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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*


Guinea-Bissau

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-fifth session from 20 to 31 January 2020. The review of Guinea-Bissau was held at the 8th meeting, on 24 January 2020. The delegation of Guinea-Bissau was headed by Ruth Monteiro, the Minister of Justice and Human Rights. At its 13th meeting, held on 28 January 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on Guinea-Bissau.
2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Guinea-Bissau: Germany, Senegal and Uruguay.
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 Guinea-Bissau:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/35/GNB/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.6/35/GNB/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/35/GNB/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to Guinea-Bissau 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 Minister of Justice and Human Rights introduced the national report of Guinea-Bissau to the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review.
6. The delegation noted that data from the Human Development Index for 2018 ranked Guinea-Bissau at 178 out of the 189 countries and territories examined in the report, placing it in the low human development group.
7. However, according to the same report, between 1990 and 2018, life expectancy at birth had increased by 10.9 years. The average years of schooling had increased by 1 year and the expected years of schooling had increased by 6.8 years. According to the latest data available, which referred to 2014, in Guinea-Bissau, 67.3 per cent of the population was in a situation of multidimensional poverty, while another 19.2 per cent was considered as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty.
8. Recognition of the many challenges faced by the country was an important and indispensable step to overcoming them. Guinea-Bissau was aware of the causes of the barriers to the development of policies, plans and programmes for a sustained intervention that would enable the implementation of the changes necessary for the improvement of the living conditions of the population as well as the full enjoyment of their human rights.
9. One of the causes was the political instability that had been affecting the country since the establishment of a multiparty system in 1994. That instability had continued to affect the country since the previous review took place in 2015, leading to difficulties in the

implementation of the recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the universal periodic review.

10. The cycle of instability that followed the military coup of 12 April 2012 ended in 2014, with the holding of both legislative and presidential elections. An improvement in the country's political and institutional framework had then been expected, and the holding of the Brussels round table in 2015 promised to transform Guinea-Bissau. However, what seemed to be a turning point in the country did not materialize, and the fall of the first Government of the ninth parliament on 12 August 2015 triggered a new political crisis. Political instability worsened, as illustrated by the fact that the successive eight Governments formed by presidential initiative failed to approve even a government programme of work, resulting in a prolonged blockage of the country's public institutions.

11. However, with the support of the country's partners, the six-point road map entitled "Agreement on the Resolution of the Political Crisis in Guinea-Bissau" and the Conakry Agreement on the implementation of the road map were signed, allowing the country to form a consensual Government. This created the necessary conditions for the parliamentary elections of 10 March 2019 and the presidential election of 24 November 2019. The second round of the presidential election was held on 29 December 2019, the final results of which remained at an impasse.

12. Notwithstanding those setbacks, the Government established important initiatives to implement the recommendations received in the previous universal periodic review cycles.

13. In the field of infrastructure, the Government adopted several measures that would result in a significant improvement in working conditions and in the services provided, and which would afford citizens greater access to justice.

14. The delegation provided information on the construction of courts and the establishment of birth registration centres in several of the country's regions and the provision of legal aid for economically deprived persons.

15. The modernization of services and the combating of corruption and embezzlement of funds were also primary concerns of the Government. Measures adopted included the control of domestic revenues and the computerization of services. Criminal records had already been fully computerized, and civil registration services were to be computerized very soon.

16. In the legislative area, a number of achievements were highlighted including: the adoption of the new statute regarding the remuneration of judges; the approval of the Act on the Recovery of Assets from Crime, which was an important instrument to fight crime; and the implementation of the Organic Act on the registry of the judiciary and the prosecutor's office, which would allow for greater control over the revenues of both the courts and other services provided by the Ministry of Justice.

17. The approval of the national plan on civil status and vital statistics would be a very important instrument as the country still struggled with a high rate of children and adults who did not exist from a legal and statistical point of view, owing to the lack of birth registration. Additionally, the process relating to the adoption of the National Strategic Plan on Combating Drugs and Organized Crime and Reducing Risk was currently ongoing.

18. The Government was committed to combating impunity for acts that constituted human rights violations, including allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment. For the first time in the country's history, members of the security forces had been tried and convicted for such crimes. In 2016, four police officers were convicted for their involvement in the homicide of a citizen in police custody and an agent of the National Guard was convicted to eight years' imprisonment for the rape of a citizen.

19. A number of recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review had been implemented, notably those to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

20. There were still significant challenges in many areas, as identified during the universal periodic review. However, the main challenge that Guinea-Bissau would face,

with the indispensable support of its partners, was the stabilization of the country. Progress in that regard would be achieved through domestic initiatives and through cooperation with the United Nations and other international mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights.

21. The delegation indicated that the participation of Guinea-Bissau in the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review would be carried out in close contact with representatives of civil society and would be inspired by its strong commitment to multilateralism and progressive humanism, and always in a spirit of cooperation and with an openness to dialogue.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

22. During the interactive dialogue, 75 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

23. Mozambique congratulated Guinea-Bissau for the recent presidential elections, which were held in a peaceful and transparent atmosphere, and expressed the hope that they would contribute to bringing the country back to political and institutional normalcy.

24. Namibia expressed satisfaction that Guinea-Bissau was a party to eight core international human rights instruments and encouraged the country to take steps to ensure that the human rights contained in those instruments were promoted and protected at the national level.

25. Nepal welcomed the measures taken by Guinea-Bissau in the area of gender equality, including the adoption of the National Strategic Plan on Reproductive Health and the National Reproductive Health Programme to increase the accessibility of quality health services.

26. The Netherlands commended Guinea-Bissau on the establishment of the National Network of Human Rights Defenders and the significant efforts made in the field of gender parity but remained concerned about the high level of impunity for human rights violations.

27. The Niger welcomed the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to follow up on the recommendations accepted during the previous cycles of the universal periodic review and commended it for the initiatives taken to improve further the justice sector.

28. Nigeria noted with encouragement the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to strengthen national legal and institutional frameworks in the field of human rights and applauded the measures taken to provide quality education and increase school enrolment.

29. Oman valued the participatory process followed by Guinea-Bissau in engaging with the universal periodic review. It highlighted the strategies and programmes developed, such as the Education Sector Plan (2017–2025) and the National Health Development Plan.

30. The Philippines acknowledged the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle and commended its ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers.

31. Portugal welcomed the gender parity guidelines adopted by Guinea-Bissau and the fact that the Government had full gender balance in terms of numbers of ministers. However, it noted that violence against women, including female genital mutilation, was still prevalent.

32. Rwanda welcomed the positive steps taken by Guinea-Bissau to implement the recommendations from the previous universal periodic review and commended the reforms introduced in the justice system, in particular efforts at enhancing transparency and accountability.

33. Senegal encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue pursuing judicial and institutional reforms in order to bring the legislative, judicial and administrative framework into line with international standards and to improve education by putting in place suitable school

infrastructure. Senegal called on the international community to provide Guinea-Bissau with the support necessary for the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

34. Serbia welcomed the measures taken by Guinea-Bissau to improve human rights in the country. In particular, it commended the measures taken in the areas of education and health, which involved the adoption of numerous plans and strategies.

35. Seychelles noted the issuing by Guinea-Bissau of the 2018 ordinance that exempted students with disabilities from tuition fees, the introduction of seasonal malaria chemoprevention, and the adoption of a national policy and action plan on gender equality.

36. Sierra Leone commended the people of Guinea-Bissau for the peaceful and successful conduct of the presidential elections and called on the Government to set out clear priorities on tackling poverty, corruption and international drug trafficking networks.

37. Slovenia noted the improvement of the normative framework on child protection and on the empowerment of women. It was concerned by the decrease in the level of birth registration and school attendance, as well as the prevalence of child marriage.

38. Somalia congratulated Guinea-Bissau on its ratification of international human rights instruments and welcomed the creation of special brigades for vulnerable people within the police and centres for access to justice to support victims of violence.

39. South Africa urged Guinea-Bissau to develop robust and effective institutions that supported constitutional democracy and to address cyclical institutional crises that continued to undermine the normal functioning of the State and hinder the consolidation of the rule of law.

40. Spain congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the 2019 elections, which had led to the consolidation of a parity-based Government and the strengthening of the rule of law in the country.

41. Sudan commended Guinea-Bissau for its efforts to improve the human rights situations and noted, in particular, the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers.

42. Timor-Leste thanked Guinea-Bissau for having accepted its recommendation made in the previous cycle and congratulated it for the significant progress made in the health sector, including ensuring 82 per cent vaccination coverage.

43. The delegation responded to comments concerning the strengthening of the national human rights institution and aligning it with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The country was prevented from implementing this recommendation owing to lack of resources, including human resources, and political instability. However, a course for lawyers on human rights was being organized in conjunction with the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, which would allow the Government to, inter alia, ensure a properly staffed national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles.

44. The Ministry of Justice was pursuing reform for the judiciary sector. The Government was conducting a training course for new judges and prosecutors and was also working on a new legislative package. The aims were to strengthen the impartiality of the judiciary and to allow the judicial branch to be held accountable by the other government branches.

45. Regarding child education, more schools had been opened and the Government was working to ensure that children in the inland regions of the country had access to adequately trained teachers, improving the quality of education. In order to combat human trafficking, Guinea-Bissau had strengthened border patrols, and it had managed to break up a number of trafficking networks, returning the children to their families.

46. The delegation indicated that specific legislation to address forced marriage was not needed as it was already defined as a crime in the Criminal Code. Guinea-Bissau had a female-led unit in the judiciary police, which was responsible for dealing with cases of forced marriage. The delegation also stated that the Government, civil society organizations and religious bodies offered refuge and protection to those children.

47. Guinea-Bissau reiterated that civil registry offices and other birth registration facilities had been opened in the country with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners. A large number of children were now being registered at birth, and any child under the age of 7 was allowed access to free registration. Obstacles to registration included extreme poverty and the fact that often the parents themselves were not registered, and therefore could not register their children.

48. Togo was pleased with the holding of peaceful elections in Guinea-Bissau, and expressed the belief that the elections marked a new phase that would contribute to improving human rights protection. Togo invited the international community to support Guinea-Bissau in its efforts.

49. Tunisia applauded the accession of Guinea-Bissau to various international conventions, and the adoption of several laws to improve the human rights situation, including the revision of the statute of the national human rights institution.

50. Ukraine commended Guinea-Bissau for measures taken in various areas, including its cooperation with special procedures mandate holders. Ukraine encouraged the Government to step up its activities to ensure human rights training for police officers and law enforcement agents.

51. The United Kingdom commended Guinea-Bissau on its progress in implementing reforms in the judicial sector but was concerned that political instability had delayed further progress. It urged the Government to take stronger action against corruption and to ensure that the freedom of peaceful assembly was respected.

52. The United States noted the recent peaceful, free and fair elections in Guinea-Bissau. It remained concerned about reports of inhumane prison conditions, as well as impunity for individuals engaged in child abuse and trafficking in persons, including child sex tourism. It called on the Government to pass or strengthen legislation to address those crimes.

53. Uruguay welcomed the measures taken by Guinea-Bissau to combat gender violence and promote women's rights. Uruguay encouraged Guinea-Bissau to ratify promptly the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in line with the recommendation made by Uruguay in the second cycle of the universal periodic review, which had been accepted by the country.

54. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the improvements in birth registration. It also highlighted the measures adopted to reduce the gender gap in access to education, to provide school meals and to ensure free health care for pregnant women, children and older persons.

55. Zambia welcomed steps taken by Guinea-Bissau to ensure that persons with low incomes were exempted from paying legal fees and to strengthen the capacity of members of the judiciary in the area of criminal justice.

56. Algeria congratulated Guinea-Bissau for ratifying the core international human rights instruments, such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

57. Angola congratulated Guinea-Bissau for its engagement with the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. Angola called upon all States that were able to do so to support Guinea-Bissau through the provision of technical and financial assistance, and capacity-building.

58. Argentina congratulated Guinea-Bissau for acceding to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

59. Australia acknowledged the human rights challenges in Guinea-Bissau and welcomed its active engagement in the universal periodic review process. However, it

remained concerned by poor prison conditions and a lack of judicial independence and due process.

60. Azerbaijan commended Guinea-Bissau for the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers.

61. Belgium appreciated the engagement of Guinea-Bissau with the universal periodic review process and welcomed efforts to fight impunity for human rights violations. It expressed, however, the view that there was room for progress in the protection of vulnerable persons.

62. Benin noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by Guinea-Bissau since its last review, namely the establishment of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the ratification of two international human rights conventions.

63. Botswana welcomed reforms undertaken in the judiciary to improve access to justice, in line with its recommendation in the previous cycle. Botswana noted with appreciation the adoption of laws related to the smuggling of migrants, money-laundering and regulations on military justice.

64. Brazil noted with satisfaction the progress made to reform the justice system and encouraged Guinea-Bissau to seek to ensure adequate resources for courts and prosecution offices. Brazil also noted the measures taken to facilitate birth registration.

65. Bulgaria noted positively the measures taken to enhance accessibility to schools for children with disabilities and encouraged the country to make additional efforts to address remaining challenges in the education sector, including efforts to prevent early dropout of school by girls.

66. Burkina Faso welcomed the creation of the Office for Gender Equality and the peaceful organization of presidential elections in 2019. However, it remained concerned about the persistence of female genital mutilation and child marriage.

67. Burundi noted with satisfaction the various measures adopted by Guinea-Bissau to strengthen the health system, and welcomed actions to decentralize birth registration services and to improve the administration of justice and education in the country.

68. Cabo Verde noted the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to cooperate with international human rights protection mechanisms and bodies and to improve the judicial system. Cabo Verde encouraged the country to redouble efforts to ensure the civil and political rights of all citizens of Guinea-Bissau.

69. Canada congratulated Guinea-Bissau on the appointment of a gender-balanced cabinet and the adoption of a law on gender parity in 2019.

70. Chile appreciated measures by Guinea-Bissau aimed at strengthening the rule of law and the judicial system, but it remained concerned about the level of impunity that still existed in the country and about the lack of access to justice for citizens.

71. China welcomed the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to promote economic and social development to improve people's lives and to actively develop education and the health system, as well as to protect the rights of women and children.

72. Cuba noted the effort of Guinea-Bissau to implement the recommendations of previous universal periodic review cycles, even in complex circumstances.

73. Denmark commended progress made by Guinea-Bissau in the health sector, including a reduction in child mortality. It remained concerned, however, about the high prevalence of child and forced marriage, and the limited budget allocated for education.

74. Djibouti welcomed the participatory process of the preparation of the national report and the implementation by Guinea-Bissau of recommendations accepted in the previous cycle of the universal periodic review, which was reflected by the ratification of a large number of international instruments.

75. The delegation stated that the constitutional review was an ongoing process that was currently being finalized by a working group of the National Assembly before it could be submitted to the plenary.

76. Concerning the issue of child labour, the final text of the new labour code, which would further address this issue, was scheduled for adoption and was on the agenda of the National Assembly at its session in February 2020. Additionally, the new code of integrated child protection was also being finalized and the only chapter still pending was the one related to juvenile justice. Once the code was finalized, appropriate measures would be in place to better tackle issues such as female genital mutilation, child labour, and forced and early marriage. The draft code was the result of a broad consultation process and there had been a serious commitment by the parliament and government officials, with the support of the partners of Guinea-Bissau within the United Nations system, to ensure that the code was aligned with the country's international commitments.

77. Significant measures had also been taken to address child mortality, including expanding a national vaccination plan to cover more children, and ensuring access for children to health services and treatment for malaria free of charge.

78. Concerning gender equality and the achievement of a more-inclusive Government, the recent adoption of the Gender Parity Act, which relates to political posts, had already had considerable impact, as could be observed in the composition of the current Government. Furthermore, it was expected that with time, the law would have an even greater effect on attaining gender equality in the Government.

79. For the last few years, the national reconciliation committee had been working within the framework of the National Assembly on issues related to transitional justice. The committee – which had functioned with the support of partner countries, such as Portugal and Timor-Leste, as well as the United Nations – had issued a report setting out very specific paths for reconciliation. That report had been submitted to the National Assembly and the authorities, and the Government hoped to carry out a conference to disseminate it to all of the main social actors in order to better address the successive cycles of instability in the country and to achieve reconciliation.

80. Access to justice in Guinea-Bissau was very expensive and the Government was taking measures to facilitate such access, by ensuring support so that persons could obtain legal aid and advice free of charge.

81. On the issue of child sex tourism, Guinea-Bissau planned to create a special unit of the judicial police in the Bijagós Islands to better combat child sex tourism, by investigating and bringing the perpetrators of such practices to justice.

82. Concerning sustainable development, the Terra Ranka Strategic Plan (2015–2025) had been presented to the international community and had received widespread support. One of the plan's strategic pillars was that of addressing sustainable development through a holistic approach, with components that included quality of life, protection of the environment, the rights of women and children, and infrastructure. Regrettably, the political instability faced by the country since 2015 had made it impossible to adequately implement the plan.

83. The law obligated the State to set a minimum period of compulsory schooling that was free of charge. However, this period was not very long and the Ministry of Education planned to extend it in order to ensure that more children had access to school.

84. Egypt commended the reform of the security sector and the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to promote the rights to education and health, and it welcomed the country's accession to the Convention on Migrant Workers.

85. Ethiopia noted the joint effort made by the Government and the National Union of Workers to enable the construction of housing units for those in need, and expressed appreciation for the adoption of strategic programmes such as the Education Sector Programme.

86. Fiji congratulated Guinea-Bissau for the various reforms put in place, including the reforms of the justice system and the defence sector, and the reforms to ensure that

members of the security forces who committed human rights violations were held to account.

87. France noted the efforts made by Guinea-Bissau to improve the human rights situation but remained concerned about the situation in the country.

88. Gabon welcomed the adoption of legislative texts and the creation of institutions favourable to the improvement of the judicial and penitentiary systems. It also welcomed the training of security agents in human rights and the improvements that had been made to the education system.

89. Georgia commended Guinea-Bissau for the adoption of a law to prohibit and criminalize female genital mutilation throughout the country, the creation of the Office for Gender Equality and the adoption of the national policy and action plan on gender equality.

90. Germany commended the progress of Guinea-Bissau towards gender equality with the adoption of the parity act, but remained concerned about ongoing human rights violations, especially concerning women's and children's rights, and the lack of investigations of past human rights violations committed by members of the military.

91. Ghana noted the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Migrant Workers.

92. The Holy See welcomed the efforts made by the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau to improve social conditions, notwithstanding the previous political and institutional crisis.

93. Honduras congratulated Guinea-Bissau for its progress in the implementation of recommendations received in the previous universal periodic review cycles, in particular, the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers.

94. Iceland welcomed the national report of Guinea-Bissau and the steps outlined therein and expressed the hope for their continued implementation.

95. India thanked the delegation for presenting its national report and commended Guinea-Bissau for the progress made since its second universal periodic review.

96. Indonesia took note of the progress made to improve the situation of human rights, in particular through the ratification of international instruments and looked forward to the implementation of the justice sector reform and improvement in the area of public administration.

97. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the recent accessions of Guinea-Bissau to different human rights conventions and the positive developments regarding the availability of safe, potable water and adequate sanitation facilities in the country, as well as considerable progress in the health sector.

98. Iraq welcomed the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to implement the recommendations that had been accepted during the previous cycle, as well as its efforts in preparing legislative provisions aimed at improving the promotion and protection of human rights.

99. Ireland welcomed the ratification of international treaties including the Arms Trade Treaty and the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2018. Ireland took note of the progress made on gender parity in the Government.

100. Israel congratulated Guinea-Bissau for the democratic and peaceful transition taking place in the country. Israel noted the implementation of the Terra Ranka Strategic Plan (2015–2025) and the development of key programmes on inclusive education and reproductive health.

101. Italy expressed appreciation for the Government's commitment to promoting gender equality in public life, to combating violence against women, including through the law on domestic violence, and to implementing the Code of Conduct against Sexual Exploitation in Tourism.

102. Lesotho commended Guinea-Bissau for the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

103. Libya welcomed the implementation by Guinea-Bissau of a number of recommendations that it had accepted in the previous cycle. Libya praised the positive developments in the field of the protection and promotion of human rights, including the reforms of the justice and defence systems.

104. The Marshall Islands noted with satisfaction the ratification of international human rights instruments and the steps that the Government had taken to improve the justice system by providing training for lawyers and judicial decision makers.

105. Mauritania noted with satisfaction the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to human rights ideals and the protection of human rights and action taken to combat gender inequality and unemployment.

106. Mexico recognized efforts made by Guinea-Bissau, including the ratification in 2018 of the Paris Agreement, on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

107. Montenegro commended activities aimed at increasing school enrolment and literacy. Montenegro urged Guinea-Bissau to investigate all cases of violence against women and to prosecute perpetrators.

108. Morocco commended the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers and noted with satisfaction the commitment of Guinea-Bissau to supporting the right to education.

109. Myanmar welcomed the ratification of the Convention on Migrant Workers and of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

110. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the accession of Guinea-Bissau to the Convention on the Reduction of Stateless Persons and the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons in 2016 and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018.

111. Mali commended Guinea-Bissau for promoting and protecting the rights of persons from disadvantaged backgrounds. Mali encouraged Guinea-Bissau to continue with this valuable work and to extend its commitment to other categories of persons whose situation would deserve equal attention.

112. Concerning the right to health and in particular with regard to HIV/AIDS, the delegation stated that the country had achieved some progress. Treatment for persons living with HIV/AIDS had been increased by 40 per cent. However, some problems persisted, in particular those related to shortages and insufficiency in stocks of the necessary drugs. The Government had recently held a public tender and awarded a contract to a private company to ensure greater control and reliability in the quality of the medicines made available to the population.

113. Measures had also been taken to encourage persons to send their children to school, including the distribution of food grants to families that sent their children to school, which both dissuaded children from dropping out of school and contributed to reducing poverty and malnutrition.

114. Concerning prison conditions, the Government had faced some problems in funding the renovation of certain prisons. However, an agreement had recently been concluded with a United Nations agency that would allow the refurbishment of and the provision of new equipment for at least one prison, thereby improving conditions of detention. The Ministry of Justice together with the human rights commission was providing courses to inmates to teach them to read and write and was also providing professional training. Inmates, many of whom were very young, were therefore being provided with an opportunity to learn a profession and reintegrate into society once they had served their sentences. Moreover, Guinea-Bissau had received support from Brazil to establish a police training school. A programme for the training of trainers was being carried out and soon Guinea-Bissau would be able to take ownership of this initiative.

115. With support of its partners, Guinea-Bissau had taken a number of measures to combat drug trafficking and had made some progress despite facing a number of challenges. At present, there were only a very limited number of police officers who had the necessary training to lead the relevant police institutions and who could ensure the relationship between the criminal police and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The development of training for police officers would therefore help the country to address that issue. Moreover, the fight against drug trafficking could not be limited to the police force. The Government needed to also ensure that the justice system functioned impartially and that the country had adequate prison facilities.

116. Concerning violations of women's and children's rights, one of the main problems was that in Guinea-Bissau, most courts were in urban areas and therefore very far away from where people lived. The Government was attempting to ensure access to justice for all communities, including by preparing a new judicial map and providing mobile units so that the courts could move to areas where people lived and be accessible to all, including women and children living in rural areas. Improvements would include changes to ensure the provision of free legal aid throughout the country to persons without the means to pay for a lawyer, including through changes to the statute of the Centre for Access to Justice, which was already present in many parts of the country.

117. Concerning the right to drinking water, lack of access was a problem faced everywhere outside of the capital, and even in the capital, some faced problems. However, although it could not provide water to each individual house, the Government had established a number of water access points or fountains to address this need. Additionally, electric power, which until recently was only available in the capital, had now been extended to a number of regions in the interior.

118. There had been many efforts to raise awareness regarding female genital mutilation, in particular in rural areas, and a change in the way the public viewed the issue could be observed. For example, mothers and the women who carried out the procedure had started coming out to announce that they had stopped the practice. That change together with greater access to justice were evidence that the country was on the right path in the implementation of the relevant laws. While those changes looked good on paper, many had initially feared that they would not necessarily be implemented in practice.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

119. **The following recommendations will be examined by Guinea-Bissau, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the forty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council:**

119.1 **Accelerate efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);**

119.2 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia) (Ghana) (Uruguay);**

119.3 **Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Australia) (Burundi) (Denmark) (Honduras);**

119.4 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);**

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

119.6 **Advance towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**

- 119.7 Proceed with the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mali);
- 119.8 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, signed in 2013 (France);
- 119.9 Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);
- 119.10 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the acceptance of an individual complaints procedure (Namibia);
- 119.11 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Niger);
- 119.12 Ratify the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (ILO) (Honduras);
- 119.13 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Honduras);
- 119.14 Step up its collaboration with human rights treaty bodies by submitting the periodic reports on time (Somalia);
- 119.15 Respond favourably to the visit request made by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (France);
- 119.16 Strengthen the regular dialogue between the authorities of Guinea-Bissau with United Nations thematic human rights mechanisms (Mexico);
- 119.17 Redouble efforts to implement the pending recommendations from the previous cycle and make efforts to implement the recommendations it receives in the present universal periodic review process, with the support of the international community (Mozambique);
- 119.18 Continue efforts to fully implement the accepted recommendations (Somalia);
- 119.19 Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 119.20 Make all efforts to maintain the country on a path to democracy and consolidation of the rule of law (Angola);
- 119.21 Step up efforts to implement, as a matter of priority, the adopted six-point road map and the Conakry Agreement to ensure peace and stability (Botswana);
- 119.22 Finalize the revision of the Constitution and ensure that it is aligned with the country's treaty obligations (South Africa);
- 119.23 Adopt national laws in the field of protection of human rights for increasing the human rights standards in the country (Azerbaijan);
- 119.24 Continue cooperation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations to further strengthen its national laws and align them in conformity with international human rights law (India);
- 119.25 Establish and strengthen national policies and institutions that domesticize human rights (Marshall Islands);
- 119.26 Intensify efforts to finalize, adopt and implement legislative frameworks, including draft laws on the code of civil status, the recovery of assets from crime and the code of integrated child protection (Botswana);
- 119.27 Continue to intensify the efforts for implementation of the Terra Ranka Strategic and Operational Plan (India);

- 119.28 Continue to mobilize resources and seek the necessary international support to enhance its capacity to promote and protect human rights (Nigeria);
- 119.29 Continue to work towards strengthening the human rights protection mechanisms (Mauritania);
- 119.30 Consider advancing the role of public-private partnerships, including drafting and adopting relative laws and policies (Myanmar);
- 119.31 Adopt a national plan for human rights (Honduras);
- 119.32 Consider developing a national action plan on human rights, including through regional and cross-regional collaboration (Indonesia);
- 119.33 Strengthen its efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Rwanda);
- 119.34 Consider the possibility of creating a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Niger);
- 119.35 Consider establishing a national human rights commission in compliance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);
- 119.36 Continue with the adoption of a law on the establishment of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Tunisia);
- 119.37 Establish a national human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles (Sudan);
- 119.38 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with Paris Principles (Iraq);
- 119.39 Establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Zambia);
- 119.40 Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 119.41 Establish an independent national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles and ensure that it is adequately resourced (Namibia);
- 119.42 Continue to take measures to strengthen the functioning of the national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 119.43 Review the statutes of the national human rights institution to align them with the Paris Principles (Cabo Verde);
- 119.44 Strengthen the national human rights mechanism and the legislative framework thereof in accordance with the Paris Principles (India);
- 119.45 Enact legislation protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, including expanding non-discrimination laws to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);
- 119.46 Adopt a comprehensive, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Fiji);
- 119.47 Ensure that a human rights approach, as reflected in the Preamble of the Paris Agreement, is also reflected in the Government's 2020 submission of the reviewed nationally determined contributions (Fiji);
- 119.48 Implement policies to mitigate the effects of climate change, which already include diminishing rainfall, rising temperatures and reduced production of staple foods (Marshall Islands);

- 119.49 Enhance action to ensure respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the whole population, in particular women, girls and boys, and adopt all the necessary measures to combat impunity, by carrying out investigations to identify perpetrators of acts of violence and of all human rights violations (Argentina);
- 119.50 Improve conditions of detention by overcoming prison overcrowding and improving sanitary conditions (France);
- 119.51 Appoint and empower a prison ombudsman to address complaints of inhumane treatment and poor conditions in prisons and detention centres (United States of America);
- 119.52 Provide human rights training to police officers and to law enforcement officials in the country (Mexico);
- 119.53 Continue efforts to ensure that allegations of human rights violations committed by security forces are subject to independent and impartial investigations and, more broadly, take measures to strengthen the fight against impunity for the perpetrators of violations (France);
- 119.54 Continue its actions and initiatives with a view to consolidating the administration of justice through the adoption of new legislative and regulatory texts in this area (Benin);
- 119.55 Provide an adequate budget for the administration of justice and accelerate reforms of the justice sector in order to ensure the independence of the judiciary and better accessibility of the court system (Germany);
- 119.56 Strengthen efforts to reform the judiciary and security sectors (Sierra Leone);
- 119.57 Take additional measures to promote the full implementation of the justice reform programme (Timor-Leste);
- 119.58 Take urgent measures to ensure the effective implementation of the programme on justice reform (Togo);
- 119.59 Scale up the fight against impunity and corruption by taking further steps towards the full implementation of the justice sector reform (Belgium);
- 119.60 Strengthen human and institutional capacities in the area of the administration of justice (Benin);
- 119.61 Continue efforts to strengthen the judicial service and consider allocating adequate resources to the sector (Ghana);
- 119.62 Provide more resources to courts and prosecutors' offices (Spain);
- 119.63 Strengthen the institutional capacity of courts, judges and the public prosecution (Oman);
- 119.64 Tackle the high level of impunity by strengthening the capacity and independence of the judiciary, including by allocating sufficient financial resources and by appointing qualified and independent staff (Netherlands);
- 119.65 Fully operationalize tribunals and prosecution offices to ensure the adequate delivery of justice and the countering of corruption (South Africa);
- 119.66 Take appropriate measures to safeguard access to justice by all (Iraq);
- 119.67 Step up and intensify efforts to ensure access to justice for all citizens, taking measures such as the exemption of costs for the most disadvantaged and the establishment of a victim and witness protection system (Spain);
- 119.68 Facilitate and guarantee access to justice, in all regions, through the establishment and operationalization of tribunals and the reduction of court fees (Holy See);

- 119.69 **Actively combat corruption and improve mechanisms for opposing transnational crime in general and drug trafficking in particular (Holy See);**
- 119.70 **Legislate and enforce laws aimed at combating corruption and transnational crimes (Sierra Leone);**
- 119.71 **Take measures to strengthen the fight against drug trafficking (Togo);**
- 119.72 **Reinforce the fight against drug trafficking (Ukraine);**
- 119.73 **Ensure the effective implementation of its National Strategic Plan on Combating Drugs and Organized Crime and Reducing Risk (Philippines);**
- 119.74 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive transitional justice and reconciliation plan (South Africa);**
- 119.75 **Take measures to reduce negative impact of traditional justice (Ukraine);**
- 119.76 **Take concrete steps towards establishing a juvenile justice system (Ukraine);**
- 119.77 **Safeguard the right to freedom of expression by refraining from interfering in peaceful assemblies and ensuring that cases of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials are appropriately investigated (Netherlands);**
- 119.78 **Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, including by providing adequate protection for the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and by taking measures to decriminalize defamation and insult, and placing them within the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards (Ireland);**
- 119.79 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Egypt);**
- 119.80 **Increase its efforts to effectively combat trafficking in human beings (Portugal);**
- 119.81 **Develop a standard operating procedures tool to ensure a harmonized approach is taken by governmental agencies in the identification and protection of victims of trafficking in persons (Seychelles);**
- 119.82 **Enhance measures to counter trafficking in human beings and organized crime, and strengthen the relevant national law enforcement and institutions of justice and ensure they can work independently and free of political influence (Germany);**
- 119.83 **Continue its efforts to counter illicit trafficking through the national plan of action (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 119.84 **Launch a national plan to combat trafficking in persons, in particular the trafficking of women and children, ensuring sufficient resources for the prosecution of crimes and the rehabilitation of victims (Chile);**
- 119.85 **Make further efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly the exploitation of children and women, by strengthening the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);**
- 119.86 **Increase efforts to vigorously investigate, prosecute and convict individuals responsible for or complicit in trafficking in persons, including child sex tourism within the Bijagós Islands (United States of America);**
- 119.87 **Investigate, prosecute and convict those responsible for child trafficking and forced child labour, including forced begging and sex trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 119.88 **Continue to strengthen the work of the National Committee for the Prevention and Combat of Human Trafficking and the inter-institutional**

network of social workers, with a view to offering the highest possible protection to vulnerable children and victims of violence (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

119.89 Strengthen efforts to prevent, investigate and prosecute cases of child trafficking, in particular those linked to forced begging and sex tourism (Canada);

119.90 Redouble efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking, child labour, exploitation and sexual abuse of children, as well as early, forced and child marriage (Brazil);

119.91 Legislate on the fight against transnational trafficking of children and sexual tourism with minors, and implement judicial mechanisms for the investigation and prosecution of such crimes (Mexico);

119.92 Take further measures to investigate all cases of child trafficking and provide services to victims exploited in neighbouring countries (Montenegro);

119.93 Intensify government initiatives to address youth unemployment through professional training (Holy See);

119.94 Continue to consolidate its inclusive public policies in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, with a view to improving the quality of life of its people, with international cooperation and support (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

119.95 Take further steps to ensure that people's right to basic services is fulfilled, by allocating the necessary budget, resources and workable programmes, particularly in the education, health and employment sectors (Indonesia);

119.96 Continue its efforts to formulate a social protection strategy as a good means of eliminating poverty in the country and of measuring progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Islamic Republic of Iran);

119.97 Continue efforts to alleviate poverty and malnutrition (Lesotho);

119.98 Further strengthen the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes through partnerships with the international community (Philippines);

119.99 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, and reduce the number of people living in poverty (China);

119.100 Take urgent measures to combat poverty among the population and ensure access to basic services (Togo);

119.101 Further accentuate action focusing on the fight against poverty through the promotion of socioeconomic activities in rural areas (Morocco);

119.102 Take steps to enhance agricultural productivity, the delivery of housing and poverty relief (South Africa);

119.103 Implement policies on food security, water resources, coastal areas and forests (Ukraine);

119.104 Continue its efforts to increase the availability of safe, potable water and adequate sanitation facilities in rural areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);

119.105 Continue to implement effective measures to combat malnutrition with a view to reducing the main cause of child mortality and morbidity (Angola);

119.106 Continue efforts to ensure an effective and efficient health-care system (Nigeria);

- 119.107 **Strengthen legislation about health and the implementation of policies and directives aimed at improving access, in particular of people with disabilities, women and young people, to health-care services (Algeria);**
- 119.108 **Continue to develop health care and further protect the right to health of its people (China);**
- 119.109 **Support strategies aimed at advancing the health sector and providing universal health care for all (Libya);**
- 119.110 **Strengthen the national health policy with a view to expanding health coverage, infrastructure and human resources, in order to have a positive impact on the population's health, focusing on the reduction of infant and maternal mortality (Cuba);**
- 119.111 **Build a health-care funding system capable of reducing the financial access barrier to health, and promote an efficient use of economic resources (Holy See);**
- 119.112 **Take measures to improve maternal and newborn health care (Timor-Leste);**
- 119.113 **Continue current efforts to improve the health sector and to reduce child mortality (Tunisia);**
- 119.114 **Continue to take the necessary measures to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality rates (Oman);**
- 119.115 **Develop specialized midwife programmes to ensure well-functioning midwife-led continuity of care in order to reduce neonatal and maternal mortality rates (Seychelles);**
- 119.116 **Continue its measures to reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates by improving the capacity of medical personnel and providing more and better facilities in health-care services (Myanmar);**
- 119.117 **Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services (Ukraine);**
- 119.118 **Ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services for all women, including both antenatal and postnatal health (Israel);**
- 119.119 **Ensure the decentralization of sexual and reproductive services at the local level, including through the broadening of protection services of the Ministry of Health, Family and Social Cohesion in all regions of the country, and ensure that the providers of these services have the necessary qualifications to respond to cases of female genital mutilation and other forms of gender violence (Uruguay);**
- 119.120 **Provide for the decentralization of sexual and reproductive services at the local level, including by extending the representative protection services by the Ministry of Health, Family and Social Cohesion in the regions (Iceland);**
- 119.121 **Continue efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS (Egypt);**
- 119.122 **Strengthen measures to safeguard the right to health of its citizens, particularly in the areas of maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, and health care for people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (Lesotho);**
- 119.123 **Take effective steps to improve access to education (Ukraine);**
- 119.124 **Take measures to make the right to education accessible for all at all levels in order to achieve sustainable development (Azerbaijan);**
- 119.125 **Continue to increase investment in education and promote the enrolment rate of school-aged children (China);**
- 119.126 **Continue action carried out in the field of education and the development of school infrastructure (Morocco);**

- 119.127 Take all necessary measures aimed at strengthening the right to education for all, by promoting increased access to and retention of children in school (Djibouti);
- 119.128 Strengthen the reforms and investment in education, with a view to introducing inclusive education (Israel);
- 119.129 Meet the financial resource allocation requirement stipulated in the Education Sector Plan (Denmark);
- 119.130 Allocate an adequate budget to the education sector and take meaningful measures to increase school enrolment rates, particularly in rural areas and of girls (Germany);
- 119.131 Allocate a significant budget to education in order to build schools that are equipped with appropriate infrastructure throughout the country, including schools for persons with disabilities (Gabon);
- 119.132 Take measures to ensure the gratuity of basic compulsory education (Spain);
- 119.133 Further lessen the issue of school dropouts from the first year of basic education (Ethiopia);
- 119.134 Enhance its endeavours to increase school enrolment and reduce school dropouts, allowing all girls and boys throughout the country to complete the basic education (Myanmar);
- 119.135 Combat girls' early school dropout by eradicating harmful practices such as early and forced marriages, child labour and corporal punishment at schools (Gabon);
- 119.136 Continue efforts to encourage the enrolment of girls in school (Mauritania);
- 119.137 Adopt measures to extend free education to up to 12 years, and strengthen action to ensure that all children of compulsory school age have access to education and to reduce school dropouts, particularly in the case of girls (Mexico);
- 119.138 Take further steps to improve school enrolment and retention rates, especially among girls in rural areas (Philippines);
- 119.139 Effectively implement existing education programmes, policies and plans to reduce school dropout, and ensure education coverage and achieve equality between girls and boys in the education sector, particularly in rural areas (Cuba);
- 119.140 Continue taking necessary measures to reduce the gap in access to education between rural and urban areas (Oman);
- 119.141 Continue the legislative measures aimed at equal access to education for all, especially in rural areas (Libya);
- 119.142 Continue efforts to advance the position of women in society, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (Serbia);
- 119.143 Establish a national policy to achieve gender equality, adopting concrete measures to empower women to participate in the political and economic life of the country (Chile);
- 119.144 Strengthen efforts to ensure the fulfilment of rights and equal opportunities for women and men in civil political, economic and social spheres (Indonesia);
- 119.145 Ensure the effective implementation of gender equality laws and policies to protect women's rights (Côte d'Ivoire);

- 119.146 Effectively enforce legislation aimed at eradicating all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Burkina Faso);
- 119.147 Ensure effective implementation of gender equality laws and principles protecting women's rights (Rwanda);
- 119.148 Continue efforts to enforce gender parity, an important factor in combating poverty (Tunisia);
- 119.149 Effectively implement the 2019 Gender Parity Act so that governance structures are more inclusive and gender-balanced (Canada);
- 119.150 Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children, in particular the re-establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, which was abolished in March 2019 (Ghana);
- 119.151 Increase efforts to promote men's involvement in fighting gender inequality and to also promote free access of women to modern family planning methods (Iceland);
- 119.152 Set up mechanisms to investigate and punish all acts of violence against women and girls (Spain);
- 119.153 Step up the promotion and protection of women's rights by implementing additional measures to combat violence against women (Djibouti);
- 119.154 Increase the efforts to fight all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including by ensuring the effective implementation of existing laws on domestic violence (Italy);
- 119.155 Undertake specific measures to increase the reporting of all forms of violence and abuse against women and girls, including through the development of education campaigns, enhanced training for police and the judiciary and the provision of survivor support services (Australia);
- 119.156 Take effective measures against social stigmatization of victims of sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of perpetrators (Germany);
- 119.157 Take further measures to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation (Portugal);
- 119.158 Adopt additional measures to ensure the rights of women, including the effective implementation of laws and policies related to combating female genital mutilation, human trafficking and domestic violence (Brazil);
- 119.159 Adopt additional measures to combat discriminatory practices against women and girls, namely female genital mutilation and forced marriages (Cabo Verde);
- 119.160 Draw up and adopt new legislation to better fight against forced marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual violence and domestic violence (Togo);
- 119.161 Adopt necessary measures aimed at eliminating harmful practices, such as child and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation (Ukraine);
- 119.162 Intensify its efforts to combat female genital mutilation (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 119.163 Strengthen implementation of measures to prevent and combat practices harmful to women, including female genital mutilation (Nepal);
- 119.164 Continue efforts to combat all forms of violence against women, and step up awareness campaigns to eliminate harmful practices against women, in particular female genital mutilation (Sudan);

- 119.165 Ensure the effective implementation of the law prohibiting female genital mutilation (Zambia);
- 119.166 Take action to support activities to sensitize communities to the reasons for, and importance of, respecting the 2011 law against female genital mutilation, particularly in rural areas, and ensure cases are brought to trial (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 119.167 Increase efforts to combat female genital mutilation by developing a clear capacity-building plan for service providers (Belgium);
- 119.168 Strengthen efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the law prohibiting female genital mutilation (Georgia);
- 119.169 Enhance the implementation of the existing law prohibiting female genital mutilation, including by promoting awareness campaigns in all areas of the country (Italy);
- 119.170 Effectively implement the federal Law to Prevent, Fight and Suppress Female Genital Mutilation, notably through awareness-raising and enforcement activities, in particular in high-prevalence areas (Canada);
- 119.171 Take further action to enforce the ban on female genital mutilation and criminalize the participation of medical professionals in acts of female genital mutilation (Australia);
- 119.172 Strengthen measures to eradicate practices such as female genital mutilation and ablation, as well as forced marriages and sexual violence against women and girls (Argentina);
- 119.173 Ensure that perpetrators of gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, early or forced marriage and rape, are systematically brought to justice in fair trials (France);
- 119.174 Continue to strengthen the enforcement of gender equality laws and policies protecting women's rights and measures to address female genital mutilation (Fiji);
- 119.175 Effectively implement gender equality laws and policies protecting women's rights, including by engaging in outreach and education to change discriminatory and harmful traditional norms, stereotypes and practices, such as those concerning child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and physical, psychological and sexual violence against women (Ireland);
- 119.176 Ensure the effective implementation of gender equality laws and policies by taking concrete measures to address discrimination and violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage (Slovenia);
- 119.177 Eliminate the practice of early and forced marriages and harmonize legislation in this field with international instruments (Montenegro);
- 119.178 Engage in outreach and education to change discriminatory and harmful traditional norms and practices, including those concerning child and forced marriage (Rwanda);
- 119.179 Strengthen measures to prevent child marriage, in particular coordination between agencies, public education and awareness of girls and boys at risk (Canada);
- 119.180 Take further effective measures, including by the adoption of legislation or national policies to prevent child, early and forced marriages and young child labour (Bulgaria);
- 119.181 Take all the appropriate measures to prevent all forms of violence against children, including child labour and exploitation, and child, early and

forced marriages, by means of increasing the minimum age for labour and raising the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 (Italy);

119.182 Harmonize marriage legislation in line with international standards (Azerbaijan);

119.183 Amend articles 1602a and 1649 of the Criminal Code so as to abolish any exceptions to marriage before the age of 18 (Denmark);

119.184 Adopt the law to combat forced and early marriages and the establishment of temporary shelters for child victims of violence and exploitation (Zambia);

119.185 Take effective measures, including the strengthening of existing legislation, to prevent child, early and forced marriages in practice, and to bring national legislation into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Iceland);

119.186 Finalize the process of adopting the code of integrated child protection (Israel);

119.187 Accelerate the adoption of the draft code of integrated child protection, including in it comprehensive measures to protect children against trafficking in persons, forced marriages, sexual abuse and the worst forms of child labour (Spain);

119.188 Adopt the code on child protection and implement provisions to protect children from child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse, and human trafficking (Belgium);

119.189 Adopt the draft comprehensive code on child protection, with a view to ensuring that children are protected from all forms of violence (Burkina Faso);

119.190 Continue the ongoing efforts to develop comprehensive child protection (Libya);

119.191 Pass legislation to define child abuse as a specific crime with appropriate criminal penalties (United States of America);

119.192 Ensure the availability of effective services and access to justice for child victims of violence, abuse and exploitation (Canada);

119.193 Elaborate a specific action plan to address child labour (Ukraine);

119.194 Continue with the ongoing review of domestic laws to promote children and human rights practices (Ghana);

119.195 Adopt provisions for the implementation of the law on the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities, and implement a national policy and a specific strategy to enhance the autonomy of persons with disabilities (Algeria);

119.196 Improve access to education for children with disabilities through teacher training and curriculum revision (Bulgaria);

119.197 Endure in its path of sustaining tailored assistance for the social inclusion of students with disabilities (Ethiopia).

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.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Guinea-Bissau was headed by H.E Ms Ruth Monteiro, Minister of Justice and Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Ambassador Alfredo Cabral, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister;
 - Mr. Vasco Biagué, Legal Advisor to the President of the Assembly;
 - Ms. Fatumata Jau, Consultant.
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