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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Maldives

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.



Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirty-sixth session from 2 to 13 November 2020. The review of Maldives was held at the 6th meeting, on 4 November 2020. The delegation of Maldives was headed by the Attorney General, Ibrahim Riffath. At its 10th meeting, held on 6 November 2020, the Working Group adopted the report on Maldives.
2. On 14 January 2020, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Maldives: Armenia, Philippines and Togo.
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 Maldives:
 - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/MDV/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.6/36/MDV/2);
 - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/36/MDV/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Canada, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, on behalf of Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Maldives 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 delegation noted that Maldives remained committed to the universal periodic review process and valued its relationship with the international community. Unfortunately, the majority of the reporting period had been a time when the State had shied away from democratic norms and experienced unprecedented levels of deterioration of respect for human rights.
6. Nevertheless, Maldives had achieved immense progress in the previous two years. The President, Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, had established the Presidential Commission on Investigation of Murders and Enforced Disappearances, to investigate deaths under suspicious circumstances and cases of inexplicable disappearance; the Presidential Commission on Corruption and Asset Recovery, to investigate the misuse of State funds; and presidential committees to conduct an inquiry into unfair dismissals and to investigate corruption pertaining to social housing awards.
7. The Government had submitted to parliament a bill on transitional justice, with a view to investigating abuse of authority and violation of human rights.
8. Maldives had renewed its standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders. The State had welcomed the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
9. Maldives had ratified seven core human rights conventions and withdrawn several reservations to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The State had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and submitted a declaration under article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Further, the parliament had approved the ratification of the International

Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

10. Concerning death penalty, the Government was committed to upholding the informal moratorium. Judicial reform and enhancement of legislative mechanisms relating to the criminal justice system took precedence over resuming executions.

11. The delegation noted that the Government did not support or endorse, and would in no manner entertain, the vile act of female genital mutilation.

12. The State remained committed to eliminating violent extremism through law enforcement and awareness-raising. A ministerial-level subcommittee had been convened under the National Security Council to enhance inter-agency coordination on countering terrorism and violent extremism. In July 2020, the President had approved a multisectoral national action plan on preventing and countering violent extremism, devised by the National Counter-Terrorism Centre.

13. Maldives recognized that climate change constituted a threat to its very existence and urged a concerted global approach to mitigate the effects.

14. The ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had hindered progress in Maldives. The State had taken unprecedented steps to minimize the adverse impact of the pandemic on human rights. The recently passed Public Health Emergency Act mandated the Government to provide food, shelter and income support for vulnerable groups during a pandemic.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 95 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Spain noted that Maldives had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It welcomed improvements in combating sexual crimes, particularly against children. It noted a worsening in freedom of expression.

17. Sri Lanka noted the priority given to improving the rule of law and the judicial system, including equal representation of women in the judiciary. It commended Maldives for the progress made with respect to the rights of women and children, the enactment of the Gender Equality Act and inclusive education.

18. The State of Palestine commended Maldives for its commitment in implementing recommendations from the previous review cycle and for the steps taken to protect human rights and to improve education and access to sexual and reproductive health services, including through the renewal of the Health Master Plan (2016–2025) in 2017.

19. The Sudan commended Maldives for the steps taken to promote and protect human rights, particularly for women and children.

20. Switzerland expressed concern about the situation of human rights defenders, also in particular women human rights defenders, who were victims of regular threats and harassment, as illustrated by the dissolution of the Maldivian Democracy Network.

21. Thailand welcomed the establishment of the Prison Reform Monitoring Committee, the enactment of the Gender Equality Act and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, and the appointment of two female judges to the Supreme Court. It encouraged efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination.

22. Trinidad and Tobago encouraged Maldives to promote the rule of law, democratic values and human rights, and to strengthen the governance system. It applauded the State's commitment to enhancing climate resilience and mitigating damage to ecosystems.

23. Tunisia welcomed the steps taken to improve the legislative and institutional framework, cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms, the national human

rights framework and the legislative agenda, and the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 and the laws adopted on gender equality, children’s rights and terrorism.

24. Timor-Leste welcomed the State’s achievement of almost universal participation of children in education at the pre-primary, primary, lower secondary and secondary levels.

25. Turkey commended Maldives for the steps taken to strengthen human rights and democracy and ease access to justice, and for the achievements on child rights and universal and quality education. It encouraged the international community to support the State’s efforts on climate change.

26. Ukraine commended Maldives for the decisive steps taken with the aim of consolidating democratic values and norms, and for progress achieved in respect of human rights, including through the adoption of numerous legislative acts.

27. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the efforts made in the area of the environment, and the commitment to intensifying efforts on climate change and finding sustainable solutions, particularly providing safe drinking water.

28. The United Kingdom recognized the progress made in consolidating democracy, improving governance, promoting human rights, strengthening judicial independence and conducting peaceful elections in 2019, but indicated that it remained concerned that women were underrepresented in parliament.

29. The United States called upon Maldives to protect fundamental freedoms, particularly the freedoms of assembly and of belief, stressing that the presence of an active and free civil society was necessary to secure democratic progress in the State.

30. Vanuatu commended the Government of Maldives for taking several positive steps in promoting and protecting human rights.

31. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela congratulated Maldives on its human rights commitment and achievements, particularly on the provision of accessible health services on all islands and free primary and secondary education of quality and without discrimination.

32. Viet Nam expressed appreciation that gender equality and inclusivity was a cross-cutting priority in the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023, especially in the face of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

33. Afghanistan commended Maldives for the progress made in combating trafficking in persons and for the increased school enrolment rates. It indicated that it remained concerned at the inadequate legal frameworks on women, children, refugees and asylum seekers. It encouraged Maldives to protect human rights in the COVID-19 context.

34. Albania welcomed measures taken to increase the independence of the judiciary and the State’s accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It encouraged measures for the protection of vulnerable groups, including children, against discrimination, and efforts on gender equality.

35. On justice and legal sector reform, the delegation stressed that the Constitution of 2008 sought to establish an independent judiciary. However, allegations of corruption and political influence had tarnished the judiciary’s reputation. Allegations of systemic manipulation, unimaginable levels of corruption, coercion and political influence had been at their peak during the previous Administration.

36. In 2019, the Government had formulated its proposals for judicial reform and conducted a feasibility assessment. The Government’s five-year Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 included a dedicated subsector on the rule of law and judicial reform.

37. The judicial reform plan included reforming the court structure and jurisdiction and enhancing court administration and the accountability and integrity of judges.

38. In September 2019, the Judicial Service Commission Act had been amended to improve court administration. The Commission had been strenuously pursuing its mandate. The Government had formulated amendments to the Judges Act to enhance the rules of judicial conduct, introduce mechanisms for evaluating the competency of judges and

establish rules on the mandatory declaration of assets. The Government had been actively engaging with international partners to facilitate training opportunities for the judiciary.

39. Achieving gender parity in the judiciary was a priority in the Government's judicial reform plan. For the first time in Maldivian history, there were women judges presiding over cases at all tiers of the court system. The first women justices had been appointed to the Supreme Court in September 2019. The first woman judges in the Criminal Court and the High Court had been appointed in September 2020 and October 2020 respectively. The current President of the Judicial Service Commission and the current Chief Judicial Administrator were the first women to be appointed to those positions.

40. A comprehensive legislative agenda had been formulated at the beginning of the current Administration, identifying more than 200 bills. The bills were intended to further strengthen the Maldivian legal system.

41. Argentina made recommendations.

42. Armenia welcomed the adoption of the Child Rights Protection Act, the establishment of the Child Rights Protection Council and the Office of the Children's Ombudsperson, and the work done on the protection of the rights of women, persons with disabilities, migrants, human rights defenders and journalists.

43. Australia commended Maldives for the improvements made to human rights, and applauded its renewed engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

44. Austria underlined the important progress made by the Government in the field of human rights and encouraged the Government to continue to implement its ambitious reform agenda.

45. Azerbaijan noted the achievements made in addressing the structural, institutional and legislative problems, formulating the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023, with development targets, and achieving access to education.

46. The Bahamas recognized the challenges faced by Maldives, including limited human resources, the need to duplicate services throughout its islands and the threats posed by climate change. It called on the international community to cooperate with the State.

47. Bahrain commended Maldives for the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights, including women's place in society, the rights of children, persons with disabilities and the environment.

48. Bangladesh congratulated Maldives for its remarkable achievements in the sectors of health, housing and education, and for devising the comprehensive Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023.

49. Belgium congratulated Maldives for the appointment of two female judges to the Supreme Court.

50. Botswana commended Maldives for its commitment to cooperate with the special procedure mandate holders and encouraged the State to utilize the technical assistance offer by the United Nations through its specialized agencies.

51. Brazil commended Maldives for the prohibition of the death penalty against children. It urged Maldives to repeal all legal restrictions of citizenship for non-Muslims, and to further protect women's rights, prevent trafficking in persons and religious intolerance and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

52. Canada welcomed the progress made in increasing women's representation in Government and in the judiciary, and the steps taken to strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

53. Chile valued the maintenance of the moratorium on the death penalty and the efforts made regarding the right to education and the increase in schooling rates.

54. China noted the State's active promotion of economic and social development, education, health, and the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities and its efforts to combat climate change, drug trafficking and the COVID-19 pandemic.

55. Cuba welcomed the State's efforts to expand access to health and education throughout its territory, and to maintain high literacy rates.
56. Denmark commended Maldives for having withdrawn reservations to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, but indicated that it remained deeply concerned at the failure to uphold the right to freedom of religion or belief.
57. Djibouti welcomed the peaceful transfer of power during the 2019 legislative elections and expressed appreciation for efforts made in domestic legislation, in particular in the Juvenile Justice Act, the Gender Equality Act and the Criminal Procedure Act.
58. The Dominican Republic acknowledged the State's efforts to increase the school enrolment rate, and the improvements made in specialized education for children with disabilities.
59. Ecuador recognized the progress made, in particular the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the adoption of the Gender Equality Act.
60. On the protection of vulnerable groups, the delegation of Maldives noted that the Gender Equality Act had been enacted in 2016, and that the Gender Equality Policy, which would be complemented by a gender equality action plan, had been endorsed in 2019. Amendments to the Decentralization Act had introduced an electoral quota of 33 per cent of local council seats to be held by women. That amendment would result in the election of at least 384 women to local councils across Maldives.
61. Maldives was committed to reducing gender disparity at key decision-making levels of the State. Currently, women represented 35 per cent of the Cabinet of ministers, more than 20 per cent of appointed State ministers and 63 per cent of the civil service. A total of 22.3 per cent of women held managerial positions.
62. In July 2020, the Government had launched a nationwide campaign against domestic violence. The Government would also invest in constructing shelter homes, strengthening the helpline and establishing emergency funds for victims and survivors.
63. The overhauled Child Rights Protection Act, enacted in November 2019, prohibited the infliction of death penalty on minors, recognized the legal age for marriage as 18 years and set the age for criminal responsibility at 15 years.
64. The newly enacted Juvenile Justice Act emphasized the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law. The Act introduced diversion mechanisms and specific interventions targeting at-risk youth and children.
65. Maldives recognized the need to formulate and implement stronger policies to ensure that persons with disabilities had an equal platform for participation.
66. Egypt noted that the presentation by Maldives reflected national efforts aimed at protecting human rights and measures taken to address institutional and legislative gaps in the State.
67. Ethiopia hailed the comprehensive Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023, the renewed Health Master Plan and domestic violence prevention efforts, and recognized the progress made towards achieving near universal literacy.
68. Fiji commended Maldives for the advancement of its legal framework on the protection of children and on its commitment to ensuring gender equality and effective protection of women.
69. France encouraged the Maldivian authorities to continue the efforts that they had initiated two years previously and invited them to implement its recommendations.
70. Georgia welcomed efforts made to strengthen the legislative framework for the protection of human rights and noted with appreciation the State's endeavours to enhance cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

71. Germany hailed efforts to further develop and fortify the democratization process and to acknowledge the need to tackle religious radicalization, but indicated that it remained concerned about recent developments, particularly with regard to civil society space.
72. Greece recognized the progress achieved since the previous review, such as the adoption and implementation of the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 and the promulgation of the Gender Equality Act.
73. Guyana applauded the enactment of the Gender Equality Act, which for the first time provided the legal framework needed to address both gender-based discrimination and gender-based violence.
74. Haiti recognized the will of Maldives to respect its commitments under the universal periodic review despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
75. The Holy See recognized the progress made since the previous review on combating corruption and impunity, in particular through efforts to strengthen the judicial system.
76. Honduras welcomed the progress and results achieved on the implementation of recommendations from previous reviews, particularly the considerable efforts made to combat acts of torture in places of detention.
77. Iceland welcomed the national report and the steps outlined therein, and expressed hope that they would continue.
78. India expressed appreciation for the efforts that Maldives had made to restore the rule of law and democratic values by promoting and protecting human rights and by strengthening the State's governance system.
79. Indonesia welcomed efforts to ensure the success of the democratic transition, particularly through the introduction of legislation to protect fundamental rights and the enactment of a zero-tolerance policy on corruption.
80. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly encouraged Maldives to take effective measures to promote and protect human rights, in accordance with its commitments and obligations.
81. Iraq expressed appreciation for the efforts made in the establishment of the rule of law, including the adoption of the Criminal Procedure Act. It welcomed the steps taken to reform the judiciary, and the commitments to combating violent extremism.
82. Ireland expressed concern about reported impunity for violent acts against non-Muslims and non-believers and the criminalization of apostasy and blasphemy, urging full respect for freedom of religion or belief for all.
83. Italy welcomed the abolition of both the death penalty and corporal punishment against minors and expressed appreciation for the progress achieved in ensuring the impartiality and independence of the judiciary.
84. Japan commended Maldives for the measures taken to protect and promote the rights of women and children, including the domestic violence prevention plan and the establishment of the Child Rights Protection Council.
85. Jordan commended Maldives for the consultative process followed in the preparation of the national report, which had included consultations with the Human Rights Commission of Maldives and civil society. It noted the launch of a comprehensive national plan and the revision of deficiencies in legislation.
86. On freedom of expression and association, the delegation of Maldives stressed that the Government was committed to independent journalism and was fully committed to providing the maximum space, as provided for in the Constitution, to exercise the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly.
87. Civil society and non-profit organizations were an integral part of the development in Maldives. The Government had considered the recommendations of civil society on different platforms, including in the formulation of the Government's Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023. An overhauled bill on associations had been submitted to the parliament.

88. The Government was committed to ensuring that Maldivians were able to enjoy every aspect of life and exercise their rights without fear of reprisal.
89. The Maldives Police Service continued to be vigilant in countering threats of harm, both in person and through online platforms, towards human rights advocates and journalists. To strengthen the governance of the Maldives Police Service, a bill focusing on police accountability and democratic policing had been formulated.
90. The Maldives Police Service had established the Maldives Women in Policing Network, with the aim of providing more opportunities for women officers. Human rights had been incorporated into the training of police officers. Work was also under way to devise a holistic competency framework for police officers.
91. Kazakhstan welcomed the State's engagement with the international human rights system and the extension of a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders.
92. Kuwait praised the efforts made to promote human rights, particularly through the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023, which was in the process of being implemented despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
93. Kyrgyzstan welcomed the efforts made to strengthen legal frameworks to ensure women's empowerment and the adoption of the Gender Equality Act to actively promote the engagement of women in society.
94. Latvia welcomed the extension of a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders and encouraged further efforts to fulfil human rights obligations.
95. Libya expressed appreciation for the activities carried out by the Human Rights Commission and the establishment of human rights advisory centres since 2012.
96. Luxembourg made recommendations.
97. Malaysia commended Maldives for the adoption of the Gender Equality Act, the measures taken to assist youth in venturing into the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises sector, and the establishment of the SME Development Finance Corporation to encourage the participation of women in business.
98. Malta welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the adoption of the Gender Equality Act.
99. The Marshall Islands commended Maldives for the launch of the Climate-Smart Resilient Islands Initiative and for efforts made to investigate past attacks on journalists. It noted that more should be done to uphold freedom of expression and to combat hate speech.
100. Mauritania welcomed the reforms in education and health care, and efforts made to ensure climate change resilience and to mitigate the effects of climate change.
101. Mauritius commended Maldives for its bill on climate change, aimed at building resilience.
102. Mexico welcomed the progress made in the field of human rights, particularly the adoption of the Juvenile Justice Act.
103. Montenegro reiterated its call for Maldives to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. It expressed concern about the findings of the United Nations mechanisms regarding violence against women.
104. Morocco welcomed the National Human Rights Framework, which identified 14 outcome areas for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of fundamental rights. It expressed support for the large-scale social housing project being conducted across the State.
105. Myanmar, while noting some improvements, indicated that it remained concerned about respect for freedom to practise faith and freedom of belief in Maldives.

106. Namibia commended Maldives for the measures taken to promote transparency and accountability and to combat corruption. It noted with satisfaction that the death penalty had not been applied for more than six and a half decades.
107. Nepal commended Maldives for its efforts aimed at implementing the Gender Equality Act, formulating the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 to implement Sustainable Development Goals, building climate-resilient infrastructure and developing a national strategic framework to mobilize international climate finance.
108. The Netherlands commended Maldives for the constitutional reforms undertaken and for the adoption of the Gender Equality Act. It noted that challenges remained, such as sexual and gender-based violence and respect for freedom of expression and freedom of religion.
109. New Zealand commended Maldives for having successfully hosted free and fair democratic elections in 2019 and for its progress in strengthening its judiciary.
110. The Niger commended Maldives for having honoured 83 per cent of its commitments under the 100-Day Acton Plan. It encouraged Maldives to implement its comprehensive Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023.
111. The delegation of Maldives noted that tackling the issues of migrant workers and trafficking in persons was a national priority. The Government was committed to identifying the root causes and consolidating efforts to address the issues prevalent within the system.
112. A national task force on issues related to migrant workers had been established, and a nationwide regularization programme had been initiated in early 2019.
113. While accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families currently represented a challenge, Maldives was committed to the provision of fundamental rights and basic necessities to all migrant workers.
114. Efforts to combat trafficking in persons were led by a multisectoral national steering committee, whose work the Government had successfully relaunched. A national action plan had come into effect on 30 March 2020, aimed at accelerating the elimination of trafficking in persons in Maldives.
115. Nigeria noted with appreciation efforts made towards reform of the justice sector and the empowerment of women. It commended the Government for the measure taken with a view to combating trafficking in persons and protecting the rights of victims and the rights of migrants.
116. Oman reviewed the national report and the participatory methodology used, which highlighted an interest in promoting and protecting human rights, in particular concerning the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023.
117. Pakistan noted the legislative and administrative measures taken to strengthen national capacity on human rights, including strengthening the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, reviving the economic sector, ensuring social protection and enhancing access to education and health facilities.
118. Panama welcomed the efforts made by Maldives to promote gender equality, climate change resilience and good governance through the comprehensive Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023.
119. Peru made recommendations.
120. The Philippines commended Maldives for the adoption of laws aimed at strengthening human rights promotion and protection, and acknowledged the efforts made towards achieving inclusive, sustainable and decentralized development.
121. Portugal welcomed the approval of the Gender Equality Act and the recent withdrawal of some reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
122. Romania encouraged Maldives to fulfil its commitments to strengthening of the rule of law, judicial reform, independent institutions, and the promotion of gender equality. It

noted that, despite progressive bills, the implementation of child protection legislation remained a challenge.

123. The Russian Federation noted with satisfaction the progress achieved on human rights, especially the implementation of the recommendations from the second review cycle, the efforts made to improve the judiciary, and the measures aimed at increasing the protection of children and ensuring gender equality.

124. Saudi Arabia welcomed the positive engagement of Maldives with the international human rights mechanisms and the measures taken, including the development of a national human rights framework and the legislative amendments to guarantee human rights.

125. Senegal commended Maldives for the implementation of the recommendations accepted from the second review cycle, including the adoption of a law on transitional justice and the formulation of a national action plan to combat trafficking in persons.

126. Sierra Leone welcomed the measures taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including reprioritizing the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023 to adapt and determine socioeconomic policies. It called on the international community to assist Maldives in its efforts on climate resilience.

127. Singapore commended Maldives for its efforts to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, through initiatives to improve the delivery of social services, prevent domestic violence and ensure the protection of children's rights.

128. Slovenia welcomed the steps taken to advance women's rights, but indicated that it remained concerned about the staggering lack of implementation of legislation and about the levels of impunity for perpetrators of gender-based violence and sexual assault.

129. Somalia commended Maldives for having enacted the Gender Equality Act, in August 2016. It acknowledged the challenges that Maldives faced, such as the rising sea levels due to global warming, and trafficking in persons in the context of tourism.

130. South Sudan expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Maldives to improve the human rights situation in the State.

131. Togo commended Maldives for the progress made in the protection of human rights since the previous review. It welcomed the vast institutional, legislative and structural reforms, which reflected a strong political will to strengthen the rule of law in the State.

132. In its concluding remarks, the delegation stated that Maldives fully took note of the recommendations, comments and concerns expressed during its review. The Government would give maximum consideration to the recommendations. The President had endorsed the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, with a view to ensuring coherence in the formulation of national reports and timely and systematic follow-up on the progress of implementation.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

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

133.1 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia) (Chile) (France) (Spain);**

133.2 **Finalize the process of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**

133.3 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);**

- 133.4 **Accede to and implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Vanuatu);**
- 133.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Afghanistan);**
- 133.6 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**
- 133.7 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, as well as acceding to other fundamental international human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party (Argentina);**
- 133.8 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Armenia);**
- 133.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Armenia);**
- 133.10 **Consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Ecuador);**
- 133.11 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France);**
- 133.12 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Germany);**
- 133.13 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**
- 133.14 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);**
- 133.15 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Honduras);**
- 133.16 **Consider acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**
- 133.17 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);**
- 133.18 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mauritius);**
- 133.19 **Ratify the core human rights instruments to which Maldives is not yet a party (Montenegro);**
- 133.20 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Morocco);**
- 133.21 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**
- 133.22 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which Maldives signed in February 2007 (Niger);**

- 133.23 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Niger);**
- 133.24 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Panama);**
- 133.25 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**
- 133.26 **Consider ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**
- 133.27 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), as it has already committed to doing (Portugal);**
- 133.28 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sierra Leone);**
- 133.29 **Accede to and implement the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (South Sudan);**
- 133.30 **Reconsider its reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (on article 18 – freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (on all clauses related to adoption and on article 14.1 – freedom of thought, conscience and religion) (Vanuatu);**
- 133.31 **Withdraw reservations to article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and cease to restrict the freedom to hold a religion or belief of one’s choice (Austria);**
- 133.32 **Withdraw all reservations to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women before the Convention’s forty-fifth anniversary, in 2024 (Canada);**
- 133.33 **Withdraw the reservation to article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Denmark);**
- 133.34 **Consider lifting reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Tunisia);**
- 133.35 **Lift the remaining reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal);**
- 133.36 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**
- 133.37 **Make additional efforts to ensure that legislation respects the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Spain);**
- 133.38 **Strengthen the Human Rights Commission of Maldives to ensure that it obtains A status (Ukraine);**
- 133.39 **Continue to implement the Strategic Action Plan for the period 2019–2023, taking into consideration the relevant goals of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (United Arab Emirates);**
- 133.40 **Strengthen existing national legislation to ensure that all modern slavery crimes are fully criminalized in line with international conventions, including human trafficking, slavery as a stand-alone offence, child prostitution, forced marriage, and the involvement of children in armed conflict (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

- 133.41 **Increase the resources of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives (Albania);**
- 133.42 **Strengthen the independence, accountability and functioning of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, including with adequate funding and staffing in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Australia);**
- 133.43 **Accelerate efforts towards the establishment of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up as a standing government structure mandated to coordinate reporting to, as well as follow-up to and implementation of recommendations made by, international human rights bodies and mechanisms (Bahamas);**
- 133.44 **Continue to strengthen the role of its national mechanisms and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the country (Bangladesh);**
- 133.45 **Adopt specific legislation to criminalize marital rape without any exemptions and undertake legislative reforms to prevent domestic violence against women (Germany);**
- 133.46 **Continue efforts towards the full implementation of its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Greece);**
- 133.47 **Strengthen already existing legislation aimed at reducing human trafficking and sexual tourism, providing particular protection for children and migrants (Holy See);**
- 133.48 **Implement concrete measures to combat trafficking in persons through the adoption of relevant national legislation (Islamic Republic of Iran);**
- 133.49 **Ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, including by allocating adequate resources for the implementation of the national strategy (Japan);**
- 133.50 **Continue with the same approach to serving human rights issues (Kuwait);**
- 133.51 **Strengthen further the legal frameworks related to the protection of women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Kyrgyzstan);**
- 133.52 **Fulfil its pledges within the framework of its strategic action plans in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights mechanisms (Libya);**
- 133.53 **Encourage the full implementation of the Maldives Domestic Violence Prevention National Action Plan (Malta);**
- 133.54 **Allocate adequate human and financial resources to update the 2012 Domestic Violence Prevention Act (Marshall Islands);**
- 133.55 **Adapt articles 9 and 19 of the Constitution so that it protects the right to freedom of religion or belief in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Netherlands);**
- 133.56 **Sustain efforts for the effective implementation of the national human rights framework (Pakistan);**
- 133.57 **Introduce legislative measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of religious intolerance and discrimination on the basis of religion or belief and effectively address hate speech on the Internet (Panama);**
- 133.58 **Consider eliminating all legal provisions that limit freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Peru);**

- 133.59 Continue to strengthen the legal framework pertaining to the protection of children (Romania);
- 133.60 Continue its efforts to create a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up regarding the fulfilment of its international human rights obligations (Saudi Arabia);
- 133.61 Make additional efforts to adopt a national plan to prevent and combat violent extremism (Saudi Arabia);
- 133.62 Provide the Human Rights Commission of Maldives with the necessary human and financial resources in compliance with the Paris Principles (Senegal);
- 133.63 Strengthen the national human rights protection system (Somalia);
- 133.64 Allocate sufficient funds for the Human Rights Commission of Maldives to fulfil its mandates (Somalia);
- 133.65 Redouble efforts in the working process to bring about the changes envisaged in the new Constitution within the existing and long-entrenched structural and normative constraints (South Sudan);
- 133.66 Guarantee full and equal enjoyment of human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by repealing the norms that penalize and stigmatize them (Argentina);
- 133.67 Repeal the laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships and immediately reinstate the moratorium on the arbitrary arrest and detention of persons based on their sexual orientation (real or perceived), gender identity or expression (Chile);
- 133.68 Pursue the policy of eliminating inequalities between men and women by taking effective measures aimed at increasing the participation of women in political and public life (Djibouti);
- 133.69 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex and expand its anti-discrimination legislation to include a prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity (Iceland);
- 133.70 Ensure full protection of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons without discrimination (Italy);
- 133.71 Continue its work towards the effective implementation of measures to ensure gender equality (Kyrgyzstan);
- 133.72 Uphold its international human rights obligations, especially as regards equal rights for all citizens (Mauritius);
- 133.73 Repeal all the provisions that discriminate and stigmatize persons on the basis of their gender identity or sexual orientation and guarantee their full enjoyment of their rights (Mexico);
- 133.74 Decriminalize consensual same-sex relationships between adults, and take action to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (New Zealand);
- 133.75 Remove from Maldivian law all provisions that discriminate on the basis of religion, namely those regarding citizenship, and accede to the United Nations conventions on statelessness (Portugal);
- 133.76 Substantively revise discriminatory legislation, particularly all provisions that discriminate on the basis of religion, and safeguard the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as required under international law (Sierra Leone);
- 133.77 Redouble efforts to combat discriminatory stereotypes and promote the values of fundamental equality between women and men throughout society,

in particular through awareness-raising campaigns and the adoption of measures of positive discrimination to promote gender equality (Togo);

133.78 Further enhance awareness-raising activities on the impact of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights (Viet Nam);

133.79 Continue efforts to protect the environment and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Bahrain);

133.80 Continue to adopt effective adaptation measures and work with the international community to fight climate change in keeping with human rights imperatives (Bangladesh);

133.81 Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, and improve the living standards of its people so as to provide a solid basis for the enjoyment of all human rights (China);

133.82 Continue to implement, from an inclusive perspective, the measures and plans provided for in the Climate-Smart Resilient Islands Initiative, in order to combat climate change and strengthen the resilience of its communities (Dominican Republic);

133.83 Ensure a gender approach and consider the needs of persons with disabilities in the adoption of regulatory frameworks, programmes and policies related to climate change and disaster management (Ecuador);

133.84 Ensure that women (especially in rural areas), children, persons with disabilities and indigenous and local communities are meaningfully engaged in the development and implementation of frameworks on climate change and disaster risk reduction (Fiji);

133.85 Ensure that the current climate change bill promotes climate resilience and sustainable economic development, in follow-up to the recommendations in paragraphs 141.127 and 141.128 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle (A/HRC/30/8), accepted by Maldives (Haiti);

133.86 Further enhance transparency and accountability in environmental protection, marine life and ecosystems, including through bilateral, regional and international cooperation to abolish human trafficking, slavery and other human rights abuses in the fisheries sector (Indonesia);

133.87 Set national plans aimed at improving the environment and combating climate change (Iraq);

133.88 Intensify efforts to enhance climate resilience and implement multisectoral and sustainable solutions to mitigate damage to ecosystems (Jordan);

133.89 Adopt and implement human rights-consistent disaster risk reduction measures that ensure protection for people from foreseeable and unavoidable impacts of climate crisis (Kazakhstan);

133.90 Promote the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, especially among the tourism-related enterprises, to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the business sector (Thailand);

133.91 Continue the efforts made to further develop the human rights system within the framework of the Strategic Action Plan for the period 2019–2023, and in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Tunisia);

133.92 Impose an official moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Albania);

133.93 Strengthen the implementation of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act (Sri Lanka);

133.94 Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty and consider the possibility of commuting all remaining death sentences, and look into the

possibility of amending its legislation in order to abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Argentina);

133.95 Maintain its moratorium on executions, amend legislation to remove the death penalty for any crime and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);

133.96 Maintain the moratorium on the application of the death penalty (Belgium);

133.97 Consider abolishing the death penalty (Fiji);

133.98 Improve detention conditions (France);

133.99 Continue with and further intensify measures aimed at combating human trafficking (Georgia);

133.100 Allocate sufficient resources to improve the conditions of detention towards full implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Greece);

133.101 Consider extending the moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See);

133.102 Impose an official moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Switzerland);

133.103 Fully abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);

133.104 Strengthen efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons, especially children and women (Iraq);

133.105 Adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty while moving towards the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes (Ireland);

133.106 Introduce a de jure moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Italy);

133.107 Retain the moratorium on the death penalty in all circumstances, in particular for juvenile offenders, and work towards the complete abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);

133.108 Continue the moratorium on the application of death penalty with a view to its abolition for all offences (Luxembourg);

133.109 Abolish the death penalty (Marshall Islands);

133.110 Continue its measures to enhance the hotline services for victims of trafficking and exploitation, and ensure that shelters and services for victims are easily accessible (Myanmar);

133.111 Ensure that the sentences of persons who remain under sentence of death are commuted without delay (Namibia);

133.112 Continue the de facto moratorium on the death penalty and consider steps towards its legal abolition (Nepal);

133.113 Continue to give priority to addressing the issue of trafficking in persons (Nepal);

133.114 Take further steps towards the formal abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand);

- 133.115 Establish an official moratorium to the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition, and immediately forbid its use on those below 18 years of age at the time of the crime (Portugal);
- 133.116 Continue the necessary steps aimed at advancing towards the complete abolition of the death penalty (Romania);
- 133.117 Continue the measures aimed at accelerating the elimination of trafficking in persons, following the passing, in February 2020, of the national anti-trafficking action plan (Romania);
- 133.118 Abolish the death penalty for all crimes (Timor-Leste);
- 133.119 Take measures to ensure efforts to combat human trafficking (Somalia);
- 133.120 Strengthen the enforcement of the law on the fight against human trafficking and allocate the human, financial and technical resources necessary for the functioning of the national steering committee (Togo);
- 133.121 Bring the juvenile justice system fully into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant standards (Ukraine);
- 133.122 Enforce the registration of short-term detainees, define “probable and reasonable grounds” for arrest procedures within the Anti-Terrorism Act, and resolve overcrowding, poor ventilation and inadequate health standards in prisons (United States of America);
- 133.123 Institutionalize adequate training and strengthen the independence of the Judicial Service Commission to eliminate corruption and increase the fairness of judicial proceedings (United States of America);
- 133.124 Continue progress on transitional justice mechanisms as an essential component of a comprehensive commitment to good governance (Australia);
- 133.125 Seek technical and capacity-building assistance to complement State efforts to train relevant personnel to identify, investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking (Bahamas);
- 133.126 Strengthen international and regional cooperation in combating the terrorism phenomenon while respecting human rights (Bahrain);
- 133.127 Continue efforts to reform the judiciary within the government plan (Bahrain);
- 133.128 Undertake investigations into all reports and allegations of gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Botswana);
- 133.129 Strengthen access to justice for victims of gender-based violence, investigate all allegations of sexual violence in a timely manner, bring perpetrators to justice and provide training to law enforcement officers and the judiciary on how to properly interact with possible victims and manage cases accordingly (Canada);
- 133.130 Increase and expand human rights training for law enforcement and correctional services officers (Canada);
- 133.131 Redouble efforts to bring criminal proceedings against human traffickers and provide appropriate care to victims of trafficking (Djibouti);
- 133.132 Support the independence of the judiciary and introduce the legislative amendments needed to restructure courts and to promote programmes of capacity-building with a view to reforming and improving the efficiency of the judicial system (Egypt);
- 133.133 Strengthen efforts to ensure effective investigation, prosecution and punishment for all acts of torture and ill-treatment, and provide access to justice and rehabilitation for victims of torture (Fiji);

- 133.134 Continue efforts aimed at fighting impunity while modernizing the judicial system and fighting corruption (France);
- 133.135 Intensify efforts to form an independent judiciary that guarantees access for all citizens (Iraq);
- 133.136 Provide adequate gender-sensitive training to all judges to ensure effective implementation of gender equality legislation and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, and ensure that all judicial proceedings conform to international fair trial standards (Ireland);
- 133.137 Ensure the effectiveness of the Prison Reform Monitoring Committee and continue to improve the treatment of prisoners in line with related internationally adopted standards, including the Nelson Mandela Rules and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), on which Thailand stands ready to provide technical assistance (Thailand);
- 133.138 Continue its ongoing efforts to reform the judicial system and ensure its independence (Libya);
- 133.139 Continue its efforts towards judicial reform to restore public trust in the integrity and independence of the judicial system (Malta);
- 133.140 Scale up efforts to combat human trafficking and protect the rights of victims, and to promote and protect the rights of migrants (Nigeria);
- 133.141 Continue efforts to ensure access to justice and the protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable situations (Nigeria);
- 133.142 Proceed further in developing and strengthening the evidence and testimonies system (Oman);
- 133.143 Strengthen the judicial reform and judicial independence (Somalia);
- 133.144 Increase measures to promote and protect freedom of expression (Spain);
- 133.145 Take further measures to protect freedom of religion or belief, creating an equal democratic space for all communities (Ukraine);
- 133.146 Expand and protect the space for civil society organizations to operate in order to promote social cohesion (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 133.147 Ensure that human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations are able to operate without undue interference and fear of reprisals (United States of America);
- 133.148 Guarantee freedom of expression for all, including human rights defenders, and ensure that all citizens are protected against threats, intimidation and violence when engaging in public discourse (Australia);
- 133.149 Ensure that civil society organizations are free to carry out their activities without fear or hindrance, and in this regard remove undue restrictions on freedom of association, in accordance with articles 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Austria);
- 133.150 Strengthen efforts to apply, in law and practice, full respect for freedom of opinion and expression (Brazil);
- 133.151 Ensure and protect the safety, rights and liberty of human rights defenders and civil society organizations and promptly investigate, prosecute and punish threats or acts of violence against them (Canada);
- 133.152 Take additional measures to ensure freedom of religion for all (Dominican Republic);

- 133.153 Continue to make the necessary regulatory adjustments to strengthen its legislative framework for greater protection of fundamental rights (Dominican Republic);
- 133.154 Enable human rights defenders to work freely and conduct a transparent and public investigation into the ban of the Maldivian Democracy Network (Germany);
- 133.155 Continue to combat violent religious extremism and establish secure contact points for victims of hate speech and hate crimes (Germany);
- 133.156 Further strengthen efforts to protect freedom of expression and take appropriate measures to enhance the safety of journalists, including by considering taking advantage of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity (Greece);
- 133.157 Take all political, social, economic and cultural measures necessary to fight religious intolerance towards non-Muslims, including reversing religious extremism, with a view to fostering an environment of religious harmony and cooperation, in follow-up to numerous recommendations in the report of the Working Group from the second cycle on freedom of religion and belief (Haiti);
- 133.158 Adopt and implement substantial and impartial measures to prosecute perpetrators of violent fundamentalism (Holy See);
- 133.159 Ensure freedom of expression, religion and belief for all religious minorities, providing them access to legal protection and redress (Holy See);
- 133.160 Guarantee and promote workers' freedom of association and eradicate all forms of forced or compulsory labour (Holy See);
- 133.161 Repeal or amend all legislation and any decree restricting and criminalizing the work of human rights defenders in order to guarantee, inter alia, the rights to freedom of expression, of peaceful assembly and of association (Switzerland);
- 133.162 Take further steps towards enhancing freedom of expression and freedom of the press (India);
- 133.163 Strengthen the protection of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, and strengthen efforts to address the issue of prison overcrowding, especially during the present pandemic (Indonesia);
- 133.164 Remove legal provisions that restrict the right to freedom of religion or belief, guarantee the right to manifest one's religion or belief, and combat discrimination and intolerance against persons belonging to religious minorities (Italy);
- 133.165 Ensure a safe and favourable environment in which human rights defenders can work without fear of sanction, reprisal or intimidation (Luxembourg);
- 133.166 Work towards creating an enabling environment in which individuals can freely exercise their rights to freedom of expression and of association (Malta);
- 133.167 Repeal legal provisions that limit and criminalize freedom of belief, combat religious extremism in all its forms and manifestations, and combat attacks against human rights defenders who promote freedom of religion and expression (Mexico);
- 133.168 Redouble its efforts to ensure that the rights of individuals, including children, are not violated on the basis of their chosen belief (Myanmar);
- 133.169 Enhance measures to promote interfaith dialogues and public debates on religious issues, and effectively address the spread of religious extremist ideologies and xenophobia, especially among youth (Myanmar);

- 133.170 Take concrete measures to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression (New Zealand);
- 133.171 Protect women human rights defenders from those who seek to intimidate them (Portugal);
- 133.172 Safeguard the right to freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief, and ensure that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is duly recognized and respected in accordance with relevant national human rights law (South Sudan);
- 133.173 Take the necessary measures to urgently and effectively combat violent extremism and hate speech in accordance with international standards (Togo);
- 133.174 Take effective steps and concrete measures to prevent Maldivian young people from joining terrorist groups abroad (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 133.175 Continue to implement further sustainable programmes and initiatives to assist young people to venture into micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (Malaysia);
- 133.176 Continue to strengthen its sound social programmes for the benefit of its population, with special emphasis on those most in need (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 133.177 Continue its adequate housing measures across the country and speed up the process of establishing the national emergency medical services (Azerbaijan);
- 133.178 Continue its efforts to reform the health and education sectors, as well as providing adequate housing throughout the country, and removing all obstacles that prevent basic services from reaching all segments of society (Libya);
- 133.179 Continue to consolidate its sound health policy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 133.180 Expedite the adoption of the maternal and child health bill (Sri Lanka);
- 133.181 Provide all young people with comprehensive information on sexual and reproductive health and family planning (Austria);
- 133.182 Continue its efforts regarding sexual and reproductive health services with the focus on ensuring accessibility for all, including women and girls, in particular rural women, to all health services (State of Palestine);
- 133.183 Incorporate the response to the global and local effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023, in particular to minimize its impact on families and the ocean-based economy (Cuba);
- 133.184 Strengthen primary health care in the community, as the first preventive and assistance link, regarding non-communicable diseases and those transmitted by vectors (Cuba);
- 133.185 Continue to improve the health-care sector, particularly at the local level, with a view to providing access for all to health care (Egypt);
- 133.186 Provide adequate funding for sexual and reproductive health services for all, including for vulnerable groups through the new reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health strategy (Iceland);
- 133.187 Address the large decline in the use of contraceptives by improving data collection on sexual and reproductive health and abortion expenses for future planning (Iceland);

- 133.188 **Guarantee access to information, sexual and reproductive health services and planning services, including for single men and women and people under the age of 18 years (Mexico);**
- 133.189 **Continue efforts to combat non-communicable diseases (Oman);**
- 133.190 **Expedite the adoption of the maternal and child health bill (Timor-Leste);**
- 133.191 **Provide age- and developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sexuality education and provide sexual and reproductive health information to adolescents and young people (Slovenia);**
- 133.192 **Continue to strengthen schools and educational programmes in remote areas and difficult-to-reach islands (United Arab Emirates);**
- 133.193 **Continue to reinforce its excellent education policy with the free textbook and stationery vouchers programme (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**
- 133.194 **Integrate comprehensive sexual education into the school curriculum (Belgium);**
- 133.195 **Continue its efforts to ensure children's access to education, including all children with disabilities (State of Palestine);**
- 133.196 **Provide comprehensive sexuality education as part of the school curriculum (Denmark);**
- 133.197 **Continue its efforts to guarantee the right to a free and compulsory education for all and across the country (Sudan);**
- 133.198 **Promote the deradicalization of Maldivian combatants returning from war zones abroad (France);**
- 133.199 **Take steps towards greater enrolment in higher-secondary schools (Mauritius);**
- 133.200 **Strengthen measures and programmes aimed at promoting gender equality and facilitating the participation of women in all aspects of life (Viet Nam);**
- 133.201 **Promote and increase the employment of women, especially in public and political life (Albania);**
- 133.202 **Continue to promote gender equality, in particular women's economic participation and representation at all levels of decision-making, and ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, including with adequate funding and staffing to implement the domestic violence prevention strategic plan and national action plan (Australia);**
- 133.203 **Strengthen social services, shelters and protection mechanisms for survivors of domestic violence, sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse and ill-treatment, and address harmful narratives that undermine gender equality (Austria);**
- 133.204 **Develop targeted, evidence-based policies, including the promotion of public awareness, towards ending female genital mutilation in Maldives (Bahamas);**
- 133.205 **Adopt a national action plan for the elimination of gender-based violence, domestic violence and sexual harassment, in consultation with the health, police, justice and social sectors and with civil society (Belgium);**
- 133.206 **Allocate in the budget the necessary resources to significantly implement the Gender Equality Act, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act and the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act (Chile);**

- 133.207 Continue to promote gender equality and to better protect women's rights (China);
- 133.208 Strengthen efforts to improve the constitutional and policy framework with a view to ensuring women's participation at all levels of decision-making (Sudan);
- 133.209 Strengthen efforts in law and in practice to explicitly prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation (Fiji);
- 133.210 Strengthen measures aimed at ensuring effective protection of minors and women from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (France);
- 133.211 Step up efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women (Georgia);
- 133.212 Further pursue its efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls by incorporating all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the national legal system in order to make them directly applicable and enforceable by the courts (Guyana);
- 133.213 Continue to prioritize the empowerment of women at all levels, and make efforts to ensure gender equality and the effective protection of women (India);
- 133.214 Take concrete measures to uphold and protect the rights of groups in vulnerable situations, including women, children and persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 133.215 Fully eradicate harmful practices against women and girls, including female genital mutilation and the various forms of child exploitation (Italy);
- 133.216 Enact legislation explicitly prohibiting female genital mutilation and strengthen awareness-raising campaigns on the harmful effects of early marriage in order to further protect and promote the human rights of women and children (Japan);
- 133.217 Criminalize marital rape (Latvia);
- 133.218 Take all necessary measures to combat violence against women and girls and domestic violence both in law and in practice (Latvia);
- 133.219 Adopt legislation on gender equality, take measures to promote the participation of women in public affairs and decision-making and ensure that women benefit from all existing social protection structures on the same footing as men (Luxembourg);
- 133.220 Collaborate more closely with all stakeholders to find ways to remove structural or policy barriers that can prevent women from contributing more in all sectors (Malaysia);
- 133.221 Take further steps in order to provide protection for women (Mauritania);
- 133.222 Allocate adequate resources for the effective implementation of the Gender Equality Act, to improve gender-sensitivity in the judicial system and to increase the number of female judges in order to provide better justice services to victims of gender-based violence (Netherlands);
- 133.223 Make further efforts to protect and promote the rights of women and girls and eliminate gender-based discrimination (New Zealand);
- 133.224 Take further steps to increase the representation of women in parliament (New Zealand);
- 133.225 Continue the efforts exerted to achieve gender equality, and to empower and protect women from all forms of discrimination and violence (Tunisia);

- 133.226 Continue to take steps to further empower women (Pakistan);
- 133.227 Persist with efforts to prevent and sanction all forms of violence against women and girls, and to consolidate greater participation of women in public and political life (Peru);
- 133.228 Consider enacting laws to explicitly prohibit female genital mutilation and take measures to combat it (Peru);
- 133.229 Continue to undertake awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes to prevent and address domestic violence and ensure the provision of adequate assistance to victims (Philippines);
- 133.230 Continue to mainstream a gender perspective into climate adaptation and mitigation measures (Philippines);
- 133.231 Strengthen the efforts made to combat violence against women (Romania);
- 133.232 Continue to ensure in law and in practice that the rights of vulnerable groups of the population, especially women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, are protected (Russian Federation);
- 133.233 Expedite measures to implement the Gender Equality Act and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, and formalize the relevant policy measures with stakeholder consultations for immediate implementation (Sierra Leone);
- 133.234 Develop longer-term awareness and training programmes to equip families with the knowledge and tools to mitigate domestic violence, including in cooperation with relevant international partners, as appropriate (Singapore);
- 133.235 Institutionalize comprehensive intersectoral prevention, reporting and response mechanisms on gender-based violence, provide additional financing and strengthen social services, shelters and protection mechanisms for survivors of gender-based violence (Slovenia);
- 133.236 Adopt measures to establish anonymous helpline and counselling services for victims of discrimination and violence, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, girls, people belonging to religious minorities and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Myanmar);
- 133.237 Strengthen preventive measures and programmes against the ill-treatment of children, and strengthen the penalties for this crime (Spain);
- 133.238 Safeguard children by prioritizing the allocation of resources to strengthen the capacity of national authorities to combat violence against children, including sexual abuse of children (Botswana);
- 133.239 Adopt measures to protect children from possible violations of their rights in the field of tourism activities, including awareness campaigns to prevent the use of children in sex tourism (Ecuador);
- 133.240 Redouble efforts to further decrease infant and maternal mortality (Ethiopia);
- 133.241 Continue to take steps to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of children and the rights of the child (India);
- 133.242 Take all measures necessary to protect children from the violation of their rights in the context of tourism activities, particularly the sexual exploitation of children in tourism (Luxembourg);
- 133.243 Abolish child marriages (Marshall Islands);
- 133.244 Continue efforts and steps to reinforce the legal framework to protect children (Mauritania);

133.245 Ensure that all children enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child without discrimination by, inter alia, amending the relevant legislation (Montenegro);

133.246 Continue efforts made to promote children's rights and protect them from all forms of violence (Tunisia);

133.247 Adopt an effective normative framework to protect children from the violation of their rights that might arise from tourism activities, especially the use of children in sex tourism (Panama);

133.248 Adopt measures to protect children against the violation of their rights in the context of tourism activities (Senegal);

133.249 Take further steps to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction are treated equally (Timor-Leste);

133.250 Consider the special needs of children with disabilities in formulating the national child protection policy (Singapore);

133.251 Incorporate the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of migrant workers into government policies and action plans (Chile);

133.252 Create, by 2023, a national registry of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan in this context (Jordan);

133.253 Continue efforts to establish a national registry of persons with disabilities (Oman);

133.254 Continue to strengthen its efforts in the field of the human rights and conditions of migrant workers (Turkey);

133.255 Develop a national refugee protection framework by adopting administrative measures and establishing institutions capable of handling asylum issues (Afghanistan);

133.256 Take concrete steps to promote and protect the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Brazil);

133.257 Adopt a national legal framework on asylum that would allow the Government to adequately protect asylum seekers and refugees, in line with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland);

133.258 Take meaningful steps to protect the rights of migrant workers (Kazakhstan);

133.259 Implement legislation to protect migrant workers from xenophobic and racial discrimination (Marshall Islands).

134. 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 the Republic of Maldives was headed by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Riffath, Attorney General, and composed of the following members:

- His Excellency Mr. Imran Abdulla, Minister of Home Affairs;
 - His Excellency Mr. Fayyaz Ismail, Minister of Economic Development;
 - Her Excellency Ms. Aishath Mohamed Didi, Minister of Gender, Family and Social Services;
 - His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
 - Her Excellency Ms. Sabra Ibrahim Noordeen, Secretary, Foreign Relations, The President's Office;
 - His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Hood, Chief Communications Strategist, The President's Office;
 - Her Excellency Dr. Hala Hameed, Secretary Multilateral, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Shiaan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Hawla Ahmed Didi, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
 - Ms. Shahiya Ali Manik, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the United Nations Office in Geneva;
 - Mr. Mohamed Aseel Hassan, Legal Counsel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Mr. Adam Hamid, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
 - Ms. Faena Fayyaz, Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Office;
 - Ms. Maziya Abdul Sattar, State Attorney, Attorney General's Office.
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