



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
6 February 2019

Original: English/French

UNEDITED VERSION

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Thirty-second session
Geneva, 21 January-1 February 2019

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

Comoros

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

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-second session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. The review of the Comoros was held at the 9th meeting, on 25 January 2019. The delegation of the Comoros was headed by S.E. M. Mohamed Housseini Djamalilaili, Minister of Justice and Human Rights. At its 14th meeting, held on 29 January 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on the Comoros.
2. On 15 January 2019, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Spain, Tunisia 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 the Comoros:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/COM/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.6/32/COM/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/32/COM/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Angola, Liechtenstein, Portugal and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to the Comoros 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. La délégation a souligné que le gouvernement avait déployé des efforts consentis pour faire des droits de l'homme une cause nationale. Ainsi, la réforme constitutionnelle adoptée lors d'un référendum avait témoigné l'engagement des Comores en faveur des droits de l'homme. En effet, la Constitution révisée leur avait consacré tout un titre. Par ailleurs, elle prévoyant la responsabilité des organismes publics en cas de violation d'un droit commise par des agents publics dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Cette réforme avait eu pour but de renforcer la stabilité politique, nécessaire pour la mise en œuvre des projets socioéconomiques et l'organisation de votes pour accéder aux postes électifs. Cela avait créé un certain climat de tension politique, qui n'a été que le signe d'une démocratie vivante.
6. Le gouvernement serait à la hauteur de sa tâche, à savoir, de garantir l'ordre et la sécurité politique pour un exercice effectif des droits de l'homme.
7. Par ailleurs, presque tous les Ministères, l'Assemblée de l'Union et les organisations de la société civile s'étaient engagés dans les consultations, ayant abouti à l'élaboration du rapport pour l'EPU.
8. En outre, le gouvernement avait pris des mesures législatives en matière environnementale, par la ratification de l'Accord de Paris sur le climat, la Convention de Minamata et la Convention sur le statut de l'Agence Internationale pour les Energies renouvelables (IRENA). D'autre part, plusieurs lois environnementales avaient été adoptées pour protéger les espèces végétales et interdire la production, la commercialisation et la distribution d'emballages et des sachets en plastique.
9. Sur le plan institutionnel, le mandat de la Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme ainsi que la composition du Comité de Suivi de l'EPU avaient été renouvelés. Par ailleurs, le gouvernement était en train d'identifier des mesures adéquates pour lutter contre la corruption.

10. Concernant la peine de mort, depuis l'indépendance des Comores, trois condamnations à mort avaient été prononcées. Toutefois, les Comores se sont engagées à l'abolir. A cet égard, le projet de Code Pénal avait été présenté au sein de l'Assemblée de l'Union, qui ne l'a pas soutenu. Le gouvernement avait continué à sensibiliser les députés sur cette question.

11. Concernant les conditions de détention, les Comores avaient envisagé des mesures telles que la réalisation d'études pour la réhabilitation de la maison d'arrêt de Moroni, la formation des magistrats en droit humanitaire, une loi pour réinsérer les détenus et mettre en place un corps d'agents pénitentiaires et une loi pour séparer les enfants et les femmes. En outre, les Comores avaient signé une convention avec le Comité International de la Croix Rouge, afin de lui garantir le libre accès aux lieux de détention. Cependant, les conditions de détention restaient préoccupantes, faute de moyens adéquats.

12. Sur le plan judiciaire, le gouvernement avait élaboré un projet de loi sur l'assistance judiciaire, qui était en cours d'examen à l'Assemblée de l'Union, ainsi qu'un projet de loi pour établir un médiateur national. Parallèlement, la loi relative au Conseil Supérieur de la magistrature et la loi portant sur le statut des magistrats avaient été promulguées. Cependant, étant donné que le fonctionnement de l'appareil judiciaire avait connu des difficultés importantes, le gouvernement avait examiné des initiatives pour améliorer l'infrastructure et la formation du personnel, grâce au concours de l'Union européenne.

13. Egalement, les Comores avaient ratifié les principaux instruments relatifs aux droits de l'homme, telle que la Convention sur la protection des droits de tous les travailleurs migrants et des membres de leur famille.

14. Quant à l'accès à l'emploi et sécurité sociale, les Comores avaient établi la Politique Nationale de la Jeunesse, qui mettait l'accent sur l'éducation et le développement des compétences, la santé et le bien-être, ainsi que sur l'autonomisation de la jeunesse. En outre, le processus concernant le renforcement de l'Agence Nationale pour la promotion des investissements avait été presque finalisé. Par ailleurs, le gouvernement avait fixé l'objectif de baisser le taux de chômage à moins de 10% à court terme par le biais de formations plus adaptées pour les jeunes. Par surcroît, la loi portant sur la protection de l'emploi national non qualifié avait été présentée à l'Assemblée.

15. En 2014, les Comores avaient élaboré une politique nationale de protection sociale et un plan d'action, et pour lutter contre la pauvreté, le gouvernement avait mis au point une politique nationale de protection inclusive et durable. C'est ainsi que l'indice de la pauvreté avait connu une réduction, passant de 44,8% en 2004 à 34,2% en 2014.

16. Concernant l'accès à l'eau potable et l'alimentation, les Comores s'étaient attachées aux projets d'adduction d'eau pour bénéficier les zones rurales. En outre, le Cadre de Programmation avait été adopté, visant à intensifier, diversifier et commercialiser les productions issues de l'agriculture et l'élevage, pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Ce programme avait également inclus des dispositions sur la gestion des sols.

17. Par ailleurs, les Comores avaient adopté la loi sur le Code de l'Urbanisme et de l'Habitat. Quant à l'accès à l'énergie, un progrès significatif avait été enregistré, avec la mise en œuvre des stratégies nationales de développement, qui prévoyaient un accès à l'énergie pour l'ensemble de la population. Le gouvernement a souligné que la fourniture d'énergie était demeurée régulière et que les Comores s'étaient attachées à promouvoir les énergies renouvelables.

18. Concernant le droit à la santé, des actions concrètes avaient été entreprises, telles que l'adoption de la loi sur la Couverture sanitaire universelle, la réalisation de la Politique Nationale de la Santé et de deux études, sur l'assurance maladie généralisée et sur la révision de la Carte sanitaire. De plus, le gouvernement s'était engagé dans un grand projet, celui de la construction de centres médicaux, en particulier le Centre de Protection Maternelle et Infantile et d'un centre hospitalier Universitaire à Moroni. Suite à ces efforts, les Comores avaient réussi à réduire la mortalité infantile.

19. Quant au droit à l'éducation, les Comores avaient attaché une grande importance à la politique de généralisation de l'enseignement et la suppression progressive de l'analphabétisme. C'est ainsi que l'accès à l'école primaire était garanti pour tous, et le taux

de scolarisation pour le niveau de l'école primaire et préscolaire avaient atteint 100% et 19% respectivement. Par ailleurs, l'analphabétisme avait reculé chez les jeunes entre 15 et 25 ans. Egalement, avec le soutien d'ONG locales, le gouvernement avait mis en fonctionnement des programmes pour aider les enfants déscolarisés à s'insérer au circuit scolaire.

20. Concernant la promotion des droits de femmes, les Comores avaient obtenu des résultats non négligeables. En effet, la Constitution reconnaissait le droit des femmes d'avoir accès aux instances politiques et de représentation locale et nationale, ainsi qu'une répartition équitable entre les femmes et les hommes pour les fonctions publiques. De plus, le Commissariat au Genre avait organisé des campagnes de sensibilisation pour l'accession des femmes aux postes de décision et avait soutenu des projets initiés par des femmes dans le domaine de l'agriculture. Egalement, les plateformes en faveur des femmes, telles que les Femmes en politique ou les Femmes et développement durable, avaient été établies. Par ailleurs, une stratégie nationale de lutte contre les violences faites aux femmes et aux mineurs, avec sa feuille de route, avait été adoptée, et une politique nationale de l'égalité et de l'équité de genre, ainsi que la loi sur la violence contre les femmes et les mineurs, avaient été approuvées. En outre, en 2017, deux numéros verts avaient été mis en service pour dénoncer les cas de violence contre les femmes. Cependant, faute de ressources adéquats, les Comores n'avaient pas pu mettre d'abris permanents à la disposition des victimes. En revanche, une ONG locale avait mis en service un centre d'accueil en 2017.

21. Concernant la lutte contre la traite des personnes, un Groupe de Suivi avait été établi et les Comores avaient ratifié Protocole de Palerme. Pour le reste, l'Assemblée de l'Union avait examiné une question liée à la ratification de la Convention des Nations Unies contre la criminalité transnationale organisée, visant à prévenir, réprimer et punir la traite des personnes, en particulier celle des femmes et des enfants.

22. Sur les droits des enfants, le gouvernement avait réalisé une étude sur l'évolution du système de protection de l'enfant et avait défini la politique et le plan d'action à cet égard.

23. Afin de protéger les droits des personnes handicapées, les Comores avaient ratifié le Protocole facultatif se rapportant sur la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées et promulgué la loi portant sur la promotion et protection des droits de ce groupe de la population.

24. La délégation a aussi indiqué que la position des Comores n'a pas évolué concernant les recommandations qui avaient été notées au cours de la précédente l'EPU. Les Comores garantissaient la liberté de croyance et de conscience pour toutes les communautés religieuses, et pour ce qui est de la question de l'orientation sexuelle, elle était considérée comme un sujet qui se rapportait à la sphère privée.

25. Concernant les nouveaux enjeux, des formations avaient été organisées pour sensibiliser des fonctionnaires, surtout les membres de la police ou l'armée, au sujet du respect des droits de l'homme. Le gouvernement avait aussi établi le Conseil National de la Presse et de l'Audiovisuel en tant que régulateur du domaine.

26. La Délégation a aussi souligné les difficultés des Comores pour faire face aux manques de capacités humaines et financières, dans ses efforts pour mieux assurer la protection des droits de l'homme. À cet effet, la Délégation a affirmé que le soutien de la communauté internationale serait indispensable. En particulier, les Comores avaient besoin de l'assistance pour l'élaboration d'outils pédagogiques dans le domaine des droits de l'homme, la formation des enseignants aux droits de l'homme et des magistrats et des avocats sur l'application des normes internationales, la mise en place du système de suivi des traités, ainsi que l'appui à l'institution judiciaire et au Commissariat de Genre.

27. Les Comores se sont aussi engagées à coopérer avec le Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme et avec les mécanismes des droits de l'homme y compris ceux du Conseil des droits de l'homme.

28. En fin, la délégation s'est engagée, au nom du Gouvernement à recevoir tous les titulaires de mandats des procédures spéciales du Conseil de droits de l'Homme et renouvelle l'acceptation de la mission aux Comores du Rapporteur Spécial contre la Torture et autres traitements cruels, inhumains et dégradants, aux dates de sa convenance en relation avec la disponibilité des autorités comoriennes.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

29. During the interactive dialogue, 74 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.
30. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the Law to combat violence against women and the Law to protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities. It also welcomed that economic and social rights were incorporated in the new constitution.
31. Botswana welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the adoption of the National Youth Police, Title II of the revised constitution, and Comoros' accession to the Convention against Torture in 2017.
32. Brazil commended achievements regarding women rights and encouraged further efforts to reduce the gender gap in access to school in rural areas. It congratulated the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related laws and policies adopted.
33. Cabo Verde applauded the new Constitution and actions to improve access to education, health services, and water and energy supply. It raised concerns at the lack of an institutional system to coordinate the reporting and implementation of recommendations.
34. Canada welcomed the constitutional safeguards on equality before the law and measures to strengthen women participation in political life. It regretted the violence associated to the July referendum and the abolition of the Constitutional Court. It urged to protect rule of law and human rights.
35. Central African Republic noted the participatory process in the elaboration of the national report and encouraged the country to follow up on the avenues offered by the report.
36. Chile acknowledged human rights efforts deployed by Comoros to promote and protect human rights, including the establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms, the inclusion of human rights in the new 2018 amended Constitution and the internal process to draft the national report.
37. China welcomed the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development 2015–2019 and efforts by Comoros to alleviate poverty and protect the rights of women, children and people with disabilities. It called on the international community to provide constructive assistance to Comoros.
38. Croatia noted the positive achievements in the education sector, including the Education Transition Plan 2017-2020. It regretted, however, that corporal punishment still existed in legislation and in practice.
39. Cuba noted the actions taken to implement the recommendations from the previous review, particularly the enactment and revision of various laws, and the attention given to environmental issues.
40. Denmark stated that OP-CAT established tools on how to prevent torture and ill-treatment and the dialogue with the SPT is valuable to prevent torture. Denmark also stated that OP-CEDAW is an important tool for the implementation of CEDAW.
41. Djibouti noted the measures to implement the recommendations from the previous review, including the ratification of CAT. It appreciated the efforts to strengthen the institutional framework, including through the revisions of the Constitution in 2018. It also noted the measures in favor of women.
42. Egypt noted that the national report listed huge efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, and the efforts related to administrating justice, combating impunity and ensuring the rights to work, social security, and an adequate standard of living, amongst others.
43. Ethiopia commended Comoros' efforts to implement recommendations, including the enactment of the 2018 Constitution. It noted the financial and capacity challenges faced by the Comoros in implementing human rights obligations and called on the international community to increase its support.

44. France, while taking note of some progress made by Comoros, such as the adoption of the Gender Parity Law and the appointment of members of the National Human Rights Commission, it noted the need to improve the human rights situation in Comoros.
45. Gabon noted the efforts made to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle and the measures to promote human rights despite the political context. It welcomed measures taken to improve the institutional framework and the revision to the Constitution following a referendum in 2018.
46. Georgia commended Comoros for the measures to implement the recommendations from the previous review, including the ratification of some international conventions and for efforts to strengthen its legal framework to protect women's rights and gender equality. It encouraged Comoros to continue its efforts to report on human rights conventions.
47. Germany commended the Comoros for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but remained concerned about the human rights situation and the permission for ICRC and the NHRC to access detention facilities.
48. Honduras congratulated Comoros on the progress since the previous review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It noted the law prohibiting child labour and trafficking in children.
49. Iceland commended Comoros for the adoption of legislation combating violence against women for prioritizing education, and for the increase in female public servants. Iceland was, however, concerned by limited participation of women in political life.
50. India noted the amendment of the Constitution in 2018 by referendum and other democratic institutional reforms. It also noted the adoption of its National Youth Policy in 2017, measures to address discrimination of persons with disabilities, and encouraged the implementation of the national strategy to combat violence against women and children.
51. Indonesia noted the amendments to the Constitution brought about changes to promote human rights. It welcomed the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development aimed at promoting social well-being.
52. Saudi Arabia commended the steps taken by Comoros in the field of education, including reintegration of children in the education system and the fight against illiteracy.
53. Ireland noted the accession to the Convention against Torture and the appointment of new members of the national human rights commission. It urged the Government to ensure that the Commission received the necessary budgetary resources and operational independence to discharge its mandate in compliance with the Paris Principles.
54. Italy appreciated the ratification by the Comoros of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
55. Jordan welcomed changes introduced in laws and the regulatory framework. It noted that a number of international conventions had been adopted and that plans and strategies had been implemented to improve the human rights situation in accordance with international standards.
56. Kenya noted that the Comoros had signed or ratified several international instruments, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as previously recommended by Kenya.
57. Kuwait noted significant and remarkable progress in the promotion of human rights and the development of the health, education, environment, energy and infrastructure sectors in order to give effect to the 2030 Agenda.
58. Latvia welcomed measures taken by Comoros to promote and protect human rights, including the visit to the Comoros of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries.
59. Libya welcomed measures taken by Comoros to implement the recommendations received during its 2nd UPR, including the adoption of the Act to combat violence against children and women. It encouraged Comoros to continue with its efforts.

60. Madagascar welcomed the ratification of the CAT, the adoption of law on universal health coverage, the law against violence against women and the law on the promotion and protection of Persons with Disabilities.
61. Malaysia took note of the existing challenges caused by lack of trained health-care personnel and health facilities. Malaysia was pleased with the increase in the enrolment rate for children, particularly for girls, and the decrease in illiteracy rate among young people.
62. The Maldives welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was encouraged by the law on universal health coverage and the adoption of the Social Protection Framework Act in 2017.
63. Mali welcomed the development of an Accelerated Growth Strategy for Sustainable Development. It noted with satisfaction the progress made in the right to health, including the adoption of a National Health Policy and the adoption of a Universal Health Coverage Act.
64. Mauritania praised the measures taken by Comoros to implement the accepted recommendations from the previous UPR review and welcomed the progresses made, in particular regarding a healthy and balanced environment.
65. La Délégation des Comores a signalé que les constitutions de 2001 et 2009 habilitaient le Président de l'Union des Comores à proposer des amendements constitutionnels à sa guise. Cependant, dans l'intention d'apporter des changements constitutionnels, le Président avait convoqué au cours de cette période, l'Assemblée de l'Union. Cependant, certains membres de l'Assemblée ont refusé de participer à la discussion. Ceux qui avaient pris part à ce processus ont accepté et approuvé les modifications constitutionnelles.
66. La Délégation a souligné que la Constitution modifiée de 2011 respectait toutes les droits de l'homme, y compris ceux des femmes et des enfants. Elle traitait aussi les questions relatives aux travaux du Conseil des droits de l'homme.
67. Le gouvernement s'employait activement à modifier sa législation nationale afin de la rendre conforme à la nouvelle Constitution et aux normes relatives aux droits de l'homme. Les Comores s'étaient aussi engagées à ratifier tous les instruments internationaux et des efforts avaient été déployés à cet égard.
68. En outre, le gouvernement avait pris des mesures pour la mise en œuvre du droit à l'éducation, les droits sociaux et par rapport à la violence faite aux femmes.
69. Concernant la Cour de sûreté de l'Etat, le gouvernement avait lancé des débats, afin de mettre cette juridiction en conformité avec les normes internationales ou de la supprimer.
70. Mauritius welcomed the inclusion of human rights in the new Constitution and commended Comoros for its initiatives in favour of a sustainable development in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with regard to environmental protection, and access to education and health.
71. Mexico welcomed the progress made by Comoros since the previous review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and commended the revision of the strategy for accelerated growth in order to include the Sustainable Development Goals.
72. Montenegro welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution and encouraged Comoros to further work towards overall promotion and protection of human rights. It noted Comoros' poor reporting records and encouraged it to strengthen cooperation with OHCHR and the UN Country team.
73. Morocco welcomed the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development, the wider protection of women guaranteed by the new Constitution, the national strategy to combat violence against women and children, measures to protect persons with disabilities' rights, and progress in access to education and health.
74. Mozambique welcomed the Constitutional reform of 2018, which brought about significant human rights provisions, and commended the ratification of several human rights

and related instruments, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

75. Namibia welcomed the revision of the Constitution in 2018, the development of a Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development and of the National Health Policy (2015-2024). It urged development partners to continue assisting Comoros.

76. The Netherlands commended the improvements made in the electoral process, but remained concerned about limitations on fundamental freedoms, particularly the lack of participation of women in public and political life, and the rights of LGBTI persons.

77. Nigeria was encouraged by the measures adopted by Comoros to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, namely women and children. It commended Comoros for ensuring the provision of quality health care services as well as for its efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the right to education.

78. Oman applauded the efforts by Comoros to develop the national framework for human rights, in particular the law on violence against women and the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

79. The Philippines was pleased to note that Comoros' revised Constitution reflected a stronger emphasis on human rights promotion and protection. It commended Comoros for adopting the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development, which integrated a solid framework for environmental protection and climate change.

80. Portugal commended Comoros for the adoption of a national strategy to combat violence against women and children, the development of educational programmes to eradicate illiteracy and its growing efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS.

81. Qatar noted the measures to implement the recommendations received by Comoros during the previous review, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It appreciated the adoption of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development and the strengthening of the education system.

82. Rwanda commended Comoros for its efforts to promote and protect human rights in a challenging security and socio-economic context and welcomed the positive steps to implement the recommendations received at its previous UPR.

83. Iraq welcomed the inclusion of the rights of citizens in the 2018 Constitution. It highly valued the national strategy to expedite growth and sustainable development. Iraq applauded Comoros for acceding to various human rights conventions.

84. Senegal acknowledged the efforts of Comoros to improve its human rights situation, as demonstrated by the revision of the Constitution in 2018, which includes a human rights chapter. It welcomed the legislative and institutional efforts made in order to implement the recommendations received during the previous UPR.

85. Seychelles commended Comoros on acceding to the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention against Torture.

86. Slovenia noted the ratification of some international instruments by Comoros, such as the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and several International Labour Organisation Conventions. Slovenia was concerned at persistence of sexual violence, sexual harassment and child marriage.

87. South Africa welcomed the fact that, since the country's transition to democracy, in its revised Constitution of July 2018, the Comoros had on various occasions proclaimed its commitment to the universal principles of promoting, protecting and respecting human rights.

88. Spain commended the Comoros on legislation adopted recently, like the Law to Combat Violence against Women and Children, the Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Law to Combat Child Labour.

89. The State of Palestine commended the Comoros' commitment to promote and protect human rights in the country, welcomed measures to improve education, including the interim plan for 2013-2015, and hailed efforts made in the health sector.

90. Sudan welcomed efforts to protect and promote human rights. It hailed the ratification of a number of relevant international instruments like the Paris Agreement on climate change, noting that the environment was a major component of human rights promotion.
91. Togo welcomed ratification of some treaties by Comoros, and the adoption of legislation to promote and protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It was however concerned at the absence of an institutional system to follow-up on international mechanisms.
92. Tunisia expressed appreciation for legislation adopted since the last UPR cycle to support the legislative and institutional human rights framework. It hailed the constitutional amendment of 2018, and welcomed the country's accession to the Convention against torture.
93. Turkey welcomed the efforts, which the Comoros made to promote and protect human rights. It also encouraged the Government to take steps with a view to improving school attendance rates and to strive to ensure equal access to education.
94. Ukraine welcomed the accession to the human rights treaties, the efforts to introduce educational programs and a national youth policy, to improve healthcare services and to eradicate illiteracy. It urged the Government and opposition to resume a dialogue on the constitutional process and upholding the rule of law.
95. The United Arab Emirates noted with satisfaction the importance attached to women's rights and women empowerment, which was an excellent step towards gender equality, noting that such efforts should be further enhanced.
96. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland praised steps to ratify human rights treaties and urged Comoros to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It was concerned about restrictions on media freedom and regretted that the death penalty was not abolished.
97. The United States of America expressed concern at attempt to proceed with elections in early 2019, the reports on arrests and detentions of opposition leaders and that no effective steps had been taken yet to combat human trafficking, particularly forced child labour.
98. Uruguay welcomed the ratification of the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that the new Constitution had entire title on human rights. It encouraged Comoros to continue working in a similar vein.
99. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that the new Constitution was very innovative and appreciated the measures to expand education and health services, to train teachers for primary and secondary schools, to introduce Universal Health Coverage and General Health insurance.
100. Yemen noted that Comoros took important measures in legislation and development, despite the challenges in the area of human rights. It welcomed the achievements in education, health, empowerment of women and youth and that the new Constitution was focused on human rights.
101. Zimbabwe praised Comoros for the introduction of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development 2018-2021 expanding education and promoting health, quality of education, decent work, social protection and access to water and sanitation.
102. Albania commended the steps to strengthen human rights, including the accession to the Convention against Torture. It urged Comoros to intensify efforts in fighting discrimination and violence against women and children.
103. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the law to fight violence against women and the law to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. It applauded the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and conventions of the International Labour Organization.
104. Angola took good note of the efforts made by Comoros aimed to strengthen cooperation with the human rights mechanisms, at the time when the stability of States institutions had faced some difficulties. It encouraged Comoros to comply with its international obligations.

105. Argentina welcomed the presentation of the report of Comoros and congratulated Comoros for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

106. Armenia acknowledged the revision of the Constitution in July 2018, the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development 2015-2019 and measures to promote the right to health and combat violence against women and children. It was however concerned at low quality of health services.

107. Australia welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Institution and urged Comoros to ensure the institution's compliance with the Paris Principles. Australia was concerned by reports of limitations on freedom of expression and assembly, reports on long periods of detention and poor prison conditions in Comoros.

108. Benin noted with satisfaction that Comoros had adhered to various international human rights instruments. Benin welcomed the legislative and institutional reforms adopted by Comoros, particularly regarding the access of women to different public positions, to justice and to the health services.

109. La Délégation a indiqué qu'il n'avait pas de prisonniers politiques et que personne n'était détenue ou arrêtée dans le cadre de l'exercice de sa liberté d'expression, qui était garantie par loi et dans la pratique. Cependant, le Code pénal stipulait que certaines déclarations étaient passibles de poursuites. C'est pourquoi les individus pourraient se retrouver devant les tribunaux. D'après la Délégation, les personnes incarcérées en effet, avaient commis des actes graves; et leur détention n'avait pas de lien avec leurs convictions politiques. Quand il y avait des attaques à des agents publics ou de tentatives d'organiser un coup d'Etat, le gouvernement devait traduire les responsables en justice. C'est ainsi que la Cour de sûreté de l'Etat avait rendu ses décisions relatives à l'incarcération des auteurs de crimes, et les médias ont eu librement accès à la procédure, tandis que les citoyens ordinaires ont pu suivre les audiences en dehors du tribunal, notamment par le biais de la diffusion sur Internet. En outre, les accusés avaient exercé leur droit à l'aide juridictionnelle et la procédure judiciaire était transparente.

110. Quant à la Cour Constitutionnelle, cet organe n'avait pas été supprimé, mais il avait changé sa configuration. Auparavant, la Cour était composée de juges non professionnels, nommés par des différents organismes publics. Actuellement, la Cour était composée par des magistrats compétents et expérimentés et avait été basée à la Cour Suprême.

111. Quant aux mariages précoces, le Code de la Famille avait interdit formellement le mariage avant la majorité, -à savoir, 18 ans. En outre, la loi sur le mariage avait rendu impératif de célébrer un mariage devant le juge.

112. Sur la réforme constitutionnelle, la Délégation a rappelé que les assises nationales, ouvertes à l'ensemble de la population, avaient précédé la réforme. De plus, les débats de ces assises avaient été publiés.

113. Le respect de la liberté de réunion, de la manifestation pacifique, d'association et de la presse avait été garantis. Par ailleurs, les Comores étaient au premier rang de la liberté de presse dans le Monde Arabe.

114. Avec toutes les recommandations reçues, le gouvernement avait consenti des efforts pour consolider sa politique sociale en faveur des enfants, des femmes et des personnes handicapées. Les parents, ou les maîtres dans les écoles, n'effectuaient pas des châtiments corporels. Ce phénomène était demeuré une exception.

115. Quant à la traite des personnes, elle n'était pas un défi majeur aux Comores, dû au fait que les Comores représentaient un groupe d'îles. Néanmoins, l'attention de la communauté internationale sur cette question aurait amené les Comores à réaliser une réflexion sur ce sujet.

116. Les Comores prenaient note des recommandations pertinentes qui avaient été adressées et il accordé une importance particulière au suivi de ces recommandations.

117. En fin, le chef de la délégation a remercié toutes les délégations pour leur soutien et leurs encouragements.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

118.1 Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Cabo Verde); (Canada); (Iceland); (Mauritius); (Spain); (Ukraine); (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)/ Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which the Comoros signed in 2008 (Italy)/ Become a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Seychelles);

118.2 Continue to strengthen the legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights by ratifying International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ireland);

118.3 Consider completing the ratification processes relating to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Kenya);

118.4 Speed up the ratification of pending human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Chile);

118.5 Take the necessary steps to conclude the ratification process of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and ensure its full implementation (Brazil);

118.6 Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Slovenia);

118.7 Adopt the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);

118.8 Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights (Tunisia);

118.9 Formally abolish the death penalty and accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol (Australia);

118.10 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Croatia); (Germany);

118.11 Adopt a de iure moratorium on death penalty and sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);

118.12 Abolish the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty (Uruguay);

118.13 Adopt a new Criminal Code which provides for the abolition of the death penalty and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Albania);

118.14 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Benin); (Denmark); (Iceland); (Spain); (Ukraine);

- 118.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**
- 118.16 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (Botswana);**
- 118.17 **Step up efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Uruguay);**
- 118.18 **Adhere to international legal instruments to which this country is not yet party, especially the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Gabon);**
- 118.19 **Consider taking steps towards ratification of more core human rights conventions including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**
- 118.20 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Benin);**
- 118.21 **Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Ukraine);**
- 118.22 **Ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Albania);**
- 118.23 **Approve the Bill in the National Assembly to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and consider ratifying the ILO 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 118.24 **Continue efforts to ratify international instruments (Morocco);**
- 118.25 **Establish an institutional system to follow-up on recommendations of human rights mechanisms and bodies (Mexico);**
- 118.26 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro);**
- 118.27 **Take further measures to live up to the commitment to the international human rights human rights mechanisms (Iraq);**
- 118.28 **Continue efforts to implement the recommendations of the previous UPR cycle (Sudan);**
- 118.29 **Strengthen cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms and consider extending a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedures (Georgia);**
- 118.30 **Consider the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Latvia);**
- 118.31 **Set up a national mechanism on reporting and follow up as well as a national body to coordinate the reports on human rights and sustainable development goals in a comprehensive manner (Cabo Verde);**
- 118.32 **Request technical assistance form relevant mechanisms to strengthen the country's capacity under the first three SDGs (Angola);**
- 118.33 **Enhance partnerships with international donors in view of technical and financial assistance (Togo);**
- 118.34 **Provide adequate human and financial resources to the institutions responsible for follow-up to the recommendations and other shortcomings (Kenya);**

- 118.35 **Strengthen institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Botswana);**
- 118.36 **Establish a plan on human rights recommendations aligned with the SDGs, which incorporates all accepted recommendations (Cabo Verde);**
- 118.37 **Use the third cycle recommendations to generate data that can support both the implementation of the SDGs and the improvement of human rights (Cabo Verde);**
- 118.38 **Strengthen the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms to operate and monitor international commitments (Indonesia);**
- 118.39 **Pursue efforts to ensure the proper functioning and full independence of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Djibouti);**
- 118.40 **Accelerate efforts for the reestablishment of the Commission of Human Rights and Freedoms, ensuring its independence and autonomy in accordance to the Paris Principles (Mexico);**
- 118.41 **Strengthen efforts to restore the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms (Namibia);**
- 118.42 **Ensure compliance of the National Human Rights Commission's work with the Paris Principles (Qatar);**
- 118.43 **Take concrete measures to establish a National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);**
- 118.44 **Speed up the process of appointing members of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms and provide this structure with adequate financial means (Senegal);**
- 118.45 **Enable the National Human Rights Committee to fulfil its role (Sudan);**
- 118.46 **Appoint new members and take the necessary steps to ensure the effective functioning of the National Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms (Togo);**
- 118.47 **Continue its efforts to activate the role of the National Human Rights Commission (Yemen);**
- 118.48 **Make the necessary arrangements for the National Human Rights Commission to hold its inaugural meeting and to benefit from the means necessary for its regular operation (France);**
- 118.49 **Keep mobilizing resources and seek necessary international support to enhance its capacity to protect and promote human rights (Nigeria);**
- 118.50 **Adopt measures in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination (Brazil);**
- 118.51 **Take specific measures to ensure freedom of religion and belief by prohibiting the implementation of discriminatory administrative measures against the practice of minority religions (Angola);**
- 118.52 **Harmonize the legislation on freedom of religion with international standards and put an end to all forms of reprisals against religious minorities (Mexico);**
- 118.53 **Allow opposition groups and persons belonging to religious minorities to exercise, without any limitations, their right to peaceful assembly (Netherlands);**
- 118.54 **Implement measures in the area of climate change and related disaster risk reduction, ensuring a human rights based approach, the incorporation of a gender perspective and the prioritization of vulnerable groups (Chile);**

- 118.55 Continue to implement national development plans, promote sustainable economic and social development and improve peoples' living standard (China);
- 118.56 Intensify its efforts in engaging stakeholders and the public in policy discussions and programmes on climate change and disaster risk reduction and management (Philippines);
- 118.57 Abolish the death penalty (Cabo Verde);
- 118.58 Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to the abolition of the death penalty and, in the short term, reduce the number of offenses punishable by the death penalty (France);
- 118.59 Step up efforts to improve penitentiary infrastructure and prison conditions to bring them into line with international standards (Mauritius);
- 118.60 Abolish the death penalty (Montenegro);
- 118.61 Accelerate the process that will lead to the abolishment of the death penalty (Mozambique);
- 118.62 Take further measures to prohibit all forms of slavery and provide further psychological support to victims of trafficking in persons (Oman);
- 118.63 Take concrete measures to introduce a de jure moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view towards its total abolition (Rwanda);
- 118.64 Continue its endeavours in working towards the abolishment of the death penalty (South Africa);
- 118.65 Continue its policy of not executing the death penalty, reform its legislation by reducing the number of criminal offences liable to the death penalty, and continue the internal debate with a view to the complete abolishment of the death penalty (Spain);
- 118.66 Investigate and put an end to any cases of arbitrary detention and torture, including those against members of the opposition (Spain);
- 118.67 Consider abolishing the death penalty (Ukraine);
- 118.68 Respect laws which prohibit arbitrary detention and guarantee a fair trial without undue delay, and ensure the right to appeal (United States of America);
- 118.69 Review the rights of detainees to ensure they meet international standards (Australia);
- 118.70 Improve detention conditions, in particular regarding food and sanitation (Central African Republic);
- 118.71 Improve conditions in prisons such as on detention, administration and independence of monitoring mechanisms (Kenya);
- 118.72 Mobilize resources to improve the prison system in general, and detention conditions in particular (Ethiopia);
- 118.73 Continue holding trainings for the police and the army officers on human rights concepts (Jordan);
- 118.74 Put all detention facilities in compliance with the international standards in force in this area (Mali);
- 118.75 Improve the prison conditions of women and children in the country (United Arab Emirates);
- 118.76 Streamline existing training courses to raise awareness of human rights among public officials and the population at large (Zimbabwe);

- 118.77 Take the legislative and regulatory provisions to ensure that the Constitutional Section of the Supreme Court is able to fulfil its functions, and to ensure its independence, particularly with regard to its electoral jurisdiction (France);
- 118.78 Identify alternatives to the State Security Court, in consultation with all relevant actors, in accordance with the rights of the defence (France);
- 118.79 Providing training for judges and lawyers on international standards on criminal justice (Jordan);
- 118.80 Continue to make effective contributions to the fight against corruption and to continue to improve access to and effectiveness of public justice services (Libya);
- 118.81 Restore the Constitutional Court with all the functions that were granted to it by the legal system, and urgently appoint the judges necessary for its proper operation (Mexico);
- 118.82 Conduct various campaigns to overcome obstacles to the consolidation of the rule of law (Iraq);
- 118.83 Take effective steps to combat corruption and improve transparency in relation to public activities (Spain);
- 118.84 Adopt measures necessary for the strengthening of democracy and the rule of law, in order to allow the normal functioning of the State in accordance with the article 2 and 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Angola);
- 118.85 Conduct a justice reform to ensure that all citizens have access to the justice system (Ukraine);
- 118.86 Ensure an inclusive consultation on the constitutional reform, and authorise demonstrations or peaceful assemblies and the existence of an open media, without any fear of arbitrary or violent arrests (Canada);
- 118.87 Reinforce parity between men and women, particularly in access to registered and elective positions, and take the necessary steps to ensure that the law of 22 June 2017 can be applied in the forthcoming elections (France);
- 118.88 Provide support to the work of the National Council for the Press and Audiovisual Media (Indonesia);
- 118.89 Protect and promote freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in order to create a safe environment favorable for national political life (Italy);
- 118.90 Refrain from censorship of the press and allow journalists to carry out their work without fear of repercussions (Netherlands);
- 118.91 Guarantee freedom of assembly, especially with regard to the legitimate activity of political parties, as well as freedom of speech and worship (Spain);
- 118.92 Address restrictions on media freedom by establishing robust mechanisms to ensure greater pluralism of views in mainstream and online media (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 118.93 Abide by the country's constitution and existing laws governing elections (United States of America);
- 118.94 Respect and protect democratic freedoms, uphold democratic principles, including the rule of law, and refrain from escalating existing political tensions, including in the run up to and conduct of proposed elections (Australia);

- 118.95 **Scale up efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons (Central African Republic);**
- 118.96 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, especially the exploitation of women and children, by further strengthening the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);**
- 118.97 **Ensure that the national law on the elimination of trafficking in persons complies with international legal standards (Madagascar);**
- 118.98 **Continue efforts to strengthen the right to work (Egypt);**
- 118.99 **Continue efforts to promote gender equality and equal opportunities in employment and decision-making (Tunisia);**
- 118.100 **Continue efforts to promote decent work, social protection of youth and sport (Saudi Arabia);**
- 118.101 **Ensure the full implementation of economic, social and cultural right, as entailed in the 2018 Constitution, and ensure their justiciability (South Africa);**
- 118.102 **Continue developing actions to achieve greater progress in reducing poverty (Cuba);**
- 118.103 **Continue working on the improvement of health and education services, for a better standard of living of its population, the reduction of infant mortality, and the increase of school enrolment rates (Cuba);**
- 118.104 **Improve prison conditions inter alia by ensuring basic living conditions, i. e. food, medical support, access to drinking water and sanitation and by taking measures against over-crowding of prisons. Furthermore, ensure that the maximum period of four months for pre-trial detention prescribed by law is not exceeded and that juveniles and adults are accommodated in separate detention facilities (Germany);**
- 118.105 **Continue efforts aimed to facilitate access to water (Mauritania);**
- 118.106 **Continue to strengthen the social policies and human rights policies to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 118.107 **Continue on with the programme framework for the period 2014-2019 prioritizing intensification, diversification, and commercialization of products of the agricultural and livestock sector to improve food security (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**
- 118.108 **Continue to promote medical and health services to better ensure the peoples' right to health (China);**
- 118.109 **Complete the study on the establishment of universal health care coverage (Gabon);**
- 118.110 **Continue its approach and work towards strengthening vital sectors of human rights, in order to achieve the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (Kuwait);**
- 118.111 **Ensure a long-term and sustainable funding is allocated for the health care sector to improve and guarantee wide coverage of health-care services for all (Malaysia);**
- 118.112 **Undertake steps to guarantee free and qualified health services for all (Armenia);**
- 118.113 **Support measures to reduce the costs of reproductive health care (Slovenia);**

- 118.114 Continue its efforts in the health sector by implementing all policies and strategies ensuring that women have equal access to all public facilities and services and by raising the quality of health services (State of Palestine);
- 118.115 Continue efforts to introduce health services for all (Algeria);
- 118.116 Continue to promote the rights to health and food and increase access to education opportunities including university education (Saudi Arabia);
- 118.117 Initiate gender neutral policies relating to access to education, health and social services (India);
- 118.118 Intensify efforts to increase the school attendance rate and reduce the drop-out rate, especially among girls (Iceland);
- 118.119 Give priority to tackling illiteracy (Turkey);
- 118.120 Enhance the quality of teaching and adequate training to teachers (India);
- 118.121 Continue to develop tools for teaching human rights from the first year of school in Comoros (Indonesia);
- 118.122 Continue its efforts to improve access to quality education, increase enrolment and promote retention of students in schools (Malaysia);
- 118.123 Continue promoting education and ensure equal educational opportunities (Oman);
- 118.124 Take measures to ensure that children from poor families and disadvantaged backgrounds are not discriminated concerning access to education (Portugal);
- 118.125 Continue the envisaged improvements in the education sector, to improve education and promote schooling with the aim of increasing literacy rates (South Africa);
- 118.126 Put in place legislative and administrative measures to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory for all, whilst adopting an inclusive approach covering all genders, children from urban and rural areas and children with disabilities (Seychelles);
- 118.127 Continue its efforts with regard to improving education including the interim plan for the period 2013-2015 and adopt policies to enhance inclusion in education for girls, children with disabilities and children from rural areas (State of Palestine);
- 118.128 Strengthen efforts to ensure access to education by adopting policies aimed to improve access to education for girls and boys with disabilities, and girls and boys from rural or low-income backgrounds (Argentina);
- 118.129 Strengthen the mechanism for preventing violence against women and children (France);
- 118.130 Continue efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls (Georgia);
- 118.131 Amend national laws to effectively combat violence and discrimination against women (Germany);
- 118.132 Ensure that victims of violence, particularly sexual and domestic violence, have access to justice and establish special facilities to provide medical, psychological, legal and financial support to them (Germany);
- 118.133 Redouble its efforts to prevent and combat acts of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence (Honduras);
- 118.134 Continue implementing national legislation to prevent gender based violence (India);

- 118.135 Take further measures to protect and promote the rights of women and children in order to combat all forms of violence and discrimination, including harmful practices and child labour (Italy);
- 118.136 Strengthen the measures taken to combat violence against women and child abuse so that the perpetrators of these acts are sanctioned and punished by law (Madagascar);
- 118.137 Strengthen measures aimed at addressing violence against women and girls, including child marriages (Namibia);
- 118.138 Redouble its efforts in ensuring comprehensive measures to address violence against women and children and strengthen victim protection (Philippines);
- 118.139 Continue strengthening the protection of women against all forms of violence (Senegal);
- 118.140 Intensify efforts to combat sexual violence and harmful practices against women (Togo);
- 118.141 Continue efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence, and take the necessary measures to provide protection to victims (Tunisia);
- 118.142 Enact legislation aimed at preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Ukraine);
- 118.143 Strengthen active participation and promotion of activities that generate income for women (Plurinational State of Bolivia);
- 118.144 Take all necessary measures to enable Comorian women to pass on the nationality to their foreign spouses (Central African Republic);
- 118.145 Continue efforts to strengthen women's rights (Egypt);
- 118.146 Step-up the efforts for the participation of women in political and public life and their representation in decision making bodies (Ethiopia);
- 118.147 Continue efforts aimed at guaranteeing a fair and equitable representation between women and men in the composition of the Government, avoiding discrimination on the basis of gender (Honduras);
- 118.148 Adopt concrete measures to promote women's full and equal participation in political and public life and accelerate women's full and equal participation in elected and appointed bodies (Iceland);
- 118.149 Continue efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and awareness campaigns on promoting their inclusion in decision-making bodies (Morocco);
- 118.150 Continue to improve the rights of women and gender promotion, as envisaged in the Constitution (South Africa);
- 118.151 Raise up the participation rate of women in political life, enabling women to have access to decision-making process (United Arab Emirates);
- 118.152 Further continue efforts towards a better promotion of gender equality (Armenia);
- 118.153 Take the necessary measures to modify its national legislation so that men and women may enjoy the same rights in terms of transmitting nationality (Argentina);
- 118.154 Amend legislation to enable Comorian women to enjoy equal rights to pass on their Comorian nationality to non-Comorian spouses (Iceland);
- 118.155 Reform the necessary laws in order to ensure that men and women can transmit their nationality on an equal footing (Mexico);

- 118.156 Sustain its efforts in upholding the human rights of its people, especially women and children (Nigeria);
- 118.157 Continue efforts to combat child labour (Maldives);
- 118.158 Continue to strengthen measures to end child marriage (Maldives);
- 118.159 Efficiently support measures to end child, early and forced marriages by 2030 (Slovenia);
- 118.160 Take necessary measures to ensure the right of children to life and to create propitious environment for the survival and development of children, to the extent possible (Algeria);
- 118.161 Adopt measures to improve access for persons with disabilities to education. (Qatar);
- 118.162 Strengthen the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups such as women, children and persons with disabilities (Zimbabwe);
- 118.163 Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Kenya).

119. The response of the Comoros to the following recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its forty-first session:

- 119.1 Amend the revised Criminal Code to formally abolish the death penalty for all crimes, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. (Ireland);
- 119.2 Strengthen measures to eradicate all violence and discrimination, in particular against women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI people, and to protect their rights (Chile);
- 119.3 Repeal all provisions giving rise to discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Iceland);
- 119.4 Initiate an internal debate on the decriminalization of sexual relations between persons of the same sex (Spain);
- 119.5 Decriminalise same-sex relationships between consenting adults and implement policies to address inequality, violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Australia);
- 119.6 Adopt the necessary measures in the legislative sphere to combat discrimination in any of its forms, including based on gender, disability, geographical social origin, and sexual orientation (Honduras);
- 119.7 Put in place measures to better protect people of all religions and beliefs and allow them to practice their faith openly without any risk of discrimination (Canada);
- 119.8 Intensify efforts to ensure full respect for freedom of religion or belief (Italy);
- 119.9 Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at schools and home (Chile);
- 119.10 Enact legislation which explicitly prohibits corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home, and repeal all legal defences for its use (Croatia);
- 119.11 Take further steps towards eliminating corporal punishment for children in all settings (Namibia);
- 119.12 Enforce labor laws and implement programs to eliminate trafficking in persons, including forced child labour (United States of America);

119.13 **Prohibit explicitly corporal punishment on children in all environments of society, including at home and also repeal all legal exemptions which authorise its use (Uruguay);**

119.14 **Strengthen implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices in particular child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation (Rwanda).**

120. 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.

III. Voluntary pledges and commitments

121. Les Comores s'engagent à recevoir tous les titulaires de mandats des procédures spéciales du Conseil de droits de l'homme et renouvelle l'acceptation de la mission aux Comores du Rapporteur Spécial contre la Torture et autres traitements cruels, inhumains et dégradants, aux dates de sa convenance en relation avec la disponibilité des autorités comoriennes.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Comoros was headed by S.E. M. Mohamed Housseini Djamalilaili, Minister of Justice and Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Mr Sultan Chouzour, Ambassadeur auprès de l'ONU et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève;
 - Mr Mohamed Ahmed Assoumani, Secrétaire Général du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères;
 - Mr Kassim Moegni, Délégué aux droits de l'homme au Ministère de la justice;
 - Maitre Azad Mzé, juriste, consultant national;
 - Mme Sittou Raghdat, membre de la CNDHL;
 - Madame Mariata Moussa, Journaliste, membre de la Commission Nationale des droits de l'homme et des libertés.
-