway);**
- 147.148 **Ensure sufficient resources are allocated to fully implement all major components of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (Singapore);**
- 147.149 **Ensure the registration of children in order to protect them from abuses, exploitation, abandonment, and human rights violations (Holy See);**
- 147.150 **Take strong measures to eradicate child labor and violence and crimes against children (Chile);**
- 147.151 **Adopt legislation and comprehensive public policies to guarantee the human rights of persons in a situation of human mobility, with a gender, intergenerational and intercultural focus (Ecuador);**
- 147.152 **Continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that public places are friendly to persons with disability (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 147.153 **Facilitate the access to education, health care and public service for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**
- 147.154 **Consider the possibility of developing a national plan or national framework for protecting the rights of persons with special needs (Lebanon);**
- 147.155 **Continue implementing the legal, policy and administrative measures to protect the rights of ethnic minorities (South Africa);**
- 147.156 **Ensure the effective investigation and sanctioning of all cases of violence against religious minorities (Austria);**
- 147.157 **Guarantee the protection and rights of persons belonging to minorities (France);**

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- 147.158 Continue its pro-active role in dealing with international migrations (Indonesia);
- 147.159 Enhance inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers (Nepal);
- 147.160 Strengthen measures to protect migrant workers. (Peru);
- 147.161 Continue efforts to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the recruitment system of migrant workers from Bangladesh (Philippines);
- 147.162 Work closely with bilateral and regional partners in lowering the cost of migration for migrant workers from Bangladesh (Philippines);
- 147.163 Improve the conditions of migrant workers in accordance with international conventions and treaties (Iraq);
- 147.164 Continue efforts to host the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals until they voluntarily return to their homeland in safety, security and dignity (Yemen);
- 147.165 Continue to pursue strong efforts bilaterally as well as internationally and with help and assistance from the international community, to the sustainable resolution of the Rohingya crisis (Azerbaijan);
- 147.166 Continue to work with international partners and Myanmar to find a sustainable solution that enables those displaced to return home voluntarily, safely and with dignity (New Zealand);
- 147.167 Continue to hold constructive dialogue with Myanmar and make efforts to implement the bilateral agreement, aiming at steady and rapid repatriation of refugees (Japan).

148. The following recommendations will be examined by Bangladesh, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:

- 148.1 Ratify the main international human rights instruments (Zambia);
- 148.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishing a communications procedure (Madagascar);
- 148.3 Enforce constitutional provisions safeguarding freedom of expression, including by amending section 57 of the Information and Communication Act and relevant provisions of the draft Digital Security Act (Australia);
- 148.4 Ensure legal and constitutional protection of indigenous and religious minorities, and facilitate the reporting of violations of their rights (Estonia);
- 148.5 Fully comply with the Paris Principles and increase the institutional capacity and financial and human resources of the NHRC (Chile);
- 148.6 Continue its efforts in strengthening the capacity of its NHRI, namely the NHRC of Bangladesh and the newly established Ombudsman (Indonesia);
- 148.7 Amend the Marriage Act and maintaining a minimum legal age of marriage at 18 without exceptions (Zambia);
- 148.8 Eliminate child, early and forced marriage, including by reforming the Child Marriage Restraint Act to remove the exception for child marriage in “special cases,” as this term is open to abuse (Canada);
- 148.9 Eliminate early marriages and ensure education on sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescents (Estonia);
- 148.10 Step up the efforts to prevent child early and forced marriages, particularly in rural areas and slums, and to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act by introducing a minimum legal age of marriage at 18 without any exceptions (Slovenia);

148.11 Take action against child early and forced marriages with or between children by reformulating the Child Marriage restraint Act of 2017 to clarify the gaps in the legislation and to prevent misuse of the “special circumstances” clause (Sweden);

148.12 Enhance efforts to prevent cases of torture and enforced disappearances and to prosecute perpetrators (Italy);

148.13 Review and amend the laws that restrict freedom of expression, such as section 57 of the 2006 Information and Communication Technology Act. (Mexico);

148.14 Review and redraft the proposed Digital Security Act to ensure online freedom of expression (Norway);

148.15 Redraft the Digital Security Act in line with international norms and standards for freedom of expression (Sweden);

148.16 Thoroughly investigate extra-judicial killings, abductions and forced disappearances taking place within law enforcement agencies while also ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Sweden);

148.17 Investigate all allegations of human rights violations by the police and security forces and take legal steps so that those responsible for enforced disappearances, custodial torture and extrajudicial killings are held accountable (Norway);

148.18 Increase labour inspections and take action against individuals and organizations that subject migrant workers to forced labour and human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

148.19 Continue increasing efforts to combat all types of violence against women and girls, and eradicate discriminatory practices and measures against them, guaranteeing the full exercise of their rights, including those related to sexual and reproductive health (Uruguay);

148.20 Combat gender stereotypes and protect women from all forms of abuse and harm, including gender-based violence, marital rape, and addressing the persistent gender wage gap, among others (Namibia);

148.21 Raise the minimum age for criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders in line with recommendations by the CRC (Austria);

148.22 Continue improving Rohingya refugees’ conditions and investigating allegations of abuses and human rights violations against them in accordance with international standards (Holy See);

148.23 Step up efforts to guarantee the rights of refugees, with full respect to the principle of *non-refoulement*. (Mexico);

148.24 Strengthen those measures that had been taken to ensure that all children and young persons among the refugees have effective access to the right to education, as well as guarantee the registration of all refugee children born in Bangladesh regardless of race, religion, national origin or citizenship of their parents, particularly those children of Bangladeshi and Rohingya couples (Argentina).

149. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below did not enjoy the support of Bangladesh and would thus be noted:

149.1 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);

149.2 Accede to the first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);

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- 149.3 Consider ratifying the **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, aimed at abolishing the death penalty (Uruguay);
- 149.4 Ratify the **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro); (Iceland); (Togo); (Spain);
- 149.5 Ratify the **International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance** (Japan); (Bosnia and Herzegovina); (Iraq); (Senegal); (Togo); (Ukraine); / Consider ratifying the **International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance** (Peru);
- 149.6 Ratify the **International Convention for the Protection of all people against Enforced Disappearances** without reservations before the next UPR review (Greece);
- 149.7 Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)** (Bosnia and Herzegovina); (Ukraine);
- 149.8 Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)** (Denmark);
- 149.9 Ratify the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (Poland);
- 149.10 Consider ratifying the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)** at the earliest convenience (Ghana);
- 149.11 Take steps to accede to the **Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)** (Sri Lanka);
- 149.12 Ratify the **1973 Convention 138, and Conventions 169 and 189** on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and the members of their families of the ILO (Madagascar);
- 149.13 Ratify **ILO Conventions 138 and 139** on the elimination of child labour (Spain);
- 149.14 Accede to the **Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Protocol on the Status of Refugees** in order to better assist and protect these persons in distress (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 149.15 Consider becoming a party to **1951 Refugee Convention** (Georgia);
- 149.16 Become a party to the **1951 Convention on Refugees** (New Zealand);
- 149.17 Ratify the **1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees** and ensure the short and long-term conditions for the dignified, safe and voluntary return of displaced persons to their place of origin (Switzerland);
- 149.18 Remove the reservations to **article 2 and article 16.1 (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** (Latvia);
- 149.19 Issue and implement a standing invitation to all **Special Procedures** (Czechia);
- 149.20 Respond positively to pending visit requests by the special procedures mandate-holders of the **Human Rights Council** and consider the extension of a standing invitation to all mandate-holders (Latvia);

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- 149.21 Enhance its fight against impunity and torture including through ratifying the OP-CAT and establishing a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czech Republic);
- 149.22 Providing human, technical and financial resources to the National Human Rights Commission, so it can fulfil its mandate and grant it a new mandate to investigate human rights violations (Honduras);
- 149.23 Expand the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission to investigate all human rights violations including those involving State security actors and to provide it adequate resources, in order to fulfil its mandate (Namibia);
- 149.24 Adopt without delay, a new non-discrimination legislation with view of promoting gender equality and that it, without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion or any other status, criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape irrespective of the age of the victim, domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse and harassment, ensuring also security and justice to the victims (Finland);
- 149.25 Take measures to fight violence against LGBTI persons (Brazil);
- 149.26 Take effective steps to include LGBTI persons in human rights legislation recognizing the many dangers and challenges faced by the community, including the *hijra* (Canada);
- 149.27 Establish effective protection against discrimination, harassment and violence against sexual minorities (Norway);
- 149.28 Acknowledge the existence of sexual and gender minorities in the country, and furthermore abolish the section 377 of the Criminal Code and thus decriminalize consensual sexual acts between same-sex couples (Slovenia);
- 149.29 Repeal section 377 of the criminal code and include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected category in the new anti-discrimination law (Chile);
- 149.30 Protect and promote the rights of LGBTI persons through a broad legal framework, that includes the revision of laws that may be discriminatory, such as section 377 of the Penal Code (Mexico);
- 149.31 Take the necessary measures to repeal from its legislation the criminalization of consensual sexual acts between people of the same sex (Argentina);
- 149.32 Decriminalise in the criminal code relations between same-sex adults (Honduras);
- 149.33 Ensure that threats and violence against human rights defenders, and in particular women defenders and LGBTI defenders, because of their work or perceived or actual gender identity, are effectively prosecuted and do not go unpunished (Belgium);
- 149.34 Review the special provision of the Child Marriage Restrain Act 2017 and implement legislation that effectively criminalizes all forms of gender based violence (Germany);
- 149.35 Criminalize marital rape in all circumstances, and provide for the protection and psychological, mental and physical rehabilitation of victims (Portugal);
- 149.36 Abolition of the death penalty (Benin); (Portugal); (Czechia);
- 149.37 Adopt the legislation abolishing the death penalty and establish a moratorium on all pending executions (Slovakia);
- 149.38 Reduce the number of crimes to which the death penalty applies as a step towards eventual abolition of the death penalty (Australia);

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- 149.39 Enact a moratorium of the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it (Holy See);
- 149.40 Introduce a moratorium as a first step towards final abolition of the death penalty (Austria);
- 149.41 Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);
- 149.42 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards complete abolition of this practice (Italy); / Take steps towards the full abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand); / Consider the imposition of a moratorium on death penalty (Poland);
- 149.43 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Chile);
- 149.44 Continue the process of edging out the death penalty with the view to totally abolishing it (Namibia);
- 149.45 Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with International standards, and take steps to create an independent broadcast licensing authority (Estonia);
- 149.46 Revise media laws, in consultation with civil society, to decriminalize “defamation” and “hurting religious sentiment,” and limit proposed extended jail terms for these offences (United States of America);
- 149.47 Expand its democratic space on-line and off-line in which opposition politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society members can operate freely and without fear for their lives and to this end revise Section 57 of Information and Communication Technology Act and amend the Foreign Donation Regulations Act (Czechia);
- 149.48 Ensure that human rights activists and journalists can exercise their rights without fear, intimidation and harassment by redrafting the planned Digital Security Act, and repealing or amending all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including the provisions of the Penal Code related to defamation and sedition, the Information Communication Technology Act (in particular Section 57), and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, in line with international human rights law (Germany);
- 149.49 Repeal the Information and Communication Technology Act (2006), as amended in 2013, or modify the ICT Act to bring it in line with international law and standards (Greece);
- 149.50 Repeal all laws and policies that restrict the activities and rights of its citizens and civil society organisations, including the Information Communication Technology Act of 2006 and the Foreign Donations Regulation Act of 2016 (Netherlands);
- 149.51 Ensure that all refugee and stateless women and girls have effective access to justice without being threatened with arrest, by amending the 1946 Foreigners Act (Iceland);
- 149.52 Strengthen measures to prevent, investigate, and hold security forces accountable for human rights violations and abuses, including providing an update on investigations into the alleged disappearances of Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem and Amaan Azmi (United States of America);
- 149.53 End impunity by conducting thorough investigations and criminal prosecutions of human rights violations and abuses against human rights defenders, journalists, bloggers and LGBTI (Germany);
- 149.54 Adopting legislative and political measures to ensure that women and young people have access to sex education and free use of friendly reproductive

health services, particularly in rural areas and for persons on low incomes (Honduras);

149.55 Take further steps to fight all forms of violence and discrimination, in particular against women, children and LGBTI persons (Italy);

149.56 Adopt legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape (Iceland);

149.57 Comprehensively review the legislation in order to recognise gender equality and the protection of indigenous people and ethnic minorities (Honduras);

149.58 Strengthen policies and measures to protect indigenous peoples (Islamic Republic of Iran);

149.59 Step up efforts in order for indigenous peoples, especially the *jumma* as well as the *dalit* fully enjoy their human rights. (Peru);

149.60 Ensure access to justice to refugees and stateless individuals, in particular women and girls, including those belonging to ethnic minorities (Brazil).

150. 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.

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bangladesh was headed by Hon'ble Law Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, H.E. Mr. Anisul Huq, MP and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP. Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Mohammad Shahidul Haque, Senior Secretary, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador & Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Dr. Md. Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Mr. Khondaker Mostan Hossain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs;
- Ms. Nasreen Afroz, Director General (Joint Secretary), Prime Minister's Office;
- Mr. Md. Mizan-Ul-Alam, Joint Secretary (Press), Ministry of Information;
- Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, ndc, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs;
- Mr. Mostofa Faruque, Director General, Bangladesh Election Commission;
- Ms. Sadia Faizunnesa, Director General (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Fakhru Ahsan, Armed Forces Division;
- Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim, Additional Deputy Inspector General, Special Crime Management, Police HQ, Bangladesh Police;
- Representative; Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Representative, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education;
- Mr. Toufiq Islam Shatil, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Farzana Mamtaz, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare;
- Mr. Md. Waliur Rahman, Director (State Minister's Office) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Emdadul Islam Chowdhury, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Mosammat Shahanara Monica, Director (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Masum, Private Secretary to Law Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Robiul Islam, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Tahleel Dilawar Moon, Senior Assistant Secretary (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

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- Mr. Md. Abdul Wadud Akanda, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
 - Advocate Rana Das Gupta, General Secretary, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad;
 - Advocate Kawser Ahmed, Consultant;
 - Barrister Shah Ali Farhad, Senior Analyst, Centre for Research and Information;
 - Mr. Md. Showeb Abdullah, Assistant Secretary (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
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